

# The Gospel News

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## Native American Outreach Presents Its Goals to the Church's General Priesthood

*By Brothers Peter Benyola and Jameson Staley*

At General Church Conference on Saturday, October 14, 2006, held at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA, the recently re-organized Native American Outreach presented its goals to the general priesthood. The NAO has been described by the President of the Church as a resource committee to provide more visibility of and to the Native American and First Nation peoples and to solicit involvement and information to stir up the missionary spirit regarding the Seed of Joseph.

The Committee prefaced their presentation by citing II Nephi 29:8, "And when the two nations run together the testimony of the two nations will run together, also." The Committee thanked all those who have persevered in working among the Seed of Joseph these past years. Then they outlined the goals as follows.

The first goal of the NAO is *renewing* the emphasis of taking the Restored Gospel to the House of Joseph, as described in the Scriptures, published in the Church's Faith and Doctrine, written and spoken by

many Apostles, and carried out by many ministers and saints. The second goal is *expanding* the approach to reach as many Native Americans/First Nations as possible in a systematic, coordinated, cohesive, and inspired manner.

The Native American Outreach presents a five-phase approach to accomplish these tasks:

- *Spreading the Seed*—The use of a variety of media.
- *Saints Witnessing*—Giving personal testimonies and attendance at worship services.
- *Nations Running Together-Side By Side*—Native and non-Native members teaming.
- *Discipleship/Mentorship*—Building strong Native American members and leaders.
- *Coordination with the Choice Seer*—II Nephi 3 describes this exciting phase well.

The design for Native American Outreach is a WIN-WIN, success-oriented approach for all members to feel confident that they can contribute in a positive way.

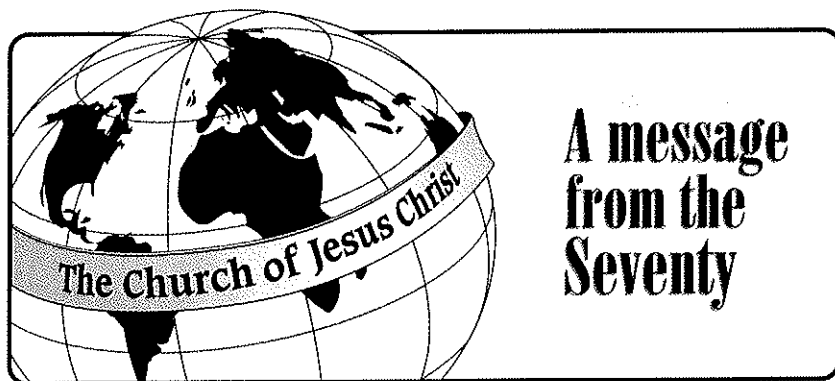
The NAO is responsible for coordinating efforts throughout the

Church in the USA and Canada, and between Regions; public relations and media, including development and publishing of flyers, brochures and pamphlets; publishing articles directed to the saints and a journal directed to Native Americans; creating, maintaining and sharing an information database; gathering and disseminating reports, and creating and maintaining a Church website designed to provide information to the Native Americans.

Saturday evening, the Committee and all other interested members met to discuss plans and goals and next steps. Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. offered the meeting's closing prayer, asking the Lord to bless the Native American work, that the Committee might have success in its mission to spread the Gospel and that the Native American people would accept who they are and reclaim God's promises. As those words were being prayed, the Word of the Lord was spoken, "If you find my people, you will have success." Ending his prayer, Brother Bob recalled the Word of the Lord given to Apostle Isaac Smith in 1976, "Follow my Spirit, and it will lead you to Israel."

The NAO has chosen the first Monday of every month as a day of fasting and prayer for its work. Most importantly, the NAO needs the

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## Missionary Trip to Valle Guanape, Venezuela

*By Brother Richard Nath*

From September 20-25, 2006, Brothers Bob Nicklow, Sr., Frank Palacios, and I traveled to Valle Guanape, Venezuela to encourage and uplift the brothers and sisters there. It was the nineteenth trip made to Venezuela since the work of The Church of Jesus Christ began there in 1996.

Several experiences were had prior to the trip, one of which occurred in the Fort Worth, Texas Branch on August 27. I was able to attend that Sunday and I asked for prayer by the ministry for the upcoming trip. I also asked the Branch to pray for my wife, Tracy, while I was gone, since her biggest fear was that a hurricane would hit while she was home alone in Houston. After the prayer was offered, Brother Robert Gonzalez testified of an experience he had during the prayer. He said that while I was being prayed for, he started to cry and shake. He asked God why this was happening. He then looked up and saw me rise from the chair, with a man in white next to me. The man took my hand in His and said, "Have no fear for you or your wife, for I will be with you." With that, all of us knew that the trip would be a safe and successful one.

A second experience, very similar to the first, was had by Sister Rose Palacios. She was told by one of her natural sisters from the Fort Worth Branch about my request for prayer for the trip and for Tracy. While Sister Rose was praying for

Tracy, the Word of the Lord came forth: "Do not fear, your wife is not alone, I will take care of her and all will turn out well and you will come home safe, saith the Lord." We thank God for these experiences, and the peace and comfort that came with them.

While I had no problems making it to Miami, Florida it was an eventful day of traveling for Brothers Bob and Frank on September 20. Both were delayed in getting to the airport hotel as Brother Bob's plane had to divert to Ft. Myers due to weather, and Brother Frank was involved in a traffic accident on his way from Ft. Lauderdale to Miami. Brother George Katsaras had picked up Brother Frank, and while in route was hit from behind. While Brother Frank was unharmed, Brother George had a lot of pain in his neck and jaw. He was transported to the hospital where he underwent testing for his injuries. It was later found that he required surgery and was released the following Monday. We thank God that He took care of Brother George and his family through his ordeal. While waiting at the hospital with Brother George's sons, Brother Frank anointed a woman with an injured hand. He was then brought to the hotel by Brother Pete Katsaras. By 9:00 p.m., all the brothers were together at the hotel, and after eating, finished the night with a word of prayer.

After awaking early in the

morning, we embarked for Venezuela. Thanks to the Lord, there were no problems traveling to or in the country. Around 3:00 p.m. we arrived in Barcelona and were met by Brother Raul Bicelis and Chicho, the driver of the van that was rented for transport to and from Barcelona. A stop was made at a convenience store in Barcelona for gas and cold drinks. While there, Brothers Bob and Frank anointed a man with throat cancer.

Upon arriving at the Bicelis' home, we were greeted by Sister Alicia and their son Alex, and immediately felt their hospitality and the love of God. After dinner, we sat down with Brother Raul on the front porch and discussed the state of the Mission. We talked about the meetings that would be held during the weekend and the young people. Some of them are showing strong interest in the Restored Gospel. A suggestion was given to Brother Raul that he hold a meeting with them to pose questions to them, or to see if they have any questions for him about the Restored Gospel. The rest of the evening was spent discussing experiences and the things of God.

Friday morning was started with breakfast prepared by Sister Alicia. Then we went to the town of Valle Guanape to get some items for the weekend. While there, we met up with Brother Esnel Calcurian, the other Elder who attends the Mission. All of us went back to the house, and while Brother Raul ran some errands, the rest of us sat on the porch and fellowshiped. Sister Alicia mentioned that sometime in the fall the family will be moving to Caracas for about a year. This will be done so Alex can receive a different treatment for his autism. She said that Brother Raul will be able to come back to the house on weekends, and that she will be able to come with him occasionally.

We then spoke to Brother Esnel about the people of the region. Brother Bob suggested that pamphlets be passed out to the people of the area, giving them information about the Church and a place for their ministerial needs. Brother Bob

noticed that there are only two other churches in a 20 minute radius. He said, "These people will need a minister sometime in their lives, and they need the Lord."

Brother Bob then asked us if we had ever seen an angel before. None of us had, but Brother Bob had; the night before. He said that it did not say anything; it just stood next to his bed. He said he reached out to touch it and his hand went through it, as if it were foam. Before falling back to sleep, Brother Bob felt that was God's way of showing us He was with us during the trip.

At supper, Brother Raul said that while he was running his errands in town, he met a man who was depressed. The man said that his daughter was sick in Barcelona. Brother Raul told him to have faith and trust in the Lord, and his daughter would get better. The man asked for a ride to the clinic in Valle Guanape, so Brother Raul took him there. When they arrived, the girl's doctor in Barcelona called. She was doing better, and the prognosis was that she would continue to improve. The man was given the location of the Mission, and he said he would come in the future.

We took some time after the meal to discuss the goals and objectives of the Mission with Brothers Raul and Esnel; mainly baptisms, marriages, blessings of children, and teaching about parent/child relationships. Sister Alicia, the Mission's Presiding Deaconess and secretary, then had some questions for us. She asked what should be done with any money that is donated locally and how they should donate? These questions were in response to the recent conference call by the Venezuela Field Committee about giving. She was instructed to keep track of the money and record it, and use it for the needs of the Mission. As for giving, the members were instructed to give what they could.

After discussing other Church business with the Mission officers that were present, the rest of the evening was spent in fellowship talking about more experiences and the Church.

A feet washing service was held on Saturday afternoon for the membership with all but one being in attendance. After the opening prayer, the sisters of the Mission offered a beautiful song. Then, Sister Carmen Quiaro and Brother Oscar Lamoos were anointed. Brother Bob then opened the meeting with the first instructions by the Lord to the people of this land; baptism. He reinforced to the congregation that they had done the right thing by being baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ, and had followed the Lord's commandments. Brother Bob continued using the Gospel of John where Christ washed the disciple's feet. Brother Raul, myself, and Brother Frank followed Brother Bob with a few remarks each.

When the feet washing portion of the service began, Brother Oscar began to feel even worse than he had earlier. He had not taken his blood pressure medication for a few days, and it was really starting to affect him. He asked to be anointed again, and he began to feel better and was able to enjoy the ordinance. By the end of the service, he was praising God saying that he felt he was about to die, but the Lord healed him.

A beautiful spirit was had among us during the service. All the sisters testified that they felt a spirit of peace flow over them while they washed feet. For three of them, it was the first time. Closing prayer was offered and we enjoyed a time of fellowship.

During the fellowship time, the ordained officers of the Mission, along with those of us making the trip, approached Sister Fidelia Antonia-Leal about being ordained a Deaconess. She was asked if she had any experiences, and she said yes. She had a dream where she saw the communion table being set by Sisters Alicia and Catalina Quiaro. She asked within herself if there would always only be two Deaconesses. With that, she had the desire to be one. Sister Alicia stated that she had been thinking about the move to Caracas, and the need that would be present for the members in Valle Guanape. So she made it a matter of

prayer, and felt that the Lord put Sister Fidelia on her heart. She then had a dream that Sister Fidelia would be ordained. Neither of the sisters knew about each other's dreams until this point. After hearing these experiences, seeing the need that was present, and after consulting with the Venezuela Field Committee Chairman, the decision was made by the ministry to ordain Sister Fidelia during the Sunday service into the office of a Deaconess.

After the membership was taken home, we sat down with Brother Raul and discussed the Apostles' letters to the Church. Brother Raul was also given the *Welcome Pamphlet* in Spanish to give to any visitors that attend. The flyer suggestion was discussed again, and Brother Raul agreed that it is a good idea. It will continue to be looked into.

Sister Rose Palacios called to see how everyone was doing, and to let them know about a dream that she had received. She said that she saw large white clouds over everyone during the Sunday service, with rays of blessings coming down. It was a nice way to end the day and prepare for the Sabbath.

Prior to the meeting beginning, we were told that Brother Oscar had been taken to the hospital during the night. While it was unclear why, Brothers Raul and Esnel were going to go and anoint him after the missionaries left at the end of the service.

The Sunday Service was begun around 10:00 a.m., with over 70 in attendance. The congregation sang, *There is Power in the Blood*, which was followed by the setting of the communion table by Sister Catalina. After Brother Esnel opened in prayer, the children's choir sang three songs with the young people/adult choir following them with two songs. Then one of the young women who attends regularly, Raibelis, asked if she could read a message that she had written to the congregation and the missionaries. The following is her letter in

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## Trip to Venezuela

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both Spanish and English:

"Buenos Dias queridos hermanos ante todo darle las gracias al señor Jesucristo por permitir que nuestros hermanos esten en este dias compartiendo con nosotros y decirle que ocupan un lugar muy especial en nuestros corazones.

"Tambien inviter a todos los visitants, amigos presentes a que sigan asistiendo a la iglesia, porque en el mundo no van a encontra un lugar donde tengas una paz y un gozo que quiciera que permaneciera siempr, por ejemplo yo que desde que llege a la iglesia e sentido una paz y una alegria en mi corazon alesta con los hermanos en la iglesia, solo el señor puede dar esa sensacion de plenitude interior porque el mundo solo te ofrece la perdicion.

"Por tal motivo cada persona tiene la oportunidad de recibir un descanso para el alma, solo entrando a un reposo, que es Cristo, recibendolo como su unico Salvador personal, lavando sus pecados en la sangre de Cristo y siendo baustizado en el nombre del señor.

"Aprovechen la oportunidad, decidásen a, que cuano se cierran las puertas se terminan las oportunidades el tiempo pasa, solo le puedo decir que no se van a equivocar si reciben al señor porque es le major camino que podemos seguir, se que no es facil transitar por el, pero teniendo lo importante: la fe, el amor de dios y las constancia todo se puede persevermos hasta el fin y mantengamos la fe viva y forlalecidad asi que nunca desmaye tu fe."

"Good morning beloved brothers. Before anything else, I want to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for permitting our brothers to share this day with us and tell them they hold a special place in our hearts.

"Also [I want] to invite all the visitors and friends that are present to continue coming to church; because in the world you will not find a place where you will have peace and joy, which you always want to remain. For example, since I arrived I have felt a

peace and happiness in my heart to be with the brothers in the Church. Only the Lord can give that sensation of inner fullness of joy because the world can only offer ruin.

"For this reason each person has the opportunity to receive rest for the soul only entering the rest, which is Christ, receiving Him as your only personal Savior, washing your sins in the blood of Christ and be baptized in the name of the Lord.

"Take this opportunity to make a decision because time passes and when the doors close the opportunity ends. I can only tell you, you are not making a mistake if you receive the Lord. It is the best road you can take. I know it is not easy to walk with Him, but having the most important: faith, the love of God and the certainty all can persevere until the end and keep the faith alive and strong so that your faith will never faint."

Needless to say, you could feel the Spirit of God in her testimony. Brother Bob then opened the preaching portion of the service, stating that Raibelis had given the inspiration that she had, and now he would give the Word of God. Brother Bob used the Parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24). He said man has made many great suppers, for fellowship and for nourishment. At this particular time the lord of the house sent his servant out to invite people to the feast, to let them know that the dinner was ready and to come and eat. The people that were invited made excuses, and said they could not come. "Three people visited, three excuses," Brother Bob said. The servant went back to his lord and told him what happened. The lord was upset that all the work would be for naught. He told the servant to go out and get the poor and the sick. The servant did so, and brought them all in; old, young, poor, and ill. Society calls them outcasts, but they came and ate. There was still room at the supper, so the lord sent the servant back out again to get more. However, he told him NOT to invite again those that had already said no.

Brother Bob said that God has the invitation out all over the world, and that the food in the story is the

Word of God. He said that he was thankful to see everyone who was in attendance, and that he, along with the rest of the ministry, were the servants. He said that the Word tells you how to live. He continued by saying that Christ has prepared a place for us to go after death, to enjoy eternity. The only way to get there is to believe and listen to Him. There is a pattern to be followed, no matter what age we are. God has a place for all that is worthy of it. There is no greater reward than the Kingdom of Heaven. However, there is another side as well. Damnation will come to those who do not listen to the Word of God. Brother Bob finished by telling the congregation to listen to the local ministry and what they say. He encouraged them to find the Lord and listen to Him. He will visit in multiple ways.

Brother Bob was then followed by myself and Brothers Raul and Esnel. Then the ministry was given the opportunity to bless two little children. Brother Bob blessed Daniel Alfonso Quiaro, while Brother Frank blessed Yeilis Andreina Quiaro.

After the blessings, the congregation was given the opportunity to come forward for prayer or anointing. Sister Carmen Lamoos and Brother Esnel's son, Renoldi, were both anointed for afflictions that they had. While Brother Raul was speaking, a young girl fainted due to the heat. Brother Frank anointed the girl and she revived. After the anointings, the communion portion of the service was conducted with Brother Raul officiating.

Upon finishing with communion, it was time to ordain Sister Fidelia into the office of a Deaconess. Brother Bob read the duties of a Deaconess to the congregation, and asked Sister Fidelia to come forward. Her feet were washed to set her apart by Sister Alicia. Then Brother Bob explained that the ministry kneels first before ordaining, to ask God to show who should ordain her. After the prayer was offered, Brother Bob ordained Sister Fidelia.

We missionaries were then asked to give a few closing remarks. All of

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As we begin the new year of 2007, God's people continue to patiently wait, and keep the hope alive for a breakthrough to a better day upon this land and throughout the world. To do this, we must immerse ourselves in the basic truths of the Restoration, and remind ourselves of our purpose, and the purpose of The Church of Jesus Christ in these, the very last of days.

*"And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the foundation of a great church. And the angel said unto me: Behold the foundation of a church which is most abominable above all other churches, which slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bind them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity. And it came to pass that I beheld this great and abominable church; and I saw the devil that he was the foundation of it" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:4-6).*

Long before the Pilgrims came to America for religious freedom, a wicked church rose up, from which they wanted to escape; thus the reason God brought them to America, the Promised Land.

*"And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my bretheren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my bretheren, who were in the promised land" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:12).*

This man is probably Christopher Columbus who discovered the Promised Land, and uncovered a people who were already here, who he called Indians. They were actually the descendents of Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob, or Israel, who were separated from their brothers (the Jews and the other 10 tribes of Israel). They too came to the Promised Land years before, since God had promised this land for them.

*"And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:19).*

The Revolutionary War was won by these Pilgrims or Gentiles, through the power of God. Because they wanted to serve God in truth, He was with them. The United States became the most powerful country in the world, even to this day, because of God's blessings upon it. But the devil was busy...

*"Wherefore, thou seeest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:28).*

This "book," or the Bible, had many plain and precious things removed by that great and abominable church which managed to influence the Gentiles who had come to America. Confusion set in. Numerous churches developed because of the different opinions on scripture, and without those plain and precious things, there was no way to say which church was right and which was wrong. As a result there are thousands of churches today.

*"...I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:34).*

If you read this whole scripture, you will see that those plain and precious things were given back to mankind, by God, through The Book of Mormon. One Church emerged again—The Church of Jesus Christ in 1830. It stands today.

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# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you ever look at someone else who is having an adventure, trying something new, or working really hard to learn something and wonder "Why can't I do that?" Did you ever start to think about trying to be better or braver than you really are and then stop yourself because of your fears?

In church one Sunday, our minister, Brother Dino DiMelis, told us three powerful words to ask ourselves when we want to know what to do to change. The words to ask yourself are "Why not me?"

Think about it, why can't you try to do something new? The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." That means, with prayer and effort you CAN learn and be better and braver.

Brother Dino said that these three words are the words David in the Bible lived by when he went to fight the huge giant Goliath. Everyone was afraid. This huge soldier, Goliath, was walking back and forth mocking God's people of Israel. He challenged everyone to come and fight him.

David was mad that this bad man was saying wrong things about God. He went to King Saul and said, "God saved me when a bear attacked my sheep. God saved me from wolves. God will save me now."

David's brothers tried to talk him out of trying to go and fight, but David loved and served God. When he saw that no one else was stepping up to fight for God, he volunteered! He was physically just a boy, but God could work with him to kill the evil giant.

When Esther was chosen to be the new Queen of Persia, her husband



had strict rules about never coming into his throne room unless you were invited. He had divorced his first wife who had displeased him. Days and weeks went by in the great palace when Esther never saw her busy husband.

But one day, bad news came to her from her Uncle Mordecai. A powerful man named Haman hated all Jews. He had talked the King into signing a law to murder all the Jews in the land and take their money and property. Haman especially hated Esther's Uncle Mordecai for not admiring him. Haman did not realize that Queen Esther was related to Mordecai and was also Jewish.

There was only one thing to do. Some brave person had to go unto the King and talk him out of letting Haman's armies kill all the Jews. Some brave person had to say to himself, "Why not me?" Mordecai told Esther she must be the one.

She hesitated at first and reminded her uncle that anyone who came into the King's inner chambers would be put to death unless the King raised his scepter, and Mordecai told her, "Don't think that you will escape. If you try to hide and save yourself, God will send someone else to save the Jews and you will die. Maybe this is the reason God has put you in the royal palace."

Esther answered, "I and my friends will fast and pray for three days. Ask the Jews in the city to also fast and pray for three days and nights. I will go. If I perish [die], then I perish."

Esther was willing to change and risk her life for the Lord. She dressed in her most beautiful clothes and went

into the King's part of the palace. God had touched his heart and the King was very pleased to see Esther. He listened to her plea as she begged him not to let the Jews be killed. The King listened. He ordered wicked Haman to be killed and changed the law telling people to kill the Jews. Esther saved her people by praying to God and asking herself the three powerful words, "Why NOT me?"

We can change our lives just like Queen Esther and David. All we have to do is pray and praise God and think about God's question, "Why not me?" Who knows what new friends you will

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## WORD SEARCH

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## Midwest Area MBA Visits Great Lakes Region

On this past Labor Day weekend things could not have been easier when a handful of saints from the Midwest Area MBA set off to the Great Lakes Region. Hours before the rising sun, the saints began their journey from the vast fields of Ohio to the mesmeric sights of Niagara Falls. They spent some time there, but soon set off to their true destination, the Muncey Reservation in Ontario, Canada.

This trip had been planned

previously with one main objective in mind, and that was to have some of the Midwest Choir members present a shortened version of the past area program *Joseph*. Many tears were shed as the choir sang the *Songs of Zion* and talked about the blessing of Joseph of Old and the wonderful promise for Joseph of the Latter Days.

Brother John Genaro had the opportunity to address the congregation and with much liberty did expound unto them the future promises of peace that God has made with His people, and further reminded them of the covenant that God made to His people, the House of Israel. Later the meeting ended and the saints had the opportunity to fellowship and relax.

The Sunday meeting was filled with many blessings as Brother Brandon Miller explained how we fight a battle that we cannot see, and it affects a large part of our daily lives, but there is victory through Jesus

Christ and we are given the ability to win that battle. Soon after the meeting ended the saints filled the vans and headed down to Detroit for a night meeting. The Midwest Choir sang a few selections and other groups were able to sing special songs. The whole meeting was dedicated to praising God and being together.

Monday afternoon we gathered together for a picnic—the perfect way to end a great weekend. The grill was fired up and all sorts of sports were being played while the saints gathered once again to make new friends and reminisce with friends of old. It seems that the main objective had been achieved by presenting the program on the Muncey Reservation, but there were many great blessings that were had by all as a result of this awesome weekend. Like always, God was good to His people and blessed them with the opportunity to fellowship, and for this we thank and praise Him.



## Miami-Dade, FL

By Sister Betty Gennaro

Sunday September 10, 2006 was a day of blessings for the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. The meeting was opened by singing #143 in *The Songs of Zion, Hold On I Am Coming*.

Brothers Miguel Bicelis and Justin Severson had just returned from missionary work in Peru. Brother Justin spoke on the blessings received there. A wild branch is grafted in and it bears the same fruit. They witnessed this in Arequipa, Peru. The same fruit can be produced to have the beautiful testimonies, love for the Gospel and the same love that we feel for one another here. They felt the same spirit as if they were in conference.

The Commission has been given to The Church of Jesus Christ to spread the Gospel. With natural eyes

we saw beautiful mountains, cool weather, and six million people in Lima, Peru. How great is the harvest, but we see a remnant. The work to the natural man is overwhelming. Jacob 2:25, "I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph." 2 Nephi 30:15, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

We believe in the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church has been established to go out among the world. The fullness of redemption can be brought through Jesus Christ. If men would increase their faith, the things of God would be better for them. It was faith that was necessary to travel the distance. Jesus came and now you can walk with Him and it's possible through the fullness of faith, as men and women are incomplete. The fullness of God through the Holy Spirit is available to you. Take on a fuller faith and believe that the things that were before Nephi are in The

Church of Jesus Christ today, as He brought it upon this land. All people are subject to the Gospel as He gave His Son for the whole world. It is God's desire that the fullness of knowledge of Jesus Christ would take over the land. It is our desire to be among the fullness of righteousness and Jesus Christ as our example. The small remnant has become the fullness of the Gospel today. We cannot step down from that belief. The sons of Mosiah brought thousands to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Through this remnant will be the fullness of Jesus Christ. They abhorred sin and through that, prophecy and revelations were with them. Let us have that faith that brings them through today. Brother Nick Ritz, through his faith, was brought to that day of Zion, as he quoted the scriptures all the time. May our faith bring us to that day.

Brother Miguel spoke of the jewels before God's table. We come to The Church of Jesus Christ because we want to find the fullness of the Gospel. What the world has won't

(Continued on Page 8)

## Miami-Dade, FL

Continued from Page 7

satisfy us. There has to be a desire for it to work; faith, diligence and heeding to the words of Christ. 2 Nephi 30:2, "As many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord: for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in His Son, who is the Holy One of Israel." Every day we have a choice, will I serve God? Be ye reconciled to Christ and continue in the path until the end of the days of probation.

Roberto Gonzales and Miriam Nunez brought their son, Alexander Enrique Gonzales, forward to be blessed by Brother Justin Severeson. The meeting was closed by singing the beautiful *Song of Zion, If Ye Be Willing*.

## Homecoming and Open House in Gastonia, NC

By Sister Connie Rossi

As part of our "Let's Grow Program," the Gastonia Branch celebrated their first Homecoming and Open House on November 12, 2006. We invited friends, family and past members of the branch to join us in a day of fellowship and worship. We were blessed to have a total of 25 people attending.

We started the morning with our regular Sunday School service. Brother Chris DeRoo taught a lesson on the importance and significance of taking an oath whether it be in our everyday lives or in our spiritual walk with the Lord. We are bound to these oaths as long as they last and must take responsibility for fulfilling them.

After Sunday School our regular church meeting took a slightly different course of action. Brother George Kovacic conducted this portion of the service by giving a brief history and the origin of the Gastonia Branch. Many of the original members are still with us today; namely, Brother Sam and Sister Vera Jackman, Brother

Jonathan and Sister Virginia Molinatto, Brother Bill and Sister Flo LaRosa and Brother Darrell Rossi. These brothers and sisters stood and gave their testimonies of how they met each other, came into The Church of Jesus Christ and how they came to attend the Gastonia Branch as well as how the Lord has blessed their lives over the years.

Afterwards the rest of the congregation stood to their feet and gave their personal testimonies, also. It was truly a blessing to hear these testimonies and how the Lord has worked so differently in each of our lives to bring us all together in one place but all having one common factor—the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the morning meeting was concluded, Brother Joe Catone was closing in prayer and a message from

---

"Thus saith the Lord,  
This is my house and all  
are welcome."

---

the Lord was given by Sister Jill Kovacic saying, "Thus saith the Lord, This is my house and all are welcome." We give thanks to our heavenly Father for His presence, for His word and for acknowledging His people.

After the morning service ended we all enjoyed a beautiful and delicious luncheon prepared by the sisters of the branch and continued our fellowship one with another. As we gathered together to partake of the food and of each other's company, we could feel the presence of the Lord among us and it truly was a blessed day. We thank the Lord for all He has done for us here in Gastonia and how He has increased our numbers. We continue to look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us as we go forward with the Gospel and hold fast onto the vision we have for the Lord's Church here in Gastonia, NC. After this wonderful day we all enjoyed, we look forward to our next Homecoming and Open House and, as the Lord spoke those words, "All Are Welcome."

## Trip to Venezuela

Continued from Page 4

us said that we had a wonderful time, and would be back. The meeting was closed by singing *America* with Brother Raul closing in prayer.

Everyone stayed afterward for a short time to fellowship. Candy and toys that were brought with us were passed out to the children. Several other items were brought as well, and will be passed out as needed by Sister Alicia. They even have enough to give out at Christmas.

Unfortunately, the time for us to say goodbye came too soon. The van was loaded up, and a few of the members who live along the way were then dropped off at their homes. We arrived at the hotel in Barcelona during the mid-afternoon, and after a restful night's sleep, we returned to the United States safe and sound.

It can be safely said that the trip was a great one. The Spirit of God was definitely with us, as can be seen by the experiences that were had both before and during the trip. We had great discussions, and I think that the local members felt that they are well supported. There is great potential in the area around Valle Guanape and Navarro County. As Brother Bob pointed out, there are only two other churches within a twenty minute radius of the Mission. It is our hope and prayer that God will guide and direct both the local ministry and the Venezuela Field Committee in taking the Restored Gospel out to the local area, and the rest of the country.

Happy  
New Year

to all our readers.

## The Church of Jesus Christ Scriptural References

### Mankind Redeemed from Adam's Sin

John 1:2	Jesus atoned for the sin of the world
1 Tim 2:4-6	Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all
Rom 5:6-19	Free gift came upon all men
1 Cor 15:21-23	In Christ shall all be made alive
John 5:23,29	All in their graves shall come forth
Acts 24:14-15	Resurrection of the just and the unjust
Alma 42	The Lord made an atonement
2 Nep 9:25-26	Jesus Christ made the atonement

### Mankind Saved by Obedience to the Gospel

Matt 7:21-29	Whosoever heareth these sayings and doeth
Acts 10:34	God is no respecter of persons
2 Peter 3:9	Lord not slack concerning His promise
Heb 5:9	Eternal salvation to all that obey
Mark 16:15-16	He that believeth not shall be damned
1 Tim 4:10	Saviour of all men, especially believers
Acts 13:26	Word of salvation sent to those who fear God
John 3:15	Whosoever believeth shall have eternal life
Moroni 10:3-34	The Lord will reveal to the obedient that these things are true

### Name of the Church

Eph 5:23-24	As wife takes husband's name, so Church takes Saviour's name, Jesus Christ
Acts 4:10-12	None other name under heaven given
Col 1:18	He (Christ) head of the body – the Church
Eph 1:22	God gave him (Christ) to be the head
1 Nep 14:10-18	Church of the Lamb (Christ) and its members called saints
3 Nep 27:9-12	Ye shall call the Church in My name

### Members Called Saints

Eph 4:12	For the perfecting of the saints
1 Cor 14:33	In all churches of the saints
Rom 1:7	Beloved of God called to be saints
Acts 9:13	Evil he hath done thy saints at Jerusalem
Phil 1:1	Saints at Phillipi with bishops and deacons
Rev 15:3	Thou King of saints
2 Thess 1:7-10	Members of Christ's Church to be called "saints" at His second coming

### Officers in the Church

Luke 6:13	He chose twelve whom He names Apostles
Eph 2:19-22	Jesus Christ chief cornerstone
1 Cor 12:27-31	God set in Church apostles, then prophets
Eph 4:11-14	For work of the ministry until all are united

2 Tim 4:5	Do the work of an evangelist
Heb 5:1	High Priest taken from among men*
Luke 10:1	Lord appointed other seventy also
Phil 1:1	With the bishops and deacons
1 Peter 5:1	The elders which are among you
Acts 14:23	Ordained them elders in every church
Luke 1:5	A certain priest named Zacharias*
Acts 13:1	Certain prophets and teachers in the Church
3 Nep 11:21-22	Twelve disciples chosen
3 Nep 12:1-2	Twelve disciples chosen
4 Nep 1:14	Other disciples chosen

\* These were before Christ's time, and priests are not ordained in The Church of Jesus Christ. Jesus was that last High Priest.

### Sincerity of Belief Not Enough

Matt 15:8-9	In vain do they worship Me
Acts 26:9-12	Paul sincere when fighting the Church
Matt 27:25	Jews sincere in crucifying Christ
Rom 10:1-4	Zeal of God, but not according to knowledge
Jas 2:19	Devils also believe and tremble
Matt 7:21	Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord
John 16:2-3	Will kill you and think they serve the Lord

### Faith and Works

John 14:15	If ye love Me, keep My commandments
Rom 2:13	The doers of the law shall be justified
Luke 6:46-49	Whosoever cometh to Me, doeth My sayings
Jas 1:22-25	Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only
Jas 2:14-26	Faith with works is dead
1 John 2:3-4	We know Him if we keep His commandments
Rev 20:12	Judged according to their works
Matt 16:27	Shall reward every man according to his works
Tit 3:8	Be careful to maintain good works
Moroni 7:5	To last, obedience necessary

### Repentance

Mark 1:14-15	Jesus said, repent and believe the Gospel
Acts 17:30	Commandeth all men everywhere to repent
Luke 24:47-48	Repentance preached in Christ's name
Matt 9:13	Came to call sinners to repentance

(Continued on Page 10)

## Scriptural References

Continued from Page 9

- 1 John 1:8-10 If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves  
 Acts 2:38 Repent every one of you  
 Eph 4:25-32 Sins to be repented of – “Wherefore putting away”  
 1 Cor 7:10 Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation  
 Isa 55:6-7 Let the wicked forsake his way  
 2 Pet 3:9 Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance  
 Alma 34:30 Come forth and bring fruit unto repentance  
 2 Nep 31:11 The Father said, repent ye, repent ye  
 3 Nep 11:32 The Father commandeth all men, every where, to repent  
 3 Nep 11:37-38 The Lord commanded “Ye must repent” and become as a little child (childlike not childish)  
 3 Nep 20:20 Except they repent it (the sword of justice) shall fall upon them  
 Moroni 8:8-26 To whom law of repentance applies

### Baptism Essential to Salvation

- Matt 3:15 Becometh us to fulfill all righteousness  
 John 14:12 The works I do, shall ye do also  
 Luke 7:29-30 The counsel of God – “Justified God, being baptized”  
 Matt 28:19 Apostles commanded to teach baptism  
 Acts 2:38 Be baptized every one of you  
 Acts 10:6, 47-48 And He commanded them to be baptized  
 Acts 22:101-6 Paul commanded to be baptized  
 John 3:5 Except a man be born of water and of the spirit  
 Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved  
 2 Nep 31 The way of salvation (study entire chapter – Nephi instructed by the Father and the Son: instruction includes baptism)  
 2 Nep 31:17 Do the things that I have told you that your Lord and Redeemer should do; shown to me that ye should know the gate by which ye enter; the gate is repentance and baptism  
 Alma 9:27 Cometh to redeem those who will be baptized unto repentance  
 3 Nep 7:24-26 None brought unto repentance who were not baptized with water; baptism a witness and testimony of repentance and remission of sins  
 3 Nep 11:33-34 Whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, shall be saved; whoso believeth not in me and is not baptized, shall be damned  
 3 Nep 23:5 “Whosoever hearken unto my words and

repenteth and is baptized, the same shall be saved. Search the prophets, they testified of these things.” (The Lord spoke these words!)

### Object of Baptism

- Luke 3:3 Baptism for the remission of sins  
 Mark 1:4 Baptism for the remission of sins  
 Acts 2:38 Baptism for the remission of sins  
 Acts 22:16 Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins  
 Rom 6:5-6 Sin destroyed (forgiven) by baptism  
 Acts 2:41 Believers made members of the Church by baptism  
 Gal 3:27 Only way to put on Christ (by baptism)  
 2 Nep 31:13 Take upon you the name of Christ by baptism  
 2 Nep 31:17 The gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism  
 Moroni 8:11 Baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins

### Immersion the Mode of Baptism

- Col 2:1 Compared to burial of Christ—“Buried with Him in baptism”  
 Rom 6:4-5 Compared to burial, resurrection and planting  
 Matt 3:16 Jesus came up out of the water  
 John 3:5, 23 Much water needed—“And John was baptizing”  
 Acts 8:38-39 They went down both into the water  
 1 Pet 3:20-21 Flood cover all, eight saved by water, “the like figure” (baptism)  
 1 Cor 10:1-2 Baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea  
 Mosiah 18:14 Both Alma and Helam were buried in the water (baptized)  
 Mosiah 25:18 Alma did go forth into the water and he did baptize them as he did his brethren in the waters of Mormon  
 3 Nep 11:26 Then shall ye immerse them (the Lord’s instructions)

### Infants Need No Baptism

- Mark 10:13-15 Of such is the kingdom of heaven  
 Matt 28:18-19 Go and teach all nations  
 Mark 16:16 He that believeth (infants cannot believe; innocent)  
 Acts 2:38 Must repent before baptism (infants cannot repent, no understanding of need for baptism)  
 Acts 8:12 Men and women baptized; no children  
 1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive  
 Rev 20:12 All judged according to their works (chil-



Mosiah 3:21 dren have no works)  
None blameless before God except little children (baptism not needed for little children; they are innocent)

Moroni 8 Whole chapter refers to infant baptism; no need; it is a sin

### Blessing of Children

Matt 19:13-15 There were brought unto Him, little children; that He put His hands on them and pray; He laid His hands on them, and

departed thence  
Mark 10:13-16 They brought young children to Him; "Suffer little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of God;" He took them up in His arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Moroni 8:10-12 Teach repentance and baptism to those accountable and capable of committing sin; little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Little children are alive in Christ.

(To be continued next month)

## Native American Outreach

Continued from Page 1

prayers of the saints. Jeremiah 33:14 reads, "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel." The NAO says, "It's a great work. It's a great time to get involved."

Brothers and sisters do not need to wait for an experience to know that the Lord wants them to enlist in His missionary forces going forth among His covenanted people. The divine calling takes place when one reads the Holy Scriptures and understands the plan laid out and the tasks commanded. Saints can learn about the needs of the Committee by visiting the link "How Can I Get Involved?" at the home page of [www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com).

If that doesn't describe The Church of Jesus Christ today, I don't know what does! I will continue this Editorial next month. Keep reading!

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

make, or what interesting places you may go. You will be safe if you first pray, then ask God and listen to His answers when you quietly think, "Why NOT me?" Remind yourself again of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Have an amazing New Year.

With Love,  
Your friend, Sister Jan

The songbirds sing to greet the rising day;  
The cattle eat the new mown hay this morning,  
The desert blooms, it blooms again they say.  
The desert blooms, it blooms again they say.

The God of Israel moved His arm this morning,  
And touched the broken bones where long they lay;  
He brought to life His chosen ones this morning,  
The desert sings and blooms with joy today.  
The desert sings and blooms with joy today.

The solitary place is glad this morning,  
The rivers reached the barren land they say;  
And all the land sings praise to God this morning,  
The lovely desert rose has bloomed today.  
The lovely desert rose has bloomed today.

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Arlene Lea Buffington

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Editorial Viewpoint

Continued from Page 5

*"And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 14:12).*

## New Songs of Zion

### #139 The Desert Bloomed

The desert bloomed just like a rose this morning,  
And life has sprung anew at last today;  
The long dark nights have fled away this morning,  
And showers fill the early dawn they say.  
And showers fill the early dawn they say.

There's water in the wilderness this morning,

## Children Blessed

Emma Elizabeth McFall, daughter of Jennifer McFall, was blessed on June 11, 2006 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Mackenzie Charisma Kert, daughter of Sister Rebecca Kert (Straccia) and Brian Kert, was blessed on July 2, 2006 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Jake Matthew DiFalco, son of Michael and Brooke DiFalco, was blessed on June 11, 2006 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Audrey Rose Azzinaro, daughter of Brother Anthony and Sister Kristen Azzinaro, was blessed on August 20, 2006 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Stephanie Lynn Holtcamp, daughter of Matt and Lisa Holtcamp, was blessed on November 5, 2006 at the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

## Ordinations

Sister Nicole Collison was ordained a Deaconess in the Windsor, Ontario Branch on November 5, 2006. Her feet were washed by Sister Adrienne Collison and she was ordained by Brother Don Collison.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Richard Kersey of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch was reinstated on June 11, 2006.

Sister Kristi Kersey of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch was reinstated on June 11, 2006.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother George Benyola, Sr., of the Leesburg, Florida Mission, celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on November 18, 2006.

Brother Edward Palposi of the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1, celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on September 30, 2006.

Karen Lowe; a son, Dick Lowe and wife Catherine; two grandsons and two great-grandchildren; a brother, Brother Samuel Thomas; and a sister, Sister Marie Prescott.

### THELMA SHAZER PETROSKY

Sister Thelma Shazer Petrosky of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on September 9, 2006. Sister Thelma was preceded in death by her parents Brother Joseph Shazer and Sister Sara Fuller Shazer; husband, Charles Petrosky, Sr.; and a son, Donald Petrosky. Sister Thelma is survived by three children, Sister Charlotte Sapko, Charles Petrosky and Ronald Petrosky; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

### LOUIS VISCONTI

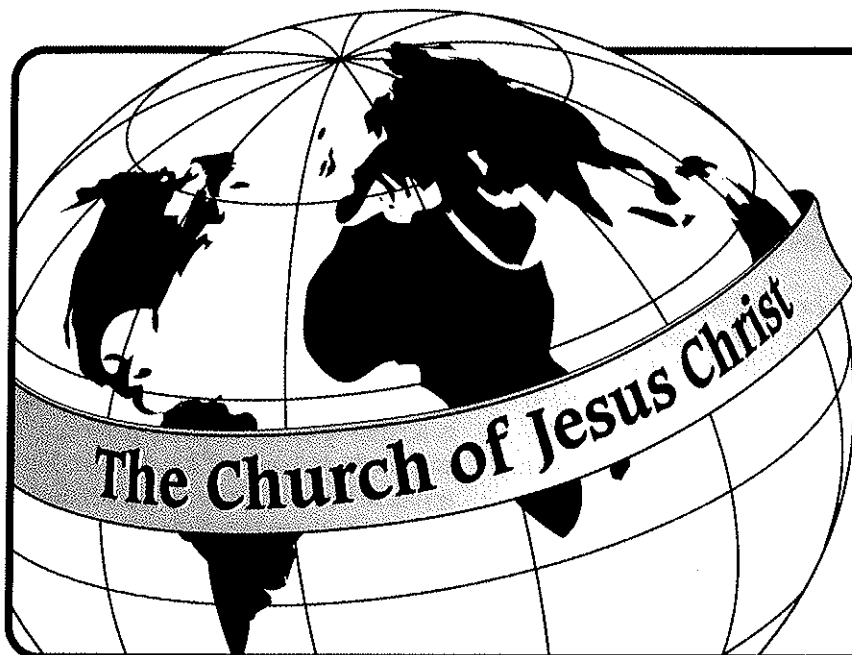
Brother Louis Visconti of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed onto his reward on September 11, 2006. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Grace; his son, Louis III; daughters, Lisa and Christie, along with respective spouses; and eight grandchildren.

## OBITUARIES

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

### ELSIE MAE LOWE

Sister Elsie Mae Lowe of Anchorage, Alaska, formerly of Connellsville, Pennsylvania and a member of the Treasure Coast Branch, Fort Pierce, Florida, passed on to her reward on October 30, 2006. She was preceded in death by her parents, Brother Oron and Sister Katie Mosako Thomas; her husband, Gordon E. Lowe; son, Gordon E. Lowe, Jr.; a brother, Brother John Thomas and three sisters, Sister Molly Lint, Sister Margaret Strickler and Jane Thomas. Sister Elsie is survived by a daughter,



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

February, 2007

Volume 63, No. 2

## Pacific and Southwest Regions Joint Spiritual Conference

*By Brother Tim Scolaro and Brother Ken Surdock*

The Friday night session began at 9:00 p.m. in a conference room at the Desert Princess Resort in Cathedral City, California with all planning personnel in attendance. Brother Jim Huttenberger, the Pacific Region President, welcomed everyone to the conference site and expressed his excitement about the gathering taking place this weekend. It has been many years since the Southwest Region was formed from members of the then California District. He laid out the purpose, plans, and goals for the next two days and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication in planning this conference. He also noted that there would be six of the ten Apostles in attendance including Brother Paul and his wife, Sister Eleanor Palmieri. After a few more remarks we convened our meeting.

The Saturday session began with welcomes by the regions' two Presidents — Brother Ron Brutz of the Southwest Region and Brother Jim Huttenberger of the Pacific Region. There was an air of anticipation as the room filled to near capacity with saints and their families from

all parts of the country. Brother Jim acknowledged all of the Apostles and their families in attendance and noted that Brother Paul and Sister Eleanor had recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! Also in attendance was Brother Jeff Giannetti, President of the GMBA. Brother Ron gave a short history of the two regions and said that the idea for this conference had its origin at the 2004 Mesa, Arizona Branch dedication. Brother Jim announced that the theme for our conference was "Family Reunion." We were led in prayer by Brother Walt Jankowski, from the Denver Mission.

Our conference began with addresses by three of our Apostles. Brother Richard Christman encouraged us to share what we learned this weekend with those in our home branches that could not be in attendance. God said that "...It was not good for man to dwell alone." God had a plan for a "family" not just for a man and a woman. Families provide food, shelter, and care. God also included a relationship between the family of man and God. Satan naturally tried to destroy that relationship,

but failed. Brother Dick said that God depends on us to provide more than just the basics. We need to dedicate time and energy to teaching about the things of God. We must focus on that.

Brother Paul Liberto shared a memory of growing up in Pennsylvania as a small boy and running down a hill in the dark when someone came up from behind and picked him up with loving arms. That's part of the blessing of a family. There must be a relationship to have a family. In the grand scheme of life, what is really important? He quoted the piece of scripture that says "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and all these things shall be added." The great thing about the family of God is we always have a place to turn in times of need.

Brother Isaac Smith was the last speaker of the morning saying that we belong to an extended family and always desire that more will decide to enter in. We all become related spiritually when we are "born again." He also stated that Jesus is our older brother and we have the same Father. We all share this wonderful heritage and we need to help others acquire it as well. He said that our spiritual family helps us "press on to the mark of eternal perfection" and "because He lives we can face tomorrow." The remarks of our brothers were inspira-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Joint Spiritual Conference

Continued from Page 1

tional and set the stage for each of the seminars that would follow.

The seminars were prepared by age groups so that each group would have interesting and meaningful lessons. The theme "Family" was carried on with each age group. The seminar leaders set up their materials and visual aides in a permanent place and the various groups rotated from seminar to seminar much like a school or college format. This proved to be a very effective and efficient way to conduct the seminars.

The first adult seminar was conducted by Brother Lou and Sister Adeline Ciccatti from the San Diego Branch. The theme of "Marriage in our modern society – does it have the same meaning," was discussed. Needless to say, this topic evoked a lot of discussion and some surprising comments. It was said that when the family breaks down the whole society fails. Many statistics were cited that seemed to indicate that we were in a social decline in the area of marriage and the makeup of the family. A strong opinion is growing among young people that says marriage is an obsolete formality. It seems to be gaining popularity as more and more are choosing to live together without the requirement of the marriage vow. Statistics seem to indicate that half of all marriages end in divorce. It was stated that the biggest problem with most marriages in trouble is a "lack of communication." Hand signals and gestures are not effective communication skills, in fact they most often lead to inaccurate and incomplete information being received. We must become effective communicators in the family and pass these skills on to our children so they will have a better than average chance for a happy relationship. The scripture teaches that husbands should love their wives and wives should respect the leadership of their husbands. "You cannot love without forgiving and you cannot forgive without loving." We were cautioned not to criticize each other, and to discuss any problems we had

in the privacy of our homes. Finally we were advised to attack the problem not each other! It was a very stimulating and educational seminar.

The next seminar was lead by Brother Larry Watson of the Tse Bonito Branch. It was titled "Mentoring." He used the scriptural account of Elijah and the 400 prophets of Baal when Elijah was hiding in a cave and lamented to God that he was all alone. He was commanded to anoint Elisha and they would become close allies in God's work. Brother Larry shared a personal experience and said, "You never know how our relationships can come back to influence our lives." Brother Jim Alessio told how the Lord directed him to become friends with a few of the young men in the Mesa area. They now look to him as a friend they can go to with their personal questions and problems. This is what mentoring is all about! Being a friend. Another comment was made that sometimes you don't have to say a word to a person but they are influenced by your actions just the same. Others offered similar testimonies about how various ones throughout their lifetimes had specific impacts on their lives. We all can be a mentor to someone and remember we may be affecting someone else without our knowing it.

At this point we broke for lunch with many thoughts buzzing in our heads.

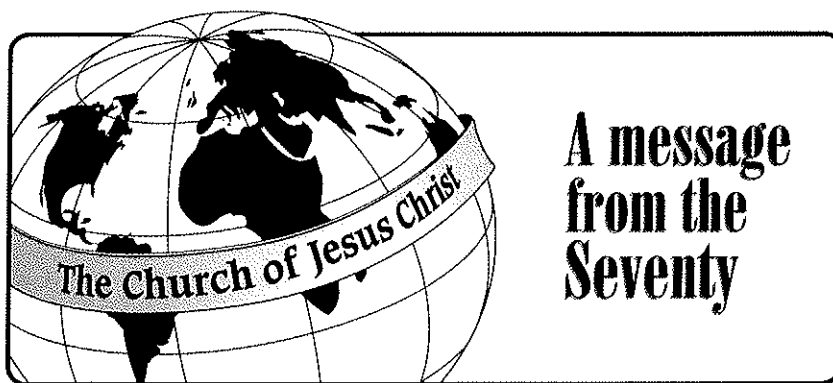
We all gathered together in the main conference hall to start the afternoon seminars. Brother Jim asked how things went in the seminars so far with many positive responses. He set the agenda for the afternoon and then gave Brother Paul Palmieri the opportunity to address the members before dismissing to their respective classes.

Brother Paul gave us a brief history of his young life and how he came to commit his life to the Lord in 1956. He told us that he was ordained an Elder in 1967 and his father joined the Church in 1968 at a campout. He spoke a bit on the recent dream that revealed that we did not have "enough" oil in our lamps. He made

reference to the 10 virgins and their condition without enough oil to last through the wedding. He admonished us to work at being prepared for the future as we are seeing prophecy unfold before our very eyes. He then reviewed the dream of the evil one coming at us in more direct and obvious ways than in the past and we need that spiritual oil to be prepared and ready to fend off his attacks. He spoke to the ministry saying it is our responsibility to teach the people the word of God and to live the lives we preach to them ourselves. We must be careful what we see, what we do, where we go, how we spend our time, and what we seek to acquire (where is our treasure?). He admonished us to love the saints and keep that love as our greatest love next to God, realize that the Gospel must be spread, never underestimate the power and cunning of the devil to destroy anyone who shows weakness and wavering faith, and remember that we are unique among the churches of the world. The devil will lead us to believe that he does not care about us one way or another and he will try to attract us with the glitter of the world or blow us off course with opposition, so we must be united in our commitment to Christ and determined not to be deceived by any of the devil's attempts to turn us from the way.

Brother Tom M. Liberto spoke about how much God loves us and leaves to us the task of taking His message around the world while keeping the branches and missions growing. He mentioned the General Church Website that asks, "How can I get involved?" We must get involved with Church projects and mission fields but not forsaking our own branches and missions in the process. He referred to the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans that tells how the various groups looked out for each other and made sure no one was lost. He said we must support our own places of worship before we enter other works. We must have a firm foundation before we can grow the Church

(Continued on Page 8)



## Evangelist Ordained at Plumbrook, Michigan

On May 7, 2006 our day was not only blessed with the ordination of Brother Lyle Criscuolo as an Evangelist, but also by the visits from many brothers, sisters, and friends from various Regions of the Church.

Brother Dick Christman opened the service by making reference to Luke 10 where the Seventy Evangelists went out and came back rejoicing. He told us that the mission of the Seventy was given to them by Jesus. They were instructed to go out for the harvest was truly great as it is now. The names of the Seventy would be written in Heaven.

Then he used Revelation 21 to reflect on the great city, holy city, as is in heaven. John, in Revelation, describes the twelve gates with twelve angels and names written of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Here, Brother Dick mentioned that he feels that the names of the Seventy Evangelists are written on stones that reflect the light of God. These stones were referenced throughout the rest of the day.

Brother Mitchell Edwards from South Bend continued from the Old Testament in the book of Habakkuk when the ministers admonished the nation of Judah to repent from their sinful ways. Brother Mitchell continued with the thought that there is an Israel like this all around us and as the Lord bid Habakkuk to go out to Israel, then He bids us to go out to the nations. He told us to give the love that God has put in our hearts and give of your best to the Master. We must shine the glory of Christ and

have love within us for others. We must evangelize to the world.

Brother John DiBattista continued with the stones, as previously mentioned, to be used for many different things by the Lord. The twelve stones of the River of Jordan and Twelve tribes of Israel. David used five smooth stones to slay Goliath. We are like stones ready to be used of God and God engraves our names on each. There are many stones in the foundation and pillars of our Church. We need to be ready for any duty or responsibility to perform. Our names are written on the stones. We need to be a smooth stone and be prepared to be used. At that moment Sister Beverly Thomas saw a personage in white following Brother John as he moved about the rostrum.

Brother Phil Jackson then followed with when the Lord spoke to the seventy. The Lord said don't glory, but glory that your names are written in Heaven. The Kingdom is The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Phil also mentioned here that Brother Dominic Thomas had a dream where he continually was meeting a woman who kept repeating that "the great work of the Lord" needs to be done. As Brother Phil continued, he referred to Isaiah 54. He also mentioned that the foundation of that great city is the Church which is made up of different kinds of stones. We should be a part of this great Kingdom and help make The Church of Jesus Christ that great jewel.

Our visitors from the Muncey Mission sang a selection as we

prepared for Sacrament.

As the morning service was closing with singing, Richard Ficara of Branch #1 asked for his baptism and Brother David Haley expressed that he saw a personage walking back and forth.

Everyone then proceeded to the fellowship rooms for lunch and exchange of experiences with one another.

The afternoon service began with singing of several hymns after which Brother Alex Gentile addressed us with reference to Mark 8:38, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." He expressed that we must step out in faith and be not afraid to proclaim the Gospel.

Brother Lou Vitto then mentioned how Paul, in the scriptures, said that he was not ashamed, we are all messengers of Jesus Christ.

Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine sang *Go and Tell the World* as the brothers made preparations to ordain Brother Lyle. Evangelist Frank Vitto then washed Brother Lyle's feet. As we sang the hymn *To the Work* the Apostles and Evangelists surrounded Brother Lyle, then knelt as Apostle Phil Jackson prayed for the Lord to touch the brother that was to ordain Brother Lyle. After the prayer the brothers continued the circle and Evangelist Mitchell Edwards stepped forward to ordain Brother Lyle.

Brother Lyle testified giving thanks to his wife, Sister Nancy, thanking her for the support she gives as he performs work for the Lord. Brother Lyle also thanked the brothers and sisters for their many prayers and encouragement while he has served the various missions of the Church.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr. offered the closing prayer giving thanks to God for a day of blessings and enjoying the Spirit of God.

(More Message from the Seventy articles continue on Page 4)

Message from the Seventy  
Continued from Page 3

## Missionary Work in San Carlos

*By Sister Brenda Capone*

My husband Tim and I had quite an adventure this year. We were sent to the San Carlos Mission in Peridot, Arizona. The experience that led us to this part of God's beautiful country was that my father-in-law, Brother Peter H. Capone, now passed on to his reward, spoke to me in an audible voice saying, "You need to go to San Carlos." On April 27, 2006, we said our goodbyes to family and friends in Michigan and headed down the road to San Carlos. It hurt to leave, but we knew without an ounce of doubt that we were doing what God had asked us to do. We were headed for the Seed of Joseph.

Brother Virgil Link, an ordained elder of the Church, resides on the San Carlos Mission compound, and he is of the Seed of Joseph. Brother Lawrence and Sister Sylvia King from Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania also arrived in April to help care for the mission on an extended tour of service. Brother Lawrence served as the elder-in-charge for over six months in 2006.

I remember the first Wednesday night service that I attended was one of my favorites. Brother Virgil always sets aside Wednesday night services for testimonies. Not one person stayed seated that night. Each one took his or her turn expressing what God had done for them in their lives, and not one of them missed thanking God for sending brothers and sisters to work for the mission again. Our hearts were filled, and just when we thought the blessings could not get better, the brothers and sisters sang songs in their Apache tongue giving honor and glory to God. How wonderful! I will carry their voices in my heart forever.

During our stay, we got to know the Apache members quite well. The Apache people are a loving and happy

people. They have their problems just as we all do. They can pour out their hearts in a testimony of a troublesome time, and then they can turn around and share a good laugh about something else. How quickly they let go of sorrow so that they might share in someone else's joy!

I came to San Carlos knowing that God sent us. "You need to go to San Carlos," was the simple statement of my father-in-law. God didn't say, "You need to go to San Carlos, and while you're there a dozen people are going to be baptized!" He said, "You need to go to San Carlos," and I think that maybe the "need" was in me. I had the idea that missionary work was a constant, overwhelming flow of the Spirit of God; that everyone was always smiling, laughing, and having visions; that it was a perfect taste of Zion. This is true, but there is so much more.

The blessings certainly outnumber the other things, but there *are* certainly other things! Like fixing broken shelves, cleaning out the cupboards, unplugging toilets, heating up water to wash dishes when the hot water tank breaks, cutting the grass, and scrubbing the graffiti off of the church sign out front. There are scorpions, tarantulas, and flies. Today there will be eight people at church. Next Sunday there will be forty. Despite hard work and many inconsistencies, many things also remain the same. There are beautiful mountains that shoot up from the earth like angels with their arms reaching the heavenly skies, flowering cactus along the highways, and wildflowers everywhere. The lakes are peaceful, and wild horses run down the mountains with their tails blowing in the wind.

There is also the Apache Nation, a wonderful and happy people. They are good people with the same hopes and dreams that we have for a better tomorrow. The Apache children are loved and cherished by their whole extended families, and I commend the Apache families for their abundance of love. The faces of the brothers and sisters that we have met here will be forever etched in our hearts.

Now the time has come for Tim

and me to leave San Carlos. We have fallen in love with God's Apache people, and we will always cherish this time in our lives. God gave Tim and me another opportunity to grow spiritually, and that in itself is a great and powerful blessing!

## A Miracle at the Cree Nation

*By Brother Jim Bork*

On July 27, 2006 two vehicles began a journey; one leaving from Ann Arbor, Michigan, the other from Clairton, Pennsylvania. Both parties arrived at the final destination, Hearst, Ontario the next day within twenty minutes of each other. Brothers Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., Lyle Criscuolo, and Jim Bork made the fifteen hour journey from Michigan while Brothers Robert Nicklow, Sr., and Joshua Nicklow traveled eighteen hours from Pennsylvania. The purpose of the trip was to visit our Brother Matthew Sutherland of the Cree First Nation at Constance Lake, Ontario. Constance Lake is located along the farthest north, east-west road in Canada, the Trans Canadian Highway, approximately nine hours north of Lake Superior.

Brother Matthew and his wife, Mary Ann, live at the entrance of the reserve. Their home is not on the reserve property. Brother Matthew found the Church in 1976 when the Spirit of God spoke to him saying, "Go south and find Peter and be baptized." Brother Matthew traveled south and met Brother Peter Capone from Detroit, Michigan. He was baptized and began a journey across the United States, visiting his native people on many reserves and telling them of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Matthew has been praying for the past twelve years to change the situation on the reserve. Like many other reservations, the Cree are plagued with drug and alcohol

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Last month, I began to identify scriptures that have revealed the stepping stones to the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ today. The last scripture in 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 14:12 explains how The Church of Jesus Christ would be throughout the world in the last days, but would be small because of the wickedness of the great whore that exists. It is true, today The Church of Jesus Christ is small but we are throughout the world with the expansion of the Church into many different countries. It goes on to say,

*"And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth"* (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 14:15).

Today there are wars and rumors of wars everywhere. We should not be discouraged since this has been predicted many years ago to Nephi in this vision which he had of the last days. The Lord goes on to say,

*"And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil, then, at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants, which he hath made to his people who are of the house of Israel"* (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 14:17).

The House of Israel will begin to come to the knowledge of Christ during this time. This is why The Church of Jesus Christ places such an emphasis on them. In another portion of scripture, we are told to plant seeds amongst one of the tribes of Israel, Joseph, upon this land of America for the day when a Choice Seer will emerge and convince them of the word which has already gone out amongst them. I am sure in the many countries we are going to, we are stumbling upon Israel. The Lord has a master plan to remember His covenant that He made to Abraham, that his seed would be blessed and lifted up again in the last days. Through this awakening and gathering, the whole world will change. A Peaceful Reign will set in very soon.

This chapter goes on to say that the Lord showed Nephi the Apostle John, and showed Nephi that he would write the remainder of the things that would happen until the very end of the world (because God revealed these things to John). This record is sealed and will come forth in the future. So Nephi stopped writing the things he was seeing at this point, because he was instructed not to continue.

We have been given so much knowledge today in The Church of Jesus Christ. We have to be careful because where much is given, much is required. We are required to live a life above reproach and be an example wherever we go. We must stay firm when things around us in the world are getting out of control. We know that many things must happen in these last days in order for God to fulfill His promises to Israel and to all those who would love and serve Him. We must give the more earnest heed to the things which we have been taught, lest at any time they would slip away (see Hebrews 2:1).

As we begin this New Year, let us refresh our understanding of the basic truths of the Gospel and re-prioritize our lives to be sure that the Lord is always first place in everything we do. Let us remember who we are; we are that peculiar people that is spoken about. We must act peculiar, and not blend in with the world. We have been given much knowledge, but must have understanding on how that knowledge should direct the way we live our lives. Let's make 2007 the best year ever as we move ever so close to God's promises all being fulfilled.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork

Dear Girls and Boys,

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Simon repented and asked, "Pray to the Lord for me that none of these bad things will happen to me." And so

a famous man of the world who practiced magic and tricking people asked to be forgiven.

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

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

With care and love,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

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## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism in Leesburg, FL

All the saints of the Leesburg, Florida Mission enjoyed a spirit-filled day, when we gathered together at Hampton Beach for Sister Mary J. Brown's baptism. Sunday, November 26, 2006, was a beautiful, warm, sunny day. We all thought it was a perfect day for a baptism. As we walked towards the lake on the white sand everyone noticed how clear and blue the water looked, you could see right down to the bottom. We formed a circle at the water's edge and sang that beautiful old time favorite, *Shall We Gather at the River*, after which Brother John Gray opened with prayer.

After Sister Mary acknowledged that she repented of her sins and promised to love and serve God for the remainder of her life, Brother George Benyola, Sr. took her by the hand and walked her into the water and baptized her. Brother George said that as he was walking out of the water with Sister Mary, her face looked so radiant and she uttered three times, "Thank You Jesus, Thank You Jesus, Thank You Jesus." When we reached the shore line, everyone, very excited, said to us, "Look at the writing in the sand." When we looked at the sand, to our amazement we saw written in large letters across the front where we were all standing, "Thank You Jesus." "OK," we asked, "Who wrote this in the sand?" Everyone said, "Nobody, Sister Janice noticed it as you were walking out into the water."

There were thirteen of us gathered at the water's edge that morning and everyone that was there saw the handwriting in the sand and there were even pictures taken, but no one knows how it actually got there. All we do know is that what was written is exactly what was said by Sister Mary after being baptized. How marvelous is that? We were all positive that God was letting us know that He was

pleased with Sister Mary's decision to render obedience unto Him and she said all that could be said, "Thank You Jesus."

We arrived back at the Community Center to proceed with our service. After opening our meeting in prayer, Sister Mary was asked to come forward and to take her seat before the Ministry. Brother Ron Carradi, visiting with us from the Treasure Coast Branch, asked God in mighty prayer to bless our sister's confirmation. Brother John Gray, by the laying-on-of-hands offered a beautiful prayer asking God to bestow upon Sister Mary the gift of the Holy Ghost, as recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Moroni.

After singing #122, *A New Name in Glory*, the ministry was blessed to speak to us with wonderful words of life found in 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 18<sup>th</sup> chapter, and Acts 8<sup>th</sup> chapter regarding repentance and baptism and the laying-on-of-hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. When feasting on the word of God and enduring to the end, we shall receive Eternal Life as our reward. When Simon the sorcerer witnessed the laying-on-of-hands for the Holy Ghost, he wanted this power and offered them money. Peter rebuked him and told him, "Let your money perish with thee, because you thought you could purchase the gift of God with money."

A beautiful spirit of fellowship followed with testimony and the passing of Communion especially witnessing Sister Mary partaking of Communion for the first time. That is always a beautiful sight to behold. After dismissing our meeting in prayer we all enjoyed some refreshments celebrating this special day.

### Ten Called in the Inner City Detroit Mission

*By Sister Sarah Thomas*

Early this summer, the Inner City Mission in Detroit, Michigan, was blessed with nine baptisms and one reinstatement. On May 7, 2006, as we

sang the closing hymn, the ministry asked that we form a circle and join hands. The closing prayer was offered and while still holding hands, the Lord poured His Spirit down upon us. It was a calling spirit and Chelsea Parry, Gracey D'Alimonte, Joseph Antone, Richard Lobzun III, Ruth Weaver, and Sarah Antone all asked for their baptisms. Judy Brown was also touched by this Spirit and asked to be reinstated. After she did this, the word of the Lord was spoken saying: "Never to leave me again, never to leave me again."

The six baptisms and one reinstatement took place the next Sunday, May 14, 2006, which was also Mother's Day. Brother Gary Champine, Brother Dick Lobzun and Brother Richard Thomas participated in baptizing the six candidates. Even though the baptisms took place instead of our Annual Mother's Day Breakfast, all of the moms in the Inner City Mission agreed that this was the most wonderful Mother's Day present they've ever received.

Later that month on May 28<sup>th</sup>, God poured His Spirit upon the Inner City Mission once again. Three more souls, Michael Coppa, Tammy Boyd and Tyitha Brown, were called into the Gospel that day.

The following Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, members, visitors and friends of the Inner City gathered once more on the shore of Belle Isle to witness these candidates give their lives to Christ. This particular Wednesday evening there was a severe storm with torrential rains, thunder, lightning and high winds, in the Detroit area. However, in spite of the storm, many of our members saw a rainbow off in the distance; an extraordinary reminder of God's promises. When we arrived at Belle Isle, the storm flooded most of the roads and broken tree limbs were scattered everywhere. But the Lord, as always, was in control. While we waited in our cars for a break in the storm, the brothers felt that they should petition the Lord. The brothers gathered together and prayed mightily to the Lord, that He would calm the

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## Inner City Detroit, MI

Continued from Page 7

storm. Within moments of their prayer, the rain, thunder, lightning and wind ceased and a portion of the sky cleared and lit up directly over the baptismal site. It was amazing to witness the power of God right before our very eyes. Thankful that the Lord performed such a miracle, we gathered at the water's edge and watched as three more souls were baptized. After the baptisms and prayer was offered, the cleared part of the sky where the sun was shining quickly clouded and became dark. The wind kicked up, lightning streaked the sky, thunder pounded and the rain hammered down upon us once again. With the storm again raging, it was evident that "When storm clouds roll, He hears me call..." #52 in *The Songs Of Zion*.

## Joint Spiritual Conference

Continued from Page 2

elsewhere. We are in 37 of the 250 countries of the world besides Native American Reservations, so there is plenty to be done. With God's help every nation will hear the message of Christ as we know it.

Brother Joe Calabrese stated that the idea of joint conferences is a good idea and other Regions might consider planning one as well. He said our responsibility is to labor for Zion. He used the scripture in Matthew 9:36-38 which says the harvest is great but the laborers are few. He warned that it's not always an easy road spreading the good news but step out and try the Lord and see that He will take care of you. We are commissioned to take the Gospel back to the seed of Joseph. He told about a prophecy given by Brother Benjamin Meadowcroft in 1862 which said, "Fear not...administer the word to the nations of the earth...they shall write to you from the North, the South, the East, and the West...the spirit of Elijah is in your midst." Volunteers are needed to take the message around the

globe. An experience in 1900 said that we should not consider it safe if we do not take the Gospel to Joseph! Other experiences confirm that we must go two by two to the nations of the world. Now is the time to act!

The afternoon seminars were also very interesting and inspiring as we resumed our early morning routine. The following seminars and leaders were planned for the afternoon:

(1) NAOC – Brother Ron Brutz and Brother Walt Jankowski – They gave a brief outline of the aims and goals of the Native American Outreach Committee. An outline was distributed to all to take with them as a guide to future plans of the committee. Some of the reservations visited already were shared and plans for future trips were discussed with hopes of encouraging attendees to consider volunteering. They reminded us that we are strong in the foreign mission fields but not so strong in the domestic arena.

(2) GMBA – Brother Jeff Giannetti spoke about the efforts of this organization to strengthen and involve the youth of the Church in missionary work. He applauded the work that's been done over the past few years by the Youth in Action team members. He made a pitch for YIA and asked the parents in the class to suggest to their children to consider volunteering for one of the upcoming tours. He also stated that the GMBA hopes to encourage the youth of the Church to seek the will of God in their lives and then follow His lead.

(3) The Ladies' Circle seminar was lead by Sisters Debbie Kyriakakos and Jody Greger. They reminded everyone of the purpose of the Ladies' Circle as defined by the bylaws and there are many ways that sisters can be involved in missionary work through projects sponsored by the circle. They noted that over the last five years, circles all over the Church have combined to donate \$154,000.00 plus to various Church projects.

(4) Brother Paul Liberto spoke on behalf of the Operations Support Committee of the Church. This new committee's purpose is to provide the technical support staff for all the

various operational requirements needed to stay current with the requirements of a World Wide Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is a link on the General Church website for anyone to offer their expertise in the requested fields. This is an exciting new area of the Church for members to volunteer when they may not feel to do missionary work.

(5) IMOC – Brother John DiBattista gave us a video tour of current works going on around the world. As chairman of this committee, he was well qualified to provide insights to the everyday successes and obstacles in some of the locations where we are trying to bring the Gospel to the locals in these countries. Some areas are very receptive while others are dangerous and hostile to outsiders preaching Christianity. You must be dedicated and committed to this work or you will not be able to survive some of the hardships that come with missionary work. A detailed handout was given to each one that attended the seminar. We left with a greater respect for those who go into some of these places.

(6) Brother Tony Picciuto spoke about a new evangelism tool known as the "Warm List Approach." He outlined how this training will enable us to reach the many people we each already know, eventually inviting them to come to a Church service without having to go door to door or some other contact method with complete strangers, which is hard for the average member to do. Each branch will do a training session for their members utilizing the methods set forth in a training manual that each branch will be provided. Hopefully this approach will enable us to be comfortable in inviting friends, neighbors, co-workers, and one-time members who no longer attend.

Our Saturday night service began at 7:30 p.m. with congregational singing. There was a wonderful feeling of friendship and love pervading the room as we sang the messages of the Gospel. Brother Flip Palacios, the Pacific Area MBA Chaplain, welcomed all to the service. After a few remarks, Brother Craig Meo, Tse Bonito Area

MBA officer, opened in prayer.

Brother Jeff Giannetti was introduced as GMBA President and Brothers Justin Paxon, Pacific Area President, and Michael Watson, Southwest Area President were also introduced. Sister Erin Light, San Diego, sang *I Will Go and Do What the Lord Hath Commanded*, and Sister Maggie Meils, Yucaipa, sang *Take Me Down Into the Water*. The next presentation was made by the various youth class members demonstrating what they had learned during their seminars. Next, *Don't Let Anyone Take Your Crown* was sung.

(1) 7-12 age group used the Acrostic "Family" to develop their seminar. They talked about the human family and the spiritual family and how they felt they fit into both. The kids asked questions of the Elders and they gave their best answers without the benefit of time to review the subject. The answers were inspired and realistic.

(2) 13-17 age group reported that there are many influences on them at this time including a barrage of media efforts vying for their attention and attempting to influence their decisions. School is another place where peer pressure is great and friendships are made or broken depending on what you are willing to do or not do. They asked for our prayers to help them make the right decisions in life.

(3) 18-25 age group sang *Victory in Jesus*. They related how building a regular house related to building a spiritual house. Erin Light and Jonathon Scolaro role played a scene between a natural builder and a spiritual builder.

(4) Everyone that had ever been on a YIA trip was asked on stage to sing and share a few of their experiences. Approximately 30 young people came forward. They sang *It's My Desire*. Several shared their belief in the YIA program and expressed how much serving in the missionary efforts influenced their lives and underscored the importance of sending Missionaries into the fields. All of the young people in the audience were asked to join the YIA members on stage to sing *Let's Just Praise the Lord*.

Brother Tony DeCaro closed our service in prayer.

An ice cream social followed giving everyone a chance to meet and greet those whom they had not greeted before and to share their thoughts on the day's events.

Our Sunday service began at 9:00 a.m. with congregational singing until 9:30 a.m. The sound was like Heavenly choirs as saints from many branches gathered for church. Brother Ron Brutz welcomed everyone and acknowledged all those who have built a highway for us to follow on. They are as much a part of this Family Reunion as we are. We dedicate this day to them. Justin and Christina Paxon sang *My Tribute*. Brother Jim Huttenberger also welcomed everyone especially those who traveled many miles to attend. Brother Larry Watson opened in prayer. Next the San Diego Choir sang a medley of favorite hymns. The San Diego Youth Choir also sang a medley of hymns entitled *You Gave Your Life for Me*.

The first speaker of the morning was Brother Bob McDonnell from Bell, California. He spoke of the harmony between the two Regions. He said our family is growing both at home and overseas. The love is unconditional and will witness to the world that we are His disciples. Love overcomes all adversities, failings, and weaknesses. He read from I Corinthians 12:12 which says that we are *the body of Christ* and there are many parts that make up the body. Each part is vital to a healthy body. He then cited the account in Mosiah 18:8-9 which says, "...as ye are...willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort..." He said that this is our trademark. Things bring us pleasure but we bring each other joy!

A trio consisting of Brothers Pete Giannetti, Jordan Giannetti, and Jameson Staley sang *Loving Each Other*.

At this point it was decided to serve the Lord's Supper. Brother Joe Calabrese made a few introductory remarks. All of the Apostles and two

Elders were enlisted to participate in this ordinance. A very holy atmosphere pervaded the scene as our brothers prepared and distributed Communion to the members of the congregation. One could imagine the feeling in the upper room as Jesus did the same to His closest followers. We were all blest by this occasion.

After Sacrament concluded, Sister Amy Buccellato, Simi Valley, California sang *Amazing Grace*. It was a fitting song following Sacrament.

The next speaker was Brother Joe Ignagni, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas. He read the account at the waters of Mormon and said that various members fulfilled these words in his own life as he was called into the Ministry. Although people are important, Jesus is the key to it all! He said God is alive and He is here for you today, giving an invitation for anyone who had not made their covenant with God yet to do so and not delay.

Brother Jeff Giannetti was the next to speak. He said that he was a member of the Southwest Region for nine years before moving to the Midwest. He recalled how they laughed and cried together and shared experiences and scriptures together. He summarized Psalm 133 which says "How good it is when we dwell together in unity." He warned families to beware, the evil one is seeking to take us away from our natural and spiritual families! Parents must work hard to keep their children in the fold. He cited Alma's admonitions to his three sons to tend to the work they were called to do and serve God with all the energy of their souls. He encouraged parents to bring their children to church.

Our next speaker was Brother John DiBattista, Chicago, Illinois. He told the story of Ezra and exclaimed that we had no control over our being born, our genetics, etc. Our lives are filled with uncertainties and problems. He spoke to those not yet baptized telling them they do have this choice—to make a confession that they need a Savior and to join the family of God.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Joint Spiritual Conference

Continued from Page 9

Today He is calling out to the lost and lonely. Don't turn him away. He confessed that he gets more love from his spiritual family than his natural one. The choice is yours!

Brother Palmieri offered some closing thoughts as we prepared to bring our conference to a close. He asked all to stand and show a vote of thanks to Brothers Ron and Jim and all those who made this conference a success. He was happy to be here and brings the regards of the General Church authorities. "Together we will see the will of God being done. We must bring that message to the souls of men and women. I'm proud of what your two regions have done this weekend in coming together like this. Thanks to everyone for their contributions to the work of the Church both naturally and spiritually. Our vision is to see the work among the seed of Joseph grow according to God's plan of restoring all of Israel to their rightful place of honor in God's Kingdom. The purpose of the family is to work to cause it to grow until it covers the whole earth. The Quorum of Twelve needs your help, prayers, and support that we may lead the Church forward in our day and enlarge the family all over the world."

Brothers Jim and Ron thanked everyone for making this a successful endeavor and praised the resort for being very accommodating to our every request. They asked everyone to go back to their home branches and encourage each other to build strong relationships and strengthen our branches.

We rose and a group sang *We Are One in the Spirit*. Brother Dwayne Jordan closed the conference in prayer.

## Miracle at Cree Nation

Continued from Page 4

abuse which leads to depression. Our brother said the situation has improved on the reservation since the brothers

have been coming.

Saturday, we began the day with prayer before leaving our motel. As we sat and listened to Brother Matthew speak, we heard the word "gatekeeper." Brother Robert Nicklow interpreted this to mean Brother Matthew was the gatekeeper to the reserve. After some time meeting with Brother Matthew, we anointed his wife, MaryAnn, for injuries from a fall, and prayed that God would help her to follow her husband into the waters of baptism. We then went to anoint others on the reserve. Our first stop was at the home of Fred and Loma Sachaney, Brother Matthew's daughter. We anointed Alexandra, Fred's mother, for a dislocated shoulder, and prayed for her family and her home. Loma was anointed next for strength and guidance and that God would bless her home. Fred, Loma's husband, was anointed for strength. He said he has been living a good life since our last visit when he was anointed by the ministry.

Our next stop was at the home of Annie Bedwash. She was experiencing vomiting and a pain on her left side. She asked for prayers for her health to be restored. Annie was anointed in late 2005 for cancer and experienced a miracle. Her subsequent visit to the doctor showed the cancer to be gone. Her doctor put her on local television to claim credit for the healing. However, Annie proclaimed the anointing of the brothers caused her healing and praised God for healing her. Her doctor was irate.

On Sunday, we planned to have a service at Brother Matthew's home. He had arranged for relatives to come to be anointed. Upon arriving at Brother Matthew's, we met three sisters: Priscilla, Servina, and Debbie, and Debbie's son, Nathan. They came from Longlac, a town two and one half hours west. Much of their travel is on gravel logging roads. Their father and mother, Angus and Anna Shaganash were enroute to join us. They arrived shortly. Anna requires dialysis treatments daily, but was determined to meet with us. It was determined that the ministry would

anoint Anna immediately so that she could return home for her next scheduled treatment. Angus was anointed for a sore hip and for strength; Priscilla was anointed for stress and for good health; Servina for a diabetic condition; and Debbie for stress, better health and family problems. After the anointings, distinctive changes came to their countenances. The entire family decided to stay for our Sunday services. Anna would forgo her dialysis treatment.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., opened the meeting with 3 Nephi 9:15, "*Behold, I am Jesus Christ the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are...*" As our brother began to expound on the scriptures, tears of joy and hope could be seen on each of our visitors' faces.

Brother Robert Nicklow followed using the Book of Enos, expounding how Enos cried out to the Lord all the day and night. Enos' cries were heard and the voice of the Lord came unto him saying, "*Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed.*"

Brother Lyle Criscuolo spoke using John 13:34-35. "*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 you are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*" He then said that there is a hope for your people through Jesus Christ. We must freely give our love and our heart to one another.

The meeting ended in prayer and a season of fellowship followed. We enjoyed our visit with our new friends and look forward to see how God will work with each of them.

It was discussed earlier in the day that we would pray for Emile Sutherland, who lives in Fort Albany on the James Bay, for prostate cancer, and Peter Koshtachin from Cochrane for problems with his eyes and dizziness. Brother Robert Nicklow removed a single handkerchief from his Bible for such an occasion; he then placed it back into his Bible. When the time came to pray, Brother Matthew thought we should anoint only one



handkerchief because Peter Koshtachin is not ready to accept our beliefs. We joined hands and each of us began to pray for these two men. Brother Matthew then spoke and said the Spirit told him as we prayed to send a handkerchief to both men. Brother Robert Nicklow went to retrieve the single handkerchief from his Bible and when he removed it, there were two handkerchiefs. God had performed another miracle! The handkerchiefs were anointed and sent to Brother Matthew's friends.

We spent the last day of our visit with Brother Matthew in his home. We discussed his needs and the needs of the people on the reservation. We stopped at the Band office to speak with the chief who was out of town. We went to the home of Charlotte where we attended to anointing her for back problems. We then anointed Charlotte's daughter, Samaria, who is plagued with depression and anxiety. The reserve has many young people who are afflicted and distressed with similar disorders.

We met Charles Sutherland and his wife and sisters as we stopped for groceries and fuel. We had met with them previously and they requested that we meet with them on our next visit. God is performing His marvelous works and wonders before our eyes. He is blessing His covenant people, and they are accepting Him, the Church and the Restored Gospel.

We enjoyed the spectacular scenery of His wilderness as we drove home. Please remember the Cree Nation. Pray that God will deliver them from their afflictions and that they will begin to seek Him more diligently.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Children Blessed

Ezekiel Nephi DeMercurio, son of Brother Nephi and Sister Jennifer DeMercurio, was blessed on August 6, 2006 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Ava Leslie Israel, daughter of Sister Dana and David Israel was blessed on December 17, 2006 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Kassidy May Rabe, daughter of Brother Mark and Tamara Rabe was blessed on December 17, 2006 in the Anaheim, California Branch.

Famisha Aleka Cheney, daughter of Alma Gina Martinez was blessed on November 12, 2006 in the San Carlos Mission in Peridot, Arizona.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Phil Brown of the Leesburg, Florida Mission was reinstated on August 6, 2006.

Sister Mary Brown was baptized on November 26, 2006 in the Leesburg, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother George Benyola, Sr. and confirmed by Brother John Gray.

Brother Gary Peltier of the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch was reinstated on October 29, 2006.

Sister Sandy Menchio of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch was reinstated on October 22, 2006.

Sister Alice Marie Hopkins of the San Carlos Mission in Peridot, Arizona was baptized on September 24, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Lawrence King, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Walter Cihomsky.

(Continued on Page 12)

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Gary Zaye and Jolene Smith were united in holy matrimony in the San Carlos Mission in Peridot, Arizona on October 9, 2006.

Brother Michael Watson and Sister Michelle Huttenberger were united in holy matrimony in San Juan Capistrano, California on July 8, 2006.

## Note

*The Church of Jesus Christ Scriptural References*, started in the January, 2007 issue, will be continued in the March, 2007 issue.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Continued from Page 11

Sister Naomi Hopkins of the San Carlos Mission in Peridot, Arizona was baptized on July 23, 2006. She was baptized by Brother Virgil Link and confirmed by Brother Larry Watson.

## Ordinations

Brother Luke Smith of the Lakeside Arizona Branch was ordained a Teacher on October 29, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Jordan Giannetti and he was ordained by his father Brother Harry 'Skip' Smith.

Brother Emil Palensar of the Lakeside Arizona Branch was ordained a Teacher on October 29, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Michael Watson and he was ordained by Brother Larry Watson.

Brother Michael Watson of the San Carlos Mission was ordained an Elder on November 19, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Ronald Brutz and he was ordained by his father Brother Larry Watson.

Brother Ron Mazzeo of the Mesa Arizona Branch was ordained an Elder on Sunday, December 3, 2006. His feet were washed by Apostle Joseph Calabrese and he was ordained by Brother Barry Mazzeo.

Brother George Kovacic of the Gastonia, North Carolina Branch was ordained an Evangelist on November 19, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Mark Kovacic and he was ordained by Brother John Genaro.

Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr. of the Herndon, Virginia Branch was ordained an Evangelist on December 3, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother George Kovacic and he was ordained by Brother Joel Gehly.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Paul Gehly and Sister Carolyn Gehly, of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversaries in The Church of Jesus Christ on October 21, 2006.

### MARIE PRESCOTT

Sister Marie Prescott of the Herndon, Virginia Branch, passed on to her reward on December 18, 2006. She was preceded in death by her parents, Brother Oron and Sister Katie Mosako Thomas; her husband, Paul Prescott, Sr.; her son, Paul Prescott, Jr.; a brother, Brother John Thomas; and four sisters, Sister Molly Lint, Sister Margaret Strickler, Sister Elsie Lowe and Jane Thomas. She is survived by a daughter, Lynne Staines and her husband, Jack Staines; six grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild; and a brother, Brother Samuel Thomas.

### VIOLET DeVINCENTIS HUMPHREY

Sister Violet DeVincentis Humphrey of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on December 3, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dillon, and an infant son. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Lucille and Donald Hogue; two grandsons, Michael and Dillon Krise; and two nieces, Sister Theresa DeVincentis and Sister Janet Oestreicher.

## OBITUARIES

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

### DIANA LOPEZ

Sister Diana Lopez of the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch, passed on to her reward on October 23, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Brother David Lopez; daughters, Denise, Delia, and Linda; and her son, Jose.

### EUGENE PRESUTTO

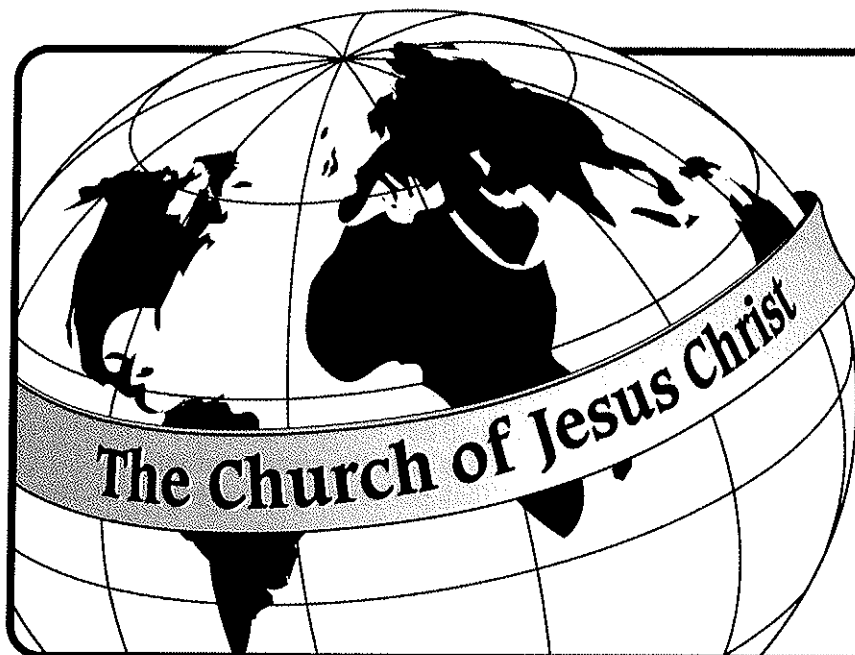
Brother Eugene Presutto of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, passed on to his reward on September 23, 2006. He is survived by three sons, Sam, David and Phillip; one daughter, Sue Coates; a sister, Minnie D'Andrea; a brother, John; eight grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

March, 2007

Volume 63, No. 3

## The Church of Jesus Christ Scriptural References

*(Continued from January, 2007)*

### Holy Ghost – How Conferred on Newly Baptized Members

Acts 5:32	Holy Ghost given to them that obey
2 Cor 3:5-6	Paul and Timothy ministers of the Spirit
Acts 9:17	Ananias sent to give Paul the Holy Ghost
Acts 8:15-20	By laying on of hands, Holy Ghost given
Acts 19:2-6	When Paul had laid his hands upon them
2 Tim 1:6	By the putting on of my hands
Heb 6:2	Laying on of hands, a doctrine of Christ
Moroni 2:2	Ye shall have power that to whom you lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it; for thus do mine apostles

### Operations of the Holy Ghost

Acts 19:6	And they spake with tongues and prophesied
John 16:13-14	He will guide you into all truth
1 Cor 12:4-12	Gives wisdom, knowledge, healings, prophecy
1 Cor 14:1, 26-40	Author of peace, covet to prophecy
Eph 1:16-17	Spirit of wisdom and revelation
Gal 5:22-23	Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, meekness
Mark 16:17-18	Sign shall follow them that believe
1 Thess 5:19-22	Quench not the Spirit; despise not
Acts 2:16-19	This is that (Spirit) spoken of by Joel
Acts 21:10-12	Spirit of prophecy; "Thus saith the Holy Ghost"

2 Pet 1:20-21	Prophets of old spake as moved by the Holy Ghost
2 Nep 32:3	Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost
2 Nep 32:5-6	Show you all things what ye should do; doctrine of Christ
Alma 18:31	Ammon called by the Holy Spirit

### The Gospel Unchangeable

Eph 4:5	One Lord, one faith, one baptism
Gal 1:6-9	Men or angels accursed if they change the Gospel
Rom 16:17-18	Cautioned to avoid contrary doctrines
Matt 5:19	Whosoever shall break one of these commandments
Col 2:8	Beware lest any man spoil you
1 Tim 1:3	That they teach no other doctrine
1 John 2:24-26	Which ye have heard from the beginning
Heb 13:8-9	Jesus and His doctrine always the same
2 John 1:9-10	Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in
3 Nep 11:21	To last—A doctrine of Christ (unchangeable)
1 Nep 10:18	He is the same yesterday, today and forever
Mormon 9:9	God the same yesterday, today and forever (therefore His Gospel does not and should not change)

(Continued on Page 2)

## Scriptural References

Continued from Page 1

Moroni 8:18 He is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity

### Authority Necessary

John 7:16 Jesus sent of God; "My doctrine is not mine"  
 Heb 5:8-10 "Called of God an High Priest"  
 Heb 5:4 "No man taketh this honor unto himself"  
 Mark 6:7 Jesus called the twelve  
 Luke 10:1 "Lord appointed other seventy, also"  
 John 20:21 "As My father hath sent Me, so send I you"  
 Matt 28:16-20 Jesus commissions the twelve: "Go ye therefore"  
 Amos 3:7 Lord works through prophets; "Surely the Lord God"  
 Eph 4:11-12 "And He gave some apostles and prophets"  
 Mosiah 18:13 I baptize thee having authority from the Almighty  
 Mosiah 18:18 Alma, having authority of God, ordained  
 3 Nep 12:1 Received power and authority to baptize from Jesus Christ

### Unauthorized Ministrations Not Accepted of God

1 Sam 13:9-14 Saul condemned for usurping authority  
 1 Chr 13:9-10 Stricken for acting without authority  
 2 Chr 26:16-21 Uzziah stricken for acting without authority  
 Acts 19:2-5 Baptism by false teachers rejected  
 Matt 7:21-29 "Not all that say Lord, Lord, etc."  
 Acts 19:13-16 "Jesus I know and Paul I know"  
 Alma 30:48-57 Korihor struck dumb

### How Authorized Ministers May Be Known

Matt 7:20 By their fruits ye shall know them  
 2 John 1:9-11 He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ  
 Heb 6:1-2 Doctrines; Faith; Repentance; Baptism; Laying on of Hands  
 Eph 4:11-14 Believers in living apostles, prophets, etc.  
 Eph 1:17 Teach necessity of revelation  
 Amos 3:7 Teach necessity of revelation  
 Mark 16:17 Teach that signs shall follow the believers  
 1 Cor 12:7-11 Signs, healings, prophesies, tongues, etc.  
 Heb 5:4 When called by divine revelation  
 Heb 13:8 Teach that Christ is the same always  
 1 Pet 5:2 Preach willingly, not for filthy lucre  
 Mosiah 28:3 They desired that salvation be declared to every creature, they could not bear that any human soul should perish (by the spirit they carry, by their works for the salvation of men)

Moroni 7:31 Their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father

### Departure From the Gospel Foretold (Apostasy)

Isa 24:1-6 Have broken the everlasting covenant  
 Amos 8:11-12 Famine for the word of God  
 Mic 3:6-12 No answer of God – "Therefore night shall be"  
 Isa 29:13 Taught by the precepts of men  
 John 16:2-3 Shall put you out of synagogues (churches)  
 Acts 20:29-30 Flock not spared – "For I know this"  
 Gal 1:6-9 Began in Paul's time – "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from the faith"  
 1 Tim 4:1-3 Some shall depart from the faith  
 2 Tim 3:1-6 Form of godliness, denying power thereof  
 2 Tim 4:2-4 They will not endure sound doctrine  
 2 Pet 2:1-3 Shall be false teachers among you  
 2 Thess 2:1-11 Shall come a falling away, first  
 Rev 13:6-9 Saints to be overcome – "And it was given unto him"  
 2 Nep 28 & 29 The Apostasy and Restoration foretold in these two chapters

### Restoration of the Gospel Foretold

Rev 14:6-7 Gospel to be restored by an angel  
 Matt 24:14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached  
 Dan 2:28-45 God of heaven to set up a Kingdom  
 Jer 31:31-34 I will make a new covenant with Israel  
 Mal 3:1 Will send messenger to prepare the way  
 Mal 4:5-6 Will send Elijah the prophet before the dreadful day of the Lord  
 Mic 4:1-2 Will teach us of His ways  
 Acts 3:19-21 Restitution of all things  
 2 Nep 30:1-8 The Lord shall commence His work  
 3 Nep 21 Restoration and signs whereby known

### Gospel Without Charge

Acts 20:33-34 Paul coveted no man's silver or gold  
 1 Cor 9:18 The Gospel of Christ without charge  
 1 Pet 5:2 Preach willingly, not for money  
 John 10:13 Hireling careth not for the sheep  
 Mic 3:11-12 Preaching for hire displeasing to God  
 Mosiah 2:12 King Benjamin freely gave of his time; he did not seek gold or silver or any riches from God's people

### God – A Personal Being

Gen 1:26-27 Man created in the image of God  
 Gen 8:21 Lord smelled a sweet savor  
 Gen 17 & 18 In these chapters, the Lord eats, drinks, converses, etc.

Gen 32:30 Lord talks with Jacob face to face  
 Gen 35:9-15 God said: "I am God Almighty"  
 Exo 33:9-11 Talks with Moses face to face  
 Exo 24:9-11 Moses, (70) elders and others, saw God  
 Num 12:5-8 Aaron and Miriam heard God's voice  
 Deut 5:24 Israelites heard His voice  
 Heb 1:1-3 Jesus the express image of God's person  
 John 5:26 For as the Father hath life  
 John 6:57 The Living Father sent Jesus  
 Rev 22:3-6 And they shall see His face  
 3 Nep 11:7 Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased  
 3 Nep 27:26-31 God the Father rejoices  
 3 Nep 28:10 The Father, the Saviour and the Apostles to be the same

### Christ – A Personal Being

John 17:3 Life eternal to know God and Jesus Christ  
 John 17:11 God and Christ One in purpose  
 Matt 3:17 God recognizes Jesus as His Son  
 Mark 6:3 Is this not the carpenter?  
 John 10:33 And because Thou being a man  
 John 12:28-29 Jesus prays to His Father  
 Luke 24:15-33 Jesus proves His identity  
 John 20:17 "I ascend unto My Father"  
 John 21:5-15 Third appearance to disciples  
 Acts 1:11 Jesus ascends into heaven – "Ye men of Galilee"  
 Acts 7:55-56 Stephen saw God and Jesus – "Behold I see"  
 1 Cor 15:5-8 He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve  
 Acts 10:40-42 Jesus ate and drank after resurrection  
 Luke 22:29-30 We shall eat and drink in heaven

### Sacrament or Lord's Supper

Matt 26:26-30 Instituted by Jesus – took bread and blessed it  
 Luke 22:14-20 He took the cup and gave thanks  
 1 Cor 11:23-30 This do in remembrance of Me  
 Acts 20:7 Came together to break bread  
 3 Nep 18:1-11 The multitude given bread and wine by Jesus Christ; do it in remembrance of Him  
 3 Nep 20:3-10 Jesus miraculously provides the bread and wine; taken in remembrance of Him  
 Moroni 4 & 5 In these chapters, Sacrament observed by Nephites  
 Mormon 9:29 Should not partake of it unworthily

### Revelation

Matt 16:16-18 Christ's Church built upon revelation  
 Amos 3:7 Governed ONLY by revelation – "Surely the Lord God"  
 Num 11:29 Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets

1 Cor 14:1 Saints should desire spiritual gifts  
 Prov 29:18 Where there is no vision the people perish  
 John 16:13 Spirit of truth will show you things to come  
 Acts 2:39 The promise to all who obey the Lord  
 Jas 1:5 Ask of God and it shall be given  
 Eph 1:17 The spirit of wisdom and revelation  
 1 Thess 5:19-20 Quench not the spirit, despise not prophecy  
 1 Cor 14:26-29 Revelation common among the saints  
 Num 12:6 I, the Lord, will make Myself known  
 Gal 1:11-12 Paul was taught the Gospel by revelation  
 Alma 4:20 According to the spirit of revelation and prophecy  
 3 Nep 3:19 Someone that had the spirit of revelation and prophecy  
 Moroni 10:8-30 Spiritual gifts not to be done away

### Man Forbidden To Add or To Take Away from God's Word

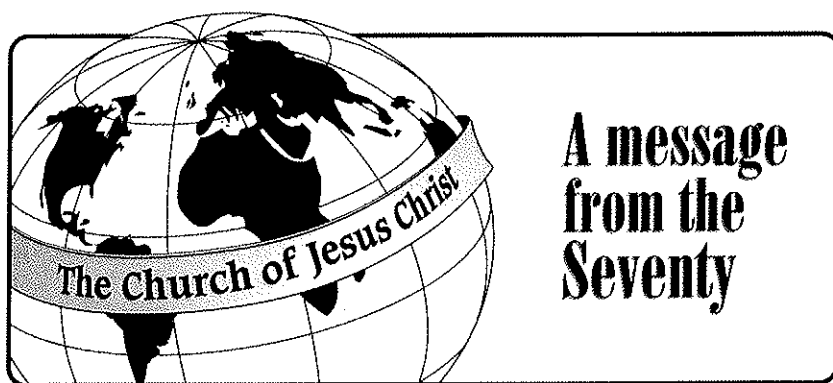
Rev 22:18-19 Bible erroneously supposed to be God's last word  
 Deut 4:2 Man being forbidden to add or diminish, do not prevent God,  
 Deut 12:32 If so, most of Bible must be rejected  
 Jer 36:27-30 God's way of adding is through prophets  
 Amos 3:7 The Lord reveals His secrets to His servants  
 3 Nep 23 & 26 These chapters state that records to be revealed by the Lord  
 2 Nep 29:10 To last – more than the Bible promised

Note: John's Epistles were written after he wrote the Book of Revelation

### Revelation Later than Bible Promised

Jer 31:31-33 A new covenant with Israel in the last days  
 Ezek 20:35-37 I will plead with you face to face  
 Dan 2:44-45 Will set up kingdom in last days  
 Mal 4:5-6 Elijah the prophet to be sent  
 Rev 11:3 Witnesses to prophecy at Jerusalem  
 Rev 14:6 Gospel revealed by an angel  
 Rev 18:4 Another voice from heaven saying come out  
 Jer 3:14-15 Bring you to Zion and give pastors  
 3 Nep 26 This chapter – scripture for future generations  
 2 Nep 3 This chapter – prophecy concerning Joseph Smith and other prophets

(To be continued)



## Israel's Advocate: An Overview of the Church's Divine Commission

By Brothers Peter Benyola and Jameson Staley, NAO Editors

What is one of the attributes of the Church of Jesus Christ that sets it apart from other Christian denominations and even other Restoration groups? It is the *Divine Commission*, the Church's mission statement, which makes the Church very distinctive and extremely important to God's plan for the latter days.

Before the historical background of how this very special task was given to the saints is reviewed, one fundamental fact must be understood: "The mission of The Church of Jesus Christ, as directed by Jesus Christ, is to go and teach all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and teach them to obey everything commanded by Christ in the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon."

Having established that, there is also a mission to the Native American populations: "The Church has been given a special commission to preach the Gospel Restored to the Native Peoples of the Americas who we understand to be descendants of the Tribe of Joseph, one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, as chronicled in the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon. In the Book of Mormon the descendants of Joseph [of Egypt] are often referred to as the Seed of Joseph, and it is recognized that they have been scattered throughout the Americas, the isles of the sea and to unknown locations throughout the world. Therefore, all of the missionary programs of

the Church incorporate this special commission."

The Commission began with the advent of the Restoration of the Gospel when Joseph Smith, Jr. was directed to the hill in which the golden plates of the Book of Mormon were buried and subsequently translated by the Gift and Power of God. As we know, this record catalogues the spiritual history of a remnant of the House of Israel, and also gives us greater understanding of biblical prophecies pertaining to latter-day events and the redemption of God's chosen people. Specifically, this record was primarily intended to be returned to the descendants of Joseph, and the revelation therein promised that the entire House of Israel would be gathered to reclaim their lands of inheritance under the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the October Conference of the year 1861, shortly before the official organization of The Church of Jesus Christ at Green Oak, Pennsylvania this message was revitalized with a powerful outpouring of the Spirit of God, with two gifts of tongues and two interpretations (*A History of the Church of Jesus Christ, Volume I*, W.H. Cadman, pg. 32). "Thus saith the Lord, I will purify my Church and my servants shall go and preach the Gospel to the Indians of America. Go, saith the Lord, and I will go with you and they shall humble themselves before you...When you go to the

Indians tell them that Jesus died to save them. Tell them they are the seed of Abraham. Tell them what I did for their forefathers when they were carried away into Babylon; how that I brought them again into their own land and tell them that I will again gather them to their own lands, for I the Lord have spoken it."

And so, brothers and sisters in Christ, we are fulfilling prophecy. In its next column, *Israel's Advocate*, the NAO will continue to discuss the Church's *Divine Commission*, its basis in the scriptures, and the current work being done among the House of Israel.

## The Muncey Mission

(The following excerpt was taken from *A History of the Church of Jesus Christ, Volume 2, pp. 430-432.*)

"Julia Nicholas, wife of George Nicholas, Chief of the Delaware Tribe, located in Muncey, Ontario, Canada, had begun her quest for religious truth sometime prior to October of 1932. Dissatisfied with the churches she had been associated with, she began to earnestly pray for the Lord's direction to a church containing His Spirit and Truth. As a young girl at the time, Faye Albert had watched her mother in this pursuit, and much of what transpired regarding the introduction of the Gospel to her people was later recorded in her personal journal....In the year 1932, Brother William H. Cadman, was moved upon to pursue the dream of his father, taking his counsel that we as Gentiles must take the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph. Upon reading a newspaper published by the tribes living on the Muncey Reservation, he wrote to Chief Nicholas....In the fall of 1932, Brothers Paul Love, Alma B. Cadman, Anthony DiBattista, and William H. Cadman visited with Chief George Nicholas and his wife after a series of letters had been exchanged between them.... Julia's search for a church was over. She would hold fast from that day onward her belief that the brothers had been directed to her home by Divine Providence."





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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:5-7).*

Like never before, our faith is being tried as God refines us and prepares us for the great things to come. In a recent experience to the Church, a warning was given that there are those who do not have enough oil in their lamps. This means there are those who are not ready for what God is about to do. Some have allowed impatience to turn their belief and hope into disbelief and rejection regarding the promises of God. I believe we are living in a day and time where judgment will begin in the house of God. We in The Church of Jesus Christ will go through manifold temptations, not only risking losing our faith in what we believe and know to be true, but temptations of listening to more logical doctrines, or temptations of the flesh. God is separating the wheat from the tares, and we must stand strong and NOT be moved in our faith, regardless of how hot the fire becomes. This scripture points to the fact that this trial of our faith will be like FIRE! Our little problems and discouragements are only a little discomfort to our soul compared to FIRE. There will be more testing to come. Will you pass the test?

The Book of Mormon points to the fact that if miracles are not evident, it is because of unbelief. Are the gifts of the spirit as prevalent as they were years ago? Are the gifts and things God gives His Church taken seriously, or do we doubt them? Are we losing our hope and dreams of a Peaceful Reign? Are we more comfortable only focusing on today, and not laboring for the future, and for the great work of the Lord? Brothers and sisters, my words are strong and create serious soul searching. They are strong words because the prophecy about our faith being tried by fire in these last days should be a concern to us. We should be concerned about the tighter and tighter stronghold the devil has on the world around us. We should be concerned about our children and loved ones who have not made a commitment to the Lord, or who are not rooted strong in the truths of the Restoration. We should be concerned that the devil wants to destroy our marriages and our families. We should be concerned that we do not have enough oil in our lamps, and as was pointed out in another recent experience to the Church, Satan is coming at us head on. If these things concern us, then thank God! It is out of concern that humankind takes serious action. We live in a day when serious action is required on our part to withstand the onslaught of the evil one.

Let's not doubt the gifts and miracles that God is giving. Let's uphold the work of the Church in whatever country we are sent. Let us give the more earnest heed to the things we have been taught and remember that we are not a contemporary Church. We do not "change with the times." We may use new technologies to help the Gospel grow, but our faith and doctrine remains UNCHANGING. Let's be the voice in the wilderness crying, "Prepare!" Let's be like Joshua and Caleb and believe that a promised land awaits us. Let's be like Elisha and ask God for a double portion. Let us not be ashamed of The Church of Jesus Christ because it provides the power of God unto salvation. Let's hold up our head now and not put it down, and believe that the day we have dreamed of is here.

Be strong my brothers and sisters....strong in the Lord of course, and not of ourselves. And if any slip into the quicksand, let's all reach out to pull them out. Hand in hand, we will survive these last days, and be rewarded with the peace of Jesus Christ in His kingdom that is coming.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Fret Not Yourself (Do Not Make Yourself Upset and Fearful)

(Psalms 37)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever been someplace where others treated you entirely unfair? Have you tried to join a group and have them leave you out or make fun of you? Did you ever wonder why someone that you *know* is mean or is cheating, seems to win or prosper instead of you? When this happens, doesn't your heart feel like bursting in anger? Do you then go home and think about it over and over? Do you think about how you could be mean back to them? This is called fretting. It is in our human nature to do this, but it is not good for our hearts and bodies to do so. It will ruin our lives if we let ourselves go over and over these bad things. God tells us not to fret.

Did you know that life is full of conflicts and problems like this? Even when we are grown up there will be times when things in life hurt us, or make us furious. We must each learn what to do when the old devil puts bad people or events in our lives. Read and memorize the different verses in Psalms, Chapter 37. Remind yourself of God's promises if you just follow the advice given there.

Psalms was written by a wise man in the Bible, David, a shepherd boy who rose to become a famous soldier, then leader and King of the people of Israel. You remember



him. He was the boy sent to bring food to his soldier brothers. When he got there, he heard and saw the giant Goliath, mocking God and threatening to kill all of God's people. David stood up for God and with a prayer of faith, he took a slingshot and killed the mighty soldier, Goliath.

This captured the interest of King Saul. He could see that God was working with David. He asked David to stay at the palace and play the beautiful, spiritual music on his harp to calm him down when he had periods of deep depression. Over the years, King Saul's son became David's dearest friend. King Saul's daughter, Michel, became David's first wife. But then, things changed. Saul became jealous of David and tried to kill him. Saul had his daughter leave David and marry a different husband.

All the members of the king's family, except David's friend, turned on him. His wife mocked him and hated him. Even though he had been a faithful soldier for King Saul and won many battles protecting the kingdom, now King Saul hunted David to take his life.

David writes in Psalms 37:8, "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not yourself in any way to do evil [get even]." He writes, "Evildoers [like King Saul] will be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth."

And, after the years passed, King Saul was killed in battle and David was made the new king. David tells us in verses 12-15, "The wicked plotteth [make plans] against the just [the people doing right], and gnashes upon him with his teeth [is so full of hate that they grind their teeth and wish

they could tear the good people apart]. [But] "The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation [kill the good people]." Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows [weapons] shall be broken....the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the Lord upholdeth [holds up] the righteous [those who follow God].

That means that when you are surrounded by people doing evil who want to hurt you and make fun of you

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### WORD SEARCH

DELIGHT	THINE
THYSELF	HEART
ALSO	GOD
IN	WILL
THE	PROTECT
LORD	YOU
HE	OVER
SHALL	YOUR
GIVE	ENEMIES
THEE	TRUST
THE	HIM
DESIRES	PRAY

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



## November GMBA Conference 2006

*By Brothers Jameson Staley and Peter Benyola*

On Saturday, November 11, 2006, the General Missionary Benevolent Association of The Church of Jesus Christ met at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania for its semiannual business and spiritual conference. The business portion of the conference commenced with the Activities Meeting on Saturday morning and continued with the morning and afternoon sessions. Highlights of these meetings included an exciting look toward the future of the GMBA, particularly with regard to the missionary tools it will offer the General Church, as well as how the organization is already currently focusing and fine-tuning its programs to better serve the young people and the saints of God. The conference discussed with anticipation a new special project: creating a presentation about the history and identity of The Church of Jesus Christ for the upcoming World Conference. The GMBA hopes to use contemporary tools and media to create a high-quality representation of the Church to distribute and share as a missionary resource in the future.

Following this discussion, Brother Jerry Valenti shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing the ways in which the GMBA, and more specifically, the Youth In Action, has already taken steps forward by incorporating knowledge, wisdom, and experience gained from the program's first decade-plus of activity to build a more firm, uniform structure for the future efforts of the program. The business conducted at the November Conference seemed to establish a common theme of moving the GMBA forward, taking the "next step" to use the best

knowledge and resources available to the Church to accomplish its goal of spreading the Gospel to all nations and peoples.

For the Saturday evening meeting, the GMBA officers invited several young ordained teachers to participate in preaching to the congregation of the saints. Following the installation of the newly-elected and reelected officers of the GMBA and a song, *God's Wondrous Plan*, offered by Brother Peter Benyola, Brother Brad Everett took the lead in speaking. Just as the business portion of the service clearly had an identifiable sentiment, from the spiritual aspect of the conference emerged a clear theme: modeling. Brother Brad emphasized to the congregation the responsibility that we each have to set a good example for the young and for those who look up to us. He also quoted Proverbs 22:6, which states that if a child is trained from a young age to choose the right path, he will not depart from it.

Brother Brad Labute followed and added to this message, offering a personal testimony of how the example of love set by saints of the Church led to his family's conversion and salvation in The Church of Jesus Christ. This beautiful testimony reinforced the importance of modeling Christ-like behavior by showing that it directly results in the salvation of souls, above which nothing else can be valued.

Brother Jeremy Nicklow expanded on this idea and solicited the participation of the congregation by asking each person who met the Church through the example set by another person to raise his/her hand. After many hands went up in the congregation, Brother Jeremy exhorted the saints to adopt the attitude of Paul the Apostle reflected in Romans 1, not being ashamed of the Gospel but rather celebrating its power and sharing it with the world.

Brother Josh Nicklow spoke next and pointed out that in order for the Church to attain a higher level of righteousness, our responsibility is not simply to teach those that follow us to be like us but instead to teach them to learn from us and then exceed our own limits and achieve what has not

yet been accomplished.

Brother Jerry Morle also addressed the brothers and sisters and drew a comparison between the subject at hand and a favorite recreational activity: football. He recounted his experiences as a zealous high school football player who intensely studied the playbook and stayed close to the coach on the sideline during games, putting himself in a position for his number to be called. His number eventually was called, and he enjoyed playing and winning, but Brother Jerry emphasized that this joy was only temporary, as the season eventually ended. The satisfaction of serving God and being used to inspire others is so much deeper and more enduring, however. Brother Jerry likened the playbook to the Scriptures and Jesus to the coach: "Jesus wrote the playbook," he said, motioning toward the Bible and Book of Mormon. "Stand next to the coach," and you will be used of God to be a blessing and an inspiration to others.

Before the conclusion of the Saturday evening meeting by the singing and testimonies of the young people, GMBA President Brother Jeff Giannetti made another figurative comparison, this one between fashion models and the saints of God. The role of a fashion model, he said, is to sell the clothes by making them look attractive and desirable to others. He made his point with a final question: If we are models of the Gospel, "does the world that sees us want what we have?"

The following morning, after opening prayer, Sister Jennifer Champine sang *I Am Committed*, a song conveying resoluteness about serving the Lord. Brother Mike Capone was the opening speaker, and he discussed the importance of presenting our lives as a living sacrifice to God, setting aside our carnal minds and becoming new people in Christ. Referring to Romans 8, Brother Mike explained that the desires of the flesh must perish along with the "old" person that is buried in baptism and that the new person must live accord-

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## Branch and Mission News

### What We Heard

*By Sister Karen L. Progar*

**Note:** Every year at our New Year's Eve Watch Service, we hear about the events our branch has been through in the past year. I thought you might enjoy reading a synopsis of our weekly meetings. I am sure many of you will recognize sermons you heard in your branch as well. Looking forward to what the Lord has for us in 2007!

In the Aliquippa Branch, 2006 was a very good year.  
There were sermons to touch the heart and please the ear.

We began by hearing about the great supper and were encouraged to keep God's love bright,  
To never doubt in darkness, what the Lord has shown us in the light.

We were encouraged to always put God first  
And that the truth should always be our thirst!

Jesus is stronger than any man and only He can make us whole.  
And told of how the rich man must be concerned for his soul.

We heard that the natural order is to put God first and all else must follow  
And that the gifts of God will be ours, a promise that is not hollow.

The elders admonished us that there is a need to preach the plain and precious things,  
And that this salvation is sure to those of lowly birth and even mighty kings.

We were told to make our time here count  
One brother even recounted the Sermon on the Mount.

In our walk with God, all things are possible  
Are we building His temple or is that impossible?

A father sets the example of faith for his child  
God answers prayer and on us He has smiled.

There will be a day when men will live in peace  
On this land of promise, it will never cease.

Encouraged to do the job we've been given  
Will lead us to the home prepared for us in heaven.

Be diligent in service to the Lord  
This will ensure that heavenly reward.

Persuaded to focus on the good things of God regardless of the terrors of the world  
Reminded that He'll protect us whatever fiery darts at us are hurled.

We were challenged to do the things that Christ would have us do  
Pray without ceasing and remember what the Lord has given you.

Jesus brought the most wonderful gift of love  
When He came to Earth and left His heavenly home above.

The Bells of Heaven rang brightly on the day of His birth,  
As Jesus came to experience all the trials of life here on Earth.

### Elder Ordained at Plumbrook, Michigan

On Sunday April 2, 2006 there were many brothers, sisters, and friends visiting the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch to witness the blessed occasion of Brother Michael Capone being ordained an elder.

Brother John Mark D'Antonio from Aliquippa opened our service

with reference to I Kings 8 concerning the building of the temple of God. He then mentioned that over a period of time he had noticed improved changes in Brother Mike as he was building his temple for God. In I Kings 8:17, "And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the Lord God of Israel." David was not allowed to build the temple. Do we have the desire as David did? God wants us to build the temple, a place where the Spirit of God will abide and dwell there forever. It should be a place where God doesn't have to look for a dwelling place.

Brother John Mark continued reading in Acts 7:49 where it is written, "Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?" He continued, "It is important that we constantly build the house of God. Will that house be a glory unto God? Each and every one of us has an important role. Our daily lives provide a constant building for the Lord. We must prepare, it will not just happen. Are we dedicated in building that house of the Lord? We must be open to the Spirit of God and build unto Him that house and start a foundation of faith, repentance, and baptism. We must serve God together, encouraging each other and lift ourselves up to the Lord."

Sister Tracey Cuerrier sang, *Only What You Do for Christ Will Last.*

Brother Frank Natoli continued with the thought that we are individual temples and we need to examine our own temple. "We may have spiritual weaknesses. We need a vision of our spiritual life. We know there is a constant physical upkeep of material things. Christ has already paid the price and we should build our houses with fruits of the spirit, build upon the foundation of Christ. He wants us to be clean and pure. We may need to go back to Christ and renew ourselves. He can work with us. Christ will be able to dwell within us if we build with His materials for our foundation. Because Christ dwells within our hearts we are blessed and we are the

same wherever we are. The invitation is from Christ that He will be with us, but repentance, and baptism is needed. As we build on the foundation of Christ, we need to monitor and maintain our temple and assess conditions. We need to do this spiritually to maintain this dwelling place within us for the Lord. We can go to Christ for all our needs."

After an enjoyable time visiting and eating we returned for our afternoon service.

Apostle Peter Scolaro began our service with the thought of the celebration of our Brother Mike being called into the Priesthood. "Where do we get energy from God? Do we all recognize that we all have a calling? A calling is to do the work of the Lord. The work has gotten bigger and the laborers are few." He referred to Ephesians pertaining to perfecting of the saints, edifying of the body of Christ. "We want to feel the presence of God in our life. We rejoice when we come in the unity of our faith. The Lord was preparing us for His calling of Brother Mike into the ministry. Whatever the calling is, we all can be strengthened in the body of Christ. There is nothing you can do for anyone greater than to lead their hearts to Christ."

Brother Peter concluded, saying that the Lord is not slack concerning His promises. He is waiting for us to be ready. We are at the brink of exaltation, and need to get with the Spirit of the Lord.

Sister Carolyn and James Gross played two selections, *Living for Jesus* and *Shall I Empty-Handed Be* on the piano and violin.

Brother Paul Whitton continued with the duties of the priesthood and their purpose to preach about salvation of man's soul. He referred to Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always,

even unto the end of the world." He also mentioned Alma as he calls those who will teach the Lord's commandments, the foundation of the world, end of years, and the purpose of eternity.

Brother Mike's feet were washed by Brother L. Daniel Parravano. The hymn, *To the Work* was sung as the priesthood circled around Brother Mike and kneeled as Brother Mike LaSala offered prayer. Brother Nephi DeMecurio, Sr. ordained Brother Michael Capone as the priesthood continued to encircle them.

Brother Mike testified that even though he was born and raised in the Church, he never thought he would be in this position. He had been praying very sincerely and thanked God for bringing him to this point in his life today. He also thanked the Lord for many blessings. He is glad to be a part of the Lord's great work. He requested that we keep the ministry in our prayers. Only through God will he be able to fulfill his duties.

Brother Lyle Criscuolo presented a bottle of blessed oil to Brother Mike that his father, Brother Peter H. Capone, had given to Brother Lyle many years ago when he was ordained into the ministry.

Brother Paul Whitton recognized Sister Kathy Peshl and Sister Laurie Whitton for their recent ordinations as deaconess' and Brother Kevin Coppa for his recent ordination as a teacher.

Sister Mary Ann Heaps saw a glow around the brothers as they were praying, encircling Brother Mike. This was a confirmation that Christ was with us. Sister Connie Leopoldo saw a glow that was still surrounding Brother Paul. Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Sr. said these words came to him, not of his own: "I see the face of Jesus in you."

Brother David DiBattista said that the same words of unity were spoken at the Sterling Heights Branch that morning. This was a confirmation that the Spirit of the Lord was present.

We truly love the Lord and we know through His promises, that He loves us as He has blessed us this day and will always.

## To the Work

By Sister Hythia Young

Christ's great commission to His disciples as noted in Matthew:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

We were encouraged to reflect upon Christ's words as we witnessed the ordination of Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr. as an evangelist on December 3, 2006. It was a blessing and a privilege to witness Brother Art submit himself to the work of the Lord and to host many of our elders and evangelists who traveled to this part of the vineyard to share this day and this calling with him. Our visitors included: Brothers Carl Frammolino, George Kovacic, Frank Giovannone, John Genaro, Bob Nicklow, Paul Aaron Palmieri, John DiBattista, Joel Gehly, Paul Gehly, Alvin Gehly, Gary Martin and Christopher Gehly.

*Hallelujah the Gospel Is Restored* was sung to open our service. Brother Alvin Gehly opened in prayer.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri opened our service, speaking from Luke 9:18 and Acts 8:26. He cautioned that it's not only the message but the messenger that we should take note of. He exhorted us to ask blessings from God. Christ wanted His disciples to be close to Him. From the time Christ arose we can now tell all that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. It is He whom we worship and praise. Christ's commission to Brother Art, and indeed to all of us, is to strengthen our branches and missions across the world; to lay a strong foundation; to go and tell others of Christ. Brother Paul reflected upon the scripture in Acts concerning Philip and the eunuch. Philip the evangelist was someone who yielded to the Spirit of God. Brother Paul asked, "Do you believe that Christ is the Son of God

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## To the Work

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and that He sits on the right hand of the Father? Do you believe that He blesses us?" He reminded us that all that we do matters to God, because God wants to bless and use us to show people the way to salvation, just as He did Philip.

Brother George Kovacic read from Mark 16:14-18. He opened: How do we deal with nations we are trying to recover after the years of oppression they have suffered. We follow the Spirit of God. He read from Moroni 9:6 and noted that we have been commissioned to labor diligently to bring this Gospel to the world.

Brother Carl Frammolino reminded us that in order to do the work of the Lord, the Spirit of God must be there. Brother Art has that spirit of God with him.

We then witnessed the ordination of our Brother. Brother Art's feet were washed by Brother George Kovacic. He was confirmed with the laying on of hands by his son, Brother Joel Gehly. The word of the Lord came forth at the conclusion of the ordination: **"Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I have chosen thee to do my work."**

Many of our visiting evangelists stood to offer words of encouragement and reflected upon their experiences in working and interacting with Brother Art through the years.

Brother Art then thanked all for their presence and their prayers. He noted that 45 years ago at the age of 20 he was ordained an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He reflected that he could have done nothing without God. Brother Art asked for the prayers of the saints that he will always be willing and ready to speak the word of God. "The only way to accomplish what is put before us," he said, "is to trust in God. If people don't have Jesus Christ in their lives, there is nothing to hang on to." Brother Art urged us to grasp hold of the rod of iron. Grab the mentor of life that we need to keep us strong, to keep us where we need to be today. He exhorted us to cast out all that is

negative in our lives and go forth in Jesus Christ. With Christ's help we can perform His work here on earth, and there is much to do.

Brother Frank Giovannone thanked God for His blessings. He urged that we can all be an evangelist in the Church. We can tell others of this Gospel. Christ said that the world will know my people by the love they show and by the truth they hear.

It was, indeed, a beautiful day in Christ. We thank God that He continues to bless each of us with His call to go and work for Him. We can only hope and pray for Him to continue to strengthen us and to focus us so that we all will be about our Father's business. We must never forget that scripture that says we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

## Everyone Can Be a Winner!

*By Sister Flo Benyola*

As Sunday School teacher of the Yucaipa Branch, I presented an exciting challenge to the children and teens to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Toward this end, Sister Mary Ann Pasko sent me a booklet created in the Church years ago called "My Book." Each of my students received their very own "My Book" to complete. The beauty of teaching with this booklet is that class size is unimportant – I can have one student in my class or a dozen or more. Furthermore, each student works at his or her own pace.

Containing 7 sections and 33 pages, "My Book" is designed to teach the youth about the principles, precepts and ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including baptism, anointing, feet washing and sacrament. Assignments include looking up the related scripture (this, in turn, teaches them how to use the Bible – **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth**) and copying each verse in a 3 x 5 notebook. In addition, the booklet engages

them to write about their natural family, spiritual family and think about how they impact the family of God. There are also pages to color and puzzles to challenge their minds. The last page is a Certificate that is signed by the presiding elder and the teacher upon completion.

And the prize for all their effort? Their very own Bible to use the rest of their lives with their name inscribed on the front – as was awarded to Sister Donna Verstraete on October 28, 2006. **Congratulations, Sister Donna!** God is good!

## The Children's Corner

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and torment you, do not fret or fear. God has promised to protect and save you just as he saved his follower, David. Verses 7-9, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not yourself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass [makes evil plans against others]...For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth."

This happened to me at work this year. At a new school, a woman I shared a lab with hated having me there. Every week the old devil put it in her heart to do something mean and sneaky that made my job harder. One week I would show up and my class lists were missing, or the markers needed for the children were misplaced, my things were gone, or many of the thirty computers were not hooked up right and little children were upset. My job at that school became very hard. I dreaded going to that school and started fretting. I couldn't tell anyone; there was no way I could involve our boss and prove that this woman was doing these things to make my job harder. My fretting grew worse; I started fearing and hating her. I wished I could think of something mean to do back to her, but I knew this was wrong. It began to bother me every day and take away from the

beautiful days of teaching.

One Sunday, I asked the brothers and sisters to pray for me because I had an enemy and needed God's help to deal with her. God sent me Psalms 37 as my answer. Verses 23 and 24 promise me, "The steps of a good man [or woman] are ordered by the Lord: ... Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." This promised me that even if her meanness caused me to look bad, or I have to scramble to fix something she did to cause me trouble, that the Lord will bring me through. And he has. I have even been praying for this woman. Can you imagine what an unhappy person she must be to do mean, sneaky things to others all the time? Do you have a mean person in your life; a troublemaker, a bad neighbor or enemy?

God promised us in verses 4-5, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine [your] heart. Commit thy [your] way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Our God guided and saved David. God will guide and save us too. Pray and follow him. He will keep us from fear and failure and give us great peace and joy.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## November Conference 2006

Continued from Page 7

ing to the desires that benefit the spirit and accomplish the Lord's work.

Brother Jerry Valenti followed Brother Mike in speaking and firmly established that each of us has something to offer. Although we can never meet the demands of justice on our own and repay Christ's sacrifice, we must give everything that we *do* have, seeking out every opportunity to offer ourselves to him as instruments and vessels.

Brother Ken Lombardo concluded the preaching by tying this message back to that of the previous

day: modeling. He cited I Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth," and encouraged the young people not to be discouraged by the way they are sometimes stereotyped or labeled by older generations as being devious, sinful, or without identity. Brother Ken challenged the young people to use their youth to show the world that they are not all the same and that the young people of The Church of Jesus Christ are unique because of their love. He humorously discussed a pop cultural term, "represent," used commonly among young people to state that they are a representative of some location, organization, or social background and claim this as their roots. Brother Ken's discourse on this term, in light of its cultural background, incited playful laughter from some young people in the congregation. Nevertheless, Brother Ken made the point that the youth of the Church has a special opportunity to model for the world what The Church of Jesus Christ stands for.

Following communion, Brother Paul Palmieri, General Church President, briefly addressed the saints. Among his most powerful comments was this very simple yet fundamental exhortation: understand that every soul deserves our concern for its salvation. Brother Paul also encouraged the brothers and sisters to make church attendance and support a top priority. In the society in which we live, there are great demands on our time, and we want our children to experience the joy of participating in certain activities, but if we make sacrifices to make time for the Lord and His Church, He will help us accomplish everything that we must do.

To conclude the Sunday worship service, the young people again filled the front of the sanctuary in the convenient niche carved out for them as part of the recent renovation of the World Conference Center. After they sang a couple songs, Brother John Griffith enlisted the help of the saints in fasting and praying for the young people, particularly for the Lord's guidance in their dating relationships and marriages. Brother Bob Nicklow,

Jr. offered a closing prayer, and the November GMBA Conference was concluded. This wonderful conference brought a lot of excitement about the future success of the GMBA and left a lasting impression of the importance of presenting ourselves to the world as examples of Christ's love. The Church of Jesus Christ must serve as the model.

## Children Blessed

David Alexander Tenorio, son of Brother Luis and Sister Lydia Tenorio, was blessed on December 24, 2006 at the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Benjamin Jaron Bicelis, son of Brother Miguel and Sister Melissa Bicelis, was blessed on December 31, 2006 at the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission.

Micah Jaden Bicelis, son of Brother Miguel and Sister Melissa Bicelis, was blessed on December 31, 2006 at the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission.

Erick Israel Goeddert, son of Timothy James Watson and Beth Lee Goeddert, was blessed on December 31, 2006 at the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission.

Audrey Erin Moore, daughter of Jake and Sister Colleen (Capone) Moore, was blessed on December 31, 2006 at the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Koen John Graff, son of Ryan and Julianna Graff, was blessed on January 14, 2007 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Zion Nathaniel Spruill, son of Richie and Shondra Spruill, was blessed at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission.

Gabriella Ricci, daughter of Brother Tony and Sister Joyce Ricci, was blessed on December 24, 2006 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.



## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Darin Amormino of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 was reinstated on July 13, 2006.

Nicole Renee Amormino was baptized on July 13, 2006 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Doug O'Bradovich and confirmed by Brother John Genaro.

Sister Peggy Rensen (Yankopoulos) of the Windsor, Ontario Branch was reinstated on September 17, 2006.

## Ordinations

Brother Ed Barlan of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 was ordained a Deacon on January 7, 2007. His feet were washed by Brother Chris Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Tom Everett.

Brother Joe DiBattista of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 was ordained a Teacher on January 7, 2006. His feet were washed by Brother Mario Zaccagnini and he was ordained by Brother Sam DiFalco.

Sister Sylvie Labute of the Windsor, Ontario Branch was ordained a Deaconess. Her feet were washed by Sister Adrienne Collison and she was ordained by Brother John Collison.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Ryan Forster and Sister Marcela Carranza were united in holy matrimony in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 on August 11, 2006.

Charles Pankratz and Gloria Szufnar were united in holy matrimony in Detroit, Michigan, Branch #1 on March 25, 2006.

## OBITUARIES

### ALFONSO MILANTONI

Brother Alfonso Milantoni of Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 passed on to his reward on August 15, 2006. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ottie; brothers, Oswald, Rudolph, and Brother Joseph Milantoni; and his sister, Gloria. He is survived by his daughters, Michelle Milantoni and Jannifer Petroff and her husband Peter Petroff.

### NICK FRANCIONE

Brother Nicholas Francione of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to his reward on November 22, 2006. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Harriet, and his sister, Sister Connie Marinetti. He is survived by his children; Sister Lynne Nieves and her husband Brother Abraham, Dawn Sanchez, and Sister Tracey Cuerrier and her husband Brother AJ; his sister, Sister Antoinette Marinetti and her husband Guido; his brother, Paul Francione and his wife Lydia, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

### ERMA ROSSI

Sister Erma Rossi of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on December 27, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Carmine Rossi; a son, Larry Rossi; and four brothers, Brothers John, Paul,

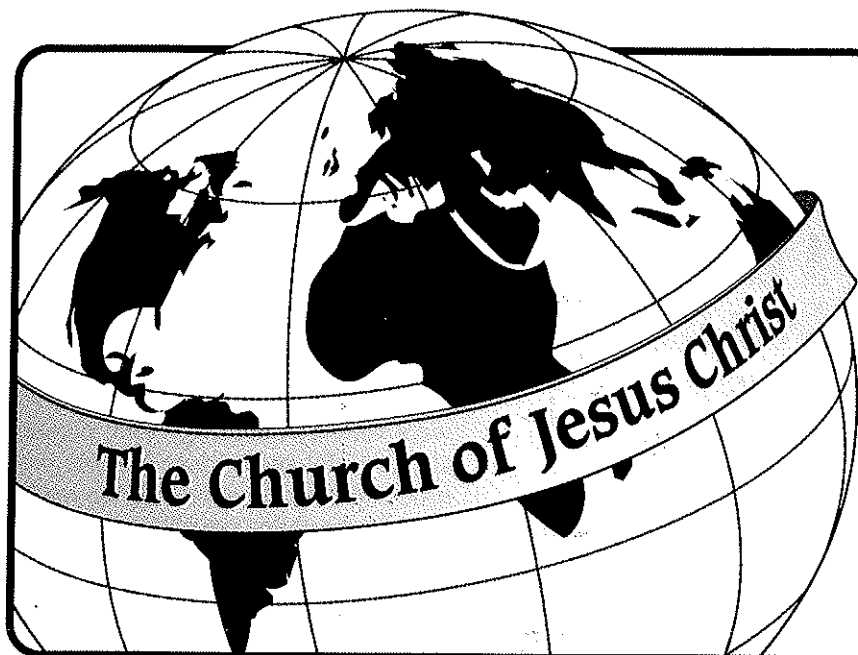
Fred and Sam D'Amico; a sister, Sister Lauretta Maggio; and a daughter-in-law, Sister Donna Rossi. She is survived by her sons, Brother Darrell Rossi and wife, Sister Connie; Clarence Rossi and wife, Catherine; and Richard Rossi.

### KATHRYN R. KING

Sister Kathryn R. King of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on January 5, 2007. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Brother Jess King, Brother James King, Brother Richard King, Donald King, Sister Ada Bell Hardesty, Lilly Kilgore, Jennie Kirk, and Daisy King. She is survived by her son, Brother Lawrence King and his wife, Sister Sylvia King; one brother, Brother Charles King, Jr.; as well as four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

### CAROL GIOVANNONE

Sister Carol Giovannone of the Liberty, Ohio Branch passed on to her reward on January 22, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Brother Frank Giovannone; daughter, Nancy Derby; and sons, Brother Ronald Thompson and Brother Gary Thompson.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

April, 2007

Volume 63, No. 4

## The Church of Jesus Christ's First South American Conference

*By Brother Scott Griffith*

God's Hand is truly moving in these the latter days! We were blessed to be a part of the first South American Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Conference was held February 1-4, 2007 in Arequipa, Peru.

Brothers and sisters attended from the United States, Peru, and Colombia. The Church of Jesus Christ currently has missions in Venezuela, Peru, and Colombia. New Work potentials which the Sector is currently researching include the countries of Ecuador and Bolivia.

This conference was an opportunity to bring the brothers and sisters from the South American Missions together to fellowship and grow with each other. The ordained officers from these various works were present for the conference. Members from Venezuela were not able to make the trip and we ask you to please continue to keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers. A wonderful kinship was truly felt at this gathering!

Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri, South American Sector Chairman,

welcomed everyone at the first meeting Thursday evening. He introduced the members present from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, other Elders, and respective field committees. He touched on Nehemiah 4,

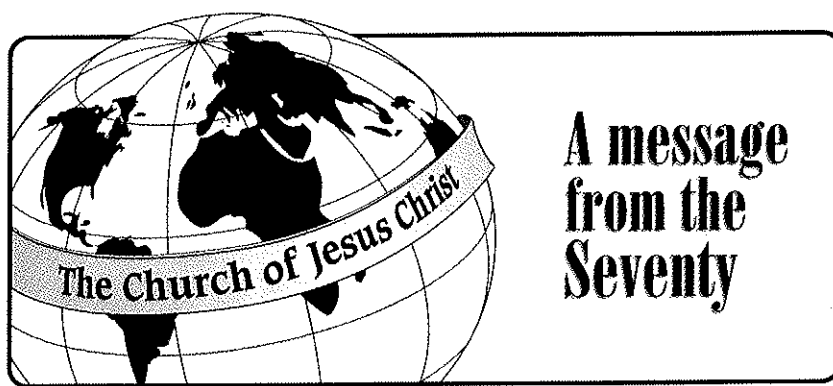
paralleling the willingness of the children of Israel to work to rebuild the wall with our desire to work for the Lord to build His Kingdom today. Apostles Isaac Smith Sr., Paul Palmieri, and Philip Jackson also addressed the congregation, encouraging and reminding us this is our time to do the work of the Lord!

The conference was dedicated to several seminars, open discussions

(Continued on Page 4)



First South American Conference in Peru



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

*By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*

The year was 2005 when we met a man by the name of Albert Kawama. He was a friend of Brother Cipeng our Pastor in charge of the Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Knowing that we would be making a missionary trip to the DR Congo, Albert was invited by Brother Cipeng to travel from his native country of Zambia and visit with him and to listen to the Restoration message presented by the missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ. Unknown to us, Mr. Kawama was in attendance at every seminar meeting listening intently to the subject matter we presented.

### *Touched by the Spirit of God*

It was two days before our departure from the Congo that Brother Cipeng introduced us to Albert Kawama. The first words that came from this man were, the Spirit of God touched him as he sat and listened to each message we presented. Albert further went on to say, when he would return back to his home, he would speak to his people and tell them what he heard during his visit and how God touched him with His Holy Spirit. He felt certain when he brought back a positive message of the things he heard and the love we had shown to our brothers and sisters in the Congo, they would request us to come to Zambia and introduce the

Restored Gospel message and the beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ to his people. He was given my e-mail address and I told him, if he found his people were receptive to what he would tell them and wanted to hear more about the beliefs of our church, he should e-mail me and arrangements would be made to visit and introduce the Church of Jesus Christ to his people.

After we returned home from our extended trip to the Congo and Kenya, six weeks passed by and on the morning of October 5, 2005, I received my first e-mail message from Albert Kawama telling me that when he returned home he told his people what he heard about the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ. He along with a group of seven people decided to begin holding prayer meetings asking God in prayer to prepare others to come and join them and soon missionaries from the United States would make a visit and preach the Restored Gospel and the Faith of our Church.

Because of the distance and time to travel to Zambia from the United States, we prevailed on Brother Cipeng, who is our Church Director in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from the city of Lubumbashi, a 3½ hour travel distance by automobile from Chingola, to make an exploratory trip to see what interest the Zambian people had in hearing

more about the beliefs of our Church. We asked Brother Cipeng on three separate occasions to make a trip to Zambia, and each time he returned to his home, he sent an e-mail telling me there were a number of people he had spoken to who were interested in hearing more about the faith and beliefs of our Church. His reports were very encouraging. I am personally thankful and I praise God for the time and effort Brother Cipeng made with the brothers who accompanied him to Zambia in laying the ground work and foundation for us to build on.

By the time a trip could be planned, it was in the month of September, 2006. Several circumstances prevented us from making an earlier visit. One factor was, I had to have surgery for double knee replacement and months of recovery followed. Albert would e-mail me and relate that the people he was meeting with were praying that I would have a speedy recovery. In one of his e-mail messages, he requested that he have permission to hold meetings using the name of our Church. That bit of news was very exciting for me to read and within a few minutes of reading what was requested, I forwarded an e-mail telling Albert he had the blessings of the Africa Sector officers to use the name, *The Church of Jesus Christ*. He went on to tell me there were a number of people he and Brother Cipeng had spoken to in two different towns that were interested in being baptized.

Several weeks after our October 2006 General Conference, plans were finalized in making our visit to the country of Zambia, and on October 23 we began the long-awaited journey to bring the message of the Restoration and the Faith of our Church to another nation (the seventh) in the continent of Africa.

Meeting with our Brother Cipeng and his wife Sister Albertine and Albert Kawama at the Ndola Airport in Zambia, was like a breath of fresh air after a long journey of approximately 30 hours. Resting for the night at a local motel, morning came quickly and soon we were on the way to our destination, the city of Chingola.

## ***The Mighty Protecting Hand of God Became Visual Before Our Eyes!***

Passing through a city called Kitwe, a copper mining town, we were about to cross a set of railroad tracks. Coming in the opposite direction was a truck with a flatbed trailer the height of the windows of the van we were traveling in. On the trailer was a large thick piece of steel plate, which of course we could not see and neither was it secured or tied to the bed of the trailer as we soon found out. As we passed over the tracks the trailer also passed over the tracks going at a fast rate of speed into the city limits. The trailer passed us within a few inches when the large piece of steel fell off of the flatbed trailer on the side of the road we were traveling on. The steel made a very loud noise when it hit the road surface. If our van would have delayed a few seconds in crossing the tracks or the trailer would have crossed the tracks a few seconds sooner, the steel plate would have fallen from the trailer and come through our windows causing certain death for all of us. Fortunately there were no other vehicles behind us. One of the brothers in the van exclaimed with a loud voice, "Miracle number one." God truly saved us from certain tragedy that morning.

## ***Our Welcome to Zambia***

Within a few minutes after we settled in our rooms at the hotel, we were summoned to meet with a number of the welcoming committee members from the branches of Chingola and Chililabombwe. They were waiting to greet us, to hear the purpose for our trip to Zambia, and to know what our activities would be for the time we would be in country. Each of us, Brothers Bob McDonnell, Philip Arcuri, Thomas Goode and I, addressed the group for a few moments extending the regards and love of all the Church membership from America and telling them what our purpose was in traveling to Zambia. Extending our hand in fellowship and in greeting each person

in the room we expressed our love for them and mentioned we were looking forward to spending the next two weeks in getting to know them, preaching the Restored Gospel and the faith of our Church and looked forward to baptizing all who would be touched by the Spirit of God. Four beautiful little girls presented each of us with a stem of artificial flowers as a token of appreciation for our visit.

Our activities began almost immediately, planning our schedule. We were introduced to Brother Malama Chalwe who was from the city of Chililabombwe, a one-hour drive from Chingola. Brother Albert introduced the Church to Brother Chalwe and began to gather people from his village for prayer and worship services. Each morning we would travel to the outskirts of the town of Chingola to a rented school room in a complex for retarded and disabled children and adults. The morning session would last from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. each day. Attendance would fluctuate between 25 and 50. At the conclusion of our morning seminar session, we traveled to Chililabombwe and held seminars listed below. Each of my brothers and I would take turns conducting a seminar. They were very lively, with everyone in attendance having a pencil and paper. Some in attendance never heard the message of an Apostasy and Restoration. It was something new. Numerous questions were asked on a variety of subjects and all were answered to the satisfaction of everyone in attendance.

## ***List of Seminar Subjects***

1. Establishment, Apostasy and Restoration.
2. Faith and Doctrine of the Church.
3. Ordinances – communion, feet washing, baptism, blessing of children, anointing.
4. Ordained officers – Apostles, Evangelists, Pastors or Elders, Teachers, Deacons and Deaconesses.
5. Structure and order of the Church.
6. Differences of beliefs, with regard to other restoration churches.

7. Gifts of the Gospel and fruits of the Spirit.
8. Difference between being called Christians or Saints.

## ***Baptisms in Chingola***

Saturday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, we hired a minibus that drove the group to a small stream approximately seven miles from our meeting place where we baptized the first 37 converts in the country of Zambia. As we drove to the baptismal site we passed a large group of people who were going to the cemetery, one of our brothers who was being baptized that morning said these people are going to the grave site to mourn a person who had died, but we are going to the watery grave to begin our new birth with Jesus Christ. What a glorious feeling we of the Priesthood experienced as we took the candidates one by one into the water, raising our hand towards heaven saying with a strong voice so all could hear and repeating the words in the Book of Mormon, "Calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen," then laying the candidate under the water.

## ***Ordinations***

Brothers Cipeng, McDonnell, Arcuri, Goode and I set aside a time of prayer asking for God's Holy Spirit to reveal to us if Brothers Kawama and Chalwe were His choice to be the spiritual leaders of the Church in the country of Zambia. Listening to the experience had by both of these brothers as to their calling, and the Spirit of unity each of my brothers and I had, we felt God was letting us understand this was His choice and we should ordain them into the Priesthood. Permission was granted to ordain Elders, and Sunday, October 29 at our worship service in Chingola, Brother Albert Kawama was set aside by the washing of feet for

(Continued on Page 7)

## An Exciting Praiseworthy Baptism

By Evangelist George Frank Arthur

At the national headquarters of Atai Otoro on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2007, during the last day of District Conference of Otoro District, over 900 members in attendance showed much joy and happiness with praiseworthy thanks to God, witnessing Brother Etiobong George Frank Arthur coming forward for confirmation after being baptized on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2007. He was baptized by Pastor Josaiah Okon Nkanta and confirmed by his dearly loving daddy, Evangelist George Frank Arthur the National Church Director in Nigeria. The recorder was Otoro District Secretary, Pastor Emema Asuquo Otu. At the water's edge during the baptism, a good crowd of membership witnessed the baptism, among whom were Pastor Okon Peter Akpan, the District Supt. Otoro, and many others.

Brother Etiobong George F. Arthur lives in the United States of America. It had been more than four years since he last visited his home in Nigeria. He had left home for America as a teenager without getting baptized. But as a young lad he had shown a lot of interest and enthusiasm in the love of God and His Church. At this 2007 visit to his parents and family in Nigeria, he made a request for baptism before returning back to his youthful family of two sons and a dynamic young wife in the United States of America. Thus, The Church of Jesus Christ is steadily growing and expanding all over the globe.

May God continue to add blessings to The Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Amen.

### South American Conference

Continued from Page 1

about each location, daily services, and fellowship in which all were very active. Friday, Apostle Paul Palmieri presented a seminar titled "Now is the

Time." He exhorted the group to identify themselves with this "Great Work of the Lord." He stated this is our time to be an instrument in the Hand of God. After the seminar, each of the respective missions came forward and expressed themselves by presenting their blessings and challenges. It is amazing that, although we may live thousands of miles apart and have varied cultures, we still face similar challenges and are all seeking to do our best. Some of the needs discussed of the three works included



Arequipa Mission Sign

increased programs for the youth, finding adequate meeting facilities, continued training, developing musical helps, and strengthening the membership.

Friday evening's service was a powerful one. Apostle Paul Liberto addressed the congregation, speaking from I Corinthians and stating we are who we are by the Grace of God. He encouraged us by specifying that God chose us because of who we are and who we can be for Him. He read a letter he received from a person in Bolivia who was interested in the Church. This woman received a Book of Mormon from Brother Paul and had been reading it. In her letter, she stated how much peace it gave her. She invited the Church to come to

Bolivia to preach the Gospel. Brother Phil Jackson then related an experience to the group. He was traveling for work some time back and was in a hotel room in Mississippi. That evening he was praying for the House of Israel and wondering where they were. As he slept, he had a dream in which he saw a closet and in this closet were vests. He was given to understand the vests represented the tribes of Israel. As he gazed into the closet, he began to ask the Lord where the lost tribes were. As he asked this question, names of countries began to pass by his eyes. One of those names was Bolivia. As he was relating this experience, Brother Smith arose in the Spirit and said "Thus saith the Lord, I will gather my people from every country, Thus saith the Lord." At that time a special prayer was offered for the potential work in Bolivia.

After the prayer, Elders Scott and Bryan Griffith were asked to offer a musical selection. They felt directed to sing *An Angel Came Down* but did not have all the words to the music. They sang the first and last verses. After they sang them, several brothers were trying to remember the words to the second verse so that the congregation could sing it because of the pertinent message of this latter day work. While we were struggling to recall the proper wording and attempting to figure it out, Brother Smith arose again and sang the second verse in the gift of tongues under the Spirit. Praise God! The second verse states "*A heavenly treasure, a book full of merit, it speaks from the dust by the pow'r of the spirit; A voice from the Saviour that saints can rely on, To watch for the day when He brings again Zion.*"

Brother Juan Mestas, one of our Resident Elders in Peru, then discussed his deep love for the Church and his desire to take this message to his people. Brother Felipe Pedraza, Resident Elder in Colombia, followed, discussing the Good Samaritan and explaining how we should love one another. Brother Bryan Griffith gave a testimony of God's goodness in his

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another, and serve the devil, who is the master of sin, or who is the evil spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers, he being an enemy to all righteousness. But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another" (Mosiah 4:14-15).*

These words of King Benjamin spoken over 2,000 years ago are as true then as they are today. In fact there has never been a time in history when our children are so exposed to adult sin and issues. This editorial is geared for parents or anyone who is exposed to children and can be in a position of influence.

Children today are not being taught the precepts of Christ. In fact, many children today threaten their parents not to discipline them, or else they will call the authorities, claiming abuse. It is true, some evil parents abuse children, but the larger majority do nothing when children fight, quarrel with one another, or even serve the devil. A generation of children has arisen who commit unbelievable crimes at unbelievably young ages. One has to question, "Where are their parents?" Many times, the parents are not around, or in such a state of sin or addiction they are unable to teach their children the ways of God. These parents don't know the ways of God, so how will their children know?

Chances are if you are reading this editorial, you want to be a good parent and you want to raise them knowing the laws of God. I'm sure you think you are doing a good job, but because of the day in which we live, let's take a second look at how we are rearing up our children. Despite influence from the media and other children, the scripture is true when it teaches us to raise up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it. From the age at which children are able to speak, do we pray with our children before each meal? Do we pray before meals in restaurants with them? Do we teach them to pray each night before bed? Do we read stories to them before bedtime from the Bible or Book of Mormon? Do we bring them to Church and not stay home with them making excuses why we cannot go? Do we bring our children to Sunday School, but even one step further, after Church do we quiz them on what they learned in Sunday School? Do we teach them to say "please" and "thank you," and to be polite and respectful? Do we teach them to treat all their friends with love and forgiveness, even if they have been hurt by them? Do we shut the TV off and spend time talking with our children, or if they are younger, playing with them. The challenges of parenthood from the days of our child's infancy to the days when they become adults are many and complex. Implementing the admonitions of the scriptures and following the inspiration of God's Spirit will give us the guidance necessary to be successful parents. By not following good parenting practices, children could be negatively affected. Raising our children in the love and nurture of the Lord gives us the best opportunity to have physically and spiritually healthy children.

The biggest way we can teach our children to walk in the ways of truth and soberness and to love and serve one another, is by setting that example ourselves. It doesn't necessarily mean the parents only, but anyone who is around children or young people. I remember growing up every night before going to bed, I would look into my parent's bedroom, and they would both be kneeling down to pray EVERY NIGHT without fail. Do we set a consistent example like that? If we do, I believe you are fulfilling your job at raising the children God has given to you or to be in your presence. The only way to really raise children in the right way, is to improve our own spiritual life. Let's realize the devil wants to snatch our children away from us as soon as he is able to. But we can stop him, simply by teaching them the ways of Christ as young as possible, and never letting up. There's a war against our children today, and we know it must be won!



# The Children's Corner

## Choose to Serve the God of the Universe

By Sister Jan Bork

Dear Friends,

From the beginning of time, there has been one God, one Creator. He is not an alien, or a genie, or a magician. He is much, much greater than all of that. He made everything from the smallest germ to the largest mountain in the world. He set up the laws of gravity, the rotation of the planets and every star in our universe and beyond! He has had a plan for this earth from the very start. He especially knows and loves His humans and wants us to know Him and His son, Jesus Christ.

Throughout the centuries, God has unrolled His great plan and has promised us over and over that He is the same, yesterday, now and forever "and the way is prepared for all men [people] from the foundation of the world, if...they repent [say they are sorry for what they have done wrong] and come unto him...and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost..." (1 Nephi 10:18 & 19). God's rules of how to live a life of joy and blessings have been the same over all these centuries. If we follow His laws of love and wisdom, we will get through every terrible problem of life. God cares for us and He is willing to protect and lead us if we just ask Him.

Can you imagine what it would be like to lie awake every night praying to God that He would bring your father, uncles, and brothers home safe from where they were fighting enemies of your people? Can you imagine how it



would be to always be alert, looking around you as you walked through your neighborhood, or through the country, constantly scanning the fields to see if there were any secret bands of enemies sneaking up to your house to rob, murder and kill you and your friends?

This is what it is like to live where there is warfare. Some of our brothers and sisters in parts of Africa and South America live like this today. Other families in our Church have soldiers who are in far away places who need God's protection. Only God can see who is bringing danger. Only God can stop that evil, or protect His people. You can pray that God will help our people facing such terrible times.

You must also remember that every human being has an enemy called Satan, the old devil. At the beginning of time, he was an angel who tried to fight against God. Instead, God won and Satan was thrown out of heaven. He works on earth now to confuse people and trick them to do bad things. He uses many of the same old tricks over and over to get people to do bad, but he also constantly tries new things. The good thing is that God has power over the devil, and the Bible promises us, "Resist [fight against] the Devil and he will flee [run away] from you."

That means when you have a mean idea or thought, you must take a minute and think about your decision. Is the idea a good one from God, or an evil one from the devil? You have a choice. You do not have to give in.

In the Book of Mormon days, a preacher and prophet named Lehi, was warned by God that the big city they

lived in was going to be attacked and destroyed by enemies. God told him to take his family and leave. He had four sons. The two older sons, named Laman and Lemuel, were furious. They wanted an easy life. They really did not want to live by God's laws! They tried to refuse to leave, but God gave their father the strength to force Laman and Lemuel to go. Their younger brothers, Nephi and Sam, loved God. They listened when their father preached and warned them to leave their fancy home in the big city of Jerusalem. They believed their

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

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## Branch and Mission News

### Beginning the Race

By Sister Karen L. Progar

On January 21, 2007, Sister Alicen Gibson began running the race. Sister Alicen is 12 years old and dedicated her life to Christ on that cold winter morning when Brother Don Ross baptized her and she became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Visiting in the Aliquippa Branch that morning was Brother Tom Everett, from Detroit Branch 1, who opened the meeting and reviewed with us the lyrics of the *Song of Zion, The Race*, which describes the characteristics of a number of runners. Brother Tom reminded us that the race is not a sprint, but a marathon. Using the scripture in Hebrews 12, we were told of the cloud of witnesses that cheers us on. When getting into this race, King Benjamin stated that a man should not run faster than he has strength. Brother Tom said that we need to pace ourselves and build up our endurance, while doing His will on Earth. We must always keep our eye on the prize because the trials of our lives are not worthy to be compared to the glories that await us. Focusing on Jesus Christ will help us succeed. He concluded by telling us that we should

all get in the race as Sister Alicen did today. We must make up our mind to receive that prize.

Brother John D'Antonio confirmed the message by stating that the key is to start the race. Christ will be there to guide us or it would not be fair to ask anyone to join the race. In addition, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri commented that marathon runners are able to be athletes for a much longer period of time than sprinters. Marathon runners train their whole lives. The Holy Ghost enables us to keep running the race.

The gift of the Holy Ghost was bestowed upon our new sister by Brother David DeLuca, after which many shared their personal testimonies and we partook of the Lord's Supper. What a blessing we enjoyed at Sister Alicen's starting line.

### Miracle in Levittown, PA

By Sister Carol King

In July 2006, my husband, Brother Merle (Mike) King, had surgery, and it turned out to be stage four cancer. He had colon cancer, and cancer also in his lungs and liver. The doctor said that he needed chemotherapy, which would give him a 50/50 chance of living about two years. I asked the doctor if he would be cured after receiving the chemo, and he said there is no cure for cancer, just

remission.

On September 10, 2006 I was sitting in my living room. I looked up and a personage was standing there. It took me off guard and I didn't say anything. Then he disappeared. It happened at a low time. Brother Mike was sick and I was upset. I ran to see if he was okay, and he was sleeping. I wish that I had said something to him, but I had never had anything like that happen to me before.

In November, 2006 in the midst of our trial, our middle daughter Laura was baptized. God is so wonderful!

In December, 2006 Brother Mike had a CAT scan, after three months of chemo. When the doctor looked at the X-rays, he said that something was wrong. I thought that it would be bad news, but Brother Mike said he knew it would be okay. When the doctor came back, the first words out of his mouth were, "You are cured of cancer, it's all gone." He didn't know how it happened!

We all know that God is on His throne and we had a miracle. We praise God! He is so great! God can do anything!

We would also like to thank all the brothers and sisters that prayed to the Lord for Brother Mike, and for all the cards, calls and e-mails to us. Each day we would get two or three cards, and it was so uplifting to both of us.

We just wanted everyone to know that a miracle has happened and we give all the praise to the Lord. May God bless you all.

### Zambia, Africa

Continued from Page 3

ordination into the Priesthood. Brother Cipeng Kapend washed his feet, and he was ordained by Evangelist Joseph Perri. His family came forward to embrace and greet him. Brother Kawama is highly respected by the Church membership of both the Chingola and Chililabombwe branches.

Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> we traveled to the branch of Chililabombwe for the ordination of Brother Malama Chalawe as an Elder of the Church in

this city. Brother Albert set Brother Chalawe apart for this ordination by washing his feet. He was ordained by Evangelist Bob McDonnell. For a show of confidence and respect, not only did Brother Chalwe's family come forward to greet him, but also all of the 75 adults that were in attendance. He like Brother Albert has the respect of his congregation. A beautiful spirit was present in our meetings during the ordination of both brothers. Given the opportunity to express themselves after their ordination, each expressed the joy of having received

baptism and their ordination of the Priesthood in the Church of Jesus Christ. They would work tirelessly for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church to see others come and embrace the truth and feel the joy they have felt in serving God.

### Baptisms in Chililabombwe

November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> were days set aside for baptizing converts in this city. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we baptized 24 and on

(Continued on Page 8)

**Zambia, Africa**

Continued from Page 7

the 4<sup>th</sup> we baptized 28 making a total of 52 baptisms for the branch of Chililabombwe. It was a beautiful sight to see each day a large group of men and women and children climbing into the back of a flatbed truck traveling to the site of baptism. As we drove in and out of the local streets towards the river, the joy that came from each group was their singing praises to Jesus Christ because they were beginning a new life with him. People along the road would smile as they heard the singing.

Among this group was a young woman confined to her wheelchair, being crippled and unable to walk since birth. It was an amazing sight to behold when four of our brothers, one on each corner of the bath towel that was used to carry her, immersed her in the water with ease. When it came time to confirm her during our meeting, words were spoken to the effect that the day will come when she will receive a perfect body, with perfect limbs, and be able to walk and take steps that she has never taken before without aid or assistance of any kind. She broke down and sobbed uncontrollably because of the joy she felt. How blessed we are to have the use of our legs so we can walk.

**Testimony and Singing**

Our brothers and sisters love to sing and praise God. I have requested that time be set aside for testimony in every mission field we visit so they can praise God for all the good things He has done for us and praise Him for His son Jesus Christ and the hope of salvation through our obedience of the Gospel Restored. They also praise God for our visit and the joy received the day of their baptism. It was very touching to hear the healings that were experienced. One young Sister who is the daughter of Sister Jessie and Brother Albert Kawama stood up on the last day of our visit praising God for her parents and the covenant she made with the Lord the day of her baptism. She ended her testimony by

emphasizing the words, "She was thankful most of all for being a saint of God." Very touching to hear these words coming from a young woman.

**Anointing Those Who Were Sick – Healing in Chingola**

We were called upon to visit the homes of those who were ill and could not attend our meetings. The first home we were asked to visit was that of a woman by the name of Margaret who was very ill. When we walked into the room where she was lying on the floor, we looked at her and she appeared to be ready to pass from this life. She was asked if she believed that God could restore her back to health and her answer was yes, that she possessed the faith God could restore her health. She just had enough strength to sit up so we could anoint her. After the anointing we said our farewell to her and her husband as we departed from their home. The next day during our seminar class, she came to our meeting having walked a distance in the heat. She requested to be anointed again. We poured out our heart to God that He would see the faith this woman had and restore her health. God blessed her with a healing. She was baptized and we ordained her as a Deaconess in the Chingola Branch. The Sunday we spent our last meeting in this branch, during testimony she stood up and related how God brought her from near death back to life. We saw a great change in her appearance and facial expression.

We were asked to visit the home of a woman who was six months pregnant and bleeding. She was afraid of losing the baby. We anointed her that she would be healed and carry her child so that it would be born normal and healthy, but also that her family would believe in the miracle of God's healing power in the Church. Spending a few moments encouraging her to have faith in God that she would not lose the child, we left her home to visit others who were sick. The next morning during our seminar class she came to our meeting having walked quite a distance.

**Healing in Chililabombwe**

Being asked to go to another home and anoint a woman who was very ill, we were told this individual had not been out of the house for sometime. Her name was Irene. She was asked if she believed with faith God could heal her and she said yes. We anointed Irene then told her about the mission of our Church in this city, said our farewell and walked out of her humble home to our van. As we reached our van we looked towards her home. She was following us walking under her own strength, came to the window of the van, smiled, greeted us again and said she was feeling better and wanted to thank us for our visit.

We anointed numerous men, women and children who were ill. We feel certain many received the touch of God's healing hand. We just mentioned a few.

**Another Experience of God's Protecting Hand**

One afternoon after our morning seminar session was concluded for the day in the Chingola Branch, we began our one-hour journey to Chililabombwe. All vehicles drive on the opposite side of the road, which we are not used to. Thank God this particular afternoon we were driving in the left lane because coming in the opposite direction was a double flat-bed truck with a large amount of cargo that was tied and securely fastened to the trailer. Within 25 yards or so before passing us, a tire blew out on the opposite side of the truck causing it to swerve to the right or edge of the road. If the tire would have blown on the side we were driving, the truck would have swerved towards our van and perhaps caused us to be involved in a tragic accident. This is the reason we mention the need for our brothers and sisters to pray for the missionaries who travel abroad because we are in need of God's protection at all times. We just mentioned some of the incidents we saw or possibly could have been involved in; however, there are many other times our lives were preserved

that we were not aware of.

We baptized 89 converts, blessed 64 children, and ordained two Elders, one Teacher, four Deacons, and eight Deaconesses during our visit to Zambia.

The Church was declared established on November 2, 2006 with the branches of Chingola and Chililabombwe. We appointed various offices for the smooth operation of the respective branches during the same week. The membership of this newly-established mission field sends their love to all and requests the prayers of our brothers and sisters here in America. They look forward to sharing the Restored Gospel message with as many as will open their hearts to receive the truth of God's Holy Word. Our brothers and sisters are in need and look forward to the day when they will have a church building at each of the two locations. They inform us that meeting in a school classroom is not really a good setting to invite people to worship service.

## South American Conference

Continued from Page 4

life and encouraged us to have the courage to do the work of God. Brother Zack Jackson stated Jesus Christ had changed our lives and we are now the sons and daughters of God to do His work.

Saturday morning's seminars were presented by Apostles Paul Liberto and Richard Christman to the Elders, Teachers, and Deacons. Brother Liberto discussed leadership and recognizing responsibility and Brother Christman discussed using our time wisely and keeping our focus on taking the Gospel's message to mankind. He was able to make a visual point about "barking up the wrong tree" that all present in the seminar will not forget!

After the seminars, the Apostles encircled the Evangelists, Elders, Teachers, and Deacons and offered a special prayer. A tremendous spirit of unity was felt by all as Apostle Paul

Palmieri offered an inspired prayer for the laborers of this work.

Another special blessing was experienced by the Deaconesses who were able to meet together and discuss their blessings and challenges. Sisters Heylen Griffith, Patricia Christman, Orletta Liberto, and Bonnie Smith led the seminar with the South American sisters. It was wonderful to see how they connected with each other and how strong a kinship was formed among them.

Saturday afternoon allowed for an interactive seminar lead by Evangelist James Sgro. His presentation to the group was on how we can share the Gospel. Evangelist Miguel Bicelis, Elder Daniel Mora, and Carlos Madero, the Resident Teacher in Colombia, presented a role playing exercise. We then separated into groups and came up with the points to target when presenting the message. As this group was meeting, Elder Zack Jackson and Teacher Brad Everett held a seminar for a group of young people from ages 12-25. Elders Alan Metzler and Bryan Griffith and Sister Heylen Griffith held a seminar for the children as well. A wonderful spirit was felt throughout the day.

Saturday evening's service began with the children singing for the congregation. Brother Scott Griffith opened the service referencing Colossians 4 and talking about "redeeming the time." He stated we should recognize the short time we have and use it wisely. Several excuses can be given by individuals as to why the time is not right to serve God; then the time is gone before we know it. Brother Christman followed stating that through Christ we can redeem the time. Brother Vicente Gongora, a Resident Elder in Peru, followed, reciting Ecclesiastes 3 emphasizing there is a time to everything. It is our time to leave sin, prepare ourselves, and make ourselves available for God's use. Brother Phil Jackson then summarized the comments by reiterating we need to use the time wisely.

The Sunday service had approximately 60-70 in attendance. Brother Paul A. Palmieri opened on the

promise of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah. He asked the question stated in Genesis, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" He built on this subject about Christ's faithfulness to us and that through this same faith the work will go throughout South America. Brother Sgro followed, stating there is none greater than the promise of He who is behind the promise. Brother Metzler then explained how we will have this time to complete our work to assist the Seed of Joseph. Brother Mestas remembered the promises to Joseph. He encouraged his people to do this work and take this message to their people. Brother Smith related of the birth of Zion and this work in this time. Brother Mora explained that the impossible can be done as well as this work in this time. Brother Phil Jackson reminded us we have this rod with a promise and we can go before God with this. Brother Liberto motivated us that we need to do something. Brother Paul Palmieri encouraged us that we all, House of Israel and Gentiles, can gain by accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Teacher Mario Zaccagnini, who devoted much time and effort to the planning and success of the conference, testified that while he was in Peru doing this work for God, he received a double promotion at work without even being interviewed. God truly provides when we place Him first!

All who attended hope more conferences like this one will be forthcoming in the future. Our desire is that, as we continue to wait upon the Lord for His direction, several more countries of South America will be represented at future conferences and the promises of God will continue to be fulfilled! May God richly bless you!

Happy  
Easter  
to all our readers.

# The Church of Jesus Christ

## Scriptural References

*(Continued from March, 2007)*

### BOOK OF MORMON

Ezek 37:15-2	Record of Judah (Bible)-of Joseph (Book of Mormon)
Isa 29:11-12	A book to come forth – “And the vision of all”
Psa 85:10-13	Truth shall spring out of the ground
Isa 29:4	Shall speak out of the ground
2 Nep 5:29-30	In regard to the records kept
2 Nep 27:6-26	How Book of Mormon should come forth
2 Nep 29 (all)	Gentiles shall say, “A Bible, A Bible!”
Mormon 8 & 9	These chapters say – records to be hid up
3 Nep 16:4-14	To come forth in latter days

### American Indians of Israel

Gen 49:22-26	Joseph’s posterity to go over the wall (ocean)
Gen 48:15:19	To become a multitude of nations (Indians)
Deut 33:13-16	Land of America given Joseph’s posterity
Isa 29:2-4	Forefathers of Indians “It [nation of America] shall be unto me [the Lord] as Ariel [Jerusalem]”
John 10:16	Jesus declares He must visit other sheep
Deut 4:25-28	Causes of scattering given – “Lord shall”
Deut 28:63-65	Lord shall scatter thee among all people
Jer 29:17-19	To be a curse, an hissing, and a reproach
Luke 21:24	Shall be led away captive into all nations
Jas 1:1	Twelve tribes that are scattered abroad
Amos 9:9	Israel sifted (scattered), among all nations
1 Nep 22:3-9	House of Israel scattered, also American Indians
3 Nep 16	This chapter – scattered Israel visited by the Saviour

### Gathering of Israel

Jer 31:10	He that scattered Israel will gather them
Jer 3:14-18	Once of a city and two of a family
Psa 50:5	Gather My saints together
Isa 5:26-30	Mode of gathering foretold
Isa 11:12-13	Shall assemble outcasts of Israel
Isa 35	This chapter – Lord’s people shall come rejoicing
Ezek 37:21-23	Shall bring them into their own land
Jer 16:14-16	Israel gathered by hunters and fishers
Luke 17:34	Those worthy to be gathered to the body (or Church)
Rev 18:4	Saints to leave sinners and escape plagues
Jer 30:1-3	Israel gathered to their own lands
Gen 49:26	Land of America given to Joseph and his posterity

Deut 33:13-16	Land of America given to Joseph and his posterity
Zech 10:6-8	Ephraim to be gathered
Mic 4:1-2	Place of gathering foretold
Isa 2:2	Place of gathering foretold
Isa 18:3	An ensign on the mountains
Isa 35 (all)	Desert shall blossom as a rose
Psa 50:5	Gather my saints together unto me
Rev 18:4	A voice from heaven to command gathering
Matt 25:1-13	Gathered to prepare for Christ’s coming
Nahum 2:3-7	Description of mode of travel

### Jews to Be Gathered to Jerusalem

Jer 24:4-6	Not to be plucked up again
Jer 33:10-11	Jerusalem to be redeemed
Jer 32:36-44	Men shall buy fields for money; Lord will cause Jews in captivity to return
Isa 11:12	Dispersed of Judah gathered
Zech 2:12	Lord shall inherit Judah his portion
Luke 21:24	Time of gathering spoken of
Rev 11:3-14	Jerusalem to be inhabited; prophets will prophesy
2 Nep 25:9-19	Scattered Jews to return to Jerusalem
2 Nep 21:24	To end – American Indians and ten tribes to be gathered

### Important Events to Precede Christ’s Second Coming

Matt 24:32-41	Now learn a parable of the fig tree
Rev 14:6	Gospel to be brought to us by an angel
Mal 3:1	My messenger shall prepare the way
Dan 2:44-45	Kingdom of God to be set up
Mal 4:5-6	Prophet Elijah to be sent
Rev 18:4	A voice from heaven to command gathering
1 Nep 22:7-31	The Lord to raise up a mighty nation – is USA
1 Nep 13:10	To end – Indians separated from Gentiles by the ocean. The Spirit of God rests upon Columbus and Pilgrim Fathers, the first of this mighty nations (United States) Indians to be scattered and driven by Gentiles. The Bible to be brought to this land and taken to the remnant of a people (Indians). Also other books to be brought forth by the power of God, and The Church of Jesus Christ to be re-established on earth (Chapter 14; also 2 Nep chapters 27 to 31).
2 Nep 3:6-21	A Choice Seer shall the Lord my God raise up
Rom 11:26	Shall come out of Sion the Deliverer

### Second Coming of Christ

Acts 1:11	Same Jesus to come again
Mal 3:1-5	Who may abide the day of His coming
Job 19:25-26	He shall stand upon the earth in last days
Zech 12:10	His coming to Jerusalem (see Zech 13:6; 14:4)
Acts 3:19-21	God shall send Jesus Christ
Matt 24:30	Will come in power and glory
Luke 21:27	Will come in power and glory
Jude 14-15	To execute judgment upon all
1 Thess 4:16-17	Pertaining to second coming
1 Thess 5:1-4	Pertaining to second coming
2 Thess 1:7-10	Shall come to be glorified in His saints
3 Nep 29 (all)	The Lord shall not delay His coming

### Resurrection of the Dead

Job 19:25-27	In my flesh I (Job) shall see God
Ezek 37:1-14	Resurrection of dead, foretold
John 5:28-29	All in their graves shall come forth
Acts 24:15	Resurrection of just and unjust
1 Cor 15	Pertaining to the resurrection
Luke 24:36-43	Jesus (resurrects) had flesh and bones
John 20:11-17	Jesus recognized, after His resurrection
Acts 10:40-42	Jesus ate and drank after His resurrection
Matt 27:52-53	Many resurrected with Christ
1 Thess 4:13-16	Dead in Christ, shall rise first
Rev 20:4-5	Resurrection at Christ's second coming
Rev 20:12-14	Resurrection of all at end of the world
Alma 40 (all)	The spirit world and the resurrection

### Ministering Angels

Gen 19:1	Two angels came to Lot
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Dan 6:22	Angels sent to preserve Daniel
Luke 1:11-28	Angel appeared to Zacharias and Mary
Mark 9:4-7	Moses and Elias appear to Saviour
Luke 22:43	Angels appeared to Jesus on Mount Olives
Luke 24:4	Two men (angels) declare Jesus' resurrection
Acts 1:10	Two men (angels) declare Jesus' ascension
Acts 5:19	An angel opened prison door for Apostles
Matt 28:2-3	Angel removed stone and sat upon it
Acts 8:26	An angel directs Philip in his labors
Acts 12:7-10	An angel delivers Peter from prison
Acts 27:23-24	An angel speaks to Paul
Rev 1:1	Revelations delivered by an angel
Rev 19:10	Angel, one of John's fellow servants
Heb 13:2	Some have entertained angels unawares
1 Nep 3:29	Thus were the twelve called by an angel
1 Nep 11:21	The angel said unto me, "Behold the Lamb"
Mosiah 3:2	King Benjamin given words to speak by an angel
Mosiah 27:11	An angel appeared to Alma the Younger and the four sons of Mosiah
Alma 8:18	Alma received his message from an angel
Helaman 14:9	The Lord commanded me by His angel

### Devils Are Fallen Angels

Isa 14:12-17	Lucifer fallen from heaven
John 8:44	Devil abode not in the truth
Rev 12:7-13	Devil and his angels
2 Pet 2:4	Angels that sinned cast down to hell
Jude 1:6	Angels which kept not their first estate
Luke 10:17-18	Satan, as lightning, fell from heaven
2 Nep 2:17-18	An angel of God became a devil
Alma 30:53	Devil appeared as an angel

(To be continued)

### The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

father Lehi when he told them that God was going to lead them to a beautiful land of promise. Nephi learned to pray and ask God for guidance.

The families traveled for eight long years across the wilderness. Nephi leaned on God. Laman and Lemuel constantly complained. When they were starving, Nephi had his father pray and he found meat for the family. When they reached the ocean and had no ship, he asked God to show him how to build a ship and where to find ore to make tools (1 Nephi 17). When Laman and Lemuel refused to help and attacked Nephi, God gave

Nephi the power to shock and stun them. For awhile, they were sorry and helped.

When the ship was built and they were out on the ocean, Laman and Lemuel and some others started acting rude and wild. Nephi urged them to stop. Laman was so angry, he tied Nephi to the tall pole of the ship. God sent a huge storm and stopped their compass from working until Laman released him.

Laman and Lemuel and their families hated their younger brother, Nephi, for loving and following God. After they landed in the new Land of Promise their hatred grew. Nephi, Sam and their families planted all the seeds they had brought from Jerusa-

lem. Every seed and plant grew abundantly. Laman's group chose to live like wild people, hunting meat and eating it raw. Their anger towards Nephi grew.

As Nephi grew older he became a wise and prayerful leader, yet his older brothers constantly tried to kill him. Each time, God stopped them. And finally, the Lord told Nephi to prepare his family and gather the ancient records they'd brought with them, the sword of Laban, and the special compass. They took tents along with supplies and went into the wilderness in this new land to get away from their enemies, the people of

(Continued on Page 12)

## OBITUARIES

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

### JOSE TELLES

Brother Jose Telles of the Yucaipa, California Branch passed on to his reward on January 22, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Sister Linda Telles; two daughters, Katheryn Telles and Sister Maggie Meils; and her husband Ken's son, Jose Telles and his wife Bebe; two sisters, eight brothers and five grandchildren.

### DANIELLE NOEL PARRAVANO

Sister Danielle Noel Parravano of the Tampa, Florida Branch passed on to her reward on December 31, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Brother Daniel Parravano; her parents, Brother Robert and Sister Anita Noel; a brother, Robert Noel, Jr. and wife Kristine; and a nephew, Robert Noel III and wife Lindsay.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Santa Scala, of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch, celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on February 6, 2007.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Children Blessed

Morgan Christian Scott, son of James and Ingrid Scott, ~~was blessed~~ on February 25, 2007 at the Atlanta, Georgia Branch.

Denamb Aguirre, son of Allioth Ramirez was blessed on January 7, 2007 in the Anaheim, California Branch.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Zinzi, Gelsa and Pearl  
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also used the many metals like silver, copper, brass, steel and gold to make all sorts of things including swords to protect them when the day came that the followers of Laman would find and attack them (II Nephi 5).

Thirty years had passed away from the time these people had left Jerusalem. With the guidance of God, they had traveled a wilderness for eight of those years. They had reached the ocean, been taught by God how to build a ship and then were carried for many months across a huge ocean. They landed in a place of wild beauty in South America to build a nation of people who would serve God.

Their sons were taught to be warriors to protect their families. Their sons and daughters were those who learned to fast and pray and call upon the true and living God for all guidance and protection. This was all part of the great plan of the one true, living God. Today, we can read of their amazing struggles and successes and be of good cheer. We, too, serve the one, true living God. He can and will guide and protect us today just as He has in other years for His other followers that went before us.

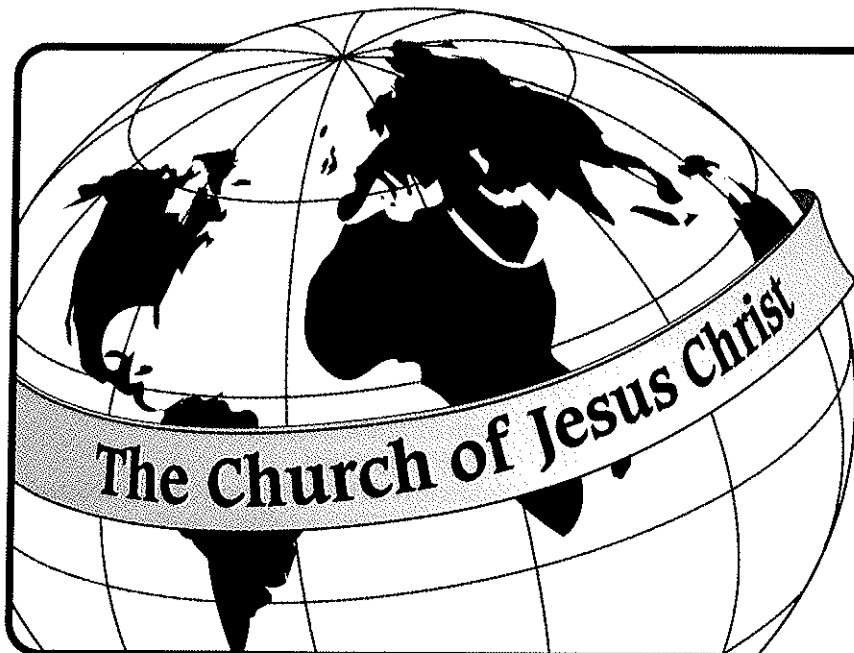
With love,  
Sister Jan

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 11

Laman and Lemuel.

They journeyed many days into the wild country and finally found a place to build their city. The Lord was with them. They planted seeds, built houses, and raised all kinds of flocks and herds. Nephi taught them to be industrious and labor with their hands. They built a beautiful temple much like the one in far away Jerusalem. They



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

May, 2007

Volume 63, No. 5

## The Church of Jesus Christ Scriptural References

*(Continued from April, 2007)*

### Divine Authority Not Confirmed by Miracles Alone

Exo 7:10-22     Magicians of Egypt worked miracles  
Matt 24:24     Shall arise false Christ and false prophets  
2 Thess 2:9-12     Workings of Satan, to be made manifest  
Rev 13:13     Will call fire down from heaven  
Rev 16:13-15     Spirits of devils working miracles  
2 Cor 2:13-16     Devil as angel of light

### Administrations to Sick

Matt 9:18     Jesus laid His hands on the sick  
Mark 6:5-13     Sick anointed with oil  
Acts 5:12-15     Apostles lay on hands to heal sick  
Acts 28:8-9     Paul administers to sick – numbers healed  
Mark 16:18     Jesus teaches administration to sick  
Acts 9:17     Paul's eyesight restored through Ananias  
Jas 5:14-15     Anoint with oil in the name of the Lord  
3 Nep 17:7-10     Jesus healed all the afflicted

### Sick Not Always Healed

Matt 17:16-20     Disciples could not cure him  
2 Cor 12:7-9     Paul had infirmities through his life  
1 Tim 5:23     Timothy had oft infirmities  
2 Tim 4:20     Paul left his companion sick  
1 Cor 11:30     Many are weak and sickly  
Heb 9:27     Appointed unto men once to die

### Feet Washing

John 13:4-17     Jesus washed His disciples' feet; He gave them a commandment to do likewise to one another. If they did not, they would have no part with Him. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."  
1 Tim 5:10     If she have washed the saints' feet

### Persecution

John 16:1-4     These things have I spoken unto you  
Acts 8:1-3     Church greatly persecuted  
Acts 12:1-5     Church greatly persecuted  
Acts 14:19     Individual persecution  
2 Cor 11:24-27     Paul's sufferings for the Gospel's sake  
Heb 11:36-38     Prophets of old persecuted  
Acts 28:22     This sect everywhere spoken against  
2 Tim 3:12     Shall suffer persecution  
Luke 6:22-23     They shall hate you and separate you  
Matt 24:9     And they shall kill you  
John 16:2-3     Shall put you out of synagogues (churches)  
1 Nep 16:37     Laman conspired to have their father Lehi and brother Nephi slain  
Alma 19:22     A man tried to slay Ammon by the sword  
Alma 20:20     Ammon withstood king's blows

Peter was crucified about 66 A.D.

*(Continued on Page 2)*



## Scriptural References

Continued from Page 1

James was beheaded in year 44 A.D.  
 John was banished in year 96 A.D.  
 Andrew was crucified (bound to cross)  
 Philip was crucified about 52 A.D.  
 Bartholomew was flayed alive  
 Thomas had a lance run through him  
 Matthew was slain with a battle ax, year 60 A.D.  
 James, the Lesser, was beaten to death  
 Thaddaeus, shot to death with arrows, about 72 A.D.  
 Simon, crucified 74 A.D.  
 Mark, dragged to death in streets of Alexandria  
 Paul, beheaded in Rome by Nero, 66 A.D.  
 Barnabas, stoned by the Jews, 73 A.D.

### Sin Against the Holy Ghost

Matt 12:31-32 Shall not be forgiven  
 Heb 6:4-6 Sin against Holy Ghost, explained  
 Heb 10:26-27 If we sin willfully after  
 John 5:16 Sin unto death

### Urim and Thummim

Exo 28:30 Used by Aaron in priest's office  
 Lev 8:7-8 Arrangement of Urim and Thummim, etc.  
 Num 27:21 The use of the Urim and Thummim  
 1 Sam 28:6 Customary use of Urim and Thummim  
 1 Sam 30:7-8 David inquires of the Lord by Urim and Thummim  
 Ezra 2:62-63 Urim and Thummim could not be found  
 1 Nep 3:3-5 Regarding genealogies  
 1 Nep 3:10-17 Regarding genealogies  
 Mos 8:13-19 Regarding Urim and Thummim  
 Mos 28:12-20 Regarding Urim and Thummim

3 Nep 1:2 Respecting plates etc.

### Important Historical Dates

Dec. 23, 1805 Joseph Smith was born at Sharon, Windsor County, Vermont  
 1820, Spring Joseph Smith received first vision  
 Sept. 21, 1823 Joseph Smith learned where plates were  
 Sept. 22, 1827 Plates delivered to Joseph Smith  
 1830, Spring Book of Mormon printed  
 April 6, 1830 Church organized  
 Nov., 1833 Saints driven from Jackson County, Missouri  
 March 17, 1836 Temple at Kirtland, Ohio, dedicated  
 1838, Winter Saints banished from Missouri  
 1839, Spring Saints arrived at Nauvoo  
 Aug. 6, 1842 Joseph Smith prophesied saints would be driven to the Rocky Mountains  
 June 27, 1844 Joseph and Hyrum Smith killed (Carthage, Illinois)  
 February, 1846 Saints driven from Illinois  
 July, 1862 The Church of Jesus Christ was organized in Greenock, Pennsylvania

Note:

The Church of Jesus Christ that is currently headquartered in the city of Monongahela, Pennsylvania, is not affiliated with any other church or Restoration group. It is separate and distinct from all other churches and denominations. It is not a split from any other body of people. The said Church has come into existence by way of heavenly experiences and revelations of God. We claim a divine succession of Authority and Priesthood as restored in 1829.

The Church of Jesus Christ was organized in Greenock, Pennsylvania in July, 1862 and incorporated at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in June, 1865.

## Raising the Standard

By Sister Erin Light

*"There's no need on the side lines and none on the back lines, but only the front lines are pleading for more" – The Standard of Liberty.*

On February 3, 2007, the saints boarded the highways to travel to the Simi Valley Branch, where the Pacific Area Ladies' Circle and the Pacific Area MBA were holding their biannual conferences. The Ladies' Circle met in the morning. In addition

to the regular order of business, Sister Harriet Meo distributed Psalms to the sisters. Psalm 105 read, "Oh give thanks unto the Lord...talk ye of all his wondrous works. Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength." Just as David was inspired to exhort all about the wonderful work of the Lord, each sister read aloud a Psalm that brought strength and encouragement to those gathered in the meeting. As the sisters were touched by the Psalms of praise, they gave testimonies of the glory of God in their lives.

After a lovingly-prepared lunch hosted by the Simi Valley Branch, all

attended the Pacific MBA business meeting. Lead by Pacific Area MBA President and Vice President, Brothers Ryan McDonnell and Ryan Huttenberger, respectively, the meeting was both informative and productive. Throughout the meeting, events such as the upcoming Area Youth In Action weekend and the annual PAMBA Youth Retreat began to take shape. A detailed presentation described a four-year vision of the PAMBA. Brother Ryan McDonnell explained, "By having a vision that pinpoints our destination, we will better understand where we stand in relation to that desired state." Major

points of the presentation included strengthening support of the local branches and gathering the young people in spirit and fellowship.

More saints traveled to the Simi Branch during dinnertime, and we continued our fellowship into the night service. Brother David Arreola encouraged us to take a hold of the Gospel and blessings we've been given and to walk in the Spirit of God. Sis Erin Light sang, *To Keep the Gospel Pure*, and Brother Randy Lee followed, addressing how we can take advantage of the times we live in to spread the Gospel. He expressed a need to avoid temptation in our lives. The testimony service that followed was filled with voices praising God. Those who had been baptized 15-30 years were asked to sing, *The Standard of Liberty* to those younger.

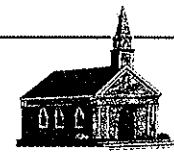
The Sunday morning service began as the brothers and sisters lifted their voices to sing the Spanish hymn, *Ven a la Luz*, a hopeful song that translates, "Come to the light of Christ. You can live with Him and never die." Brother Sal Azzinaro, presiding elder of the Simi Valley Branch, asked Sister Erin Light to sing a song to open the meeting. She had recently been inspired to write a song titled, *God Knows What's Going On*. Sister Erin thanked God for inspiration to write a song that might encourage the saints to know that, while we don't always know why things happen, God is always in control.

Brother Stacey Light opened the service and spoke to us about the MBA and the young people of the Church. "I would like to think that the MBA also stands for the Missionary Benevolent Army!" He spoke about Moroni, a young person given the position of chief commander of the armies of the Nephites. Brother Stacey exhorted us to desire those things which Moroni wrote on the Standard of Liberty. "Moroni was willing," Brother Stacey explained, "to put his freedom on the line for his God, his religion, freedom, peace, and his family." He encouraged us to support the Church in all these aspects, and to stay united in times of

difficulty. The 48th chapter of Alma describes Moroni as a man of perfect understanding because he fasted and prayed. He rallied those who were called the Christians, and they were not overcome. Moroni rejoiced in the freedom of his country and in what was right in the sight of God. "Loving our wives, loving our children, publishing the Gospel of peace; these things are right in the sight of God," Brother Stacey concluded.

Brother Joe Ciarolla followed, inspiring us with the following: "Upon the standard of liberty were the words, 'In memory of our God, and our religion.' Without our religion, we would have no relationship with God." He spoke of the relationship David had with the Lord, and of the strength God provided him with to fight and conquer the lion, the bear, and the giant. Brother Joe also mentioned Nephi and King Benjamin, leaders who knew the power of their God and let Jesus Christ, our great Commander, lead the way. Brother Joe summarized the story of Ammon from the book of Alma, who desired to live among King Lamoni's people and protected the King's flock. Through his relationship with God, Ammon published the Gospel of peace to the Lamanites, and they were converted. "In the scriptures, the righteous who died were already prepared. Difficult times will continue to transpire, but if we stay close to Jesus Christ we have nothing to worry about," Brother Joe firmly stated. He encouraged us to put our trust in Him to direct our paths, and to let the commandments guide our lives. Brother Joe concluded, "When you consider the future, direct your thoughts toward the youth of this Church, for they are raising the standard." A beautiful spirit filled the remainder of the service and we traveled home encouraged and hopeful for all that God has in store.

*"In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children..."* – The Standard of Liberty, (Alma 46:12).



## Branch and Mission News

### Triple Miracle in Edison, New Jersey

Lisa Tchorz, daughter of Brother Bob and Sister Nancy Plahovinsak, and her husband Jason, were unsuccessful in their attempts to have a baby. Lisa turned to God and was anointed several times and had been to the doctor for many procedures. The saints petitioned God on her behalf throughout this difficult trial. God brought her through the procedures that were often very complicated and serious.

Just as she got to the point of thinking that it was impossible for her to bear a child, she was told she was pregnant! This was a high risk pregnancy, so she had to be watched closely by the doctor. As time went on, she found out she was having triplets! Oh what joy that brought to the hearts of Lisa, Jason and their families.

As she approached her fifth month she began to have some complications. She was anointed again and had to be bedridden the remainder of her pregnancy. In order for the babies to develop properly the pregnancy needed to last 32 weeks. It was a time for directed prayer on behalf of Lisa, Jason, and the babies.

Lisa needed to be hospitalized several times for early labor but never stayed longer than a day. The brothers and sisters continued praying. Praise God! Her pregnancy lasted 33 weeks and three days and on December 5, 2006 she had three beautiful girls: Trista Amber Tchorz, 3 lbs. 7 oz., 16 1/4 inches; Shelby Lynn Tchorz, 3 lbs. 14 oz., 17 inches; and Lyla Brooke Tchorz, 4 lbs. 5 oz., 18 inches.

The girls are all doing well and were blessed in Edison, New Jersey on Sunday, February 24, 2007. Lyla was blessed by Brother Phil Arcuri, Trista was blessed by Brother Bob

(Continued on Page 8)



## General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend "Women in Action"

*By Sister Michelle Watson and Sister Terri Bravo*

When the sisters of the Ladies' Uplift Circle meet for a General Circle event it is exciting because we anticipate the Lord's blessing of our time with Him and with each other. On Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> we gathered at the Holiday Inn Select, in San Antonio, Texas for our fellowship weekend. The theme was "Women in Action."

The sisters of the Southwest Area, led by Sister Virginia Rose, were our gracious hostesses. On Friday afternoon we had the opportunity to tour the Alamo and the famous San Antonio River Walk. It was a pleasure to have an afternoon to enjoy the sunshine and warmth, especially for those of us who escaped snow and ice storms.

Our General Circle President, Sister Karen Progar, and our General Circle Vice President, Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, led the sisters in a weekend of meetings and workshops. We were encouraged to study the courageous women both in the Bible and the Church history book. The review of the Ladies' Circle pledge reminded us of our founding sisters and their desires to establish the Circle as a vital and active organization for ladies of all ages to serve God and support the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Fellowship weekends are an opportunity to participate in workshops and learn in a loving and supportive environment. Circle sisters are chosen from all areas of the Church to plan workshops where sisters can share

their walk with the Lord. Four workshops were planned. The subjects of the workshops were as follows:

**Missionary Work** – Sisters learned what "works" and what "doesn't work" in the mission field. They identified how they could use their own gifts and talents to help with specific needs around the church, and then everyone worked in groups to make flannel blankets that were donated to outlying missions.

**Scripture Study** – Sisters learned about the "deliciousness of God's word," the importance of studying (not just reading) God's word, and the benefits of making the effort. Sisters received many creative tools to help them plan time for reading and to aid comprehension of what they read.

**Doing it All** – Sisters learned that they can't "do it all" except "through Christ who strengtheneth" them. Sisters learned how to balance the roles or "hats" they currently wear in their lives, how to fulfill those roles best, and how to help other sisters who are overburdened.

**Hospitality** – Sisters learned the importance of showing hospitality to others. They received tips on how to make guests feel welcome, comfortable, and loved in their homes and branches. They also worked to find creative solutions to several hospitality-problem scenarios.

We knew that our sisters were prayerful in their presentation because we felt the Lord's presence and blessings in the hands-on workshops they so lovingly prepared. We have much information to bring home and share with our locals.

At the beginning of our Sunday morning service Sister Karen reminded us of the passing of Sister Lydia Lombardo and Sister Libby Rosemeier. She asked us to remember their families in prayer.

Brother Larry Watson was our guest speaker. He spoke of Priscilla and Aquilla from Acts 18:24. They made a great contribution to the Early Church. He spoke of the needs and benefits of the sister's involvement in missionary work. Brothers and sisters

draw others to Christ through their unique perspectives.

The meeting was opened to testimony and our sisters praised the Lord for His goodness and love. We truly agreed, "How pleasant for the sisters to dwell in unity."

As our weekend came to a close we knew that the Master's touch blessed the precious time we spent together. While there was sadness in separating we can still be close in spirit. We thank God for our time together and know that what we have learned can be shared. We hope that the next time there is a General Circle activity we may see you there because we know that will be another time to share our love of the Lord and each other!

## Teaching Is a Blessing at Any Age

*By Amanda J. Moore*

Hello from the Anaheim Ladies' Uplift Circle.

My name is Amanda J. Moore and this isn't the first time I've been mentioned in *The Gospel News*. I've been in it because I have taught Ladies' Circle meetings in Anaheim Branch. This is now my third time teaching and I'm very excited to be a part of this experience. When I teach I get nervous, and then I calm down, knowing the Lord is by my side. I am now 12 years old and in 6th grade.

This time teaching I plan to play a game, based on the game "20 Questions." When the sisters come in, they will see the word of the month is "Joyful" along with a hint as to who the person or song is. If it's a person, they have to be in the Bible or the Church. When a sister guesses a person or song correctly she will be rewarded with candy. Once we go through a good amount of people or songs we will go over the books of the Bible.

I know God will bless me in teaching the meeting and bless the sisters to enjoy it.



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:8-11).*

Spiritual gifts are one of the most special things the Lord can give to a man or woman. First of all, the gift is ongoing. The gift is given to a person for their entire life. It never goes away, and is used over and over again, for the uplifting of that person, and often times, for everyone around them. How beautiful is it when we hear of a vision, dream or hear the gift of tongues. It is then we all feel very connected to God, as if He is speaking directly to His Church, or as individuals. Paul is very clear in his writings above that these gifts are given by the SAME Spirit. He mentions that four times in the short verses above to be sure we understand the SAME Spirit of the Lord manifests in different ways, but will always "feel" or "sound" the same. This is how we know it is a true gift from the Lord. Why did Paul emphasize that? Because we know that there is an opposition to all things. The magicians were able to duplicate many miracles that Moses did in his day, and the devil is no different today. But it "feels" and "sounds" different. Thank God in The Church of Jesus Christ, we witness that Spirit of God manifest through many of His wonderful gifts. How wonderful, comforting and uplifting it feels to receive or even witness one of His gifts. It increases our faith in what we believe and have committed to.

Some gifts listed above are not so tangible (like a vision or tongues), but are just as obvious. Have you ever heard a minister speaking, or maybe a brother or sister was speaking with you, and they just seemed to say the right thing to you? Maybe you had a question or concern, and they said something that changed your feelings, or even changed your life?! That is a person who is using their gift of wisdom (knowingly or unknowingly) to help you. How wonderful! Or, have you sat in a Sunday School class or been in a teaching lesson where you learned so much from a brother or sister regarding some scripture and what it means. In the world, one might say the person was well educated. But in the Church, some of the most enlightening and best teachings came from brothers and sisters who had little or no education. This is a gift of knowledge that God has given them. How beautiful! In the world, one would have to spend many years in school to learn, but isn't it amazing that God is not a respecter of persons, and in the Church can give this gift to someone who never even went to school?! What about the gift of faith? I have seen brothers and sisters go through such fiery trials in their life, and never lost their footing in the Gospel, and did not fall apart. They continuously gave God honor and praise and knew that He would work it out for them. This is a beautiful gift of faith! Even though you may not "officially" be given one of these gifts, by encountering and interacting with those who do, your faith is increased, your knowledge is increased, and your wisdom is increased. What a wonderful God we serve. There are those who see the future, and speak about it in a very moving way. These could have the gift of prophecy, which is predicting things to come in order to help us prepare. Gifts of healing or working of miracles are given to those in an appropriate position to use it. (The disciples of Jesus performed many miracles and healed many after Christ's departure. The same is true today.) I'm sure there are many other gifts not even listed in this scripture that exist today in the Church. If God has given you a gift, you'll know it. Use it for His honor and glory and use it to edify others. Nothing we do causes us to deserve these gifts; they are just given because of His great love for His children. Thank you Lord for your beautiful gifts!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## The Miracles of God

Dear Boys and Girls and Friends,

Do you ever feel grumpy when you are sitting in church with your parents and wish that you were outside playing or home watching television instead? Do you ever wonder why it is that this adult in your life wakes you up and gets you ready and often drives many miles to go to church? Did anyone ever explain to you that they are bringing you to church so that you can learn to know your Creator, God? Did you ever realize that God has set up good and safe rules of life to follow so that all people can be loved, cared for, and truly happy? Did you know that our old enemy, the devil, tries to keep us from learning those rules so that humans will always be lonely, unhappy, lost and confused without God?

A child in our church once asked their mother, "Why do we come to church?"

Surprised, the mother answered, "Why, we come to worship God and learn about His miracles and mysteries. Do you remember the time you had a terrible earache and when the elders anointed you and prayed for you, God took away the terrible pain?"

"Yes," answered the child. "That was a miracle from God, wasn't it?"

The mother nodded her head and said, "Yes. We come here to learn more about God's love. Next Sunday, look up and down each row of people sitting there. Stop at each family or person and think about miracles God has done for them. Think whether you ever saw them go up and ask to be

anointed and prayed for. Did you ever hear them stand up the next week and praise God for answering their prayers?"

The child looked thoughtful and said, "I can remember now! In the first row sits a brother who told us about the time he was hit by a car in the parking lot. The Elders in The Church of Jesus Christ prayed for him and he only had small hurts. Sitting beside him is an older brother who was healed after a heart attack. There's the young person who asked us all to pray to God so they could find a new job and a place to live. In the next row sits a little girl who was born with serious health problems and nearly died more than once. She has made it through many surgeries. In the fourth row is the family with a new baby. They were told the mom and dad could not have children but God gave them a miracle! And there is my friend who was adopted, we were all praying and what a miracle that God chose her out of all the babies in the world to come here and be with us!"

Every family, every person, every row, had a true believer sitting there listening to our Elders preaching to us and teaching us God's word. The child and mother smiled at each other and remembered. They remembered driving their car through dangerous weather and arriving safely. They remembered praying to God for help when they were in a new place and finding their way with God's help. They remembered needing a new job and praying that a bully would leave them alone. They remembered blessing after blessing and miracle after miracle.

When things had looked impos-

sible with this little family, God made miracles. God gave them courage; the brothers and sisters gave them love, and they remembered to pray and thank God. Families like this go to my branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. They also go to your branch. Can you remember when you were prayed for? Do you feel the love of God and thank Him every day for all that He does for you? Is it so hard to just thank God, and to tell others about God's powerful miracles and goodness to you? Bring your friends. When they grow up, they will want to come back and feel God's love.

In the Book of Mormon, Nephi had to constantly remind his people of all that God had done for them. God loved them and brought them out of a dangerous place over to this land (See

(Continued on Page 7)

### WORD SEARCH

GOD  
IS  
OUR  
CREATOR  
HE  
GIVES  
US  
MIRACLES  
YESTERDAY  
TODAY

AND  
FOREVER  
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## Worshipping Under the Stars in Mesa, Arizona

The Southwest Area MBA Youth Retreat took place in Mesa, Arizona, March 2-4, 2007. The young people brought tents, sleeping bags, flashlights, and hiking shoes to Usury Park in northeast Mesa where they spent the weekend "Worshipping Under the Stars," as was the camp theme. Brother Mike and Sister Karen Ivey directed the retreat.

Things got started on Friday evening with setting up tents and enjoying a delicious meal together. After dark, everyone sat around the campfire singing songs, making sm'o'ores, and playing games. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful full moon which provided a great deal of light during the evening hours.

On Saturday, Brother Chad Hood and Brother Michael and Sister Michelle Watson delivered a seminar on "The Body of Christ." The young people read the scriptures that describe how Christ is the light of the world and how He expects us to be the

salt of the earth. They discussed the unique qualities of light and salt and how they are used symbolically in the scriptures. Then they read and discussed the scriptures where the Church is compared to Christ's body. The young people talked about how they can find their individual place and purpose within God's plan, how they should interact with other members of the body, and how they need to be the light and salt to those outside of the body.

On Saturday afternoon, everyone in attendance enjoyed a 1.5 mile hike up a nearby mountainside. We enjoyed talking with one another as we walked the trail up to a natural cave near the top of the mountain. The view of the Phoenix valley was breathtaking! We could see the skyscrapers of downtown almost forty miles away.

Saturday evening everyone warmed themselves around the campfire roasting marshmallows and singing songs. The group played a high-energy game of spiritual charades where each team had to guess the scriptural character, scriptural object, or scriptural quotation team members were acting out.

Sunday morning began with a beautiful service of speaking, song, and testimony. Brothers Michael Watson, Austin Landrey, and Jordan Giannetti shared thoughts with the young people. Brother Michael read the scripture that

describes the members of the body of Christ being "fitly joined together," and explained how the joining material is love. Brother Austin urged the young people to not be afraid to be different in a world where there is so much pressure to conform and fit in. Brother Jordan related the parable of the sower, and told the young people that seeds of God's Word have been planted all weekend, and it is up to each one whether the seeds fall on stony ground or good ground. Overall, everyone in attendance left feeling blessed and energized by the Spirit of God felt during the weekend.

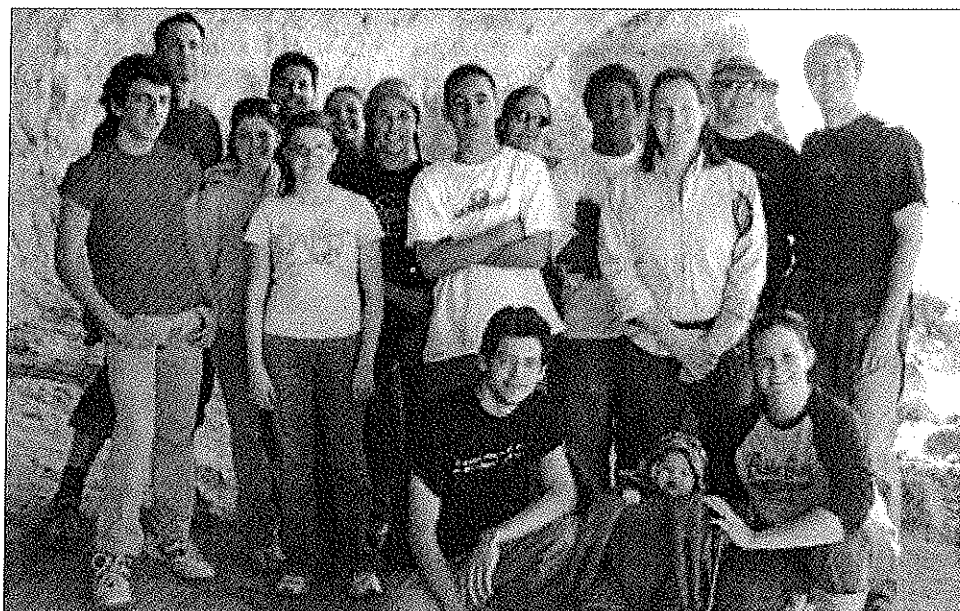
## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

Alma 37:36-47). God helped them find food, build a ship, and gave them an amazing compass that told them where to go while they were all alone in the huge wilderness or sailing on the wild seas. They called their compass Liahona. When they were prayerful and faithful, God gave them miracles and directions. When they were lazy, unthankful and unappreciative, the compass quit working and they were lost and on their own. We have something to guide us too; God gave us the words of Christ and teachings in the Bible and The Book of Mormon to tell us how to act and what to do in times of trouble, and in good times. We go to church to stay close to God and to be a part of His miracles and mysteries.

Someday you will be grown up and all alone. You need to learn about Jesus and God's love for you so that you will have a good life. Pay attention in church and listen so you can learn how to follow God's laws and be strong inside. When bad things happen, you will know how to get on your knees and pray to God for direction. We serve a God of miracles who loves to help His children. Have faith, remember all He has done, and tell others of Jesus.

With love,  
Sister Jan



Our group in the cave at the top of the mountain.



## Edison, New Jersey

Continued from Page 3

Pizzaia, and Shelby was blessed by Brother Jonathan Olexa. We enjoy seeing Lisa and the girls in our services. It is a triple miracle, three reasons to celebrate and thank God for His goodness. God can do all things! We praise His Name.

If you would like to see these three miracles please feel free to visit their web site at:

[www.tripletchorz.blogspot.com](http://www.tripletchorz.blogspot.com).

## Deaconess Ordained in Lake Worth, Florida

By Sister Josie Jasmin

It was a beautiful day with the sun shining through the windows and warming everyone in attendance. Everyone that came to witness this blessed ordination of a very devoted and loving sister felt the Spirit of God throughout the service today, Sunday January 14, 2007.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Gene Perri, addressed the congregation encouraging us to carry on walking in the path of righteousness always. He encouraged us to be consistent in our service to the Lord. If we are consistent and desire to work for the Lord, it will come to pass. The Lord sees the desires of our hearts. "Consistency, Consistency, thou art a jewel."

We were reminded of some of our sister Deaconesses who have passed on to their eternal reward and of how they were very consistent in the Gospel and left us an example of how we need to live our lives.

Brother Gene read from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 9 concerning Tabitha and how she labored for the Lord being filled with good works. She was a helper to the poor and needy.

Brother Gene then read the duties of a Deaconess as Sister Lori DiFede came forward to be ordained. As the congregation sang *Ye Who Are Called To Labor*, Sister Florence Perri

washed Sister Lori's feet. Afterward the ministry circled our sister and the spirit fell upon Brother Mike Radd, who offered a wonderful prayer of ordination upon our sister.

Brother Kevin Jasmin continued with the preaching service and also remembered the many faithful and humble brothers and sisters who have now passed on. Brother Kevin said that no matter what office one may hold in the Church, it is necessary to remain humble to the end. He reminded us of King Benjamin and how he was not only a king but a faithful and humble servant before the Lord and to all of his people. We were reminded of the words of King Benjamin in Mosiah 2:17 as follows, "And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings you are only in the service of your God."

Brother Mike Radd followed and reminded us of the Lamanitish woman, Abish, and how she ran from house to house to tell the people about the queen and the others falling to the ground and how Abish was the one to touch the queen and she arose. Abish was a converted servant to the Lord and showed herself to be a servant full of good works.

The spirit was very prevalent throughout the day and everyone expressed their joy in witnessing this ordination. Holy Communion was passed as we felt the Spirit and the Love of our Savior Jesus Christ. The meeting was brought to a close with prayer, and a light luncheon was served after the close of our service, which was enjoyed by everyone.

## Treasure Coast, Florida

The Treasure Coast, Florida Branch is off to a wonderful new year with many blessings occurring during the first two months. Our blessings began in preparation for hosting the Precious Memories Weekend by having a church cleaning day on January 20, 2007. The majority of the

branch, young and old, gathered together to prepare the building and grounds. While the outside was being cleaned, brothers noticed many wasps flying around. They looked around for the nest and couldn't find them. Someone finally looked under the bench (where brothers, sisters and children sit every Sunday) and discovered the wasp nests and a black widow spider nest. God is so amazing in that He has protected each person that sat there—they were never attacked by these insects.

On January 21, 2007, the meeting was opened by Brother David Checchi using the 66th chapter of Isaiah. The day before, we cleaned the physical house of the Lord, but there is much we need to do to clean our spiritual houses as well. We must carefully maintain our houses so that nothing enters in that God would not be pleased with.

Brother Rocco Benyola followed by saying that we must plan what goes into our spiritual house carefully, it must be built upon the rock, as the wise man's house was. God should be first in our lives and we should pay attention to the blueprint with which we build our houses so that Christ can dwell within them.

Brother Ron Carradi followed by noting that just as there are certain materials required to build a physical house, there are good and bad materials to use when building our spiritual house. We should emulate Christ so that the fruits of the spirit will be evident in our homes. Brother John D'Orazio followed by commenting that everyone here today is a builder and Christ should be our foundation so when storms come, we won't be swept away. At this meeting, Sister Marilyn Carradi was anointed for a sharp pain in her head and chest. She later testified that she felt immediate relief and was healed of her affliction.

On January 27, 2007, we welcomed many brothers, sisters, and visitors from around the Region to our Precious Memories Weekend. The Branch had begun preparing about six months prior when Brother John D'Orazio was inspired with the idea to host a meeting in remembrance of



those who had been pillars in the Gospel in our area and had endured faithfully to the end of their lives. His goal was that the program would be for the benefit of the young people in our midst, that they might hear the testimonies and experiences of those who have passed on. We began with a wonderful dinner on Saturday for approximately 75 people from almost every branch/mission in the region, including some from out of state. The evening meeting began by singing the hymn, *Precious Memories*. We then viewed a slideshow presentation of many old photographs that had been scanned in and set to music. These photographs were of saints that fought the good fight and passed on, leaving us wonderful examples to follow. Our program was moderated by Brother John D'Orazio. He commented that the brothers and sisters shown in the slideshow endured to the end determined to let nothing separate them from their God. Throughout the evening, various individuals took turns relating the experiences and testimonies of brothers and sisters from their branches that had passed on. We were blessed in hearing their dreams, visions, and healings, as well as their faithfulness, even as they neared the end of their lives. We were also blessed to hear a group of twelve brothers and sisters singing in Italian, *There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*. Brother Rocco Benyola concluded the Memories portion of our program by stating that what we wanted to convey was the drive these saints had to endure and that God was faithful to them as they were faithful to Him. "All I have needed, thy hand has provided."

On Sunday, January 28, 2007, our meeting was opened by visiting Brother Russ Martorano from the Liberty, Ohio branch. He stated that we must pattern our lives after Jesus Christ and that we must establish roots in the Gospel for the younger generation to follow. We must have total dependence on God, as the saints of old did. He read from Psalms 18 how the Lord is our fortress, our deliverer and our strength in whom we should trust. Brother Russ

reminded the congregation that we have a peculiar identity and must separate ourselves from the world; all we want in life can be found in Christ.

Brother John Griffith followed by stating that this weekend was a celebration of the lives of those who have gone before. We have a rich heritage and have felt their spirit even after they have passed on. The rock of Jesus Christ is our spiritual heritage and it is important to bring our children to church so that they can see what we have found. We must give them opportunities to fellowship with the older brothers and sisters and to hear testimonies and experiences and good things about the Church. We must be careful never to complain about a meeting or having to go to church in front of our children. *Our examples become the basis for their spiritual heritage.* We influence each other by our desire to serve God.

After several sisters from our branch attended the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend in Texas, we were blessed to learn that one of the young women attending, Amanda Griffin, had asked for her baptism. We met at the water's edge on Sunday, February 25, 2007, where she was baptized by Brother David Checchi. Brother Rocco Benyola prayed for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon her. The group of sisters that had gone to Texas the previous weekend were then invited to give their testimonies. All had a wonderful time, both spiritually and naturally and Sister Carol Griffin noted that her main purpose was to take the young women in the hopes of helping their roots to grow in the Gospel. She was blessed to have her daughter ask for her baptism while there. Sister Amanda stated that while at a table with other sisters from around the country that she did not know, they told her and the other young women that they are special in God's eyes and have a great work to do, but don't wait too long. She had been praying for God's guidance in her life for months and remembered her Presiding Elder's words as he passed sacrament one day: "I won't pass you by much longer."

Our day continued with Brother

Frank Rogolino opening the meeting by reminding us that we must be born again through baptism and to allow ourselves to be used of God. We should set aside the things of the world and let our lights shine.

Brother John D'Orazio followed by telling us that baptism is the gate to the walkway of our spiritual life in the Church. "Today is Amanda's spiritual birthday, she is a new person, forgiven of all sins. Do we recall the day of our baptism? What have we learned since then? After baptism, the learning process must begin. We must learn for ourselves what the will of God is in our lives." He challenged those in the congregation to be active members in the Church, to get involved and let our lights shine.

We thank God for the many blessings these two months have brought and are excited to see the unfolding of God's promises in the upcoming year.

## The Greatness of God

By Sister Rose Palacios

I'm writing to share some experiences of God's greatness so that they will be a blessing to you as they have been to us here in the Lorain Branch. All the honor and glory is given to our Lord for His mercies to His people.

This happened at one of the Wednesday services in which Sister Jennifer DeMercurio went forth to be anointed. Her doctor gave her an unfavorable report when she went for her monthly checkup. She, at that time was expecting her second child. The Spirit spoke "*Don't be afraid, have courage, go in peace, for I have touched that child.*" Little Ezekiel was born healthy on July 22, 2006.

In another meeting, our Elder said it would be nice to hear the testimonies of our people of how God has blessed them after donating to the General Church World Conference Center remodeling project. A sister on a fixed

(Continued on Page 10)

## The Greatness of God

Continued from Page 9

income went to pay the maintenance fee for her condo. They told her that she had overpaid and that she owed nothing. Another sister testified that she sends out tapes of the General Church conferences, various meetings and experiences to brothers and sisters that don't have a church near them. Those brothers and sisters are grateful that they are thought of and send money to her to cover the cost of the tapes. This sister in turn gives the money to the project fund. A brother testified of how after working for only six months, he got his paycheck and found he had received a big Christmas bonus. There was yet another sister who went to pick up her prescription, which cost approximately \$500, at the pharmacy. She went to pay and they told her that it had been paid for. She insisted that she hadn't paid it, yet they still would not take her money. How great God is!

In another testimony, Brother Joel Calabrese had spent months looking for employment. In a Sunday meeting, Brother Joel and Sister Edna went forth to be anointed. The Spirit spoke as follows, *"Thus saith the Lord, wait on me and I will deliver you, and I will comfort you and will provide for you. I make promises that I keep."* Thank God, two months later Brother Joel became employed with a gas company. They now also have their own home, confirming other dreams that were given in this regard.

Brother Dan Bowens also thanked God because he was laid off on a Friday and given his severance pay. Just three days later, another company hired him. God has surely assured His people that He is the same yesterday, today and will be forever!

At a Wednesday service, our Elder was speaking on how bad the conditions are out in this world and how we should stay close to God, for many companies are downsizing, jobs are being relocated out of the area, and it is affecting many people. He reminded us that God fulfills His promises. The Spirit spoke, *"Thus saith the Lord, trust in Me, My*

*people. I will provide for you. As I fed Elijah, I will feed you."*

On one Sunday, Linda Thomas, a friend who has been regularly visiting our branch was giving a testimony and she said how she has been looking for a church and that she feels that she has found it. The Spirit spoke, *"You have found the pearl of great price, saith the Lord."*

In a lesson that Brother Frank Palacios brought out in the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Helaman, Brother Tony Calabrese continued saying that God is giving us as a Church a warning voice and are we going to have enough oil when the devil comes straight at us. How do we know that a big trial will come before us and as the question has been asked, "Is there enough oil in our lamps to carry us through that rough trial, will we be standing? The promises are there as long as we believe and trust in God." The Spirit spoke, *"Thus saith the Lord, pay heed, for I am the one that is letting you know that it's true, what I have said."*

Brothers and sisters, may the Lord continue to be with His people. All we have to do is look to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and pray for all the children of the saints. There was an experience had at the Midwest MBA Region Retreat in February. The young people and children were standing up at the front of the room. A white ribbon was seen around them and in front where the ribbon came together, it was tied and the ribbons hanging had the words written in gold "PRAY, PRAY." This was meant for ALL children of the saints, not only there at the retreat.

## A Beginning and a Milestone

At Detroit, Branch #2 we were privileged to witness the birth of a new soul into the Gospel and celebrate the commitment and diligence of another as he reached a milestone of 50 years in the Church. Brother Charlie Woldt was brought into the waters on November 26th. Brother Alex Gentile

was celebrating 50 years in the Church. The day was set aside to recognize both.

We started the day at the water's shore where Brother David Lovalvo asked Brother Charlie if he repented of his sins, brought him into the water, and baptized him in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

We gathered back at the branch and Brother Dino DiMelis, Presiding Elder, spoke about the ordinance of baptism and confirmation of the Holy Ghost. As the brothers knelt around Brother Charlie, Brother Dino prayed to God for the direction to choose among them. Brother Jim Lambert, Jr. came forward and confirmed Brother Charlie.

Brother Charlie began coming to church many months previously, invited by Sister Allison Cotellesse. He grew to love the Lord and quickly embraced the Gospel. He testified of the love that he felt from the brothers and sisters and how this was the first time in his whole life he had felt such love. He thanked God for everything He has done for him in his life.

Brother Mike Pandone, recently returned from missionary work in India, opened our morning meeting. He said that as he was contemplating Brother Charlie and Brother Alex this morning, the song, *Sweeter As the Years Go By*, came to him. He remembered when he was first baptized and how the older brothers and sisters who had weathered the storms of life would testify and praise God for all the goodness in their lives. He learned through time what this meant and told Charlie he would too.

Brother Mike read from Ether 2 about the Brother of Jared. He compared the building of the barges to our lives today. "If it is according to the knowledge of man we will fail. The only thing that is firm, steadfast, sure and unmovable in our lives is the spirit of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord will give you what you stand in need of. Is your barge still light upon the water? When the Lord takes your sin from you and you feel this weight lifted off of you, have you kept your barges light upon the water or have you let sin enter in?"

Have you burdened yourself down with the cares of the world? Do you worry? When you put it into the Lord's hands, the worry is gone." He encouraged us to keep our barges light upon the water.

Brother Dino then asked Brother Alex to testify. He spoke about how it is an honor to stand before his brothers and sisters. "God has given me the opportunity to earn my salvation and each and every one of you has played a part in some way in my service to Christ. As I was thinking about Brother Charlie receiving the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, there is no doubt in my mind that I would not be here if it were not for the Holy Ghost because it has led me through life. I love serving God because every day, I am expecting something new." Brother Alex encouraged the membership to use him in his service. "When you don't call me when you are sick, you are cheating me out of my job. I beg you if you need me, for whatever reason, call me. God is still perfecting me." Brother Alex closed by asking for prayers on behalf of all of the missionary work throughout the Church and asked us to remember him as he was preparing for his fourth trip to Italy that year.

We adjourned for lunch and fellowship praising God for the new addition to our branch and the steadfastness of our brother.

## Freehold, New Jersey

The Freehold, New Jersey Branch has experienced God's peace and blessings along with many visitors, and some baptisms over the past year. Brother Silvio, Sister Clara and Sister Olga Lopez were baptized over the course of two consecutive weeks recently. Coming to the United States from Mexico several years ago, they said they truly found a treasure in The Church of Jesus Christ. They have been a blessed addition to our branch along with their children, all under the age of 12, who are the first to testify every week during our children's

testimony meeting (which we conduct prior to the adult testimony meeting). Three couples both from Mexico and Guatemala have been visiting as well with their children, and are learning more about the Restored Gospel. Two English speaking visitors from the neighborhood have been visiting as well, and expressed a desire to learn more and be baptized. One in particular had been visited by Mormon elders numerous times, until a brother and sister from our branch met her and showed her a "more perfect way." Johanna Peterkin (daughter of the late Brother Nathan Peterkin) along with her friend, Colonial, has been visiting us on numerous occasions. Colonial said he listened to some old tapes of Brother Nathan and was so moved, he wanted to come and see. We are thankful for their visits.

In addition, Brother Sam and Sister Geneva Dell have transferred to our branch. Having such a young branch, it is nice to hear the wisdom and experience they bring. Brother Sam has been an Evangelist for many years, but due to affliction is not able to perform his duties. However, he smiles and sings hymns with us, and just his mere presence is a blessing to us.

Our branch is unique in its mix of races, nationalities, and languages spoken. Each meeting is interpreted English to Spanish and Spanish to English. God has created a beautiful bouquet of flowers and the diversity we have is only on the outside. Inside our hearts we are brothers and sisters, all the same because of Christ. We have been blessed with numerous visions and comforting dreams had by the members. They are too numerous to mention, but thank God He manifests Himself today just as He did in days of old. He is an unchanging God. We have tried to use the tools the Church has provided to grow our branch, and we have found it to be successful. Thank God for the unity we feel amongst the members and the ministry.

The large number of children in our branch makes for a sometimes noisy, but blessed atmosphere. Each one testifies every Sunday. They

usually thank God for their family and for how well they are doing in school. One boy, Martin Lopez, last Sunday thanked God for his toys! Their innocence is a beautiful example for us. Thank God for the little children!

We desire to share with you the blessings of God. With blessings comes the realization that Satan will try to disrupt our peace, and so we must be vigilant in prayer. We desire that God will bless your branches and missions wherever you are. We send our love to you from Freehold and may God bless you all.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Baez, Eric and Linda  
850 Oakwood Dr. – Apt. 193  
Rochester, MI 48307  
248-608-1575

## Children Blessed

Nathanael James Lambert, son of Brother Jim and Sister Lynette Lambert, was blessed on March 17, 2007 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

MaKenna Marie Moncelli, daughter of Amy Flores and Corey Moncelli was blessed on March 17, 2007 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Jackson Reed White, son of Jason White and Julie Dyer, was blessed on March 17, 2007 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Mitchell Louis Scolaro, son of Brother Christopher and Sister Alissa Scolaro, was blessed on February 11, 2007 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Christina Marie Moccio, daughter of Sal and Patricia Moccio, was blessed on March 18, 2007 in Lake Worth, Florida.

Benjamin Joseph Giannetti, son of Brother Joe and Sister Tina Giannetti, was blessed on February 25, 2007 in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Mary Ann Christina Buffa was baptized in the Redford Michigan Mission on July 13, 2006. She was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Keith Lesperance.

Sister Milagro Flores was baptized in the Anaheim, California Branch on February 18, 2007. She was baptized by Brother Jim Cotellesse and confirmed by Brother Isidro Dominguez.

## Ordinations

Brother Michael Scaglione was ordained a deacon on March 3, 2007 at the Herndon, Virginia Branch. His feet were washed by Brother John Bordeaux, and he was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione, Sr.

Sister Kathy Golling was ordained a deaconess on March 18, 2007 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Lou Scaglione, and she was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione, Sr.

Sister Joyce Kogler was ordained a deaconess on March 18, 2007 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Joyce Ross, and she was ordained by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr.

Sister Melissa Cherry was ordained a deaconess on March 18, 2007 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Terri Nath, and she was ordained by Brother Alex Cherry.

Brother Joshua Nicklow was ordained an elder on March 25, 2007 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr., and he was ordained by Brother Tony Richie.

Brother Jeremy Nicklow was ordained an elder on March 25, 2007 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Richard Onorato, and he was ordained by Brother Jim Sgro.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Linda Jones Reynolds, of the Simi Valley, California Branch, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on February 17, 2007.

Brother Jim Cotellesse of the Anaheim, California Branch celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ in November, 2006.

and her husband Brother Aaron; six grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and many nieces and nephews.

### ELIZABETH (LIBBY) ROSEMEIER

Sister Elizabeth (Libby) Rosemeier of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania branch, passed on to her reward on February 16, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother John (Jack) Rosemeier. Sister Libby is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Frank Robson; a son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Margaret Rosemeier; four grandchildren, Jody Dawson, Kimberly Kral and her husband Richard, and Kristina and John Rosemeier; and a great-grandchild, Andrew Fielding.

## OBITUARIES

### LYDIA LOMBARDO

Sister Lydia Lombardo of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to her reward on February 15, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Chester. She is survived by her children, Tom Lombardo and his wife Nancy; Brother Ken Lombardo and his wife Sister Flo; her two brothers, Brother Salvatore Molisani and his wife Sister Alice; and Achille Molisani; her two sisters, Sister Mary Andruccioli and her husband Brother Raymond; and Sister Rosalinda Dix

### PETER JOHN ZARANKO

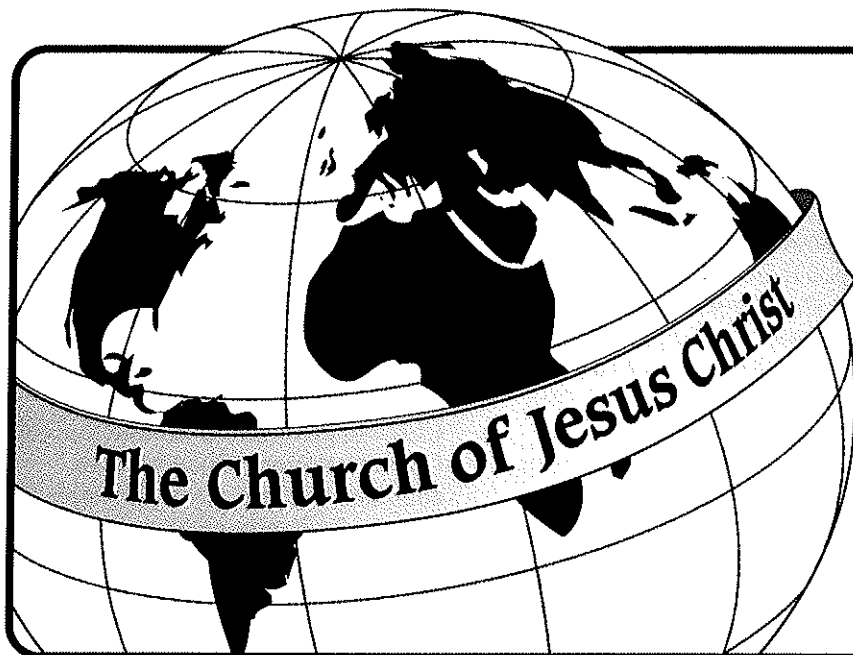
Peter John Zaranko, of Detroit, Michigan Branch #2 passed on to his reward on July 23, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Sister Jean; his sons Frank Lambert and his wife Teresa, Brother Jim Lambert and his wife Sister Judy, Brother Emil Lambert and his wife Sister Yvonne, and Tim Lambert and his wife Pam; 18 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA.

June, 2007

Volume 63, No. 6

## Venezuela

*By Brother Richard Nath*

During my recent trip to Venezuela, South America, my eyes were opened to how the rest of the world lives. As we drive throughout the United States, we see many businesses, large homes, well kept roadways, and other signs of monetary wealth. Here in the western portion of Harris County, Texas (just west of Houston), a person need only travel 10 minutes to get to anything his/her heart desires. Everything is at our fingertips. One might ask what this has to do with Venezuela. In that particular country, as is the case for the majority of the world, several retail stores and outlets are not 10 minutes away. A person cannot just get in his/her car and drive down the street to get a quick bite to eat. For the most part, no one can turn a switch on the thermostat and make it cooler or warmer. In this country, we take these things for granted.

In Valle Guanape, Venezuela, the people cannot take them for granted because they do not have them. However, the lack of these luxury items does not stop them from serving the Lord with all their heart and strength. The Spirit and Love of God are very strong with the small

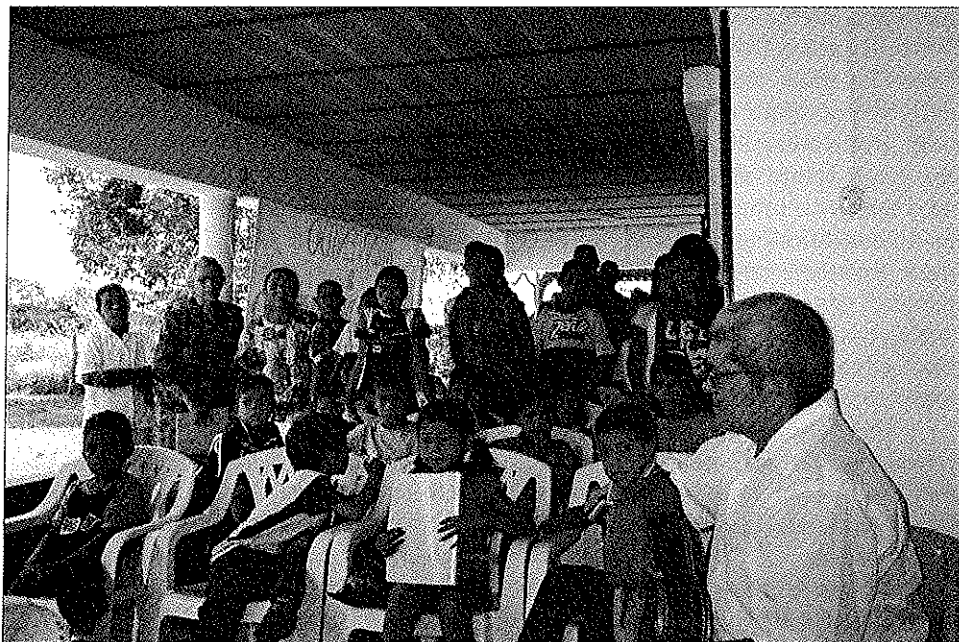
group of saints there, and they are all very quick to praise Him.

When we arrived in Caracas, I was amazed by the landscape and the buildings. The houses were very close together. There were very deep valleys going up into the mountains, with houses on both sides. My first thought was, that cannot be good when it rains. However, there was nowhere else to build. The people made good on what they had. When we arrived in Barcelona (about one and a half hours east of Caracas by

plane), the view was pretty much the same, except that the terrain was flat instead of mountainous.

As we traveled to Valle Guanape, another two hours or so southwest of Barcelona by car, the roads were not very good. There were many spots where the interstates in western Pennsylvania during the winter and spring were made to look like the smoothest roads in the world. Not to mention there are no

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Singing in Valle, Guanape

## Venezuela

Continued from Page 1

street lights, and the road at times is only wide enough for one car to pass by at a time. As we traveled back and forth from Brother Raul and Sister Alicia Bicelis' home to the small town of Valle Guanape, there was a scattering of homes. Most were mud and straw huts, no bigger than a large living room, and all of

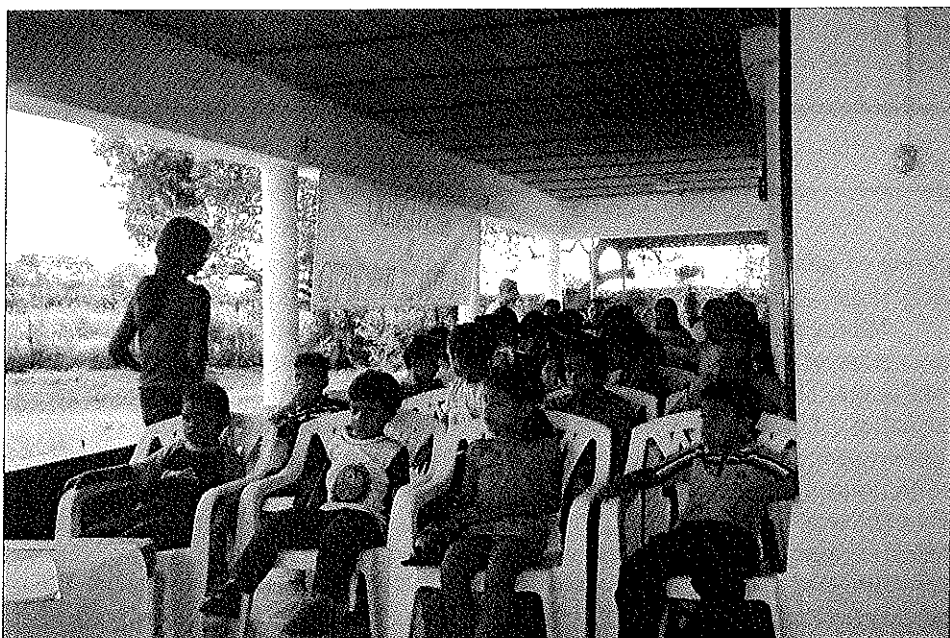
members have next to nothing, they are full of the Love of God. The absence of not only the luxuries of life but even some of the basic needs has not stopped them from serving the Lord. Of the 10 members at the Valle Guanape Mission, only Brother Raul owns a vehicle, which is a 1972 Nova. However, this does not stop the other members from coming to church. Their Sunday service starts around 10:00 a.m., and Brother Raul

There is a core group of young people like Raibelis that attend, and as stated above, many young children. It is our hope and prayer that God will continue to work with all of them, and that those that are old enough to understand the Gospel will soon turn their lives over to Him. There is great potential for The Church of Jesus Christ to grow in and around the Valle Guanape region. They have an abundant number of young people that attend. As Brother Bob pointed out while we were there, the people that live in the area need the Lord and they also have ministerial needs.

The Church of Jesus Christ has an opportunity to help the people in both of these regards. We, as members of the Church, must continue to pray for the work not only in Venezuela, but in all parts of the world, that God will show the people that the refuge from their natural problems is Jesus Christ.

One might ask, "How can I help the brothers and sisters and their families with their needs?" The word of God teaches us that we in the United States of America will be "nursing mothers and fathers" to God's chosen people. Although we understand this prophecy to represent a spiritual meaning, we also realize this occurs daily on a natural basis. We must also remember the words of Jacob in the Book of Mormon, chapter 2, verse 19, "And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ, ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good – to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted."

The Venezuela Field Committee has a procedure in place where funds are sent on a quarterly basis strictly for the relief needs of the members. If you would like to donate to this cause, and help the brothers and sisters buy food, clothing, medicine, and other daily necessities, please earmark any donations for the Venezuela Relief Fund. Our prayer is that God will richly bless you and your many efforts to serve him.



Children up front in Valle, Guanape

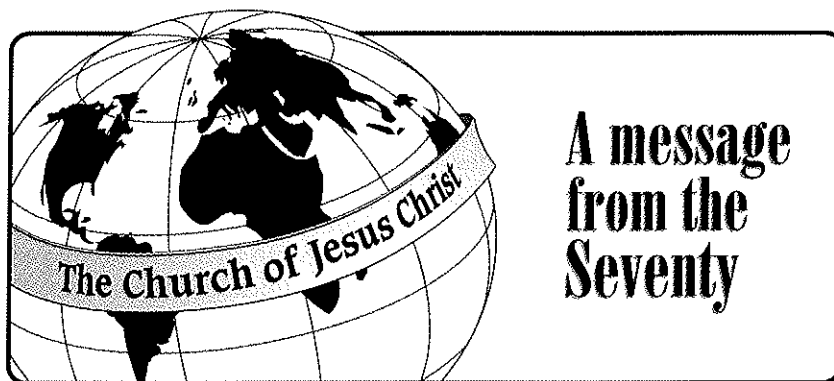
them had corrugated metal roofs. When Brothers Bob Nicklow, Sr., Frank Palacios, and I were there, the daily temperature was at least 100°F with bright sunshine. Needless to say, the inside temperature with the metal roof was well into the 120°F range – no air conditioning, just a fan for the more fortunate ones. Most of the people I saw tried to stay cool by sitting outside. Thankfully, a strong breeze began to blow every evening which provided some relief.

The people also lack everyday needs, like clothes, shoes, medicine, and food. There are many who work, but do not make enough to provide for their families.

As can be seen, the natural side of life is quite hard in the country, but there is a refuge – The Church of Jesus Christ. Even though a lot of the

starts picking up the members, their families, and any others who let him know they need a ride at about 8:00 a.m. By 10:00 a.m., everyone is at the Bicelis' house (where their meetings are held on the veranda) and the meeting is ready to begin. While we were there, over 70 men, women, and children were in attendance. This number is a typical one for their Sunday meetings. They have two choirs, one for the children and one for the women. A young lady by the name of Raibelis leads them. Their children are very attentive, and sit in the first few rows of seats. When the meeting is finished, everyone has a small snack and fellowships for a while. Then Brother Raul takes those who need rides back home again. This is also done for their Wednesday night services.





## Israel's Advocate: NAO and Educational Curriculum Committee Work Together at January Meeting

*By Brothers Jameson Staley and Peter Benyola*

In its last column, the NAO discussed the Divine Commission of the Church, including its origin, history, meaning, as well as its relationship to the Great Commission given by Jesus Christ to His disciples. The Scriptures, along with experiences given to the Church prior to and since its formal organization have confirmed the importance of the mission to share the Gospel of Christ with the remnant of the Seed of Joseph on this land.

In recent years, the apostles have urged the membership of the Church to make fulfillment of the Divine Commission a priority in our individual lives as well as in our branches and missions. In a letter addressed to the membership in October 2005, the Quorum asked the body of the Church to find more time to pray for the work of the Church in spreading the Gospel's seed to the House of Israel, support local efforts dedicated to this task, and get involved in missionary work among native peoples.

More recently, in January 2007, the members of the Native American Outreach participated in a seminar focused on the Divine Commission. The members of the NAO and the Educational Curriculum Committee, which was also meeting at the Conference Center that weekend, met in small groups and brainstormed of ways to contribute to the success

of the Divine Commission in independent, dependent, and interdependent ways. They offered answers to the question, "How can we, as members of the Church of Jesus Christ, support the Divine Commission individually, through discipleship/mentoring, and through interaction with Native Americans?" The answers they provided give helpful insight into effective methods for actively seeking to promote the Lord's will in this purpose.

At the individual level, members of the Church first need to be familiar with the Scriptures and experiences that inform us about the Lord's will concerning the gathering and restoration of Israel and our role in it. In addition, we can use available resources to learn about Native American culture, and the possible relationships between Native American beliefs and the Gospel of Christ we have to share with them. This will equip us with tools to engage in social relationships with persons to whom we can impart the message of Christ's power of redemption. Lastly, each of us has the ability to contribute using a method that has no restrictions and is available to each of us without exclusivity: fasting and praying for the fulfillment of the Divine Commission.

In our branches and missions, we can establish relationships and engage in activities that promote

awareness of our duty pertaining to the Divine Commission and help us to take necessary action. Teachers of classes in branches and missions can conduct lessons and discussions that are pertinent to the Divine Commission and related topics. Branches and missions can also make related information available to our members to educate them about the subject. There is a wealth of church literature available that discusses the Divine Commission, including Scripture references and experiences. Members can develop mentoring relationships in which brothers and sisters who are knowledgeable concerning this subject share their resources and understanding with others.

The final and most important way in which members of the Church contribute to the success of the Divine Commission includes direct interaction with Native Americans. Each member of the Church can develop positive relationships with Native Americans in order to open the door to share the message of redemption through Christ. Attending powwows and meeting with urban centers are two simple ways in which connections can be made with First Nations communities. As relationships are developed, regions and branches, using resources and assistance provided to them by the NAO, can distribute flyers, newspapers, journals, and online materials to inform Native Americans about the Church and invite them to attend.

The next step in bringing about the success of the Divine Commission of the Church, after understanding its purpose and meaning, is to take action to aid in its accomplishment. The Apostles of the Church, available literature, and the NAO have equipped the body of the Church with the tools for carrying out this task, and now it is up to each of us to fulfill the Lord's work. Roger Staubach once said, "There are no traffic jams along the extra mile." As we seek to refine the Lord's Highway, it will be closer to becoming the Way of Holiness that will provide for the gathering of His chosen people once again.





## GMBA Campout: Looking Back, Looking Forward

*By Jameson Staley*

Aside from the Christmas season, summer may be the most anticipated time of year. For different people, this bright season promises different but equally exciting opportunities and activities: relaxation, time away from studies, travel, time with family, enjoying warm weather. For the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ, however, summer is anticipated for one more, very special reason: GMBA Campout.

For forty years, this single activity has excited the saints of the Church and offered an opportunity for them to gather, sharing in a week of spiritual sharing and growth. When the saints of God come together, leaving behind the daily concerns of this life for a single week and focusing on drawing closer to the Lord, amazing things always happen. If you simply inquire of the brothers and sisters of your local branch or mission what testimonies they have to share concerning GMBA Campout, you might be surprised at the broad and beautiful responses you will receive. Most likely, you will hear wonderful testimonies about decades-old friendships that began at Campout. You will also hear brothers and sisters nostalgically reminisce about meeting that special person that later became a spouse and lifelong partner in serving God. Most importantly, you will hear the precious stories of salvation from those who began their walks with Christ with a step of faith into the waters of baptism at Campout.

Each of these blessings and more were present at GMBA Campout 2006 in Saginaw, Michigan, as the saints gathered once again to fellowship with one another and enjoy the blessings of

God. With the theme, "I Will Go," the brothers and sisters sought to develop an understanding of the responsibility we have as servants of God and what it means to be ready to "go" for the Lord, whatever that may entail.

Seminars of various age groups took different and interesting approaches to discovering the meaning and power of this affirmation. The seminar group of college-age young people spent one day visiting with the brothers and sisters of the oldest age group, listening to testimonies and learning how these pillars of the Church had managed to prove faithful to the Lord and His work even into their later years. This unique and special opportunity was just one way that the saints spent their time growing closer to one another and aligning themselves with the will of God and His love during the week.

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**"For the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ... summer is anticipated for one more very special reason: GMBA Campout."**

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The gifts and blessings of God were made manifest all throughout the week. Most beautiful was the opportunity to witness the salvation of souls, the ultimate culmination of God's work among the souls of men and women. The glorious sight of these baptisms provided a chance for every soul looking on from the shores to revisit the day that they rendered obedience (or, for those who had not yet done so, to consider making that sacred commitment).

Of course, GMBA Campout would not be complete without a little bit of fun, games, and fellowship. Even from its earliest years, Campout has been a place where brothers and sisters and young people enjoyed playing competitive sports. Campout 2006 was no exception. In fact, many brothers of the Church participated in what has come to be somewhat of a tradition during recreational time at Campout: the "Old vs. Young" basketball game. The young men

seemed to take the older brothers by surprise, breaking a recent pattern of dominance by the "more experienced" players and coming away with an underdog victory. While this single game left many brothers with little energy and several others (including the GMBA officers) limping with sore, aching muscles to their seats for the evening meeting, it exemplified the kind of fun, memorable activities that young people can enjoy at GMBA Campout. These fun (and often funny) moments give young people of the Church an opportunity to enjoy themselves while building relationships with other young people who share the common goal of living to show Christ's love.

It is this love of Christ that is to be the focus of this summer's GMBA Campout 2007 in Greenville, South Carolina. From June 30 – July 6, the beautiful, southern scenery of Furman University will be home to the GMBA and The Church of Jesus Christ. Camp Director Patrick Giannetti has been inspired with the theme, "Love As I Have Loved You," from John 13:34-35. The week will be spent discovering how the saints of God can emulate the love of Christ not only in our relationships with one another but also toward every soul on the earth so that The Church of Jesus Christ will become a beacon of light to those hungering for the things of God. This week will be a wonderful opportunity for the membership and youth of the Church to take the next step in reaching a higher spiritual state of mind that will be reflected in our actions and change the world around us.

To be a part of this wonderful gathering of the saints, you can access a registration form online at [www.gmbacampout.org](http://www.gmbacampout.org) or by acquiring one from your local MBA president. All the saints of the Church can be involved in this great event by offering prayers for the brothers and sisters who will be gathering and for all those diligently working to ensure that it is a blessed experience for all in attendance. Let us be prayerful that the gifts and blessings of God will flow freely and that our hearts will truly be transformed to love in the way that Christ loves.



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee" (1 Kings 19:7).*

In Elijah's escape from Jezebel's decree that he be murdered, he had to travel 40 days in the wilderness to get to Mt. Horeb. Before beginning this long journey, Elijah was feeling sorry for himself, and asked the Lord to just take his life. But after a deep sleep, he was awakened by an angel who had prepared for him food and water. After a second nap, the angel woke him up again and the verse above explains what happened. Again, he was told to eat and drink because the journey ahead would be too great.

Today, we are journeying through the wilderness of this world. The world is not a friend to those who are friends of Jesus Christ. We are traveling through unfriendly, unfamiliar terrain. We are the outsider. The journey is long and it is not time to feel sorry for ourselves, or give up, as Elijah almost did, but it is time to eat and be strengthened by God's spirit and power.

If you are an athlete, you understand the importance of nutrition to give you the strength to have the stamina to finish the game or race. The same is true spiritually. We have to nourish our souls in order to stand strong when Satan's onslaught is severe. When sin is swept from the land one day (as predicted in the scripture), we have to be strong to endure seeing the wrath of God poured out on the wicked. We have to be strong to journey on to that new day of peace that awaits us.

Today there is a big push to eat foods that are organic and natural. Foods that contain chemicals or fats are rapidly being eliminated from our food supply, and people are being warned that these foods could adversely affect their health. The desire to become more healthy has never been stronger. It is sad that people everywhere see the need for an organic, healthy diet to maintain good health, but do not even recognize the need for a spiritually organic, healthy diet to maintain a good soul. The word "organic" means something real, not altered and not changed. The Church of Jesus Christ is a spiritually "organic" Church since it has restored the Church Christ set up to its proper order. By feeding on the pure Word of God, and serving Him in truth and sincerity the way He has asked us to, we are making our souls healthy and strong. By partaking in the ordinances He commanded us to, and living our lives by His rules, we are digesting those things that will root our souls deep in the earth. When the winds and storms come, we will stand strong. This is what God wanted for Elijah...not just the natural food to travel 40 days, but it represented God wanting him to become spiritually strong and not give up. Feeling sorry for ourselves is not an option in these last days. Feeling sorry for ourselves is only a way to excuse ourselves from doing the things God expects from us, even our reasonable service.

Interestingly, fasting and prayer (not eating) is one of the best ways to nourish our souls. This is when we draw very close to God, and show Him our sincerity in wanting Him to control a situation or help us with something in life. Fasting and prayer is always used in the scriptures as a way to prepare for something. The disciples could not cast out devils and do miracles because they had not engaged in mighty fasting and prayer. This was according to Jesus Himself. Even Jesus set the example by fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. He doesn't require us to fast and pray that long, but the time we devote to fasting and prayer is never a waste of time. It nourishes our soul with strength, understanding and spirit.

Let's spiritually "eat" (which could actually mean "not eating") and prepare for the great things God is doing and will do in our lives and the world around us. The journey still lies ahead, and only those that are fully nourished will have strength to reach the other side.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Solomon Lets His Wives Make Him Weak

Dear Friends,

The Bible is filled with story after story about the mysterious and powerful ways that God delivers the people who believe in Him and follow Him. He keeps them safe. If they serve Him, He protects them from dangers and storms. He teaches us also how to think and behave so that we have good, peaceful, and interesting lives.

In the Bible, the wisest man who lived was named King Solomon. He was the son of King David who is described as a "man whose heart was perfect with God" (I Kings 11:1-14). When Solomon became king of Israel, he prayed with all his heart and asked God to bless him and give him wisdom to rule his people (I Kings 3:1-15). God was pleased that Solomon had asked for something so good for the people, and God told him that He would bless him with wisdom and with wealth and honor as well, if Solomon would serve Him and love Him with all of his heart.

At first, all went well. In fact, people from all over the world, like the Queen of Sheba even traveled for weeks just to see and hear the wisdom that came from King Solomon's heart. But as the years passed, Solomon made big mistakes. He decided to marry more than one woman. First, he married the rich daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt. Of course, that meant that her father's country would not attack Solomon's country. Then he took hundreds of other women and princesses to be his wives. He loved these strange women and he broke



God's laws for Israel which said you should not go in and marry or be with the people of the Hittites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians for "they will turn away your heart after their gods..."

Two times during his lifetime, God came to Solomon and warned him to follow His laws and all would be well, but as Solomon got old, his wives started to work on him. They nagged at him to take the tax money from the people and build big, rich temples for their statues and false Gods. Then can you imagine how they begged and pleaded with the King to go with them to their temples so they would look like the most popular and important wife? Little by little King Solomon forgot the beauty and simplicity of serving the one, true God. He went the wrong way in order to please someone else, someone who was wrong.

We are not ever supposed to do this. Many churches today are set up to be popular. They pay their ministers who practice pretty sermons that have very little facts in them about the strict, clear, laws of God. These are churches set up to get gain. They want you to come back and give them your money. They do not want you to think about what you do wrong in case you won't come back so they do not preach and remind you of what God says is right and wrong. There are other churches that teach you a poem to say instead of praying and telling God your true fears, angers, problems, and questions. Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:7, "When you pray, do not use vain repetitions [like saying the same words or poem over and over] as the heathen [unbelievers] do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking...for your Father knows

what things you have need of, before you ask him."

Solomon forgot this. With all of his wisdom, he let other people make him weak! He turned his heart away from God and tried to please all of his strange wives by respecting their idol worship and going to their temples where they worshipped statues, and even sacrificed babies. Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord and God was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from Him.

God came to King Solomon and told him, "Since you have not kept the promises you made me, I will take the kingdom [of the twelve tribes of Israel] from you and will give it to someone else. However, since your father

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### WORD SEARCH

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E	T	A	U	T	I	Y	R
S	E	E	T	N	N	T	O
I	P	H	U	E	E	A	F
X	E	T	O	H	E	H	E
W	R	E	Y	W	D	W	B



## Ordinations in Mesa, AZ

Sunday, February 25, 2007 was a day of rejoicing and blessing for the Mesa, Arizona Branch as we witnessed the ordinations of four of our brothers. Brothers Chad Hood and Patrick Giannetti were ordained as teachers and Brothers Mike Ivey and Dan Arcuri were ordained as deacons.

The meeting was opened with Brother Jordan and Sister Heidi Giannetti singing, *I Surrender All*. Brother Michael Watson offered the opening prayer. Brother Dick Christman was our opening speaker and he rehearsed the story found in the book of Ether regarding the 16 stones that the finger of the Lord touched in order to give light to the brother of Jared and his family as they journeyed across the waters, in eight ships, to the land of promise. The faith of the brother of Jared was so great that he saw the finger of the Lord as He touched the stones. The Lord allowed him to see the body of flesh and blood He would take upon Him when he would appear before His people. Brother Dick also referenced Ether 3:23 where the Lord told him that he would also give him two other stones to be used to "magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write." Brother Dick admonished them to look to Christ, that he would be a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their eyes and He would give them something beyond their own abilities and training.

Brother Austin Landrey then addressed the deacon candidates and read them their responsibilities as a deacon, giving special attention to be polite and courteous at all times and that their lives at all times must be beyond reproach and full of good works. He quoted the words of King Benjamin as found in Mosiah 2:17; "And behold I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the

service of your God." Brother Austin read from Matthew 25:35-40 where Christ explains about taking care of those in need, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Brother Austin closed with the message that these brothers were called to take care of the comfort and relief of the poor, needy, orphaned, and widows.

Brother Ron Brutz offered prayer for God's blessing on the proceedings. The congregation sang *To the Work*.

Brother Isaac D. Smith washed Brother Dan Arcuri's feet and he was ordained by Apostle Isaac Smith. Apostle Richard Christman washed Brother Mike Ivey's feet and he was ordained by Brother Wally Cihomsky.

Brother Tim Sclaro then addressed the teacher candidates. He used Jesus Christ as an example of the ultimate teacher. Brother Tim expressed the complete joy found in serving God and what an incredible blessing it is. He then read the duties of a teacher and how they need to be sensitive and filled with the love of God to meet the needs of the members.

Brother Jordan Giannetti washed Brother Patrick Giannetti's feet and he was ordained by his grandfather Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr. Brother Chad Hood's feet were washed by Brother Austin Landrey and he was ordained by his father, Brother Emmett Hood.

The newly-ordained brothers were given the opportunity to express themselves. What a blessing was felt in their humility giving God all the glory and praise for bringing them to this time in their lives. Brother Chad related a scripture given to him a few years ago, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3). They then sang *In the Army of the True and Living God*.

Communion was served while the congregation sang *Willing To Take the Cross*.

The service was closed in prayer by Brother Barry Mazzeo. Afterwards a potluck luncheon was enjoyed by all in attendance.

## Treasure Coast, Florida

Spring has been filled with activities and blessings in the Treasure Coast Branch this year. We recently gathered for an impromptu picnic on the church grounds. Much fellowship and food were enjoyed as a large crowd of both members and visitors arrived. Both young and old enjoyed the softball game and the weather was perfect for flying kites, which many of the children enjoyed. Dinner was a do-it-yourself event for those that wanted to roast their own hot dogs on the campfire. There were also many other types of food available inside. As the evening approached, we gathered to sing songs around the campfire and roast marshmallows.

On April 8, our opening speaker was Brother Ron Carradi using as his text the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi, 14<sup>th</sup> verse. He stated that we must rejoice that Christ arose after allowing Himself to go through the mockery, torture and death. He did this that we might have a hope beyond the grave. Christ's death fulfilled prophecy and brought man back into the presence of God. We are still accountable for our own lives, however, and we all have a choice to make. Celebrating His resurrection is not a once a year thing with the Church, it is a daily thing. Brother Rocco Benyola followed by stating that those following Christ in His time wanted a sign, something they could believe. Some this morning might also be saying show me a sign that I should be baptized in this church. Think back, to the healings and miracles that you have seen where God has intervened in your life. Even this week, Sister Gladys Moore was healed of all blockages in her heart and Brother Rocco Benyola was told there was no damage to his eyes, even though previously he was told his eyes were almost 75% damaged from glaucoma. We serve a God of miracles.

Brother John D'Orazio then spoke, saying we must be grateful to God for the gift of His Son, and what He has to offer us today. He spoke of

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## Treasure Coast, Florida

Continued from Page 7

Moses being used to set his people free from bondage and how the blood of the Lamb saved those that believed when the plagues descended. What can the blood of Jesus Christ do for you? We have a friend we can lean on in times of trouble. We have time to make our lives right...until the day we die. Don't take the chance that you'll die before you make that change.

On April 15, the ministry surprised the members and visitors with a campout style seminar day. They had been hinting about something unusual happening this day for several weeks, telling all that if they had friends that wanted to know what the Church was about or if they were thinking about baptism and had questions, to attend. There was a record number in attendance that morning. Instead of Sunday School, we immediately delved into the seminar based on a missionary reference guide describing various topics concerning the Church. We then broke for brunch and had doughnuts and pastries prior to starting the rest of our seminar. Each of the ministry took a turn discussing the subjects and gave time for questions at the end of each section. We learned much about the ordinances and beliefs of the Church. Among the topics discussed were: Apostasy, Restoration, Salvation, Faith and Doctrine,

Miracles, Gifts of God, and Baptism. At the end of this meeting, Anthony Hippolyte, who had been attending meetings with his wife, requested baptism.

For Brother Frank Rogolino's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, approximately 20 members of his family surprised him by attending on April 22. The meeting began with our two new converts and the ministry singing *I Surrender All*. It was Brother Frank Rogolino's desire to share his father's history in the Church with his family. He spoke of Brother Patsy Rogolino coming from Italy and how he met the Church and the experiences he was given. Brother Frank reminded the congregation that God is a revealing God and if you ask Him in sincerity, He will give you an answer. God changes your life in as much as you give your life to Him. Our visiting elder, Brother Justin Severson then spoke to the congregation, saying we serve a living God and must have a firm relationship with Him. As a father, Brother Justin stated he can love his children, but he cannot redeem them; he can only give them knowledge and be a good example. He said that Brother Patsy left his family a great legacy by providing them with the knowledge of Christ's redeeming love. The invitation is to all that we would be one in the family of Christ.

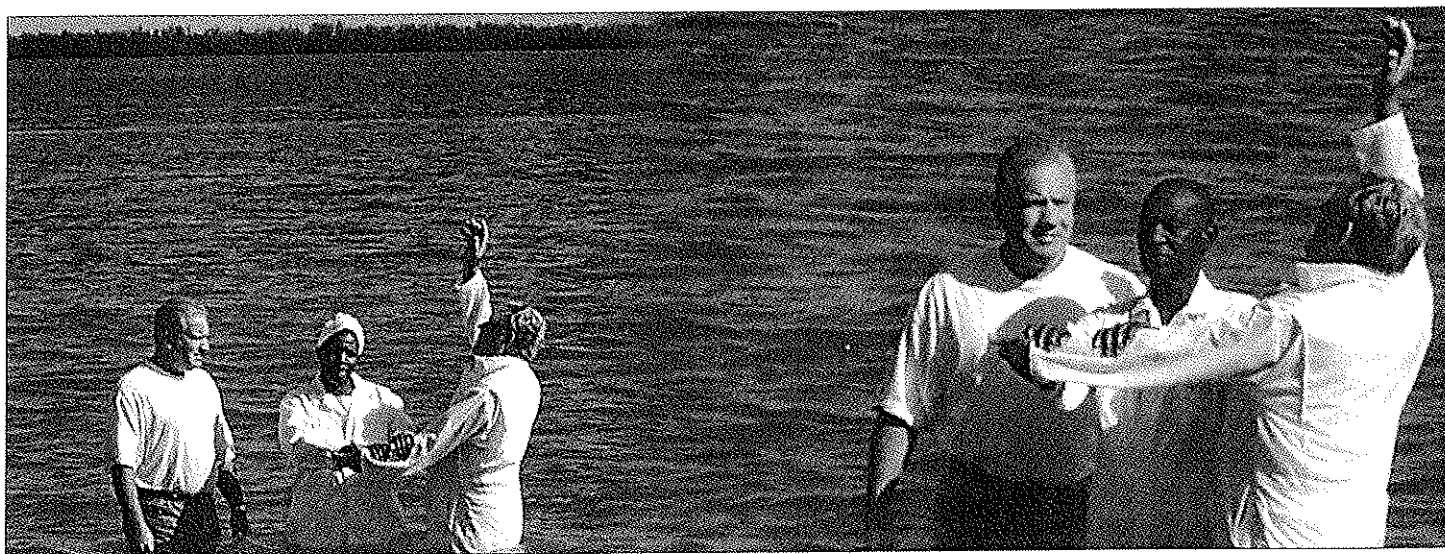
On April 29, we met at the water's edge, where Brother Frank

Rogolino baptized Anthony and Esther (Joyce) Hippolyte. Back at the branch, Brother Anthony was confirmed by Brother Rocco Benyola and Sister Joyce was confirmed by Brother David Checchi.

Brother Rocco then opened the meeting stating that we witnessed the bravery of two souls coming to Christ this day and being given the Comforter who will walk with them and talk with them. He told them they have chosen to walk that road where they can be sheltered in the arms of the Lord. The choice they've made is worth more than silver and gold in the world. Brother Rocco stated that he used to think a person had to be a "certain way" before he could be baptized, that he was required to get rid of this habit or that habit. But, he learned that God can change a person in the twinkling of an eye and will help us with the choices that we have to make daily. He described David, the writer of Psalms, how he was a mix of good and bad and how God comforted him.

Brother David Checchi followed by reading from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and stating that there is a plan of redemption for all mankind and men choose to go astray. God restores us to His plan through baptism. We thank God that two more souls came to Christ today.

We had several visitors from as close as Miami to as far as New Jersey on this day and enjoyed lunch and fellowship after the meeting.



Brother Frank Rogolino baptizing Brother Anthony and Sister Esther Ruth Hippolyte.

## Atlanta, Georgia Branch Building Dedication

By Sister Bonnie Kunkel

After many years of fund-raisers and many, many prayers, the brothers and sisters of the Atlanta Branch, with God's mighty assistance, have finally gotten a building of their own. The weekend of April 14 and 15 was set aside to dedicate this building to be the home of our wonderful God and a refuge to His saints.

We were fortunate to have brothers and sisters from many parts of the vineyard come to share this special time with us. All of the General Church Trustees, our Church President and many Region Officers were part of our very special weekend.

Our time together began on Saturday evening by having a catered dinner, and then we held a short meeting. During the meeting, our presiding elder, Brother Malcolm Paxon had the Atlanta Branch choir sing a few selections. Sister Tina Rich, Music Coordinator for the Branch, pulled together a choir just six weeks ago and had us prepare three songs: *We Have Come Into This House*, *We Are So Blessed* and *My Tribute*, which we sang for the group. After never having a choir before, everyone remarked how nice we sounded. But of course, we depended on God to help us and His angels sang with us, I believe. Brother Mark Kovacic gave a brief history of the work in Atlanta from the very beginning when Brother James and Sister Eva Moore came from the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch to begin the work. Several of our visiting brothers made remarks about the length of time it took and the diligence with which our trials were met week after week in the building we rented. After the meeting concluded, we had desserts, coffee and social time. These three things are what we in the Church seem to do best: drink lots of coffee, eat plenty of desserts and socialize with brothers and sisters not seen in a while. Reluctantly, we all departed to get some rest for the big day we had to look forward to.

Sunday morning, everyone met at the new building and enjoyed more coffee and snacks. Brother Tom Liberto, visiting apostle from California, then offered a prayer of dedication. In his prayer, he specifically made mention "that the building be a refuge for His saints, a place of peace and blessings."

We moved on to our rented facility to have our Sunday worship service. We got underway by singing *Sing Hallelujah*, then the choir repeated its performance of the night before. After opening prayer, we had two young people blessed. Ashley and Nick Cain came forward one by one to be blessed. They have just started attending the Atlanta Branch and both seem to feel very much at home here. Brother Paul Benyola blessed Ashley and Nick was blessed by Brother John Griffith.

Our Church President, Brother Paul Palmeiri, then opened the meeting by reading from Isaiah 66 and Luke 6:46. He told us all to look after the building but more importantly to look after one another and to see what is in the heart. Like a building that will last and weather the storms, we must build our lives on solid rock which we know to be Jesus Christ so that we may weather the storms and stand firm and strong. Brother Paul concluded by reminding us that we, as individuals, are Christ's temples and the Lord sees what is in our hearts. Whatever we do for the Lord, He does acknowledge.

Sister Debbie Gonzalez from the Forest Hills, Florida Branch honored us with a beautiful rendition of *Blessed Assurance*. Sister Debbie told us that it was put upon her heart to sing this particular hymn for us and what a wonderful job she did.

Brother Paul Benyola was the next to speak and he also reminded us that a building is just a building but we are the Church. We are the support group for one another, and with God as the center, we are a shelter in the time of our storms. He spoke only for a few minutes but reminded us that in finally obtaining a building we now have a dream realized, but it is only the beginning. The next dream to realize is to fill the building.

*Because He Lives* was then sung by the congregation, and Brother John Griffith was the final speaker of the morning. Brother John also reminded us that church is our comfort zone. We come to the church for fellowship and a refreshment of the spirit. As a dwelling place, we have a void to fill and if that void isn't filled with the Spirit of God then some other spirit will fill it. Let's make sure that it is God that fills that void. The spirits within us were likened to a sponge. Let it be sopping that it may drip on others and they may feel the liveliness of God's Spirit, too. We, as the Church, have come to serve for Christ just as Christ came to serve for us.

All too soon, our presiding elder, Brother Malcolm, let us know that our day must come to a close. We were so appreciative of everyone that came to celebrate with us and filled with such gratitude for everyone's support by way of the many prayers we know were offered on behalf of the need we had here for an edifice in which to meet. God truly answered all of these prayers far beyond any expectation we had and we are so thankful to Him for His goodness and kindness. Our doors are always open for visitors, so if any of you feel so inclined, please come worship with us.

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## It Is Written

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

I have been requested to write the following article on "Bearing Testimony in a Fellowship Meeting."

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

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

Testimony in a church service means to praise the Lord for His grace, loving-kindness, mercy, long-suffering, His everlasting goodness, for restoring the Gospel and, especially, for giving His Son to die for the sins of the world. Testimony of praise is a personal tribute to Jesus Christ who broke the bands of death and overcame the grave, bringing about the hope of the resurrection in one's heart. Praise in the congregation of the saints is a commemorative testimonial to the Lamb of God who willingly went to Calvary, bearing the cross and shedding His blood that those who believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Jesus, at the tomb of Lazarus said, *I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die* (John 11:25-26).

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

One should go to a fellowship meeting filled with joyful expectation of praising the Lord. It is not a matter of waiting to be inspired to bear testimony, or thinking, "What shall I

say?" Inspiration for subject matter and delivering the same should be in the purview of the Minister who waits upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Conversely, testimony of praise should be in the heart of every member of the Church, grasping the opportunity to give voice to the honor and glory of the Lord.

Testimony is not a matter of telling the congregation what "we should or should not do" or how "we should or should not live." Such exhortation is reserved for the shepherds of the flock to administer. Testimony is a very personal thing. It is an individual's expression of praise, spoken with joy and gladness. It is written, *I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High (Psalm 7:1-2). Also, Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation (Psalm 111:1).*

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

In my early years in the Church, I knew a brother who wrote a lengthy testimony and memorized it, with the purpose of reciting it at the next fellowship service he would attend. The following week he accomplished his desire with interesting results. (Coincidentally, I was present at that particular meeting.) As soon as the Presiding Elder turned the service to the members, this brother quickly arose and began to say, "Brothers and sisters," repeating the phrase several times in a stumbling manner and then stopped abruptly, to the astonishment

of all present. After a brief, embarrassing moment, he raised his head and began to confess his scheme to memorize a testimony intended to impress the congregation and with the expectation of the glory of God filling the sanctuary. He apologized to God and to those present, and then began to praise the Lord, with the result that God's Spirit filled him and all present. What a beautiful lesson was learned by this brother's mistake! God wants praise that comes from the heart, delivered with humility and meekness, overflowing with joy and gladness.

(To be continued next month)

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

served me, I will not take away all of the kingdom. I will give one tribe to your son since your father, King David had served me." Shortly after that, the wars began. One nation of soldiers after another came to rob and attack Israel. King Solomon died and his son put heavier taxes on the people until they rebelled against him. Eventually this man died also and other kings ruled Israel. God fulfilled all of the warnings He gave to Solomon on the day that Solomon started going in the wrong direction.

We must each watch and pray. When we find ourselves being taught something that is a softer, easier, version of God's laws, we must say, "No! Not me! I serve the true God of Israel. I will not pray to statues, believe in psychics, practice witchcraft, or break God's laws! I will not listen to things that weaken me. I will keep my promise and serve the one, true living God!" When people tempt you, like King Solomon's many wives tempted him, resist. Get away from those people and stand fast. Be wiser than Solomon. You can do it. The Bible says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

With love,  
Sister Jan



*Do we love one another the same way Christ loves us?*

*Do we love those in the world the same way Christ loves us?*

# THE CHURCH OF JESUS GMBA Campout

Furman University, South Carolina

• June 30 - July 6, 2007 •

registration: [www.gmbacampout.org](http://www.gmbacampout.org)

Brother Patrick Giannetti: Camp Director

Sister Deanna Nuzzi: Assistant Camp Director

as I have loved you

JOHN 13:34-35

*The experience of the camp director for the inspiration of this theme: "I had been fasting and praying to the Lord for a while concerning the GMBA campout theme. One day I turned on the TV to a gospel program. The program was a crusade in which thousands of people were packed into a stadium to worship the Lord. The Spirit of God fell upon me and I was prompted to pray. I began to cry to the Lord asking Him, "How is it going to be done? How are we going to grow?" And I was given the scripture John 13:34-35.*

*"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye may love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one toward another."*

## Note of Thanks

The family of Sister Carol Giovannone would like to thank all the brothers, sisters, and friends for the many cards and phone calls on behalf of the passing of their dear wife, mother, and sister in Christ. She is sadly missed by her husband, Brother Frank Giovannone; daughter, Nancy Derby; and two sons, Brother Ronald Thompson and Brother Gary Thompson. May God continue to bless you all

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Michael Coppa was reinstated on January 14, 2007 at the Harrison Mission by Brother Lyle Criscuolo.

Brother Mark Loffredo was reinstated on January 21, 2007 at the Harrison Mission by Brother Lyle Criscuolo.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, of Detroit Branch #2, celebrated 50 years in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Children Blessed

Matteo Salvatore Conte, son of Brother Salvatore and Sister Rocio Conte, was blessed on February 11, 2007 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Loredana Maria Conte, daughter of Brother Salvatore and Sister Rocio Conte, was blessed on February 11, 2007 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Manuela Rocio Conte, daughter of Brother Salvatore and Sister Rocio Conte, was blessed on February 11, 2007 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Shawn Martin Hunt Jr., son of Shawn Hunt of Freehold, New Jersey was blessed on March 11, 2007 at the Atlantic Coast Region Conference.

## Ordinations

Brother Dan Arcuri was ordained a Deacon on February 25, 2007 at the Mesa, Arizona Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Isaac D. Smith and he was ordained by Apostle Isaac Smith.

Brother Mike Ivey was ordained a Deacon on February 25, 2007 at the Mesa, Arizona Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Wally Cihomsky and he was ordained by Apostle Richard Christman.

Brother Patrick Giannetti was ordained a Teacher on February 25, 2007 at the Mesa, Arizona Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Jordan Giannetti and he was ordained by Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr.

Brother Chad Hood was ordained a Teacher on February 25, 2007 at the Mesa, Arizona Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Austin Landrey and he was ordained by Brother Emmett Hood.

## OBITUARIES

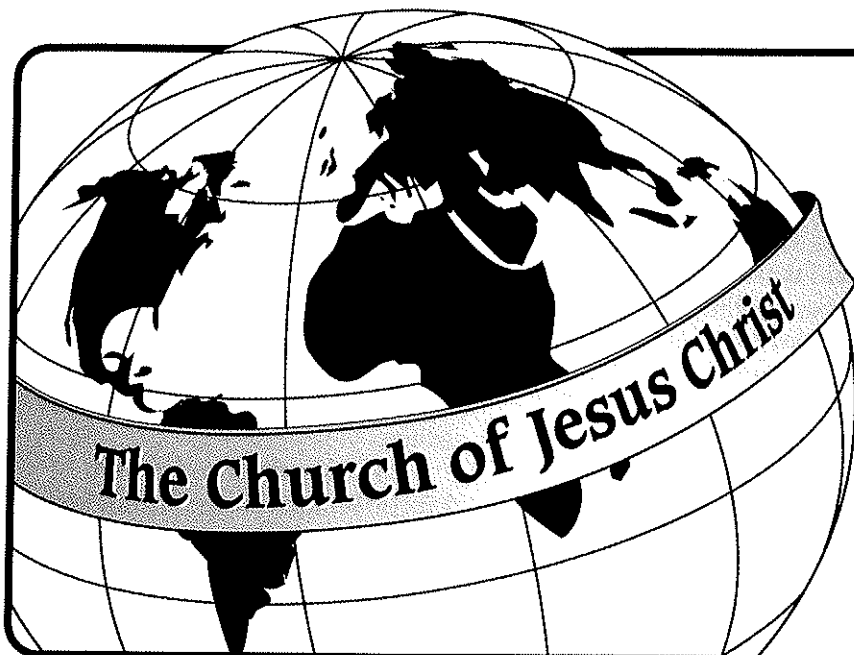
*We would like to express our sympathy to those that mourn the loss of loved ones. May God bless and comfort you.*

### GEORGE TIMMS

Brother George Timms of the Herndon, Virginia Branch passed on to his reward on April 3, 2007. He is preceded in death by fourteen siblings. He is survived by one daughter, Sister Linda Walton; one son, George Timms, Jr. and his wife, Janice; four grandchildren and one great grandson.

### FRANK CALABRO

Brother Frank Calabro of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch passed on to his reward on February 4, 2007. He was preceded in death by a sister, Sister Grace Kepics; a brother, Brother Paul Calabro; and a brother-in-law, Brother Carl Huttenberger, Sr. Left to mourn his passing are his daughter, Sister Linda Scolaro; her husband, Brother Anthony J. Scolaro; two granddaughters, and two sisters, Sister Marie Huttenberger and Sister Margaret Calabro.



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

July, 2007

Volume 63, No. 7

## Atlantic Coast Regional Conference

A large group of brothers, sisters, friends, and children met Sunday, March 11, 2007 at the Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Jamesburg, New Jersey for a Sunday worship service. We had representation from Brunswick, Maine; Bronx and Brooklyn, New York; Edison, Freehold, Hopelawn, Metuchen, Mt. Laurel, and New Brunswick, New Jersey; and Levittown, Pennsylvania. In addition to our resident apostle Brother Paul Benyola, our region's assigned apostles, Brothers Tom Liberto and Phil Jackson, were with us this weekend as well, having traveled from San Diego, California and Kinsman, Ohio, respectively. We were especially blessed to have Brothers Sam Dell and Anthony Vadasz in our presence today; our brothers have been afflicted and were not able to attend the Business Conference the day before.

Brother Darryl Onorato from the Brunswick, Maine Branch opened the service with III Nephi 20:40, "And then shall they say: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings unto them, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings unto them of good, that publisheth salvation; that

saith unto Zion: Thy God reigneth!" He stated how we must be clean in order to handle the things of the Lord. He dwelt on the topic of "Acceptable Offerings." Brother Darryl told the congregation how they discussed many things in the Conference the day before—things pertaining to the welfare of the saints.

Continuing on the theme of how we must be pure and we must be clean, he referenced the Branch Self-Assessment Survey, whose purpose is to determine what we can do to make the Church more acceptable. He stated that the Holy Ghost will not reside in us if our vessel is not clean. Brother Darryl stated that he wanted the Word of God to pierce, to chasten, to convert, to improve him, so he can effectively impart it unto others.

Brother Darryl continued with a passage beginning in Leviticus 22:17, dealing with the unblemished, acceptable offering to the Lord. Our brother exhorted us not to give God our second best. He acknowledged that we're all very busy; we all wear many hats. But the most important thing in our life is the Gospel. Sometimes it's easy for us to say to ourselves, "The Lord will understand," when we know we should be doing better. But He won't, if we're not

doing what we're supposed to. The Lord chose us to bring this Gospel to Israel, and to the rest of the world.

Our brother continued, explaining how the prophet Isaiah tells us to obey the commandments of God. We all have our trials and sicknesses, but we have the Holy Ghost and the Power of God. Brother Darryl concluded with the thought that the Lord chose each of us for a purpose.

After we sang *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*, Brother Phil Jackson followed. Brother Phil's question to us today was, "What kind of sacrifice are we willing to make for the Lord?" He went on to say, that when we have a guest coming, we go out of our way to prepare the best. He asked us, "Is it our best that we are giving to Christ?" Brother Tom Liberto followed, referring to the account in Exodus 17 where Moses held up his hands, and Israel prevailed in battle. He asked for all of us to do our part to help, just as Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands.

Brother Tom then transitioned that theme to the questions in Mosiah 18<sup>th</sup> chapter, where Alma asked the candidates for baptism, "Are ye willing . . . ?" Brother Tom recounted an 'exercise' that took place at a church seminar once, where everyone in the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Atlantic Coast Conference

Continued from page 1

class was given a weight from a set of weights, all of different sizes. "We each had to hold ours in our hands," he explained, "but we were allowed to trade them. After a few minutes, it became clear that some of the sisters and older people carrying the heavier weights were having a hard time holding them up. Different ones began to volunteer, trading their lighter weights for the heavier ones."

Brother Tom went on to explain, "It was pointed out to us all afterward, that the two newest Church members in this class had not been offered as much help as the rest of us, who knew each other much better." Brother Tom made the point that sometimes it's uncomfortable for us to go out of our way to offer help—it's so much easier to recognize when those closest to us need us to help them, but we don't always think of others in the same way.

Going back to the account of Moses, Brother Tom pointed out that there was a need to help him and give him support in what he had to do during the battle. It seems like a simple task, but it required a great sacrifice, and it resulted in a tremendous victory. Brother Tom asked us, "Whom do you attribute the victory to? I say it was Aaron and Hur—they found what God wanted them to do and God blessed the congregation of the saints. God blessed them because they were willing to make a sacrifice! Today, as then, God tells us He wants a broken heart and a contrite spirit. They were able to humbly do their part. Are you willing today to bear one another's burdens? To mourn with those that mourn? To make a sacrifice for Jesus Christ? To have a broken heart and a contrite spirit?"

Bringing it forward to our day, Brother Tom asked, "What is a good branch in The Church of Jesus Christ? It matters not whether we're many or few. It's the brothers and sisters that matter. We have to

sacrifice. In our testimonies, we hear one another's needs. A good branch will pray for that burden that they hear about. God answers those prayers and those sacrifices that we make for one another. God hears them and answers them."

Brother Tom addressed the priesthood: "We're called upon to anoint and pray. Our prayers should continue for that person afterward. Let us continually knock upon God's door. All of us need to make great sacrifices. All He wants of us is to help one another, to bear one another's burdens. You have the ability to move God's hand on behalf of someone else."

Brother Bob Pizzaia of the Edison, New Jersey Branch followed, speaking of the love of the brethren for the Church. He told the congregation how the ministry spent eight hours the day before trying to improve our branches and grow them. "The battle we fight is a serious one," he said. "The Lord asks for our obedience and our righteousness. In return, He offers us heaven, and Zion."

Brother Bob spoke about desire, "What is yours today?" he asked. "Is it to make the Church grow? Then let's get to work. Unity overcomes. David used not the armor of Saul, but the armor of God."

We sang *Blessed Assurance*, after which we were privileged to observe the blessing of a child. Brother Jim Crudup of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch quoted the scripture where Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me..." Sister Roberta Hunt came forward with her son Sean, his wife, and their new baby. Sean Martin Hunt, Jr. was blessed by Brother Jim Crudup.

A group of Spanish-speaking brothers, sisters, and friends sang the hymns *Keeping Step* and *Because He Lives* in Spanish. Numerous branches in our region have bilingual and Spanish-speaking members and visitors who have come to the US from Mexico, Guatemala, Puerto

Rico, Peru, Honduras, and other places in Central and South America.

There were several who were anointed, and an account of an experience was given of a young woman expecting triplets who was experiencing complications. After being anointed numerous times, she was blessed to deliver three healthy babies.

At this point, Brother Tom Liberto brought out the illustration of the sacrifice in the game of baseball, as it related to the theme of today's message. Sometimes a hitter will deliberately get tagged out for the sake of advancing a teammate around the field, moving them closer to home plate and increasing the team's chance of scoring a run. Brother Tom stated that God truly blesses us when we sacrifice any aspect of our lives for Him and His Church. His words to us were very positive and motivational.

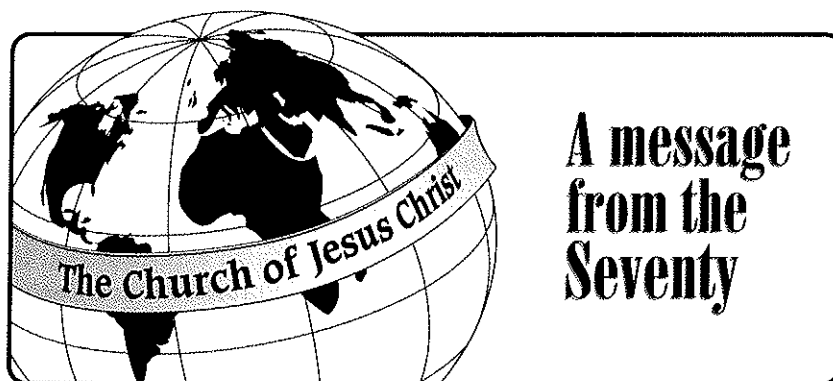
At this point the young children, who had been in a class during the service, presented a song on being in the Lord's army, then gave a little talk about the Armor of God. The Area Ladies' Circle then presented a medley on a similar theme, consisting of the familiar hymns, *Sound the Battle Cry*, *Onward Christian Soldiers*, and *In the Army of the True and Living God*.

Truly in the unity of the themes presented, not only in the speaking but also in the Ladies' Circle's songs and the children's lesson that had been selected beforehand, the Lord was bringing forth a message to us today, in which we were all very blessed.

## Note of Thanks

The family of Sister Margaret "Alice" Nicklow wish to thank all for your prayers, cards, calls and donations in memory of Sister Alice. May God bless you all.

The Nicklow, Metzler, Burns, Morle and Donkin families.



## God's Grace and Mercy in a Canceled Trip

*By Evangelist Anthony Ricci*

On Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Evangelists John Genaro, Nephi DeMercurio, George Kovacic, and I left our respective homes and planned to meet in Newark, New Jersey for our connecting flight to Delhi, India; for our trip to West Bengal and Sikkim, India; and Kathmandu, Nepal. Earlier that morning Brother George and I spoke by phone to confirm last minute details. Both of us stated to each other that this trip had a different feel to it, that something felt amiss. We could not pinpoint it, but we both felt something was not right and we just prayed it would not be a safety issue. We put ourselves and the trip into God's hands.

When each of us arrived at our respective airports of origin, we were informed flights were canceled and delayed because of a severe storm that hit the East Coast and shut down the Newark airport. (I personally had checked one hour before I left for the airport to make sure my flight was still okay.)

Brother Nephi, after a long delay, was able to get into Newark about 8:30 p.m. Brother George was able to arrive in Newark about 12:30 a.m. Brother John's and my flight were canceled.

Brother Ken Lombardo was able to pick up Brothers George and Nephi at the Newark Airport and bring them to his home in South Plainfield, New Jersey. Brother John and I were able to get a flight out the next morning (Thursday, May 17) to

LaGuardia Airport in New York City where we took a car to Brother Ken's home. (Our connecting flight to Delhi was re-scheduled to leave Thursday, May 17 at 8:45 p.m.)

Upon arriving at Brother Ken's home about 1:00 p.m., we found Brother George had been making phone calls since 10:00 a.m., trying to secure and change flights from Delhi back into Bagdogra in West Bengal. We were told there were no available flights from Delhi, India until the following week, maybe Tuesday, May 22 or Wednesday, May 23 (and that was not guaranteed for four travelers).

We knelt in prayer that God would open doors for us to complete this trip; but if not, that He would make it plain that He was closing the doors. We then tried to change the trip to go to Kathmandu first, and we received the same answer for flights. We tried train service, but nothing opened up. We prayed again for direction and all felt, that as we prayed, God had closed the doors and made it plain to us. We agreed to cancel the trip. This was about 4:00 p.m.

I cannot explain the feeling of emptiness and exasperation I felt, but at the same time felt a comfort that God had made His intentions known. Our next goal was to get back home. Brothers John and Nephi elected to stay in New Jersey until the following Monday (May 21) and fellowship with the saints. Brother George and I wanted to return home to our families.

Actually, we could only secure flights for Friday (May 18).

On Friday, after a five-hour delay from a 3:15 p.m. departing flight, I made it back home. Before going to bed, a great depression hit me that the trip was actually canceled and I began to weep and petition God as to why this would happen. I was given the following dream:

"I dreamed I saw a jeep and the right side was crumpled and caved in, as if in a terrible accident. There was a man that appeared to be Indian or Nepali—I did not recognize him—he was pointing at the jeep and pointing out the damage. I saw Brother Madan. He looked very disheveled and was speaking very fast trying to tell me what happened. He was speaking so fast I could not understand his English. He finally sat down on the ground and put his face in his hands weeping and just spoke Nepali. The dream then ended."

When I awoke, I related to my wife that God had truly spared us from a tragedy on this trip. I went to check my e-mail and was greeted by a US Warden Message from the US Consulate in India of a blast that happened on Friday, May 18 at a mosque in Hyderabad, warning American Citizens of retaliation throughout the whole country of India. I went to see whether this attack would affect West Bengal. I searched a news engine and found the West Bengal Inspector General of Police had put the province of West Bengal on HIGH ALERT and district stations were restricting travel to and from West Bengal. The Province of West Bengal was on Full Security alert. (This is where we would have been.) God had protected us!

I still wanted to see the meaning of my dream. I found that Eastern Nepal (by the Indian border) had suffered through earthquakes for three days, starting on Wednesday, May 16. Beginning at 10 a.m. to the time of the report, 15 quakes had hit. I then found a news article about a jeep traveling on the road we would

(Continued on Page 9)

## Unity: Being In Step Southwest Region Conference

When most people think of conference weekends, they think of business meetings with reports and voting. After a long day of meetings in the Southwest, those in attendance saw the saints loving God and loving each other, in step and unity!

The Saturday evening meeting was turned over to the Area MBA officers who hosted a night of fellowship. Brothers Jon and Ben Scolaro kicked off the evening with a scripture version of Family Feud. The room split into two groups and after many rounds the *Anti-Nephi-Lehites* won over the *Disciples* 19,800 - 16,200. After the game, Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. went to the piano with several members to sing praises to God. Others sat listening and fellowshiping.

The Sunday morning service began with Courtney Ivey singing *Good Morning God*. First Counselor, Brother David Jordan, opened in prayer and asked God that the sick would be healed, those awaiting the day of their baptism would wait no more, and when we left that day we would know the Lord was with us. Brother Ken Jones, minister and recent transfer to the Southwest Region, sang *The Prodigal* and dedicated it to the house of Israel and encouraged the congregation to always pray for Israel.

Brother Brian Martorano, evangelist and new transfer to the Southwest Region, opened the meeting by reading John 17:22-23. He repeated "And the glory" and then remarked that the ministry felt the glory within the first ten minutes of conference on Saturday and relayed a vision Brother Ron Mazzeo had Saturday morning where he saw twelve men standing in unison. The vision represented the ministerial board unanimously recommending Brother Jordan Giannetti to be ordained a minister. Brother Brian continued his message by stating, in *The Book of Mormon* they preached of Christ as if He were in their midst

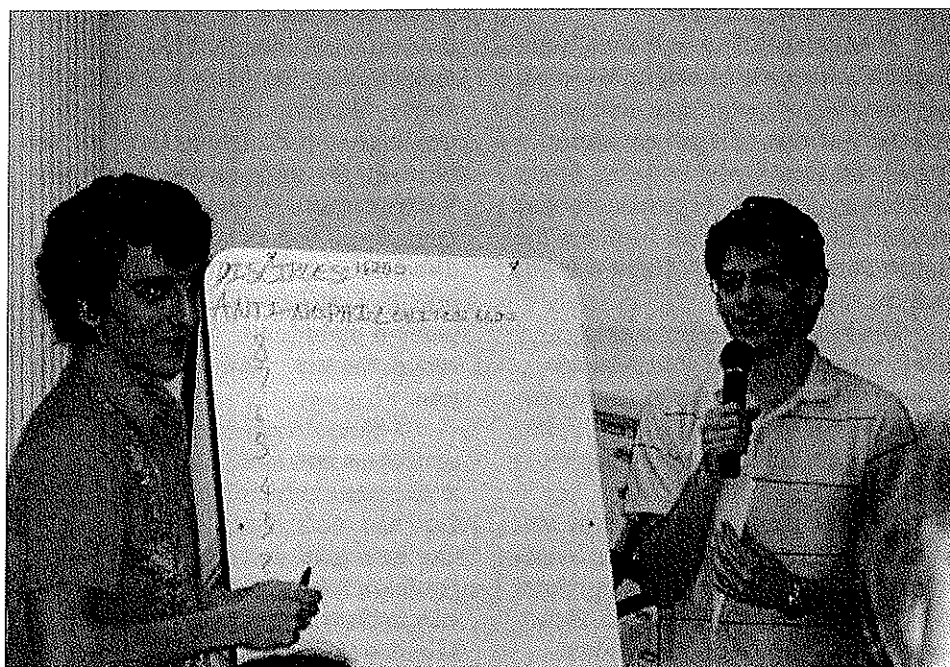
and we today still preach of Him. Brother Brian asked the congregation to ask themselves: Are we in step with the will of God? Are we looking forward to that time when the Gospel goes to the entire world? Are we looking forward to that time when the world will come and drink from the waters of life?

Brother Brian continued his sermon by sharing a story from when he was in high school. His coach wanted to teach them how to march. The coach would blindfold the class in order to have them listen. Brother Brian compared that to the way the Lord wants us, He wants us to say "Here am I, Lord send me." He remarked how we have all been out of step at one point in time, but encouraged us to be in step with the Lord and His will. The more we draw near, the more the glory will be made manifest in our midst, and it begins with unity. When we unify ourselves it brings about the glory and power of God. Brother Brian then shared another story about his daughter who had leukemia at age four. His family petitioned the Church to pray for her and the Church united together and prayed. The doctors told him he only had a few more weeks with his daughter. Then the doctor said there is

hope, and immediately Brother Brian went and thanked God. Now she lives a healthy life eight years later. Recently his sons, Brian John and Caleb were in a car accident. Caleb was close to leaving this life, but today is able to walk and have a healthy life. Brother Brian expressed that those types of miracles are not just for us, but for the whole world. He closed by saying we need to be in step with the Lord, do His work, and be in unity together in order to see the work grow because like a country song says, "We're only here for a little while."

Brother Ron Mazzeo followed Brother Brian by first thanking God and second proclaiming "There is power in Unity!" Brother Ron had prayed that the Lord would have the ministry be one, and God also gave him John the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter. He went on to exclaim how we serve the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and this is the church of the living God which is armed with the power of God. He said "We MUST be united together!" and posed the question "Can a house that is divided against itself stand? NO!" Brother Ron read Psalm 133:1-3 and explained how the oil that was upon Aaron is as the unity upon the people

(Continued on Page 10)



Brothers Jon and Ben Scolaro leading a scripture version of Family Feud.



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

It is interesting to see how each generation reacts and responds to God. The oldest living generation today may have survived the Great Depression and lived in a time of hardship and hard work to attain a life of ease and comfort. In their hard work (with little to show for it), a reliance on God was very needed. When humankind feels "helpless" in some areas, they turn to the "helper" who can do it for them. In most cases, this "helper" is the Lord. What they couldn't do, they relied on a God who could do it. Churches were filled in those days, and being a religious person was the norm. It was assumed that everyone attended some kind of church. It was just a part of life. In those days, we hear of mighty miracles and blessings from God. Everyone's face was turned toward God and so His face was turned toward them.

The next generation, or baby boomers, began to reap the benefit of their parent's faith and diligence in relying on God. God blessed them with enormous advances in technology which provided many comforts of life. This generation did not have to work as hard, but God provided easier ways to achieve and attain things. This country was blessed with being the most powerful and well respected country on the planet. Little by little, this generation moved away from God, mainly because they perceived that God wasn't necessarily filling any need they had. In their minds, there really was no need for God. Their needs were being filled easily by the natural things of life. If they wanted to visit someone, they got in the car and went. If they were sick, they went to the doctor and got medicine and recovered. If they wanted to cool off on a hot summer day, they turned on the air conditioner. If they wanted to cook a meal quickly, they put food in a microwave and ate. If their clothes were dirty, they would put them in a washing machine and press a button. This also created "idle time," time to relax and have leisure time. Unfortunately, idle time allows the devil to work, and during the times of not having to do anything, many were drawn away in their lusts and sinful things that satisfied the flesh. Churches were more empty and if you were a Christian, it was almost a little embarrassing to admit it.

The next generation, or Generation X (my generation), cannot remember the days of those in the oldest living generation. They grew up with everything, and really do not know anything else. People in this generation just have an expectation that the comforts of life and prosperity will always be there. A good example is turning the light switch on. You never really think about it, you turn the switch on and the lights automatically go on. There is an expectation that all the natural things of life will be there, and when they are not, this generation gets very angry. People work very easy jobs (relatively speaking), and make enormous amounts of money. To say you are a Christian is fine, but you really must keep it to yourself, so you do not offend the many who are not. Churches are empty since this generation does not really know what God is for. Since God doesn't seem to be filling any void, why spend time sitting in church or serving Him? This generation would rather BE served. Idle time has increased, and the technology has allowed many to find faster and more obscene sources of sin. Satisfying the flesh has also become something that is to be expected. Little by little, we see God's anger causing this nation to lose the power and prestige it once had. The pollutions and diseases are greater than ever before. Yet it is not enough to cause people to turn to God. Life is still just too easy.

The younger generation, or the "Y" generation, is in an even worse predicament. The only glimmer of hope is that they are beginning to see God's wrath begin to be unleashed (although they do not perceive it as God's wrath), and so they are trying to clean up the environment, find cures for diseases, and protesting to stop wars and killing. Unfortunately, without including God in the equation, their well intentioned efforts will not succeed. We are approaching a period of time where God must do what He must to reclaim people. In the Book of Mormon, many times this meant destroying the pride that had built up and bringing people to their knees. Then they remembered God again. It seems there is nothing new under the sun. Let us learn from the past, and prepare for the future.



# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## The Salt of the Earth

(Matthew 5:13)

Dear Boys and Girls and Friends,

When I was a little girl, my mother taught me that the Lord sees me, loves me, and knows me. When I am in trouble, or worried, Jesus knows and my God cares. The scriptures tell us we are special to the Lord and He will use us and work through us if we are willing to pray and listen and do what is right.

At school last month, I was straightening up the teachers' lunchroom again, and I saw this large bag from a Target store half buried under a box of books and old supplies. I'd seen it before, but this month I decided to look inside and see if it was something I should sort or throw away. To my surprise, I saw that the bag was full of packs of unopened beautiful, holiday stickers!

"Oh my," I thought. "These have been here a long time. Maybe someone left them here for us teachers to take and use for our students."

Then another thought came to me, "Maybe someone accidentally left them here and doesn't know what happened to them."

"Hmmm," I said to myself as I reached in and pulled out pack after pack of bright, interesting stickers. "My kids in class would really love this one, oh, and that one too. I think I'll just take this bag and use these."

Then the thought came back to me, "These are not yours, Janet."

I kept sorting through the piles

and pulled more out. "One, two, three...up to seven of this one snowman design. I could take three, or just two and use them. No one would even know. What else is there here that I like?" I wondered as I spied a pile of sparkling snowflakes.

Again the thought came to me, "These are not yours, Janet. Put them back."

"Yes, but they've been here for months, and I am the only responsible one cleaning up this messy table of supplies. And I am going to use them for my students!" I argued in my mind.

"They are not yours," came the powerful thought.

"I could use them for the kids at Sunday School, too," I told myself quickly.

"They are not yours to use anywhere," came that quiet, calm thought.

"Fine!" I replied irritably in my mind. "But I'll take them to the office. I'm still not going to just leave them here for another month or two, or for someone else!"

I dropped them off with the school secretary. She asked me to write a sign on the bulletin boards letting people know they had been found. The Art teacher said, "Oh yes, I'd noticed those a couple of months ago. There are really a lot of cute stickers there."

I was shocked. "Oh my," I thought. "What if I would have taken them in secret? Someone did know; someone would have seen. I would have let God down."

We are told that when we serve Jesus, we are the salt of the earth and a light for the world. Some people will never read a Bible or Book of Mor-

mon. They will only know that we do. They also notice when we do right or wrong. Our actions, even the ones we think are secret, are noticed by others. When we do the right thing, we teach those who are watching that it is best to follow God's laws.

A second grade teacher heard us talking about the bag of unusual stickers and got excited, "Oh, maybe I could have them. I could use them." She got up and ran down to the office to look in the big bag. Part of me felt crabby and jealous that she was going to see them and might get them instead of me.

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## WORD SEARCH

MATTHEW	JESUS
FIVE	ASK
THIRTEEN	TO
YOU	BE
ARE	FORGIVEN
THE	BE
SALT	THE
OF	SALT
THE	FOR
EARTH	MORE
OBEY	JOY
GODS	YES
LAWS	NOT
TALK	NO
TO	

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



## Ladies' Circle Tea Party in the Mesa, Arizona Branch

At one time or another, who hasn't been comforted and revived by a hot cup of tea? Tea has soothing and restorative qualities. It can calm a troubled heart and relieve a stressed mind. The same things can be said of good friends. On May 19, 2007, the members of the Mesa Ladies' Circle gathered together for an afternoon tea party to which they invited special female friends and family members.

The tea party was held in the Mesa Branch fellowship hall which had been transformed by beautiful and creative decorations. Seven round tables were set with real linens, flatware, and china by volunteer hostesses. Each table had its own unique style and personality. There

was even a small table for the little girls. The buffet table was arranged with fresh-cut flowers, tea sandwiches, delicious scones, fruit preserves, assorted cakes, and sugar-rimmed raspberry iced tea glasses. A collection of beautiful teapots was arranged on each table for display.

Sister Karen Ivey, the director of the event, started by sharing a few tea-time etiquette items with those in attendance. Hot tea was then brought to each table while the ladies completed a tea-knowledge quiz with questions like "What is the correct placement of the teapot on the table?" Sister Karen shared the answers to the quiz, and the food was served.

Sister Karen then presented a devotional titled "Out Your Spout" in which she compared a Christian to a teapot. Just as teapots can vary in shape, size, color, and style, the Lord made each of us with different exteriors, and yet, just as teapots, we all have the same purpose: to serve. We each cultivate attributes and qualities that brew within us and then pour out of our spouts and into others' lives.

Sister Karen outlined several of Christ's qualities in which we should want to steep our souls.

The sisters then played two games. One game required them to pick up or drop M&Ms as they truthfully responded to a series of statements such as "Take two M&Ms if you are wearing something that you purchased on sale" or "Give back one M&M if you are always late." The person with the most M&Ms at the end won. The other game required the ladies to look through their purses to find items worth a set number of points. Items ranged from receipts and candy to dental floss and vitamins. The lady with the most points at the end won.

Before the tea ended, the sisters enjoyed hearing Sister Patty Giannetti and Sister Anne D'Amore sing *Tea for Two*, and Sister Amy Cook was awarded a "Best Dressed" prize.

In all, the sisters had a wonderful time fellowshiping and enjoying afternoon tea together. It is very important to take time to build relationships with one another and spend time with one another as sisters in Christ.



## Blessings in Monongahela, PA

The branch of Monongahela, Pennsylvania has experienced a surge of blessings and ordinations this year. Visitors from the various parts of the Church have joined us in celebrating these blessings.

On March 18th, 2007, Sisters Kathy Golling, Joyce Kogler, and Melissa Cherry were ordained deaconesses. Brother Don Ross preached from Mosiah 2:17, "When you are in the service of your fellow beings, you are in the service of God," as a message for the deaconesses as they serve in the Church. Brother

Tony Ricci added to the message by speaking about the examples the pillars of the Church set, and that the new deaconesses should follow those examples and set them for themselves.

The sisters' feet were washed and they were ordained into their new office. As the prayer was offered for the ordination of Sister Kathy Golling, Brother Jeremy Nicklow spoke in the Spirit saying, "You have been called; do my work." The three new deaconesses bore their testimonies. Brother Tony Ricci spoke in the Spirit three times, "Thou art called." The day was full of blessings.

On March 25th, the saints gathered to welcome Brothers Joshua and Jeremy Nicklow into the ministry. Brother Joel Gehly opened by using Alma 46:1-9, stating that the Church is the Standard of Liberty for America and the whole world. Brother Gary Martin opened the afternoon meeting

using II Timothy 1:9, saying that God calls people to work for Him.

Apostle Paul Palmieri reiterated the process an elder must go through before and after an ordination. The two candidates' feet were washed. Brother Joshua was ordained by Brother Tony Ricci, and Brother Jeremy was ordained by Brother Jim Sgro. The day was filled with the Spirit of God.

## Ordination in Mesa Branch

On Sunday, April 1, 2007, the Mesa Branch in Arizona rejoiced as Brother Jordan Giannetti was ordained a minister in the Church. Please rejoice with us as we share the blessed

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## Ordination in Mesa Branch

Continued from Page 7

events of the day.

Brother Jeff Giannetti opened the meeting in speaking by pointing out that we are a world that values titles. Respect comes with titles such as M.D., PhD, CEO, and President. Employees often have designated titles that describe their place within the hierarchy of a company. He then reminded us that worldly titles will not matter when we die; the only title that will matter is "son or daughter of God," which is a title each one shares equally. Our job as Christians is to help people attain this title, and the best way to do that is to have joy in our lives. Brother Jeff cited the passage in the Bible when the disciples returned from their missionary trips, and they were happy because the power of God was manifested. Jesus gently shifted their perspective by telling them the primary source of their joy should be that their names are written in the Book of Life. Brother Jeff went on to say that the only way this title can be taken away from us is if we relinquish it. Just as sports figures wear the names of their teams on the backs of their jerseys, we should feel as if we have the name of Jesus Christ written across our shirts. We should represent Him at all times.

Brother Joey Giannetti followed by reminding us of another title that Christ gave to us: we are his friends. In John 15:15, Jesus called His disciples His friends because He made known to them all that He learned from the Father. Brother Joey said that the Lord is seeking those who are willing to take His name upon them. He went to the cross for our sins; what wouldn't He do to show that He loves us?

The elders administered communion, and a peaceful spirit was felt as we moved into the ordination portion of the service. The region apostles facilitated the ordination, and they each shared a few words specifically for Jordan. Brother Richard Christman told Jordan that he has a full life of service ahead. Brother Joseph Calabrese reminded Jordan that the

role of a minister was created by Christ when he set up the Church, and that role is the same today. He told Jordan to counsel with God in all things and always put Him first. Brother Isaac Smith commented on how older generations need to let the younger generations take over responsibilities. We must continue to build upon the past, and we can't forget to mentor to the generation after us.

The ordination of Brother Jordan was conducted as follows: Brother Pete Giannetti Sr. washed his feet, and Brother Pete Giannetti Jr. ordained him. It was such a blessing to see three generations of fathers and sons participate in the ordinance, knowing that the inheritance of Christ has been passed down.

Brother Jordan then shared a few words with the congregation. He said he was thankful for the love of God in his life and the love of the saints. He expressed the story of his baptism and said that a heart changed is the greatest miracle. The meeting ended with the song, *Give of Your Best to the Master*. We pray that the Lord continues to call young people to lead His army in the latter day.

## Pennsylvania Youth Summit Uplifts Aliquippa

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Sometimes we wonder what can young people do in the Church. The answer is a great deal if given the opportunity and responsibility. On Sunday, May 6, 2007, the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch had the blessing of having members of the Pennsylvania Youth Summit (PYS) visit.

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo, a teacher from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch, taught a Sunday School lesson on Love which got everyone thinking about what they could do to be more loving and set a beautiful theme for the day.

It was a joy to watch our Sisters, Sherri Wasik and Marty Jumper set the communion table as *Follow Me* was being played. The meeting was

turned over to the PYS and Brother Jeff Kattan, a teacher from the McKees Rocks Branch, opened the service choosing Ecclesiastes 12:13 as his text. He reminded us that the whole of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. He told us that we should fear God for what He can do and love Him for what He has done! This profound thought caused us to reflect on our relationship with God and His dealings with us.

Brother Panfilo followed telling us that often we hear God whisper to us and only He can change us. He concluded by asking if we hear that whisper. Brother Pete Oestreicher (a teacher in the Aliquippa Branch and a member of the PYS), told us that God has shown us many examples of sacrifice and love through scriptural examples. His final thought was reiterating the two commandments that God left with us, love your neighbor and love God.

Before we enjoyed a lovely luncheon provided by the Aliquippa Branch, Brother Panfilo sang, *Thou Mighty to Save*, and we enjoyed hearing the testimonies of many of the young people who are part of the team.

That is truly what young people can do. They can uplift and encourage. I know this because we were uplifted and encouraged by the events of the day!

## Only the Best

By Sister Diana Stigleman

The chilled morning air could not restrain the blessings as we gathered to watch two new souls commit their lives to Christ. On Sunday, May 6, 2007, Matthew Capone was baptized by his uncle, Brother Michael Capone, and Brooke DiFalco was baptized by her uncle, Brother Sam DiFalco. Standing at the water's edge were saints and friends from all four of our eastside branches of the Church. This was due to the fact that remarkably, our new brother and sister were from two different branches.

As we parted company, returning to our respective branches, I couldn't help reflecting on what a blessed event this was in every possible way. To our branch in particular, this meant Brother Matthew Capone's name would not only be added to the Lamb's Book of Life, but most joyfully as a member of the Plumbrook, Branch in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

We were equally blessed to have with us many visitors. Among those attending were Brother Daniel Mora and his family, including his mother-in-law visiting from Mexico. Brother Daniel was asked to be our opening speaker. His sermon, interpreted by his son, led us to the story of Abraham and his son, Isaac. "As Abraham walked with his son up the mountain, Isaac wanted to know, 'Where is the sacrifice?' " Brother Daniel stated.

Brother Daniel said, "Abraham did not offer God the second best, or the leftovers. Abraham offered God the very best, his own son." He went further by expressing great joy in knowing that today, Matthew was willing to come to the Lord and give the best of his youth.

While Brother Daniel was speaking, Brother Robert Stigleman saw a glow surrounding our brother. Indeed, all who were present witnessed a sermon which was alive with God's Spirit.

Brother Mark Palmieri, who followed in speaking, brought forth a soul searching thought. "God ultimately did not require Abraham to sacrifice his son, but God did exactly that for you and me." After reading from the book of Romans he reiterated, "We need to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable before God. This is our reasonable service. God gave us His best and we should be willing to reciprocate by giving our best." To this thought he added, "We must sacrifice our will to the Lord. Then we will be blessed with the Gifts of the Spirit."

Shortly after, Brother Matthew Capone came forward to be confirmed, by the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Paul Whitton asked our new brother if he would like to express himself. In doing so, Brother Matthew

gave this heartwarming testimony:

"On April 29, 2007 Sunday school was going great like usual, but this meeting felt more special to me. I felt really blessed. It seemed everything that Brother Kevin Coppa taught or said was coming directly from the Lord. We were learning more about Apostle Paul that day, but somehow got off the topic. Brother Kevin began talking to us about the Gift of Tongues and the Word of the Lord. As he was speaking, I felt the Spirit of God so strongly – like I had never felt it before. I started to weep and knew that the Lord was calling me, so I asked for my baptism. I thank the Lord for calling me into His Gospel and I know that getting baptized was the best decision I could ever make in my life."

After sacrament was passed the meeting was left open for testimony. The words came freely and many beautiful testimonies were given. There are two I would like to share.

The first came from Brother Matthew's grandmother, Carol Brown. Carol stated, "I was born and raised a Catholic, but I feel a closeness to this church and the people [of The Church of Jesus Christ]."

The second testimony came from Brother Dan Mora. He told of his mother-in-law's baptism. He explained that many years ago, when his future wife was about a year old, her mother, Sister Raquel Mendoza visited our mission in Mexico for the very first time. Her daughter was crying and wouldn't stop. She walked out of the meeting and didn't come back to the Church for another 16 years. It was her daughter that took an interest in the Church and her mother began attending the meetings again. Sister Raquel is now a deaconess in the Church.

In the wonderful humor which is so much a part of Brother Mora's personality, he pointed out that his wife is now in the back with their daughter, who will not stop crying. He concluded, "It seems history repeats itself!"

Later that evening we held a special meeting to welcome Brother Matthew Capone into the family of God. During the meeting we were asked to come up to the rostrum in groups; according to the number of

years baptized in the Gospel. Each group was asked to sing a hymn and those who felt the spirit of testimony were permitted to tell all present how Christ changed his or her life. Later we closed in prayer and spent the remainder of the evening sampling refreshments and fellowshiping with one another. Truly, a day well spent in the Lord!

## Canceled Trip

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take from Siliguri, West Bengal to Gangtok, Sikkim was knocked off the road, down the mountain by falling boulders, killing those who were on board. This is the same road Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo and I took last September. We see that God protected us then also! When I saw the pictures of the jeep—the right side was crumpled and caved in—I realized it was just like the dream! I would say that the aftershocks of the earthquakes affected the Sikkim area and attributed to the falling boulders. I knew then and there what God had spared us from, spared our families from, and spared the work from. **BLESSED BE HIS HOLY NAME!**

We even see how God was able to use Brother Ken, Sister Florence, and the entire Lombardo family in assisting us and giving us a place of refuge. I was able to witness and feel firsthand again the hospitality and the wonderful blessing it is to be counted amongst the family of God.

Dear readers, please remember, as brothers and sisters leave the comforts of their families and the safety of the United States, your prayers are needed and appreciated. We pray for, and get prayed for, so God will protect and keep us. I feel that through the disappointment of this canceled trip, **GOD HAD TRULY SHOWN HIS MERCY AND POWER.** Next time a brother or sister you know is leaving for a trip—remember to lift their name in prayer to our wonderful God—and always remember—**TO THE WORK!!**

## Southwest Region Conference

Continued from Page 4

of God.

Brother Ron then spoke about Sister Connie Moraco's dream as recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volume of the Church history saying, God said you have the truth, but you must be united, and in that day you will grow in number. He asked "How can a small number of people accomplish such a great thing?" He answered "It is by the spirit of God." He said there was great unity on the day of Pentecost and the noise filled the house. Brother Ron then inquired "Do you want to be filled?" He said we need to be slow to find fault because when we look at our brothers and sisters we should see the children of the Lord. We should also look for their strengths because how beautiful it is to walk in unity. He encouraged us when we see a fault to pray for the person, and also to pray for the ministry that they may set the example of unity. He quoted Christ "Love one another, as I have loved you," and said love is not a new thing. He shared how the victory came to the children of Israel because Moses and his brothers were united. When Moses could no longer hold up his arms, his brothers held them up for him. He then closed by referencing the Old Testament and saying we must first be reconciled to our brother and then we can bring our gift to the altar.

Brother Ken Jones addressed the congregation by asking "Did you know Jesus prayed for you?" He preached about how we have been touched by the hand of God, and now we glow and shine! We have been touched by the same finger that touched the stones. We should get excited to spread the Gospel. In order to spread the Gospel we must have unity; we must look through the eyes of Christ and see love. With one voice God wants to hear the voice of unity when we sing praises to him, and then Brother Ken led the congregation in the chorus of *He Touched Me*. He concluded by asking "Is there a soul here today that wants to be touched by God?"

Brothers Pete Giannetti Jr.,



Brothers singing around the piano with Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr.



Young people singing at Southwest Region Conference

Jordan Giannetti and Jameson Staley sang *He Touched Me*.

Apostle Paul Liberto exhorted us to listen because the books being preached out of are life, and they give lessons of life. He continued exhorting us to come to church, understand the scriptures and what God has commanded us. Then when we make decisions we can apply the word of

God. Brother Paul shared, things continue to happen even as an apostle. He read Revelations 3:8 where it addresses the Church at Philadelphia, "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." God sees us in every trial and has made a way for

us to get through it. God watches us everywhere we go and brings us back in step. Brother Paul then read 1 Corinthians 15:9, "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" and shared how we are never worthy, but we become perfect through Him and His power. Brother Paul posed "Are we worthy to bear the name of Christ upon us?" The answer, "No, *but* by the grace of God we are worthy." He warned that we will always have something that will try to pull us away, but by the grace of God we will see a marvelous work and wonder and by the grace of God we will be united. By the grace of God we are what we are – worthy.

Brothers Tim, Jonathan and Ben Scolaro sang *He Is the Lord*. Brother David Jordan closed the meeting by remarking how the spirit grows more when we gather, and there is unity and power when we gather. He paraphrased John 17:21, "Let them be one that they may know that you and I are one." Christ said these words before He left this world, yet Christianity is not united. He exclaimed how unity is a verb not a noun and is something you "*be*" not "*are*." The two most powerful words in the *Bible* are "Do quickly." The spirit of unity is the willingness to surrender to God so that He will pull us together. It is the need for us to say "I" that pulls us apart. Unity is a burden! When the four sons of Mosiah went out they bore unity. We should not rest and the burden of responsibility should not go away until every child is brought home. Unity is an obligation to bring them all home because then we'll be one, one family together. We can all say we've tasted of heaven and we know it's the spirit. Brother David challenged us: Do not hold the blessings to yourself! Find them! Unity will only be achieved when the children of God are united, then the Lord and Christ can be united.

The meeting was closed by the young people singing *In the Army of the True and Living God*. In closing prayer Apostle Isaac Smith asked the Lord to keep us **IN STEP** and **UNITED!**

## The Children's Corner

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Then the quiet voice in my head reminded me, "Those are NOT yours, Janet. They are not your business." Then I felt relieved. I felt such peace and was so thankful that I had not taken them. The battle between doing the right thing or the sneaky, wrong thing was over for that day.

Later the verse, Matthew 5:13, came to me, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour [flavor]...it is...good for nothing, but to be cast out [thrown away], and to be trodden under foot [thrown out on the ground like trash] of men." Think about salt and how important it is. Think about when you are eating soup and the soup tastes kind of blah. Then you add a little bit of salt and everything becomes tasty and so delicious. The food really satisfies you. You want more of it. If I am God's salt, it makes Him happier with all the rest of the people on earth. We are supposed to be different than the other ingredients in the soup of life.

When I do the right thing, I show the light of Christ's laws which teaches me (in this case) not to steal, for it was stealing that I was tempted to do; then I am the salt of the earth. And the Lord is pleased. Ah, and best yet, I do not feel crummy and sneaky over taking something that did not belong to me, or breaking one of God's laws.

Think about yourself. Do what is right and be the salt of the earth. If you have taken something that does not belong to you, bring it back. If you have lied about someone or something, admit it and ask for forgiveness. Listen to that still, calm voice in your mind that teaches you to do what is right. Being salt feels so good. It feels so powerful. Just you and the Lord; you know you have acted as the salt of the earth.

With love,  
Sister Jan,  
Your friend and part of the "Salt of the Earth"

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Darryl Poisson was baptized on June 3, 2007 at the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Bryan Griffith and confirmed by Brother Phil Benyola.

Brother Michael Segovia was baptized on April 15, 2007 in the Modesto, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Richard Deulus and confirmed by Brother David Piccuito.

Brother Blaine Tate was baptized on May 20, 2007 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tony Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Len Nardozzi.

Brother Ronald Rabold was baptized on April 1, 2007 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Frank Palacios and confirmed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Jr.

Sister Bethany Rose Onorato was baptized on May 27, 2007 in the Brunswick, Maine Branch. She was baptized by Brother Richard Onorato, Jr. and confirmed by Brother Darryl Onorato.

Brother Fredrick McClelland II was baptized on May 27, 2007 in the Brunswick, Maine Branch. He was baptized by Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Tom Curtin.

Brother Edward Onorato was reinstated on May 13, 2007 in the Brunswick, Maine Branch.

Sister Marlen Vazquez was baptized on May 20, 2007 in the Yucaipa, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Randy Lee and confirmed by Brother Santos Zamora.



**\* WEDDINGS \***

Sister Karen Bonaduce and Captain Kevin Patrick Scott were united in holy matrimony in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania on November 11, 2006.

John F. Blackwell and Linda Marie Thomas of Lorain, Ohio, were united in holy matrimony in Olmsted Falls, Ohio on May 19, 2007.

Fredrick McClelland and Sister Kimberly Anne Berticelli of the Brunswick, Maine Branch were united in holy matrimony in Damariscotta, Maine on September 16, 2006.

**Ordinations**

Sister Emily Castor was ordained a Deaconess on April 29, 2007 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Ruth Gehly and she was ordained by Brother Chris Gehly.

Sister Christina Miller was ordained a Deaconess on April 29, 2007 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Debbie Kahl and she was ordained by Brother Donald Ross.

Brother Daniel McNamara was ordained an Elder on April 29, 2007 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Timothy Mott and he was ordained by Apostle Phil Jackson.

**Children Blessed**

Alec Ben Anderson, son of David and Janice Anderson, was blessed on May 6, 2007 at the Leesburg, Florida Mission.

David Kenneth Welsh, son of Richard and Tammy Welsh, was blessed on May 6, 2007 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Madilyn Elaine Onorato, daughter of Aaron Onorato and Rachel Sanders was blessed in the Brunswick, Maine Branch.

Savahhan Hurst, daughter of Randy and Joanne Hurst was blessed on June 3, 2007 in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Yannel Nayeli Garcia, daughter of Brother Lalo and Sister Megan Garcia was blessed on April 25, 2007 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Micah James Dzonko, son of Kelly and Michael Dzonko, was blessed on April 15, 2007 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

**Spiritual Anniversaries**

Sister Carrie Clancy, of Freehold, New Jersey, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 15, 2007.

**OBITUARIES**

WILLIAM DAVIS

Brother William Davis of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch passed on to his reward on April 14, 2007. He was an ordained Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is preceded in death by his wife, Sister Betty. He is survived by his son Billy, his wife Michelle, and one granddaughter.

MARIE J. PERRELLO

Sister Marie J. Perrello, of the Brunswick, Maine Branch passed on to her reward on May 2, 2007. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Dominick Perrello. She is survived by her children, Sister Jeanette Israel, Sister Elizabeth Corson and her husband Brother Joseph, Brother Donald Perrello and wife Ann; her three brothers, Brother Richard Onorato, Sr., and wife Sister Mary, Brother Robert Onorato and wife Sister Cindy, and Brother Edward Onorato; one sister, Sister Dorothy Calabro; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

MARGARET "ALICE" NICKLOW

Sister Margaret "Alice" Nicklow, of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, passed on to her reward on March 29, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr.; daughters, Sister Bonnie Metzler, Sister Robin Burns and Sister Tammy Morle; sons, Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., and Brother Daniel Nicklow; brothers, Brother Ed Donkin and Keith Donkin; as well as twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

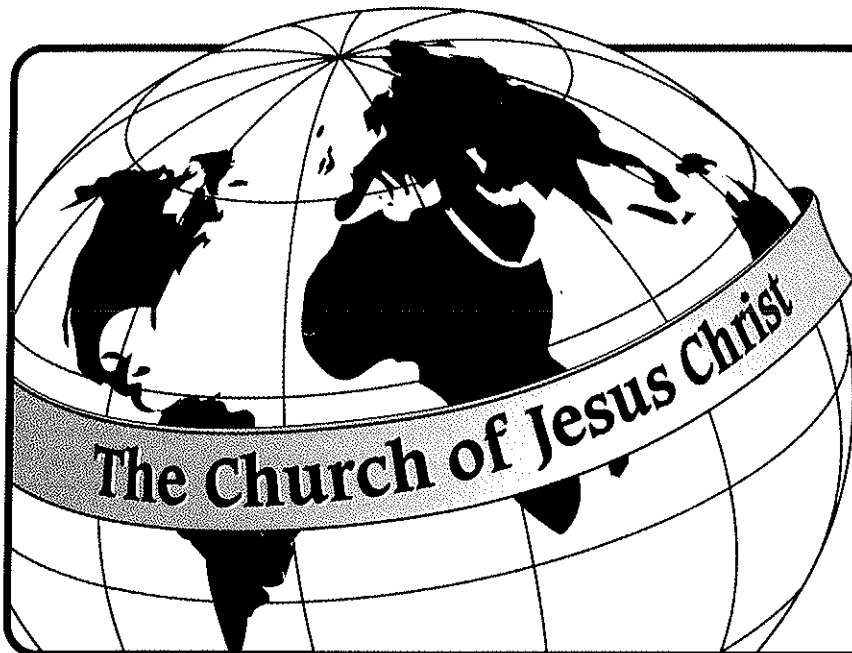
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# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

August, 2007

Volume 63, No. 8

## “Permaneciendo en Cristo” Remaining with Christ

By Sister Erin Light

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (John 15:4).

Mexico City, known as one of the most prominent economic, industrial and cultural areas in the world, is first and foremost a place where the saints of God reside. On May 26th, Brother Stacey, Sister Carolyn and Sister Erin Light (San Diego Branch) traveled with Sister Elizabeth Kall (Kinsman Branch) to the capital of Mexico. We reunited there with Brother Efrain and Sister Flora Ortega and their daughter, along with Brother Juan and Sister Mirna Rivas and their two children who traveled from the Tijuana Branch. On a busy Saturday night, we gathered in the church building to sing songs of praise and share testimonies of how God has worked in our lives. Throughout our humble meeting, deaconess Sister Lucilla Ortega, sat quietly listening and cutting fresh flower bouquets for Sunday.

The next morning, Brother Juan Rivas motivated us in Sunday School

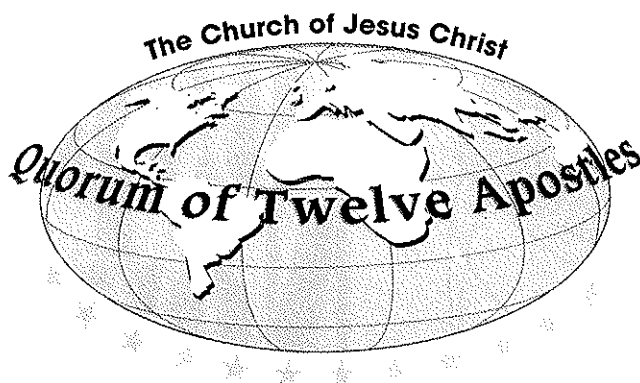
through the topic, “Remaining with Christ,” using various scripture concerning the union between Christ and His Church and Christ and the individual. While discussing John 15:1-5, Brother Juan described the spiritual process of planting a seed that bears fruit: “If you are here today, God has already planted the seed in your heart, and now He is waiting for us to bear fruit.” He exemplified how we are to maintain our righteousness through a solid foundation in Christ. “A tree with no roots won’t survive, yet a small tree with deep roots will flourish.” He enlightened us about the services of a tree. A tree, while growing itself, also provides others with shade, protection, food, and air. “God wants us to be a strong tree, rooted in His Gospel and able to benefit others,” Brother Juan concluded.

We enjoyed many special song selections before the service began. The church building was filled with singing as groups of children, youth, men and women each came up to sing songs “para la honora y gloria de Dios.” Sister Erin sang a selection, and the English-speaking brothers and

sisters sang *Wave the Flags of Zion* in Spanish. Brother Stacey Light opened with a sermon about the freedom we have to serve Jesus Christ on this land. He spoke about Abinadi, a willing man of God who died proclaiming Christ. Alma heard Abinadi’s words and believed with all his heart, but he had to preach secretly—hiding in the jungle—to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. In Mexico City, there are no jungles or wicked kings, and there is no one forbidding us from believing in Jesus Christ. We have a joy in our hearts that the world cannot take away. We are free to tell anyone about God’s love and how He’s blessed our lives, our marriages, our families and even our jobs. Brother Stacey concluded his message by reading from III Nephi in which God set up the inhabitants of this land to be a free people.

Brother Juan followed, highlighting our ability to tell anyone of Jesus Christ and of the God-given privilege to speak of Him. “The cause of Christ is great; there is much work to do, but that work becomes a pleasure if we have a joy in our hearts,” Brother Juan emphasized. Brother Efrain preached about Paul of Old, who served God through much persecution and who overcame many obstacles. “We are not beaten or ill-treated if we talk of

(Continued on Page 10)



## Trusting in God

*By Apostle Paul Palmieri*

We define trust as our firm belief or confidence in the reliability of our faith. It is the confidence we have in God that what He promises He will do, that total confidence in God can be termed, **Our Trust in God**.

Many today place their trust in tangible entities, such as governments, financial institutions, schools and individuals. To trust in the above are important when balanced with priorities. Even our currency in the United States uses the term, "In God We Trust." There is however a greater resource in whom we can place our trust, that is, in God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Today we are being challenged by the world and especially by the opposition to our souls, to place our trust in what we can accomplish, not what God can do but what we can do.

Above everything in life, trusting in God for our spiritual and natural needs gives us the hope and joy of living. If we lose this, we have lost it all. We trust Him for our salvation; we trust Him for the hope we have in eternal life with Christ. God gave His Son that we would be able to once again be in His presence. Jesus came to redeem us to Himself, without any stipulation except as stated in the Book of Mormon: "...for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in...the Holy One of Israel" (II Nephi 30:2).

I am reminded of a project in which we participated to save stamps to redeem them for a van to give to

one of our missionaries on an American Indian Reservation. We trusted the company to redeem the stamps; the company went out of business, and fortunately another company took over the project or we would have lost the redemption value. What a contrast with the promise of God; no one can take away our redemption, whom should we trust? God gave His most valued possession, Jesus Christ, that we would be redeemed. The only requirement to make it effective is for us to do His will. He made the promise thousands of years ago, thousands trusted Him and He kept His promise. He is worthy to be trusted.

God could have invalidated His promise because of mankind's disobedience, but He kept His promise. Trust God and His promises, they are sure and true. Consider some of His wonderful promises that we have believed and trusted:

- \* He promised He would never destroy the earth again with water.
- \* He promised Abraham that he would have a great family, even when he was old and had no children.
- \* He promised the children of Israel that He would deliver them out of Egypt, and their bondage. The promise may have been a long time coming, but God was faithful.
- \* He promised them a promised land. And even when they disappointed Him, God was faithful to His word.
- \* He promised His people on the land of America that He was going to come into the world as He promised thousands of years ago.

Some people were willing to kill their brothers over the belief that Christ was going to come into the world. Christ spoke to reassure Nephi, and said, "tomorrow I will be born." (God was and is faithful.)

God works today as in the past. God wants us to place our trust in Him and in His Holy Word. He promised that the Gospel would be restored and it was. Some will differ but that does not change God's promise. God promised that the Tribe of Joseph and the entire House of Israel would be restored. Is anything impossible with God? Has His word ever failed? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, that is why we trust Him. He promised us that a peaceful condition will exist on the earth while men and women are living in the flesh. What a wonderful hope the saints of God possess, that a peaceful condition will exist again on the earth as it was in the Garden of Eden.

Today God has commissioned The Church of Jesus Christ to bring the Gospel to all people, in all parts of the world. To accomplish this, we must trust in God that He will fulfill all that He has spoken. We must trust in God for everything we need. We need to depend more on Him and less on our own ability.

Trusting in God extends beyond the spiritual needs we have as individuals and the work of the Church. It embraces every aspect of our lives: our families, our homes, our jobs, and our associations. It needs to be taken into consideration when we take a job, when we take a transfer in the Church and in our jobs; when marrying a mate, when buying a house, and when giving to the Church, etc. This is what God wants from each of us, to place our trust in Him completely for everything!

God never forgets anything, "except our sins." We can trust Him for that. Trust God to solve your needs, spiritually and temporally and He will never fail you. At the end of your life, He will be faithful and bring you into His glorious kingdom. Only trust Him!!

# The Joy of Salvation

By Evangelist George Neill

(Editor's Note: This article is based on a sermon by Evangelist George Neill (deceased) and is taken from The Book of Sermons, published by The Church of Jesus Christ.)

I would like to read to you from the 51st Psalm, verses 10-12: *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

Friends, I have quoted the words of David. As I read them, I am impressed with the last verse, *"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation..."*

David was a great man in his day. If we were to go into his life extensively this morning, we could say many good things about him. In short, however, we shall say that David was called upon by God to be king over God's people. He was anointed by Samuel, and the Scriptures say, *"the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward."* As time went on, however, things happened in David's life which caused him to speak as I read this morning.

It is true that David made many mistakes in his life, but, being a man after God's own heart, he sought forgiveness and repented whenever he learned that he was wrong. He knew the joy of serving God. He knew the joy of salvation, and, so he cried aloud to God to restore this joy to him.

We are sure that if David could speak to us this morning, he would acquaint us more fully than I possibly can, with the joy of serving God, or the joy of salvation. We might ask, *"What is joy?"* Joy, as interpreted by the world, is nothing more than a mere bit of fun. It may be compared to a ripple on the surface of a pool of water; it is not permanent, and it is of a brief duration. Joy, as defined by

the worldly crowd, is just a means whereby one can forget, momentarily, the cares and aches of a troubled conscience.

The people of God do not have fun in serving God; they have JOY—and not just for a moment. Their joy does not end when life comes to a close. It goes beyond this life and reaches all the way into heaven, from whence it came. The Son of God brought joy into the world. He brought salvation. The hymn says: *"Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King..."*

Friends, when we individually receive Jesus Christ as our King, it brings joy into our hearts—unspeakable joy, full of glory. It is joy to know that our sins are forgiven.

The Saviour, when here upon the earth, spoke words like these to His humble followers: *"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."* What did He mean? Did He have a joy to give to men and women? Did this Man, of whom Isaiah spoke of as one, *"despised and rejected...a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...oppressed, and he was afflicted..."* have a joy to transmit to men and women? Why, it was more than a pleasure even to be in His company.

Do you remember the two disciples who were walking along the way to Emmaus, when Jesus appeared, walked, and talked with them? After He had gone, they remarked to each other how their hearts burned within them as He walked and talked with them on the way.

Friends, to walk with God in this life means eternal joy. We may never walk with Jesus as these two did; but, by walking in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.

Paul says in Hebrews 12:2, *"...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame..."* What was the joy

which was set before Jesus Christ, so that He was so willing to endure the cruel cross? We know there is joy in giving. Does it not bring joy to give a friend help, to give someone something that he needs? It is more blessed to give than to receive. Jesus Christ, going by the way of the cross, gave us salvation, or eternal life.

The name "Saviour" means "life-giver." The right to live had been lost; all were dying. The Life-Giver came to provide everlasting life for the dying race. We thank God for a Life-Giver, yes, a Great Able to save unto the uttermost. Yea, there is joy in the cross of calvary. This joy, as we have already said, does not end when this life comes to a close, but it accompanies us to heaven. Heaven, friends, must be a wonderful place—our weak minds are not able to fathom the joys which await us in blissful regions. Yet, we can sing with the poet: *"When by His grace I shall look on His face, That will be glory, be glory for me."*

There is another joy we anticipate which seems to touch and vibrate our hearts when we think about it; and, that is, our reuniting with loved ones who have gone before us. The clasping of their hands and the face-to-face meeting are bound to bring joy. May I ask, *"Is that all?"* No, for it is written: *"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."* These things are only experienced by those who take upon them the name of Christ and walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. I wish to close with the beautiful words of the hymn, *Adoration*, by Haldor Lillenas:

O Christ my Lord, my heart shall sing  
The wonders of thy grace,  
My longing eyes would fain behold  
The glory of thy face;  
I pour the offerings of my love  
Unmeasured at thy shrine,  
And pray that thou wilt live and move  
Within this heart of mine.

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# The Way of Salvation

## FAITH

We learn from the Scripture, Hebrews, 11th chapter, that they who come to the Lord must believe that "He is," and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. The Apostle further states that without faith it is impossible to please God. Paul's definition of faith applies both to those who have not yielded to Christ and also to those who have, He says, "It is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Persons whose hearts are open sufficiently to hear the words of the Lord will receive a heavenly substance, hope will spring up within them and they are filled with desire to proceed farther. They now believe that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him and are willing to learn of Him. This is the kind of faith that possessed the three thousand persons who were in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, when the Apostle Peter, by the inspiration of God, preached the first Gospel sermon. Faith that Jesus Christ was the Redeemer of mankind was planted within their hearts. Although it was a heavenly substance and brought to them a hope of better things that this world can give, they still felt unworthy of the Redeemer's approval, and they cried out to the Apostles, "What shall we do?"

"Faith, the evidence of things not seen." From the foregoing we must conclude that faith comes by hearing the Gospel declared and that repentance is produced by faith, and the necessity of being buried with Christ in baptism follows. The evidence of things not seen begins now to be experienced. Christ within us enables us to testify that we know our Redeemer lives. We have an evidence that when we approach God in humble prayer He hears us; being a newborn creature, we experience hundreds of things which our natural senses were dead to previous. Richest of all is the evidence we have of our future, providing we are faithful to the Lord,

that when we pass from time and timely things, we have a building not made with hands eternal in the heavens. These evidences come only through possessing the faith of Jesus Christ.

## REPENTANCE

Of all the changing or reforming persons may undergo, whether by schooling or self-cultivation, it could only be compared as a thing of naught to that change that takes place through the spirit of repentance. When those persons asked what they must do, the first word that fell from the Apostle's lips was repent. Repentance may be termed a Godly sorrow. It is as though God is telling us He is not pleased with our present condition. Therefore, we seek to be set free, that we may experience His smile and approbation.

## BAPTISM

The Apostle Peter did not end his answer to the people by only telling them to repent but included the doctrine of baptism for the remission of sins, telling them by so doing they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Until this is accomplished we cannot experience that divine liberation from past sin. Neither can we know the reality of a second birth as the Saviour told Nicodemus. This same Apostle tells us in his epistle that baptism is not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.

## FAITH

Romans 10:14-17  
John 9:35-38  
James 2:19 to conclusion

## REPENTANCE

Acts 3:19; Acts 8:22  
Luke 22:61-62

## BAPTISM

Mark 16:16  
Romans 6:3-6  
Acts 10:47-48

## RECEPTION OF THE PROMISE

Dear Reader:

Has it ever occurred to you that God has always moved in ways least expected by mankind? Isaiah, 55th chapter, 9th verse, says, "as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways and thoughts higher than ours." This fact should cause mortal beings to realize their inferiority when measured by the unbounded wisdom of our God. And still more, it should cause us to give heed to His divine ways and means which He has established in His Son, Christ Jesus, for our salvation, bearing in mind that the Son came not to do His own will but the will of His Father who sent Him (St. John, 6th chapter, 38th verse). Hence we find in different ages of the world a few have understood in a large measure the ways of God, because they adhered to His will or His ways, and forsook their own.

Notice the Prophet Daniel for instance; he submitted himself to the ways of his God, consequently he was able to read the handwriting on the wall, foretell the rise and fall of nations, and ultimately show that the Kingdom of Christ shall overcome the kingdoms of this world, which kingdom shall be given to the saints of the Most High (Daniel, 7th chapter, 27th verse).

Take Isaiah for another who walked in the ways of his Lord to such an extent that his vision could penetrate the veil and record an account of the many wonderful events that were literally fulfilled in the birth and life of the despised Nazerene. Could any man who may have lived in the days of the Saviour have written a more graphical account of His life than Isaiah did, who lived centuries before the babe was born? It was simply because the prophet was walking in the ways of his God.

Let the reader notice the second chapter of Nahum and see the wonderful things that have been brought forward in our day by men of inventive minds. Notice the chariots with their torches jostling one against another

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).*

In the Church today, we should strive for Unity, not Uniformity. This means that being united one to another is different than striving to all be "the same." It is easy to relate to, and even love those that are like you in personality, background, etc. The Church is compared to a body with many different parts. Each part is different, but all work together towards the end result. The world will know we are His disciples by the love we show to one another. But what will be more convincing to the world is when they see we love each other despite our differences. Too often, people of God confuse unity with uniformity, and those that "don't fit the mold" are set aside. This is a tragic mistake since Jesus said we are to even love our enemies. How much more within the body of Christ should we embrace each other's differences and truly be UNITED. This scripture says we should ALL come to a unity of the faith. This means no one should be left out. If you see a brother, sister, or young person always alone, go and talk to them. Get to know them, and bring them into the circle of unity. Often times, we hear the term "family church." This refers to a church in which everyone is related (naturally speaking), and visitors from the outside feel just that way...as outsiders. But The Church of Jesus Christ is a Church for all nations, kindreds, tongues and people. Yes, we are a family Church too, but it should be a Spiritual family.

One time in our branch, we did not have a preaching service, but asked each member to express their feelings about other brothers and sisters and what great qualities (specifically) they see in them. There was so much love, unity (and sobbing) by the end of the meeting. People heard things about themselves (good things) that they never knew others were thinking. Too often we hear criticisms or negative gossip, but imagine if all the gossip was positive wonderful things about each other! Imagine how this would bring us all closer together in love and unity!

The scripture goes on to say we should come together, united, in the knowledge of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. If we all know what we need to accomplish as a Church, and truly have a full knowledge of what He expects from us, we can move mountains if we are united. This is because we are working for the same end result. By all working for the same result, we accomplish it much faster and easier. What can slow us down is when we do not have a full knowledge of the goal, and pull in different directions. This slows the Church down and shows a lack of unity.

The scripture finishes by telling us we MUST be perfect in our faith in Christ. Many are afraid of the word "perfect," because they feel it shows pride. However, we cannot be imperfect in Christ, because if we are, we will never inherit eternal life with Him. Perfection comes from being COMPLETE in Christ. Being complete means having a full knowledge of how to be a saint. We follow His commandments, and when we sin, we tap into His grace (sincerely) and repent. He forgives, and we go on being perfect, or complete in Him. We should always look to him as the example (the stature of the fullness of Christ). We should not set our own standards for our life, but allow His example to be the standard we live by. He must increase, and we must decrease!

When we can do all these things, we can be a united body of saints, not respecters of persons, full of the knowledge of what we need to accomplish, working together as perfect or complete saints of God, we can propel the Church into the new day of Peace that awaits us. We can take the Gospel to the four corners of the earth. We can turn the world upside down. But we cannot do it alone. It requires that perfect bond of unity. There is a saying in the world that is so true: "United we stand, divided we fall." God bless you all.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## The Eyes of the Lord Run To and Fro

*"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from hence forth thou shalt have wars"* (spoken by the seer Hanani in the country of Judah – II Chronicles, chapters 14-16).

Dear Boys, Girls, and Friends,

There are many times in your life when you will be struggling against a big problem. There are many times when your heart and mind will be filled with worry and your thoughts about what to do will war against each other. One thought will tell you try this; then another thought will say, "No, try me." Some people get headaches, some people fight, some take pills to calm them or follow the advice of the ungodly. Many forget to ask God what to do and choose the wrong way. They live in confusion or keep struggling in pain until they decide to start over again and learn how to do things by God's direction. The right thing to do is to ask God to help us day after day, hour after hour. Pray and do what He shows you to do.

The Bible tells us about a busy king named Asa, who came to rule the country of Judah. When his grandfather, Solomon, was in charge, all sorts of false religions were allowed to build temples in the land. Soon, God's people were sinning and had forgotten the Ten Commandments and all of

God's promises to them. They began to worship and pray to statues, and follow all kinds of evil beliefs.

Since they did not pray and ask God to protect them, they quit having God's help and miracles. The lives of the people of Judah were filled with warfare, and they were always watching for enemy attacks. On all sides they were surrounded by other countries who came with thousands of soldiers with swords, chariots, and powerful bows and arrows to attack them. The people had to run to the cities with walls and wait for the battles to be fought while enemies robbed their homes.

But when Asa began to rule as King of Judah, he did what was right in the sight of God. He did away with all those false religions, he took away all the idol worship and evil things. When his mother went to worship idols, he removed her from being queen. A great reform swept throughout the land. God was pleased and gave him a time of peace when no enemies attacked them.

During this time Asa had all of the walled cities made stronger with gates and bars. In those days, men fought hand to hand. Helicopters, airplanes and bombs were not invented. He trained an army of three hundred thousand men with spears and two hundred eighty thousand other mighty soldiers ready to fight back if they were attacked.

Then the day came! From the far away country of Ethiopia, a massive army of three hundred chariots with weapons and a "thousand thousand" soldiers crossed into their country to attack them. The country

of Judah was horribly outnumbered. Asa cried unto the Lord his God and said, "Lord, it is nothing with you to help, whether with many or with those that have no power; help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on you, and in your name we go against this multitude [of warriors]. O Lord, you are our God; do not let those men win against you" (II Chronicles 14:9-15).

So the Lord God smote (attacked) the huge Ethiopian armies and the armies ran away to the rich city of Gerar. King Asa and his armies

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### WORD SEARCH

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## Windsor, Ontario Canada

What a day of rejoicing we had at the Windsor, Ontario Branch on April 15, 2007 as Sister Kathy Vitto, was ordained a Deaconess.

The sacrament table was set by Sister Olanda Peltier and Sister Judy Salerno. Brother Michael Capone, from the Plumbrook Branch, came forward to open our meeting in prayer. He first shared these powerful words, "When I walked into this building, I felt the Spirit of God."

Brother Frank Vitto opened our meeting with reference to the gift of charity and the importance of this trait. He told us how much closer to God we would become if we seek to have that superb quality.

Ref: Moroni 7:47, "But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him."

In preparation for Sister Kathy's ordination, her feet were washed, then the Priesthood formed a circle around her and Brother John Collison offered prayer. Brother Frank Vitto ordained Sister Kathy. A glorious spirit prevailed as Sister Kathy embraced each brother and subsequently each Deaconess.

Brother Lou Vitto was inspired as he spoke to the congregation and encouraged those that were non-members to consider coming into the Gospel.

Brother Don Collison followed with a few inspiring remarks.

The spirit of God touched several brothers and sisters as they bore their testimonies. Sister Nicole relayed a dream she had where she saw Sister Sylvie, Sister Kathy, and herself working together in harmony for the Lord. A wonderful spirit of confirmation was felt.

Brother Mike LaSala closed our meeting in prayer. We can truly say that the Lord was in our midst as we enjoyed an uplifting and beautiful day.

## Hallelujah, The Gospel Is Restored!

There is nothing on this earth that can compare to the glory of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no power on earth that can touch and change lives like the power of the Spirit of God. We, who have seen the beauty of the Restoration, who have experienced the great love of Jesus Christ, want to see our families, our friends, our co-workers, our communities experience this same love and beauty. We know that the message of the Restoration has life-changing power to enlighten hearts and minds of all who hear. Truly, it is time to express our joy and appreciation to everyone around us.

Several years ago, Brother Patrick Giannetti (of the Mesa, Arizona Branch) shared the following dream with the brothers and sisters:

"I dreamt I was in a large classroom very much like a school setting. All my friends were with me; friends I had known all my life since I was young, and friends I had just met upon beginning high school. On one wall of the classroom was a huge bookcase filled with hundreds and hundreds of books. A little girl I did not know went up to the bookcase and pulled out a very small book of hymns. She turned to the hymn, *Hallelujah! The Gospel Is Restored*. Immediately she came up to me and asked me what the hymn meant. I told the little girl, 'All I can do is sing it for you.' And as I began to sing this song, my voice sounded like it was operatic, and I sang with great power. [Now, I love to sing, but the Lord never blessed me with a great singing voice; but in this dream I sang with the Spirit of God.] As I continued to sing, the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon my friends, and they began to weep. And they looked at me and said [pertaining to the song], 'We don't fully understand your story, nor do we understand what we are feeling, but we want this in our lives. We want this feeling.' And they kept weeping and weeping."

Brother Patrick commented, "It was the Spirit and the power of the

Restoration that was affecting my friends, for when the Gospel was restored, Truth was restored, and the day is going to come that as the true Gospel Restored is preached, people may not understand the Restoration fully, or understand everything about us, but they are going to want the Truth."

May our God grant us the spirit of praise for His gift of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May this spirit overflow from our hearts to our voices so that everyone around us may hear and be touched. May we be as David and all Israel who sang and played before God with all their might as they carried the Ark of the Covenant to its rightful place. As we sing, the Spirit of the Lord will convey the magnificence and beauty of the message to all who hear, and we will see the hand of God working in their lives. Hallelujah, the Gospel is Restored!

## Phoenix, Arizona Mission

By Sister Bethany Dyer

No one could deny feeling the 117 degree heat in Phoenix on July 1, 2007, and they could not deny feeling the Spirit of God in the Phoenix Mission either. Brother AJ Dyer opened the service by sharing the message from the Pacific Coast's Region Evangelists Weekend, which was that we ALL need to be missionaries. In the Sunday service the previous week in the Anaheim California Branch, the five region evangelists were in unison with the message that they cannot do it all—the Pacific Coast is a large region for just five men to publicize the Gospel. Brother AJ exalted the group of nine members in attendance that we need to take sin out of our lives in order to gain a closer walk with Christ because it is that closer walk which will give us more testimonies to share.

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## Phoenix, Arizona Mission

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To illustrate, Brother AJ recounted a story from when he was in the seventh grade and was a guitar player in a garage band. He relayed how he got a black Flying-V electric guitar in the hope of becoming a rock and roll star. As time went on, the longer he was in the band, the more he was exposed to things which could tempt him away from God. Brother AJ expressed how God had a different plan for his life though, and called him into the Church a few years later. Brother AJ admitted he did not get rid of the black guitar when he was baptized though. Brother AJ then read 2 Corinthians 15:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a *new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," and shared how he made excuses for not getting rid of the black guitar for a few years. He told us every time he looked at the black guitar it was a reminder of that time in his life. He also read Matthew 5:29, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Hell," and shared how he knew he needed to get rid of the black guitar. Brother AJ related that last year he traded in his black guitar for a beautiful twelve string guitar that he now plays in church in Tucson since there is no resident piano player in the mission there. He showed how God took his past reminder and turned it into a blessing!

Brother AJ in addition read Moroni 7:15, "For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night," and explained how each of us have been given the understanding to know what it is in our lives holding us back from our service to God. The step is to recognize what those sins are in our lives and then to eradicate them. Brother AJ challenged each of us to go home that night, think about our sins

and work on ways to get rid of them. Then he asked us to come to church next week or in the weeks to come and testify of God's goodness and the blessing of having that sin removed.

Brother AJ concluded, we have to remove those sins in order to strengthen our testimonies; making us all better missionaries for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Brian Martorano asked the congregation to sing *I Surrender All*. He followed by asking us to think back to the day we were *called* and stated on that day how easy it was to surrender ourselves to Christ. As time passes, we find ourselves getting caught up in other things, work, school, etc., and we make it difficult for us to surrender our all to Christ. He went on to reference the parable of the rich young ruler who had followed all of the commandments, but asked what he needed to do to obtain eternal life. In the story, Christ tells the ruler to sell all of his possessions, give them unto the poor and follow Him, but the ruler was reluctant to part with his worldly treasures. Brother Brian remarked it was not the Lord's intention to make the young ruler poor, but merely to test his willingness to surrender his all, to part with his "black guitar."

Brother Brian then read a few verses past the one Brother AJ opened with, 2 Corinthians 5:20, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." Brother Brian concluded that before we can be ambassadors to the world we need to get rid of the "black guitars" in our lives.

The congregation went on to sing *Sing Hallelujah* in *The Songs of Zion* and *Revive Us Again* out of the *Saints Hymnal*. At the conclusion of the testimony service, Sister Yvonne Saffron gave her testimony and thanked God for the sermons. She shared how that morning she read both the scriptures the brothers read, which she knew was a confirmation of the message given to us.

May God bless each of you in your service to Him.

## It Is Written

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

(Continued from June, 2007 Issue)

## BEARING TESTIMONY IN A FELLOWSHIP MEETING

In the sixty-four years I have been in the Church, I have heard many kinds of testimonies given in a fellowship service, to wit; praise, lamentation, travelogue, complaint, et al. Seldom has any of the above, except praise, ever caused the windows of heaven to open and the Spirit of the Lord to encircle the saints. Permit me to clarify briefly.

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

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

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

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

assistance of God in one's life.

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

Return with me to the fellowship meeting. The Presiding Elder notifies the congregation that it's time for testimony. No one gets up. A few minutes expire. One person gets up, bears testimony and sits down. No one else gets up. The Presiding Elder calls a hymn to motivate and/or inspire the members to testify. Nothing happens. More hymns are called. Maybe another member gets up, speaks and sits down. More hymns are called. Nothing much is happening. Is everyone waiting to be inspired?

One should always be inspired (ready) to testify. Home should be left prayerfully, asking God to bless the service, inspire the ministers, bless the congregation and bless oneself when (not if) it's time to arise and praise His Holy name. A good practice of meditating daily about the Lord and spiritual things also helps to give one freedom to arise in fellowship services and give God the praise He rightfully deserves. The Psalmist says, *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches* (Psalm 63:5-6). Try it, brothers and sisters. It really works. It is also written: *I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people* (Psalm 35:18).

In "praise" meetings, the names of God and Jesus Christ are exalted. The Lord speaks from heaven and the glory of His Spirit fills the sanctuary; healings and miracles are received; time flees into oblivion and the spirits of all present are lifted to "higher ground."

Testifying vocally is not the only way to exalt God's name. The spoken word is not always necessary. At times, just singing His praises will fill the sanctuary with His Spirit, and the hearts of the saints will be replenished

with His glory. Often, the voices of angels have been heard to combine with those of the saints. What melody! What glorious harmony when that happens. No one wants to leave the meeting. No one wants to sever that wonderful tie that binds one to God and to each other.

Permit me to say, "When you are tried by afflictions, go to church. There you will find the Lord. Just praise Him! When temptations assail you, go to church. That's where the Lord will give you strength. Just praise the Lord! When stresses of a physical or mental nature beset you, go to church. That's where Jesus Christ will comfort you. Just praise the Lord! When you feel empty inside and your heart aches, go to church. That's where the Lord will take away your cares and console you. Just praise the Lord!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus, it is written.

## The Way of Salvation

Continued from Page 4

and running like the lightning. Can anyone doubt but what he saw our day and time of locomotives and railway system, automobiles and the electric cars with flaming headlights? He says that the gates of the rivers shall be opened. Just notice the locking system of our streams, and the large steel bridges that swing open that ships might pass by. Surely this man had forsaken his own ways and sought the path of his God whose wisdom knew no bounds.

We might refer the reader to many more events just as important as the ones already referred to but the fact that the life and mission of our Saviour was the greatest event spoken of by the prophets. We wish to draw the attention of the reader to the ways of Christ—in part—while He was on earth, and also of His disciples who carried out His instructions.

Second Peter, chapter 1, verse 21, informs us that prophecy came not in old times by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Hence, we find this to be the secret of the whole matter. The gift of the Holy Ghost is promised unto all those who will repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. Acts, 2nd chapter, 39th verse, "For the promise is unto you and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

First chapter of First Peter, 23rd verse, informs us that the word of God abideth forever. Isaiah, 55th chapter, 11th verse, tells us that "His word shall not return unto Him void." In Matthew, 28th chapter, 18th verse Jesus declares that all power is given Him both in heaven and earth, and instructed His disciples relative as to their mission to the nations in verses 19 and 20. He says, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Now, as the reader no doubt believes that Jesus was the Son of

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## The Way of Salvation

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God, and the scriptures to be the word of God, it is only fair that we should give heed to His—the Master's—instructions relative to us attaining an inheritance in His eternal Kingdom and not put our trust in man, "whose breath is only in his nostrils," (Isaiah, 2nd chapter, 22nd verse).

In the 14th chapter of St. John, Christ tells those who love Him and keep His commandments that He would pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth and so forth.

In the 16th chapter of St. John, He speaks of this same Comforter that is to come, and of the spirit of truth, which was to lead and guide them into all truth and show them things to come. In St. Luke, 24th chapter, 49th verse, the Saviour refers again to this Comforter and tells His disciples to tarry at Jerusalem until they be endowed with power from on high. Numerous writers of the New Testament, as well as the Old, refer the reader to this same promise. This promise of the Holy Ghost was poured out on the Day of Pentecost in cloven tongues of fire, and the disciples spake in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And the multitude was amazed because they heard Galileans speaking the wonderful works of God in the tongue in which they were born. The many different nationalities represented in the multitude heard these things in their own language, (Acts, 2nd chapter). Most readers are willing to admit this wonderful pentecostal event, but want to maintain that it was only to establish the church in that day, and that there would be no succession of these events among the children of men, but as we have already drawn your attention to the words of the Apostle Peter in this same chapter, "For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The reader will notice that there is no limitation to these promises as far as time is concerned. Accord-

ing to the Scripture these blessings followed those whom obeyed the commands of the Saviour. The ways of God is life, while the end of the ways that seem right unto man is death. The mission of our Lord was to establish an order by which man might have eternal life. By obedience to His ways, repentance and baptism, we are promised the gift of the Holy Ghost. We find many instances in Holy Writ, that when the penitent obeyed the Gospel that the disciples laid their hands on them, praying the Father that the promise might be bestowed upon them, "Baptizing them with fire and the Holy Ghost," (Matthew, 3rd chapter, 11th verse). "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but He that cometh after me is mightier than I whose shoes I am not worthy to bear." "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire," surely if we are believing men and women in the word of God, we will be willing to abide by His word rather than the words of men who seem to be learned, yet who are in conflict with the Word of God. Second Timothy, chapter 3, shows that there are men that will be ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. So, reader, let's leave the Word of God decide as to how we are to receive the promise. Notice Acts, 8th chapter, 14th and 17th verses inclusive. Peter and John, two close associates of the Saviour, laying their hands on those baptized by Philip and they received the Holy Ghost. Could anything be plainer? See Acts, 19th chapter, from the first to the sixth verses, inclusive, "When Paul laid his hands upon them the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied," confirming the words of Christ in Mark, 16th chapter, 17th verse, "they shall speak with new tongues." We find recorded many accounts of blessings being bestowed upon mankind by the imposition of the hands of men who had previously repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins. St. Mark, 16th chapter, 17th verse, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." James, 5th chapter, 4th verse, "Is any sick among you let him call for the Elders of the

Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;" 15th verse, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick."

*(Editor's note: This is a reprint of the pamphlet, The Way of Salvation, published by The Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ.)*

(To be continued next month.)

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## Permaneciendo en Cristo

Continued from Page 1

Christ, so let us share the Gospel Restored with our family and friends." A beautiful spirit of repentance filled the testimony meeting as five brothers and sisters asked for forgiveness and desired to be reunited into the fold of God. It was a blessing to watch the renewed saints participate in the holy ordinance of Sacrament. Sister Mirna Rivas shared a recent dream she had confirming one of the sister's reinstatement.

Residing in the homes of the saints was an amazing experience. We stayed up many nights sharing experiences of miracles we had seen or heard, and whether we were teaching *The Songs of Zion* in Spanish or playing ball in the streets with the children, we had a joy in our hearts to be together.

During the week, Brother Luis Alberto and Sister Isabella Lopez from the Pedernales Mission traveled many hours with their two children to fellowship with the saints in Mexico

City. On Wednesday night, in this mission of 25 members, we were amazed to count over 50 saints and visitors. The women and the men each took turns singing songs with themes such as "Nada me faltara porque tu eres mi buen pastor" (I have no need of anything because you are my good Shepherd) and "Yo quiero trabajar por el Senor" (I want to Work for the Lord). Brother Juan opened the evening service with a question: "Why are you here tonight?" He brought to our attention that each of us was in attendance because we made that decision to be there. Brother Juan stated, "Whatever we do in life, we have to make a decision, and nothing is more important than the decisions that influence our spiritual lives." He elaborated on Alma 29:9 in which Alma talks about his desire to be an instrument in the hands of God to lead some soul to Christ. Brother Luis Alberto followed, asking us to think about our choices in relation to our spiritual integrity and our uprightness before the Lord.

After the meeting the saints fellowshiped joyously, taking photographs to capture precious memories and making memories the cameras could not capture. Lingered for hours after the service, the saints spilled out into the streets and continued to form bonds that will surely last forever.

Please keep in prayer the brothers and sisters of this mission as they send their love to the saints in the United States: "Que Dios le bendiga," God bless you.

## The Joy of Salvation

Continued from Page 3

Thy mercy like a river flows  
Throughout the passing years;  
Its power has healed my deepest woes  
And banished all my fears;  
Thy love is broader than the sea,  
And higher than the stars,  
That love has stooped to rescue me  
And broken sin's strong bars.

O Christ my Lord, in thee is found  
A wealth beyond compare,

Thy tender mercies still abound,  
Thy glory everywhere.  
O wilt thou deign to dwell in me,  
And claim me for thine own?  
My guide, companion, sovereign be  
To reign upon my throne.

## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

chased them until all their enemies were destroyed and fell before the Lord and the army of Asa. Then Asa's armies also attacked the cities round about Gerar who were against them and brought back all kinds of riches. There was gold and money, horses and chariots, hundreds of thousands of weapons and all the supplies that the huge army had carried with them, along with thousands of cattle and sheep.

As Asa returned to his kingdom, God's spirit came upon a man named Azariah, and he went out to meet Asa and all of the armies and said, "The Lord is with you, while you are with him. If you seek him [look for him] he will be found. But if you turn away from him, God will turn away from you. For a long time this country was without the true God, but when they were in trouble and turned to God, he was there. When you did not have God, nation was destroyed of nation.... Be strong now, and do not let your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded."

When Asa heard these words and felt the spirit of God, he took courage and put away all of the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin and out of the cities. He dedicated much of the riches they had taken to the house of God. Then he gathered all of the country at Jerusalem and offered a huge sacrifice of animals to God. Everyone there promised to serve the one true God. Many years passed in peace and security.

Then, in the thirty-sixth year that Asa ruled, his enemy, the King of Israel, came into a nearby city called Ramah and started to build a huge fortress. This enemy's plan was to cut

off the road to Asa's country so no one could go in or out. Instead of turning to God for help, Asa turned away from God. He came up with his own plan. He made a deal to take gold and silver out of the house of the Lord and from his own money and hire another king, from Syria, to help him. He paid this king to go and attack the cities of Israel. That way, the Israel King would stop building the fortress and rush back to his country to fight the armies of Asa's friends. God was not pleased.

God sent his messenger, Hanani, to Asa and reminded him, "Weren't the Ethiopians and enemy armies huge with many chariots and horsemen, but because you did rely on the Lord, he delivered them into your hands [let you win over them]? For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro [go back and forth] throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards him. You have done foolishly. From now on, you will have wars."

Asa did not want to be told he was wrong. He locked up God's messenger in prison. Asa's life became a misery. Less than three years later he got a terrible disease in his feet, and the disease was huge. But even in his disease, King Asa did not ask the Lord for help. He only went to the doctors for help and ignored our God of miracles. Two years later, he died.

A great king whose heart was once perfect in the Lord God and had won a great war, decided to do things in his own way. He did not turn to God when he was in trouble. That is a problem with us humans. At times we are quick to forget our wonderful God. Yet, we are promised, and we know that "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong on the side of those whose heart is perfect toward him." Next time you are in trouble, let God show himself strong and fight the battle for you. Do this the next time and the next time to the end of your days.

With love  
Sister Jan

## Children Blessed

Michael Julian Komjathy, son of Brother Tom and Sister Kim Komjathy, was blessed on April 8, 2007 in Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Sofia Elizabeth Pearl Mort, daughter of Clinton and Jodi (Parravano) Mort, was blessed on April 28, 2007 in the Modesto, California Branch.

Emily Leona Seighman, daughter of Dan and Crissy Seighman, was blessed on June 17, 2007 at the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Brylee Kate Stickel, daughter of Christopher and Rena Stroko Strickel, was blessed on June 10, 2007 at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Carl McCartney was reinstated on June 24, 2007 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother Derek Everett was baptized on March 8, 2007 at Detroit, Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Tom Everett and confirmed by Apostle Peter Scolaro.

Sister Rachel Lin Robinson was baptized on May 6, 2007 at the Liberty, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Dan McNamara and confirmed by Brother Frank Giovannone.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Brother Warren and Sister Suzette Deulus were reinstated on May 27, 2007 at the Modesto, California Branch.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Mary Pagniozzi of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 10, 2007.

Sister Adrienne Collison, of the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Olanda Cuomo Peltier, of the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Gail Sampson, of the Windsor, Ontario Canada Branch celebrated her 51<sup>st</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

ents, Genero Coppa and Anna Gagner, and her brother, John Coppa. Left to mourn her passing are her husband, John Clements; sons, John and Dennis and their wives Susan and Susan; sister, Elenor Standaert and grandchildren.

### MICHAEL DAVID PASTORELLI

Michael David Pastorelli, of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, passed on to his reward on March 18, 2007. He is survived by his grandparents, Brother Victor and Sister Dorothy Pastorelli, and Fred Serino and Carol Checchini; his parents, Michael Sr. and Danette Pastorelli, and his brother Nicolas.

### TIMOTHY BRIAN CAPONE

Brother Timothy Brian Capone of the LaGrange, Kentucky Mission passed on to his reward on May 31, 2007. He was preceded in death by his parents Brother Peter H. and Sister Frances Capone. He was an ordained Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Brenda; daughters, Colleen (Jake) Moore, Lisa (Mike) Meador and Melanie Capone with fiancé, Jonathan Suska, as well as three grandchildren.

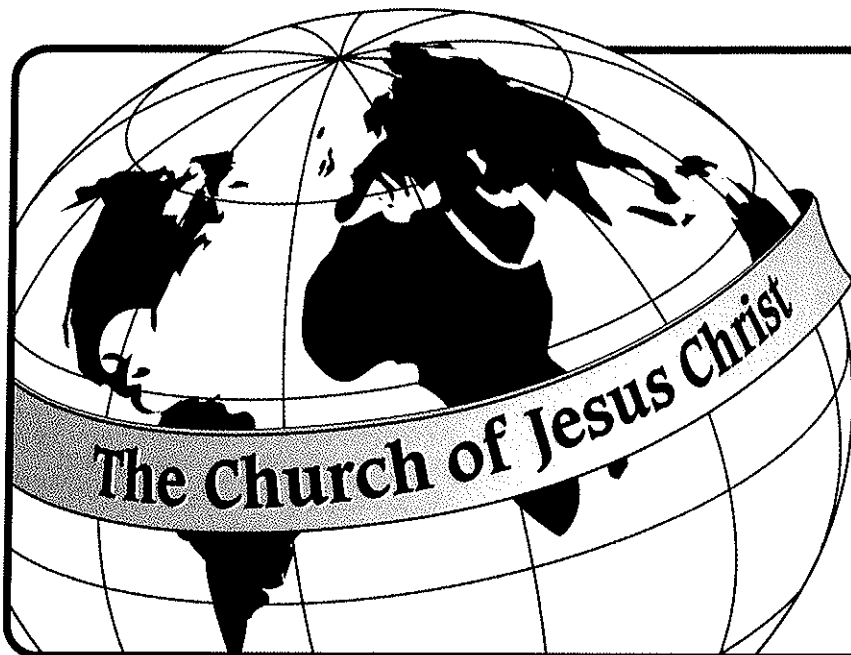
## OBITUARIES

### PAULINE RITZ

Sister Pauline Ritz of the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch passed on to her reward June 28, 2007. She was an ordained Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Nick Ritz and a son, Daniel Ritz. She is survived by one son, William Ritz; daughters, Sister Eileen Katsaras, Sister Betty Gennaro, Diana Matthews, Shirley Surowiec, Garnet (Toots) Giblin, Carol Ritz-Adam, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

### DOLORES CLEMENTS

Dolores Clements of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, passed on to her reward on April 13, 2007. She was preceded in death by her par-



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

September, 2007

Volume 63, No. 9

## Teach Me To Love

*By Brother Jameson Staley*

Many months before GMBA Campout 2007 was set to begin, the Lord had chosen a profound theme for the week, one whose depth and centrality in the Gospel message cannot be overstated. Brother Patrick Giannetti, Camp Director for the event, sat watching television when something incredible caught his attention. He watched in awe as he saw tens of thousands of people gathered into an arena for a Christian crusade, while still thousands more who could not fit in the building stood in the parking lot, awaiting some blessing from within. Amazed by this sight and stirred up by the realization of the number of people in the world who hunger and thirst for the things of God, Brother Patrick felt moved by the Spirit to kneel down and pray. He inquired of the Lord, "How is it done? How do we, The Church of Jesus Christ, get there?" The Lord's answer was beautiful, simple, and clear; He led Brother Patrick to the thirteenth chapter of John's Gospel. In this chapter, Jesus Christ instructs His disciples concerning the ordinance of feet washing and shares with them a "new commandment," one whose brevity and simplicity stand in stark

contrast to its overwhelming substance and weight, as witnessed by the Holy Spirit. The words jumped out at Brother Patrick: "Love...as I have loved you." This message would be the focus of an unprecedented week of learning, growth, and blessings, all by the grace of God.

As Camp opened on June 30<sup>th</sup>, over four hundred brothers, sisters, friends, and young people arrived at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. There could not have been a more beautiful setting for the much-anticipated week of blessings. Furman's picturesque, southern campus, which displayed beautiful green fields, wooded areas, and a calm lake provided yet another means of appreciating and basking in God's wonderful works during Campout. As always, an almost palpable sense of anticipation accompanied the first day of camp and its busy activities of unpacking cars, getting settled into rooms, and greeting brothers, sisters, and friends. Those who had previously attended knew to expect great blessings, and those who attended for the first time were eager for the kinds of experiences that have pervaded the testimonies of brothers and sisters from their home branches each summer for the past four decades.

After Saturday evening's orientation meeting helped the saints get acclimated with the Campout's

setting and schedule, as well as set the tone for the week's spiritual focus, the Sunday morning worship service signaled the commencement of a powerful spiritual journey for the congregation at Campout. After the members of the priesthood in attendance had gathered together to pray for the edification of the saints and the outpouring of God's Spirit, they opened the service by singing *Fill My Cup, Lord*, which was a truly unique and beautiful blessing, not only because of the rich, beautiful sonority of male voices in harmony, but because of the unity that this sight and sound conveyed through the Spirit of God. What followed was a powerful preaching service in which the ministry challenged the saints to make a fundamental shift in their hearts and minds concerning how we show love to one another and the world. They exhorted the Church to eliminate all actions from our lives that are devoid of love and to recognize and dispel the lies that the enemy of our souls encourages us to accept – that we "can't get along with everyone" or that some people just "rub us the wrong way" – to keep us from achieving the standard God has set concerning loving others. The presence of God's Spirit in guiding the meeting and its focus was evident as Brother David Catalano shared a

(Continued on Page 7)



## Israel's Advocate: NAOC Reaches Out to Cherokee Reservation; New NAOC Goals

*By Brother Peter Benyola*

The Native American Outreach Committee visited the Cherokee Reservation in Cherokee, North Carolina on Saturday, March 31st, 2007. The missionary team consisted of Evangelists George Kovacic, Anthony Ricci and Mark Kovacic, as well as Brothers Jonathan Molinatto and Ron Morle.

Upon discovering that a Pow-wow was to take place that weekend and since they would be unable to meet with any of the officials of the tribe, the brothers proceeded to go into the reservation to see where God would lead them. They reported that the reservation is very busy with tourism, mostly because of the Harrah's Casino and the Indian Tourist Center.

When the brothers entered the Information Center to get pamphlets and a schedule of events, the gentleman who was giving the information

immediately recognized Brother Jonathan. This man graduated from high school with Brother Jonathan's daughter and remembered him and Sister Virginia.

"I was amazed that he remembered the parents of a classmate from over 30 years ago," said Brother Anthony. "I felt this was not a coincidence and that this gentleman may have been able to help us. In discussion with him, he mentioned that he is a Baptist and explained why his people are accepting of Jesus Christ—because of the same belief system of One God."

Brother Anthony continued, "He said that he arranges for elders of his tribe to have interviews with some students from a local college. We all felt this could be beneficial for a youth group. Upon leaving he stated he feels that the Cherokee are a special people to God. Brother Mark

told him, 'So do we.' You could see this touched him and he requested to shake our hands. His name is Paul 'Buck' West."

"My personal observation and feelings," said Brother Anthony, "First and foremost—this was my first time on a reservation and the first time to be actively involved in the Native American work. I cannot tell you how blessed and exciting it was for me. My joy and blessing came from just being involved in the work. It is a work that needs diligence, a plan for establishing contacts, and then a plan of service and for us to be a presence on the reservation."

Brother Joel Gehly notified the Church that "Brothers Lyle Criscuolo, Dan McNamara, Joshua Gehly and I are planning a weeklong trip to Minnesota and North Dakota beginning August 6th. Our plans are to visit Church members in these remote states as well as visit as many Indian reservations as possible along the route to share the Church and our beliefs." The work continues to roll forward.

(Continued on Page 8)

## Israel's Advocate: Columbus Mission Reaches Out to Local Native Americans

*By Brother Peter Benyola*

Over several months in 2007, the Church's members in Columbus have visited events held by the Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio. Brother Joe Pennell, Sr., a Teacher of the Columbus Mission, was very pleased with the successful communication that took place with the Native Americans as a result of the help of the Church members at the Winter Feast. "I was immediately put to work helping hand out bags and boxes of food... The Center obviously has done this before and was very organized about it. I got to meet the people I was working with and found them to be very friendly," said

Brother Joe. He added that many of the young Native American volunteers were troubled youths who were carrying out community service through the Center.

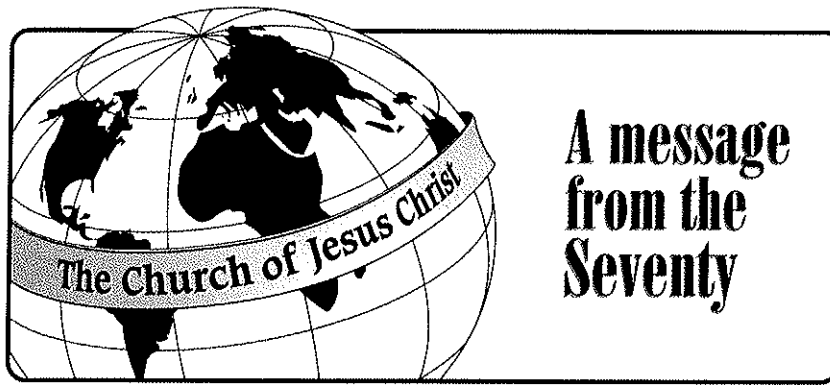
The NAICCO, which is located in Columbus, describes itself as non-profit, intertribal corporation founded in 1975. Created and governed by First Nations people, the Center exists to preserve, protect, and promote Native American spirituality, culture, and philosophy. The philosophy of the Center has many similarities to the mission of The Church of Jesus Christ as found on its website. The NAICCO strives to inspire its mem-

bers to do a number of things which include: deliver services with respect, compassion and integrity; encourage spiritual, physical, mental and emotional growth, wellness, and recovery; and make decisions with respect and regard for past, present, and future generations. Learn about them at [www.naicco.com](http://www.naicco.com).

Others who participated in the weekend were Brother Allan Metzler and Sisters Denise Pennell, Charlene Metzler, Bonnie Metzler, Loretta Nelson and Mary Lou Metzler. They helped with preparing and serving dinner, which was a small deed but also a beautiful fulfillment of prophecies referring to a time when latter-day Gentiles will begin to labor alongside the people of Israel.

"Getting out of my comfort zone, what I have found are a people

(Continued on Page 9)



## South America New Works Ecuador Trip – May 2007

Brothers Isaac Smith, Richard Christman and Daniel Mora traveled to Ecuador in May 2007. An account of our travels is as follows:

We arrived after many obstacles were overcome by the intervention of our God. He was very much aware of our needs and our desire to preach the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. We were very thankful for all the prayers and efforts made on our behalf.

After holding our first service, we then visited the Pauta family home. We first had a discussion regarding the welfare of the respective families and then regarding the prime message of salvation as given by the Church. Baptism was discussed and why it is necessary for adults and not children. They provided us a beautiful meal. Brother Daniel arrived sick and had to take antibiotics and be anointed as he had a fever and his throat was very sore. We tried a traditional remedy as well. The remedy was raw turnip juice, which was strong and distasteful. Despite his sickness, Brother Daniel was ready for the Sunday service knowing we were dependant upon his ability to sing, speak, preach and translate. We also used this opportunity to bless several children.

During one of the meetings, a visitor from Peru walked in and asked for prayer for a spinal condition as well as for a group coming from Peru. Many of the 15 people in attendance were also anointed, along with

Brother Daniel as well. Brother Isaac then spoke regarding who we are and spreading the seed, referencing it to the parable of the sower and expressing a hope for good ground in this congregation. He elaborated on the seed growing and eventually enabling us to be part of the body of Jesus Christ. He also referred to the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Brother Daniel followed Brother Isaac. He spoke about the security the Church provides for the development of the seed and offers a good environment to grow in, like the Ark of Noah provided a safe refuge for the believer. Brother Dick spoke about our love for them and how our wives feel the same and have the same desires. He reiterated some of Brother Isaac's comments relative to our sole desire in bringing them the hope of Jesus Christ and the love of God. We had a wonderful season of thanksgiving. Brother Daniel then related how God had been with his family while his daughter was in the hospital and the difficulties in getting to Quito. Then many others expressed their thankfulness and gratitude. One man stated he was glad we came and gave the new message and hoped he could understand about his background. A woman said she had just met us but felt good in the meeting.

We made a circle of the group and closed in prayer. Daniel had brought children's clothing and some crayons and other items he distributed to the families. We also gave some

Books of Mormon to several people as well as one New Testament.

There are good possibilities in this location which is also convenient for all concerned. However, we must be prayerful for those who are in contact with the Church. Just as we find all over the Church, life is busy and takes us away from the service God deserves. God provided all we needed and most of all, He provided His Spirit.

We then visited with a mother and her family. They told us of a school for native children in the area of Ambato, which is two and a half hours from Quito. We planned to visit that area and try to make contacts with the indigenous groups

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*"Just as we find all over the Church, life is busy and takes us away from the service God deserves. God provided all we needed and most of all, He provided His Spirit."*

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there. While in this location we wanted to visit a school for Indian children and get acquainted with the area. Ambato is a rather large city and it took us some time to locate the school. It had six teachers and one custodian, and the building was old and was donated for the use of the school. The Quichua Indian children were very friendly, as were the teachers.

Overall, this was a wonderful trip that has allowed us to see the opportunity for The Church of Jesus Christ in Ecuador. We are thankful for the support of the South American Sector and the IMOC for all their prayers, efforts and efficient help.

We ask each of our readers to remember this work among the Ecuadorians, as well as the rest of the Tribe of Joseph and the rest of the world. May God richly bless you for your efforts and prayers.

## Serving the Church as a Missionary to Africa

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

Many years ago in the fall of 1979 when contemplating making my first trip to Nigeria and Ghana, Africa, I was informed by a faithful missionary to Africa, Evangelist John Ross of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch that I would fall in LOVE with the brothers and sisters of the Church in these countries and would want to make repeated trips. That certainly proved to be true because it has been almost 28 years since making my first of many missionary trips to Africa and I look for the opportunity when another trip can be planned.

The Africa Sector has experienced rapid growth over the last few years to where we have eight mission fields of which two are New Works. The countries where the Restored Gospel is being preached are Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, and most recently Zambia and Mozambique. In total our membership stands at approximately 5,760. There are many wonderful brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ in these countries who have dedicated themselves to serving God, many of whom are faced with poverty, environmental conditions, and in some instances, in country violence on a daily basis. E-mail messages of God's providence and power of healing are received and the Restored Gospel message is being preached by our brothers of the Priesthood in these different countries.

A recent experience came from the DR Congo by phone from our beloved Brother Cipeng K Kapend, the President of our Church there, relating one of our brothers who has been instrumental in laboring for the advancement of the Church in the Congo became very ill with a serious life-threatening skin disease. Brother Cipeng stated he and many members of the Church were very concerned because of hearing that other people with this same disease had died within

a very short time. This brother, named Eugene, is an ordained Teacher and is our translator during our visits when addressing the members and friends who attend our worship services. The brothers and sisters of the Church and some of us who were informed of his illness went into prayer on his behalf, appealing for God to extend His hand of healing and preserve his life, that it might be another testimony to our brother, his wife and child, and also to the Church membership there and the many visitors who attend worship services. Brother Eugene is a valuable instrument in the Church and is needed to continue assisting Brother Cipeng and the DR Congo Ministry in caring for the support and encouragement of the Church membership. During a recent phone conversation with Brother Cipeng, he informed me Brother Eugene has recovered from the illness, is well again, has been healed completely and is able to continue working for the advancement of the Church and the encouragement of the saints in that part of the world. *All Praise is given to our God for this great miracle and our answered prayers.*

Just a little background on Brother Eugene. He studied and received a Doctorate in Sports Medicine at Penn State University and, while in the United States he decided to learn the Italian language. His roommate was Italian. When we first met him in January of 2005, he was just a translator and a person with whom I could hold a conversation in Italian. As time passed during our first visit to the DR Congo, God began to work in a marvelous way with him. He heard and translated the message of the Restoration for the first time. He saw love coupled with our friendship shown to the Congolese people and witnessed a number of converts baptized. This was all new to him which made him do some serious thinking of where he stood with God. One evening after a very exhaustive day of traveling and translating, he retired for the night and had a short dream in which a personage appeared to him and asked him simply what he was waiting for to get baptized. When

he came to our seminar class the following morning for the purpose of translating, he related what had occurred in the dream to all of those who had been baptized, and we missionaries felt the joy of another soul wanting to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. He is a wonderful brother to meet and converse with. His wife was baptized about six months ago after our visit in 2006.

### Missionary Visit to Rwanda March / April 2007

Rwanda is a mission field that experienced the message of the Restoration for the first time in 2005 through Brother Chatman Young. It is our practice when a new mission field is established to make return visits as often as it is feasible, to continue having training seminars of new Elders and other ordained officers. Brother James Crudup, the Rwanda Mission Field Chairman, and I planned a trip in the latter part of March and the first two weeks of April to revisit our Church membership for the purpose of encouraging them, to conduct training seminars for the Elders, and to prepare documentation to begin the process of registering our Church with the Rwandan Government.

We received a warm welcome from our Brother Alexander Rudatsikira and his First Counselor, Brother Jean Pierre, and Habimana and the brothers and sisters upon our arrival. The saints each send their love and regards to the Church membership here in America requesting prayers on their behalf. The country has made a successful comeback since the time of the genocide in 1994. We saw a great improvement within the infrastructure of the country, observing a lot of construction of new homes, hearing of many investors trying to rebuild what had been destroyed and giving the citizens of that country the opportunity to advance their living and also their learning skills.

The membership of the Church is growing and we observed an increase of young people visiting the Church

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil....And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die....Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 2:9, 16-17; 3:1-6).*

God created a garden with EVERY tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. There was only one tree which Adam and Eve were not to partake of. This is such a perfect example for us today, spiritually. God has given us all the blessings and bounty we can imagine. We can partake of it all if we want to. But mankind tends to focus on the one thing they don't have. It reminds me of a small child. When you tell a child to stay away from the stove when it is on because they can get burned, despite having a house full of toys, the child becomes fixated on touching the stove, the one thing they should stay away from. Notice how God first points out how pleasant everything looks, visually. He presents Adam and Eve something that is beautiful to look at visually. The next step is desire to partake (He says the trees are good for food). The final step is indulging in those good things, or blessings. When we see all that God has given us, or can still give to us, it should be pleasant to the sight. We should desire it, and then finally partake of His blessings. And what He has given us is immense. Just look around you. We should be devouring all the blessings and goodness of God which is food for our soul.

Satan uses the same technique as God, but for evil, not good. He points out to Eve that the one tree God commanded them not to partake of, was actually good for food, and that she could become like God, having great knowledge. So Eve went down this pathway with Satan, visually seeing that the tree of knowledge was good for food. Next was the desire to partake (a tree to be desired to make one wise). The final step was indulging in the fruit of the tree of knowledge. She saw it, desired it, and partook of it. Even worse, she went one step further and gave it to Adam to partake. It is bad enough when we follow these steps into sin, but worse when we involve others. There really is no sin that we commit which will not affect someone else.

Funny how the same thought process can be used for good or for evil. If we can control ourselves during the first step (visually seeing), then we can control whether we go down that pathway or not. If it is a pathway leading to sin, we can turn away from what we are seeing and not get to the next step of desire. But on the other hand, if we can behold the blessings God bestows on us (which are many), then we can fully allow ourselves to desire them, and fully partake of them. When we do this, we are fully satisfied and do not desire the ONE THING we don't have, which is sinful and bad for our souls.

Let's realize that serving God may mean giving up that one tree (so to speak), which will only lead to death anyway. Let's take our focus off that one tree and see the thousands or millions of other trees that are good for our soul.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## The Choice Land

Dear Friends,

If God spoke to your parents in a dream or vision and told them that a huge destruction was coming in the land, what would you do? In the days of Lehi, God told him to take his family, his friend Ishmael, who had daughters and sons, and a man named Zoram and leave their great city of Jerusalem. God told Lehi he would bring him and his people to a new land of promise that is choice above all other lands in the world. They left their beautiful homes, jewels and property. They traveled on foot for eight years, crossing deserts and jungles before they reached the ocean and built ships to sail away to the Promised Land. We believe they landed on the Pacific Ocean side of South America near the country of Peru.

Now this land had been occupied already for nearly two thousand years. A huge nation of people had been living and fighting here. This group's ancestors came over during the Tower of Babel days. They followed the leadership of a godly man named Jared, and his brother. They came around the year 2250 B.C., over two thousand years before Christ was born. They were true followers of God for many hundreds of years. When they shared and took care of each other, God blessed them immensely. When some of them became greedy and wanted to have power over the others, fighting and warfare broke out. Battles were fought and won, or lost. God was not pleased when the people in this land became evil and full of hate.



God sent the prophet Ether to warn them. "Behold, this is a choice land. Any nation that lives here will be free from other nations attacking them if they will just serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ..." (Ether 2:12). "If they will not serve God, they shall be swept off!" (Ether 2:10).

Ether went to the King and told him that this was a special land to God and that anyone who lived here must serve God or be wiped off the face of the earth. King Coriantumr and his warrior sons did not listen. They wanted to fight. They did not want peace; they wanted to kill and destroy their enemies. They threatened Ether and he had to hide.

They shut God out of their hearts and thoughts. Lawlessness and robbing others grew. People started forming gangs to protect their family or to take things from someone who was weaker (Ether 13:5). The people hardened their hearts against all of God's warnings. Men, women and children were murdered. Soon people had to leave their towns and homes and join a group just for protection (Ether 14:27). Hatred grew. People and their families joined King Coriantumr or his enemies to fight, and war. The smell of dead, unburied bodies filled the air as the warring went on, year after year.

Never did they repent. All the people upon the face of the land gathered to fight. Only the prophet Ether was free. He hid in a cave during the day and at night went out too see what was happening. For four years, each army hunted across the land and forced people to join them or be killed. The two kings set a day for the final, horrible battle. On that day

that everyone was gathered, huge armies made up of fathers, mothers and children all marched forth. They were armed with all kinds of weapons of war (Ether 15:15). They fought and killed each other all day then returned to their camps, exhausted. Ether heard them that night as they screamed and howled over their loved ones who had been destroyed that day.

The next day the terrible battle continued, and as the night came again, the people filled the darkness with their cries and screams over their lost loved ones. Yet they never stopped and begged God for help. They had turned against the Spirit of God and let Satan have full power of their hearts. One

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### WORD SEARCH

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## Teach Me To Love

Continued from Page 1

dream he had the previous evening in which he saw Brother Tom D'Orazio opening the service, delivering the very same message that the congregation had just heard from Brother Tom. That message was clear and piercing: we must love all people the way Christ loves them.

Monday was the first day of the true "Campout routine," a busy, fun, and exciting schedule that continues through Thursday and includes a chapel service, seminars, recreation, crafts, a night meeting, and fellowship each day. While maintaining this same basic plan, GMBA Campout 2007 included some new methods of participation in many of these daily activities. Most notably, the seminar organization differed from years past in that instead of classes being divided by age, adult attendees were randomly assigned to groups that included representatives from all age groups. Every day, each attendee would be in a seminar with different peers and different teachers. This provided variety in insights, perspectives, and testimonies from which each individual could learn and grow throughout the week. Each day, Monday through Thursday, every adult class would explore the theme of love from a different perspective, each developed from the acronym L.O.V.E. (Lifestyle, Obedience, Values, and Endurance).

Another significant change to Campout's usual activities was the organization and execution of the adult recreation/sports. Brother Jim Draskovich, Coordinator of Adult Recreation, wanted to revisit the competitive spirit of past Campouts in the late Seventies and early Eighties. In contrast to recent years in which camp-goers would enjoy recreation by organizing themselves into new teams each day for games of basketball, volleyball, softball, and other team sports, Brother Jim wanted to develop teams that would remain together all week, promoting a sense of team spirit. In addition, each day's activities were planned to the smallest detail, and a record was kept of each game's

victor, leading up to the final crowning of a champion at the week's end. Games included sports as well as other competitive activities, which allowed for participation by a greater number of brothers, sisters, and young people. This method of recreation proved to be very popular, as team members proudly wore their colored bandanas, invented team cheers, and competed all week to prove which team was the best. In the end, the Blue Team's rendition of *Blue Will Love You*, led by front man, Brother Bruce Picciuto, earned them the championship in the competition's finale, a cheer contest judged by the GMBA Officers and the Camp Director.

The Wednesday evening service at Campout was a truly unforgettable spiritual experience. As the week progressed, the GMBA Officers felt prompted by the Spirit of God to have the entire congregation of brothers and sisters at Campout participate in the ordinance of feet washing. While they felt God turning their hearts in this direction and acknowledged the profound effect this ordinance could have on the brothers and sisters at this time and place, considering the Campout's theme, they cautiously approached the Lord in prayer to confirm His will in the matter. Considering the large group of saints to be participating, the Officers also desired that if the Lord wanted the saints to observe this ordinance, that He would provide a way for it to take place in accordance with the order of the Church. In order to seek God's will in the matter, the GMBA Officers and the Camp Director gathered together to discuss this desire and to pray for direction. As they did, the Spirit of God entered the room and fell on each of the brothers very powerfully, and they all felt the same confirmation of the Lord's will. So, with the blessing and support of the Apostles in attendance, the GMBA Officers moved forward with plans to have a feet-washing service.

In the day and a half that followed this decision, numerous experiences confirmed that God had indeed directed the brothers in this matter. The GMBA Officers provided the

Head Deacon and Head Deaconess with money raised by selling opportunities to soak the Officers themselves in a dunk tank on Tuesday at a small carnival held on campus. This light-hearted fundraiser, which no doubt produced a lot of laughs, would turn out to be the source of a serious blessing and confirmation. When the Head Deacon and Head Deaconess went to purchase the items needed to facilitate the feet-washing service, they considered many options for which items would best fulfill the purpose of feet washing in the space provided. When all was said and done, and the items were selected and purchased, the total price for all the utensils was just a few dollars less than the amount provided by the GMBA. In addition to this confirmation, the beautiful chapel that the GMBA wanted to use for this service was available for the time the Church needed it, and the university showed no resistance whatsoever to the Church participating in feet washing in the building. Everything fell into place just at the right time in order for the Church to receive this wonderful blessing.

As the saints gathered on Wednesday evening for the feet washing service, more confirmations were still at hand. As Brother Isaac Smith opened the service in prayer, he spoke with the gift of tongues, and the interpretation was, "This is My will. Now My arms are open. Thus saith the Lord." Shortly thereafter, as the congregation finished singing *The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning*, Brother John Griffith was given these words under the influence of the Spirit: "I bless you this evening as you hold to My standard. Thus saith the Lord." As God repeatedly confirmed His will regarding the meeting, the Holy Spirit began to move in the congregation, and the brothers and sisters now looked forward to the moments ahead with anticipation of the expression of love and humility they would experience.

Just before the congregation began to wash one another's feet, Sister Rosanne Champine sang a

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## Teach Me To Love

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beautiful song entitled *Teach Me To Love*. Although the song had been a favorite of many of the saints for two decades, it seemed as though the words had been written for that very night and that very moment. During the course of the meeting, the Lord taught the saints of God at GMBA Campout just what it means to love one another. Through the Spirit of God, three hundred and fifty brothers and sisters participated in the ordinance of feet washing in good order and in the spirit of true love and humility, all in just one hour. The powerful Spirit that led the service was met with loving support and preparation on the part of the deacons and deaconesses present at the camp, who quickly responded to the task at hand and worked in harmony with the Officers and the congregation to make such a great blessing available to those in attendance.

Although pairs of brothers and sisters were neither chosen nor assigned for the ordinance, the Holy Spirit was noticeably involved in this matter as well. Some saints shared the experience with brothers or sisters they knew well, while most others participated with someone they knew very little, if at all. While brothers and sisters remained in their seats before or after participating, they offered silent prayers for those who were in the midst of washing or being washed. The love experienced during this service was unlike any that many of these brothers or sisters had ever felt before. Perhaps the sweetest fruit that came from this expression of love was that two souls in the congregation, after witnessing this amazing event and feeling the Spirit that accompanied it, requested baptism and became partakers of the same love they experienced in that service. Could there be any greater confirmation that this feet-washing service was in the plan of God than the fact that it directly led to the salvation of souls?

God's presence was even made known in the music of this meeting. Sister Florence Lombardo had been

asked to play the piano while the brothers and sisters participated in the washing of feet. Looking upon the congregation and realizing the momentousness of the occasion, she asked God to be so kind as to sit next to her and support her so that His will would be done. As she finished her prayer, she felt very strongly the presence of the Lord next to her as she played, and when she looked down at the keyboard, she saw four extra keys being pressed down, as if there were two hands in between hers playing along with her. The Lord was not only literally sitting with Sister Florence, comforting her and helping her make beautiful music for the saints, but also assuring her that He was indeed in control.

On the morning of the last full day of Campout, Thursday, the saints gathered at a beautiful site to witness the baptism of four souls unto Christ. It was as if God was smiling down at the sight of this gathering at the water's edge; the calm inlet of the lake, surrounded by trees, sat under a cloudless blue sky. Nia Haugh, Tony Staley, Josh Olexa, and Cara Dahl were all baptized on that beautiful morning, while four others requested baptism at Campout and traveled home to be baptized: Justin Pennell, Jordan Gibson, Samantha Giannetti, and Tawney Palmieri. The Thursday evening meeting included fun and beautiful programs from both the children's and adult choirs, a treasured Campout tradition. This meeting also included the bestowal of the Holy Ghost for the four baptized candidates as well as the GMBA Campout slideshow of photography taken during the week, a beautiful and emotional experience that has become a Campout tradition during the past several years.

While Friday morning's farewells were accompanied with sadness and a wish to remain in the presence of so many saints and so much love, the brothers and sisters departed armed with many new experiences and testimonies to share, as well as the comforting knowledge that they had begun a lifelong journey of learning to love one another and the rest of the

world the way that Christ loves. To view photographs of the Campout (or relive the blessings of other past Campouts), visit:

[www.thechurchofjesuschrist-gmba.org](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist-gmba.org).

If you had an experience during the feet-washing service at Campout, please send it to: [carlhutt4@comcast.net](mailto:carlhutt4@comcast.net), as *The Gospel News* would like to share these blessings with brothers and sisters in upcoming issues. May God bless each of you as you seek to reach the standard of Christ's love every day.

## NAOC Reaches Out

Continued from Page 2

The plan to continue to sow seeds of the Word of God among the Cherokee people is part of a larger set of goals for the NAOC. As part of its mission, the Committee will work with the General Church to instruct on the importance of the *Divine Commission*, as well as to implement the five-phase approach through the Quorum of Seventy and Region Missionary Operating Committees.

At the Region level, the NAOC will continue to maintain, strengthen, and expand the established Region Native American Outreach efforts. It will also encourage new efforts to deliver the Gospel message on reserves, tribal offices and urban centers either through Region NAOC or branches. In branches, members are also encouraged to participate in some manner.

In 2007 the Committee will complete general-use flyers and a DVD, as well as mail at least two issues of the *First Voices Journal*. The NAOC will plan at least one non-Region outreach effort in 2007 and increase by at least one per year. The three-year goal of the NAOC is that the General Church would show a distinct impact of all outreach efforts. The NAOC will initiate and report at least one new outreach effort within each Region and each branch every year.

The *Divine Commission* is not a lofty task relegated just to the missionary echelons of the Church, but for everyone who has a heart for the

work. Members should seek opportunities to share the Gospel with First Nations people in their neighborhoods and communities. The rewards the Lord has promised will have impact for eternity. Please let us know if *you* are working in the vineyard of the Lord and among His ancient covenant people, so that we can share the news with the rest of the Church.

## Columbus Reaches Out

Continued from Page 2

committed to their beliefs," said Brother Joe. "We cannot go to these people thinking we are going to tell them we know more than them if we expect success. The reason I have been accepted into these meetings is that I listen to them, not tell them."

"We have to become their friends and show them the Love of God before we can expect them to listen to us... When we say 'working side-by-side' [II Nephi 29:8] we have to understand that we may be learning from them also," Brother Joe said. He and the other brothers and sisters plan to continue to reach out to the Native Americans at this Center at their various upcoming events and powwows. They ask the brothers and sisters of the Church to remember to pray for the NAICCO since they had to close down for a month due to financial challenges. Brother Joe has been asked to be part of their fundraising committee and hopes to assist them with solving some of their problems, with the help of God.

Other acquaintances made over several NAICCO occasions have shown interest in coming to the Church's mission in Columbus. The brothers and sisters have listened to the testimonies of some Native Americans as they shared stories of the times when the Great Spirit has preserved them and shown His love toward them. The name "Great Spirit," one way of referring to God, occurs 18 times in chapters 18, 19, and 22 of the Book of Alma. The NAOC recognizes listening to American Indians and making connections between our faiths

as important steps to the process of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. Looking back at his experiences with Native Americans, Brother Joe said, "Money was not what was needed... I see a need for people to be involved here... Being there in person is what is going to make an impression."

At one of the NAICCO events, Brother Joe said that he got into a deep religious conversation with a Native American named Rick, who told him, "It is the Native way to help others." He spoke of the many times when he has put effort into helping someone else, and the Great Spirit has paid him back immediately. Is that not a very noble social value proven by our own values rooted in Christ's love? He proclaimed, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again!"

How we long for the day when we all can be numbered as one in His fold. Hasten that day when the Native Americans' indescribable sense of community and unparalleled loyalty toward one another can truly be brought to the table. At that time, the Seed of Joseph will likewise receive the greatest gift: salvation through Christ the Lord and following suit, the inheritance of the promises their people have been awaiting for generations.

## Missionary to Africa

Continued from Page 4

and being baptized. The sisters and young women had been holding Ladies' Circle meetings since the Church was established and requested an organization. With permission of the General Circle President, Sister Karen Progar, we organized a Ladies' Circle with 15 active members.

The young people are meeting together and requested us to organize an MBA unit, but because of our

schedule and the time with other planned activities, we were unable to do so. Having received permission from the GMBA and IMBA officers, we are planning an organization of the MBA during our next visit.

There is a group of men, women and children who are infected with the HIV/Aids virus that attend Bible study and prayer services conducted by Brother Alexander our Church President. For the more part, many of those afflicted with this disease are innocent of committing sin, but were abused during the period of the genocide and the disease transmitted. They have an organization approved by the government known as "The Faith Association," a number of which attend our Sunday worship services. Several of these patients have been baptized and have a song they love to sing entitled *We Are Planning and Want To Go To Jesus*. When they sing they do so from their heart and it brings tears to our eyes. However ill they may be, there is a smile on their faces and they desire to hear about the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ, who has brought renewed hope into their lives.

During this recent visit to Rwanda, documentation was prepared for the processing of our Church's registration. It may take some time to accomplish this; however, what was strange for us to hear was when the attorney who was preparing to translate one of our documents saw the name of our Church, *The Church of Jesus Christ*, he said in the 11 years he had worked for the Rwandan Government as an attorney processing the registration of numerous churches, this is the first time he has ever heard of a church by the name *The Church of Jesus Christ*. It was an opening for us to give a brief summary of what the faith of our Church is.

Sister Tacianna, a member of our Church who has HIV/Aids and also is the President of "The Faith Association" along with Brother Alexander, our Church President, arranged for us to meet the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor and the Executive Secretary of

(Continued on Page 10)

## Missionary to Africa

Continued from Page 9

their Province. We had much liberty in informing each of them what our mission was in coming to Rwanda and how we expect to accomplish it. We were not in their country only to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to establish His Church, but to provide assistance with a humanitarian project. Brother Jim, Brother Alexander, and I spent several hours telling them in separate meetings about the Faith of our Church, and at the end of each session we were told they would help us with every means at their disposal to accomplish our intent to help promote the Church and to begin a humanitarian project.

As I mentioned earlier, Sister Tacianna is very dedicated not only to the Church as a member, but also to her involvement with the HIV/Aids personnel who attend the Faith Association activities and to the officials of the local government. They have several sewing machines and conduct classes so the patients can learn how to sew and make clothing such as dresses and pants. There is a need to purchase more sewing machines and provide funds to buy material. A new HIV/Aids Hospital was recently constructed in a nearby village by a

European company and Sister Tacianna, being well known for her dedication with HIV patients along with Brother Alexander, made arrangements for us to visit the patients. We were requested to purchase some fruit and soap to pass out to the patients as our token of showing we care.

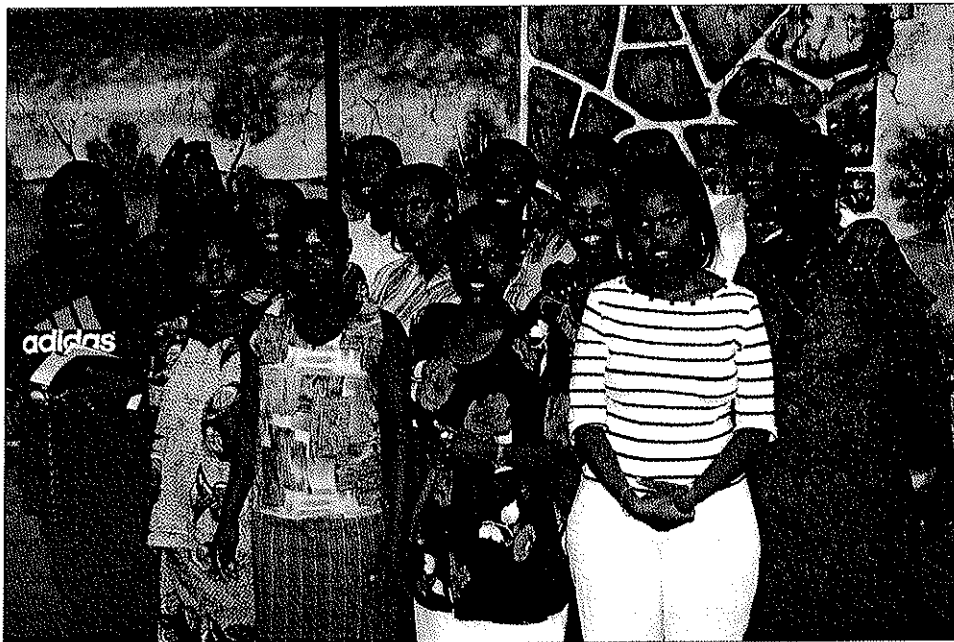
When we arrived, the Director of the Hospital, Doctor Diane, asked what our purpose was in visiting the hospital and we obliged her and explained why we wanted to visit the hospital. She had us appropriately dressed for entry into each ward; some patients we observed were in the last stages of their life with this dreaded disease. We were given permission by the Hospital Director to take a few photos of the patients and, upon entering each ward, the men, women and children being separate, she introduced us to her staff and explained what treatment was being given to the patients. Several male and female doctors are attending to the patients. They have volunteered their time by coming from other countries to live in Rwanda. Some of the patients were permanently housed and cared for while a few of the patients we saw were there for treatment. After our tour of the hospital ended, Doctor Diane asked us to offer a special prayer for them and their mission to

help treat and make the patients of the hospital comfortable and for the patients themselves that God may extend His mercy by helping them cope with this serious disease. A special feeling was present during our moment of offering prayer. It was really a touching experience to see first hand and hear of so many people dying of Aids.

Brother Alexander told us of a man, a pastor from a local church, who became disenchanted with the beliefs of the church he was attending and preaching. He wanted to begin his own church and mysteriously one day he happened to meet Brother Alexander and he began to tell him of his not being satisfied with his church and that he intended to start his own church. Brother Alexander related to him he was a Pastor of The Church of Jesus Christ recently established in Rwanda and before he would start a church, he and his family were invited to attend our Church and hear the Restored Gospel message. Brother Theodore by name came with his family the following Sunday and attended worship service and enjoyed what he heard. He and his wife were touched and requested to be baptized and have been faithful members of the Church for over a year. Brother Theodore was ordained a Teacher and is a contractor by trade.

We were blessed to witness seven baptisms and the blessing of the first baby born in the Church since being established there. However sad, we learned after the blessing of the child that it was born to parents who are HIV positive. The mother of the child is baptized. Our prayer was that God would protect the child and not allow any of the diseases that take children's lives at an early age to come upon him, that he would grow into manhood, be healthy and strong and become a worker for the Lord and His Church in that country.

A tragedy occurred during the last two days of our visit. Brother Damascene, an ordained Elder, and his wife Sister Jeanine, a Deaconess, suffered a tragic loss of one of their twin daughters. She was eight years old. It is unknown whether she was



Rwanda Ladies' Circle Members

crossing the street near her home on her way to school or whether she was walking too close to the road, but a car traveling at a high rate of speed hit and tragically took her life. The driver did not stop after hitting the child but the alert pedestrians who saw the accident followed the car to a nearby company and found the driver. We were with the family of Brother Damascene in our Sunday worship service just the day before this accident.

Brother Damascene took care of his daughter's funeral and the words he spoke were very touching. Eulogizing his daughter, he said God gave her to his wife and him for eight years. They enjoyed her for the time she was with them, but the time came when God wanted to take her back unto himself. He and his wife have accepted what God allowed to happen that day.

I could fill many pages of how blessed we have been being with the saints, our beloved brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ from the different countries we have visited.

As the Africa Sector Chairman, I would like to ask for help, if possible, from some other brothers of the Ministry who are not involved in any sector work at this time. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated because the work is getting too big for just a few of us presently involved to handle. Africa is a large continent with many countries which are open fields where the Restored Gospel message can be preached with much success under the inspiration and power of God to repentant souls, who can be converted to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, who came to redeem and offer salvation to those who believe and obey His commandments.

In conclusion, I humbly ask all of our brothers and sisters and friends who may read this message to offer prayer on behalf of our missionaries who are laboring to advance the cause of righteousness in the various mission fields throughout the world, but especially for our brothers and sisters who live abroad and must contend with severe circumstances in their everyday life. God Bless one and all.

## Publication Notice

A new *General Membership Directory* of The Church of Jesus Christ has been printed. The cost is \$9.00 plus shipping and handling. To purchase your directory, contact the Print House at:

8282 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
734-429-5080  
[Printhouse1@aol.com](mailto:Printhouse1@aol.com)

Also available is *Scriptural Lessons Taken from the Book of Mormon*. The cost is \$4.00, plus shipping and handling.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

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## The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

evil day followed another until the last man, woman and child lay dead upon the ground. King Coriantumr struggled against his enemy and killed him. Then

he passed out from loss of blood. When he awoke, the King was alone surrounded by the dead. An entire nation of millions of people had hated, fought, hunted and killed until all were dead.

Heaps of bones and large weapons made of copper and brass were all that was left behind. The people on the land of Promise had sinned so greatly that they wiped themselves off the face of the earth. The prophet Ether left behind a book made of twenty-four golden sheets that told the story of the Jaredite people and their lives on the Promised Land.

Scientists today who study old, ancient ruins of cities have found proof that a great civilization (that we call the Olmecs) was just abandoned. People walked off and left behind their tools, dishes for eating, and other things. No scientist can say why. But we know, from reading the Book of Mormon, that great hatred and warfare covered the land. When the spirit of God stopped working with people, entire cities marched off to war. When the Jaredite nation was killing them, God searched and brought the family of Lehi to the land. They prospered as long as they served God. When they fell into sin and unbelief, the Gentile, "white man" came.

We are warned that we, too, must serve God in order to live safely in this "Promised Land." The scriptures are full of prophecies and promises that God has given and fulfilled throughout the ages of time. Remember, our Lord does not change. "For the eternal purposes of the Lord shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled" (Mormon 8:22).

With much love and care,  
Sister Jan

## Ordinations

Sister Vanessa Tostado was ordained a Deaconess on December 17, 2006 at the Yucaipa, California Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Bertha Gonzalez and she was ordained by Brother David Arreola.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Daniel Mora, Jr., was baptized on October 8, 2006 at the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Daniel Mora Sr., and confirmed by Brother Mike LaSala.

Sister Brianne Miller was baptized on June 10, 2007 at the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. She was baptized by Brother Brandon Miller and confirmed by Apostle Phil Jackson.

Sister Alissa Romanski was baptized on July 8, 2007 at the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Jeff Giannetti.

Sister Stacey Muellenhagen was baptized on December 31, 2006 at the Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. She was baptized by Brother Larry Champine and confirmed by Brother Jeff Giannetti.

Brother Jason Panko was baptized on May 27, 2007 at the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tom Goode and confirmed by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Brother Joshua Olexa of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch was baptized on July 5, 2007 at the GMBA Campout. He was baptized by Brother Jonathan Olexa and confirmed by Brother David Catalano.

Brother Bill Dietrich was baptized on July 15, 2007 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Bill Colangelo and confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.

Sister Casey Noe was baptized on July 15, 2007 at the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother Bryan Griffith and confirmed by Brother Scott Griffith.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Jerry Benyola of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Children Blessed

Tyler Andrew Gilbert, son of Tyler and Angelica Gilbert, was blessed on July 9, 2007 in the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

Gabriella Grace Miller, daughter of Brother Brandon and Sister Christina Miller, was blessed on June 24, 2007 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Christian Jacob Markley, son of Brett and Celeste Markley, was blessed on December 31, 2006 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Jared Joseph Griffith, son of Jared and Corrina Griffith, was blessed on July 27, 2007 at the Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch.

Maverick Jack Benyola, son of Rick and Lavonne Benyola, was blessed on July 29, 2007 at the Yucaipa, California Branch.

Reeanna Jewel Baldwin, daughter of Roy Baldwin, was blessed on June 25, 2007 at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Joseph Anthony Saeli, son of Anthony and Julia Saeli, was blessed on July 8, 2007 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

## OBITUARIES

### MARGHERITA LaSALA

Sister Margherita LaSala of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to her Reward on September 25, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband, Anthony LaSala and by her daughter, Ginetta LaSala. She is survived by her children, Brother Mike LaSala and his wife, Sister Celeste; daughter, Sister Rosalie DiPronio and her husband, Brother Ben; and daughter, Sister Rosemary Paternoster and her husband, Brother Rocco. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, as well as her brother, Nicolas Russo and sister, Carmela Lombardi.

### JAMES (JIM) SPECK III

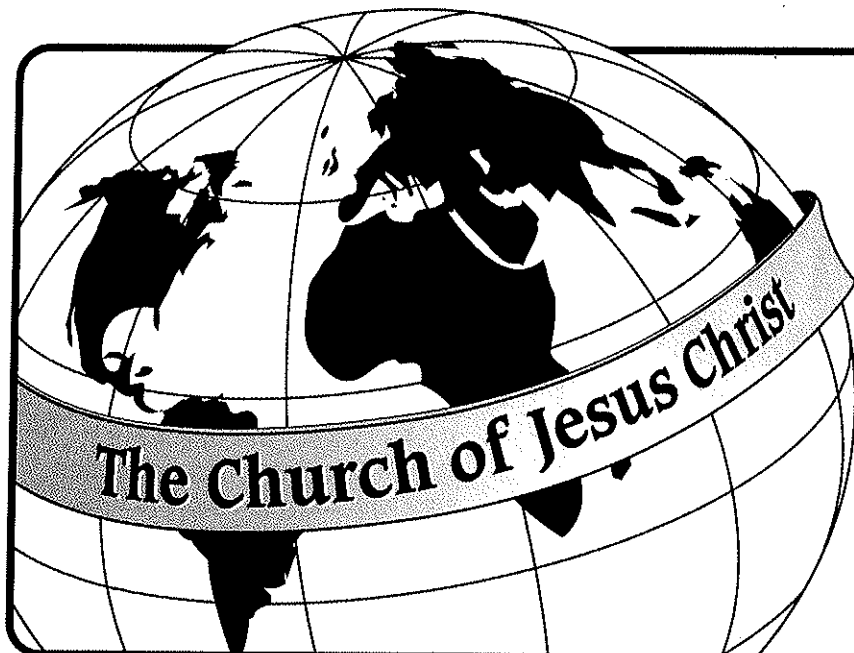
Brother James (Jim) Speck III passed on to his reward on June 20, 2007. He was an ordained Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Nancy Speck; son and daughter-in-law, Brother Jim and Sister Kelly Speck; daughter and son-in-law, Sister Susan and Michael Widman; three granddaughters, two grandsons, and one great-grandson.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA

October, 2007

Volume 63, No. 10

## Letting It Shine: Southwest Area MBA Campout

*By Sister Michelle Watson*

Praise God that He speaks to us in ways that we can understand! The scriptures are full of parables and creative comparisons that Jesus used to help us understand how we should live our lives. Instead of confusing His disciples with theory and argument, He simply told them "Ye are the light of the world." The sun, a lamp, a burning flame: these are things His disciples could picture in their minds, and the message made sense to them. The same is true today! We must continue to set an increasingly darkening world ablaze by applying the practical truths taught by Jesus.

As the saints of the Southwest Region gathered for their Area MBA Campout held August 31-September 3 in Prescott, Arizona, they searched the scriptures for these practical truths and learned more about letting their light shine. Summarized below are just a few of the beautiful thoughts the saints received at the Campout. Some were delivered through preaching and some through the actions of the saints. May the Lord bless you as you read and share with us the enlightening ideas that Jesus communicated to our group at this gathering.

### **Shake on Some, Shine on Others**

Matthew 5:13-16 is clear. We should be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. But what does that mean? Just as salt brings out the goodness in food, so should we as saints of God point toward the goodness of life that Christ has given us. Just as light banishes darkness from a room, so should darkness flee from us and the understanding of Christ enter in its place. We should be bold shakers and shiners! Christ should occupy the candlestick in our heart, not the bushel. We should take and create opportunities to share the Lord with others each day. Sometimes sharing the Lord with some people is like pouring salt on a wound – we must lovingly tell people the truth even if it hurts or if they don't want to hear it. Other times our testimony will click within a person's heart as quickly as the flick of a light switch. No matter what the outcome, there is plenty of salt and light to go around, and it is our job to see that everyone's tongue gets a taste of it and everyone's skin feels its warmth.

### **Prisms of God**

Have you ever seen a prism? It is a transparent crystal that refracts light into the various colors of the

rainbow. The sun's light is white, yet when reflected through this earthly object, a beautiful spectrum of color is manifested. We should be spiritual prisms for the Lord. God's love is as abundant as sunlight, but it is up to us to manifest that love to others so they can see the depth of its beauty.

### **Spiritually Lively or Spiritually Dusty?**

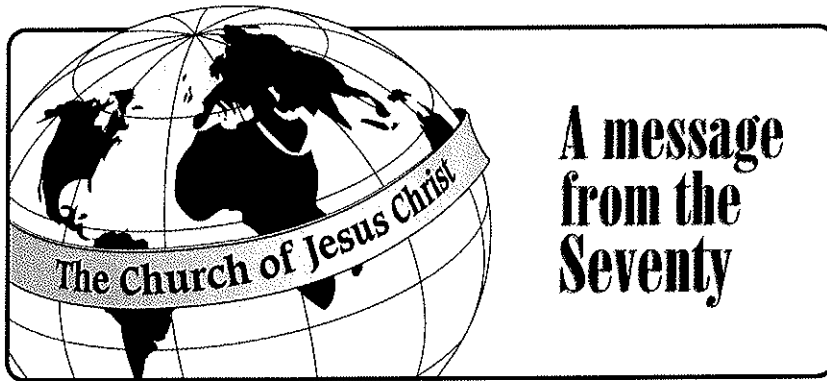
The scripture commands that we should be lively stones unto Christ – 1 Peter 2:5. What does it mean to be lively? It means remembering the day Jesus touched you just as He touched the sixteen stones that the Brother of Jared prepared to light the vessels in which his family would travel to the Promised Land. Christ has touched us and filled us with light! If our testimony is always on our lips, if we are always sharing the light, our flame will get brighter. If we forget the joy of Jesus' touch and place our light neatly under a basket, we are good for nothing. We begin to accumulate dust, and over time, we become like ancient cities buried under centuries of earth, forgotten, and useless. The world can't afford to forget something so amazing and so valuable.

### **Darkness Can't Extinguish the Light**

Have you ever lit a match that

(Continued on Page 4)





## Evangelist Ordained in Gastonia, NC

By Sister Barbara Persico Williams

Sunday, November 19, 2006 was a beautiful fall day with Carolina blue skies outside and God's abundant SONSHINE inside. The saints of God from all over our region were gathering to witness the ordination of brother George Kovacic into the calling of Evangelist.

Our service began with singing praises to our Lord with the hymns, *Have You Been to Jesus* and *Amazing Grace*.

The presiding Deaconess, Sister Florence LaRosa, and Sister Marlea Frenzoz, from Middle Tennessee, prepared the sacrament table. Sister Flo was blessed with a profound experience. She said she felt like she was viewing "herself" setting the table and that someone was guiding her hands to put the sacred items in place. Brother John Genero of Warren, Ohio said that he too felt that something profound was happening as he observed Sister Flo and the table being set.

Brother Sam Risola of Forest Hills, Florida opened the meeting in prayer, and we then sang *It Is Well With My Soul*.

Brother Gary Martin of Fredonia, Pennsylvania opened the meeting with Luke 10:1-18. Jesus sends forth the seventy, "two and two before his face into every city and place...The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few..." Brother Gary went on to say that there are only 70

Evangelists in the world and that Brother George was called by God to be an Evangelist, not elected. He will leave the comfort of his home for the unknown but he should not worry about what he will eat or drink or where he will sleep, "...carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes..." God will prepare the way. Salvation of souls is the message.

Brother Tony Ricci of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, spoke from 1 Corinthians 13:1, "*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*" Even though we all have different styles, what sets us apart is the love of the saints. This is the glory of Jesus Christ. You have passed from death to life with the love of Jesus. Our brother went on to say that to be an Evangelist means to bring forth the Gospel where it has not been and to do so first and foremost with love.

Brother Ken Staley of Middle Tennessee spoke next about the evidence of the power of God. He shared with us the many experiences he has personally witnessed while traveling the world to preach the Gospel. He spoke from Luke 10:17, "*And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.*" Brother Ken said, "It's not about us, it's about saving souls." Jesus says in Luke 10:19, "*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*" This great power of the Lord is placed on the elders and evange-

lists of The Church of Jesus Christ in our day as it was in the days of old.

Brother Carl Frammolino from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania spoke briefly about the many brothers who have been called to serve as Evangelists in the past. He mentioned Brother Tony Gerace by name, who has gone on to his reward. His daughter, Sister Becky DeRoo, was in our midst. He said Brother Tony was a quiet and very wise man who worked tirelessly in the Inner City, Detroit area. Some brothers are called to travel the world, but there is a great work to be done right here in our own backyards.

We sang *Ye Who Are Called To Labor*.

Brother George came forward and his feet were washed by his natural brother, Brother Mark Kovacic, and he was ordained by Brother John Genero.

Brother George was given the opportunity to express himself, which he did with humbleness of spirit. He said he was thankful that the Lord saw fit to use him to do His work. He also was thankful for the godly parents he was given and the support of his wife, Sister Jill and his daughter, Sister Nichole Torres. He told us that when Nichole was a little girl she loved to go with him to the Migrant Camps in Homestead, Florida and what a blessing and joy it was to have her by his side. He continued by telling of the many experiences he had while traveling to foreign lands preaching the Gospel with others.

Brother Carl Frammolino shared an experience by Brother Tony Ricci that was presented at the October Conference. In his experience Brother Tony saw a blackboard and written on the board was, "We must tell people about The Church of Jesus Christ." He then saw Brother George wearing a white shirt and gold tie and was being called in the office of Evangelist.

We want to thank the many visitors who came to share this day with us. What a blessing to have you in our midst. We thank God and praise His name for the bounty He has blessed us with in this part of the vineyard.

## Peru

*By Brother Barry Mazzeo*

Evangelist Miguel Bicelis, Jonathan Scolaro, and I met at the Miami, Florida airport on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to leave for the second quarter missionary trip to Peru for 2007. Brothers Miguel and Barry went to encourage and administer to the saints, hold ministerial training sessions with the resident ministers and make new contacts with people in the areas of the two largest cities in Peru, Lima and Arequipa respectively. Young Brother Jonathan enthusiastically journeyed to Peru to improve and fine tune his Spanish speaking abilities, learn more about the country and encourage the younger generation. Dear friends of the Church since the establishment of the work in Peru, Alberto and Elizabeth Garcia so graciously opened their home to us while in-country and Brother Jonathan also continued to stay with the Garcias for four additional weeks.

We arrived in Lima Saturday morning, May 19<sup>th</sup> and immediately caught another plane to Arequipa where our visit would begin. Alberto was at the airport in Arequipa to meet us and take us to his home. It was such a joy to see him and to greet him upon arrival. There was a slight problem initially with Brother Barry's luggage not arriving with us but we were determined not to allow that to discourage or disturb us. Thirty-six hours later, the luggage arrived and everything was fine.

Sunday morning, May 20<sup>th</sup> there was excitement in the air upon leaving for the service to meet with the saints in Arequipa. It was such a joy to embrace and greet one another in the wonderful love of God. Though this was the first trip to Peru for Brother Jonathan and me, an instant bond was established and a beautiful fellowship began. Brother Miguel began to play the guitar and we all began to sing with joy to the glory of God. Brother Miguel officially introduced us to the congregation at the opening of the service and Brother Barry spoke using 2 Nephi 2: 8 & 9 as his text.

The Plan of Redemption was the subject, showing the great importance of making this plan known to the inhabitants of the earth and telling the world that Jesus Christ is the Holy Messiah and nobody can be saved but through the merits, mercy, and grace of the Saviour who laid down His life and took it up again. Other brothers followed, showing that they who believe in Christ and keep His commandments shall be saved. It was so beautiful to hear the saints testify to the glory of God in their language and listen as Brother Jonathan expressed himself in Spanish bonding with the young people there.

Later that evening as we were visiting with Alberto and Elizabeth, they told us of family members who are seriously afflicted. Alberto has an aunt who is very ill and Elizabeth has a grandmother who also is very sick. Two handkerchiefs were anointed for these petitioning God for His healing virtue when they would place them upon their bodies.

Monday morning, Brothers Miguel and I met at the church early before Brothers Juan Mestas and Vicente Gongora came for ministerial training. As the brothers knelt in prayer, the glory of God filled the building as they prayed for these brothers of the ministry, the work in Peru, the brothers and sisters there and those who have not yet obeyed the Gospel. It was so nice to see how these two brethren have embraced the Gospel with all of their heart and how they have quickly progressed in their understanding. They show great desire to grow more and learn much that they may labor diligently among their people and bring many souls to Christ.

The entire time spent in Peru went so quickly as our days were filled with much activity from morning until evening. When Wednesday evening came, there was great joy and anticipation as we began our service at the church. Two ordinations were to take place, one deacon and one deaconess. The singing was beautiful and the saints were beautiful as we began the meeting and Brother Miguel Bicelis told us of the events to

take place. After some speaking and the reading of the duties and responsibilities of both deacons and deaconesses, the ordinations began. Sister Maria Salas Gongora came forward to have her feet washed and Sister Carmen Mestas knelt before her to perform that function. Brother Alberto Daza came forward to have his feet washed and Brother Juan Mestas knelt before him to wash his feet. The Spirit of God was present as these two prayers were inspired by God. As our brother and sister came forward to be ordained, the priesthood knelt in prayer to petition God to sanctify them that they might be able to perform this great work. Brother Juan Mestas ordained Brother Alberto Daza as a Deacon and Brother Miguel Bicelis ordained Sister Maria Salas Gongora as a Deaconess. The power of God came down to seal these callings upon our dear brother and sister as the brethren prayed. It was a privilege to be there and witness this glorious event in Arequipa, Peru. Our brother and sister expressed themselves so humbly with great desire to labor for God and asked for the prayers of the saints in their behalf.

Every day meetings were held. Our morning training sessions were blessed with the Spirit of God with our resident ministers. It was such a joy to be with them and to see God moving in their lives in a wonderful fashion. Our afternoons and evenings were blessed as we had meetings in homes as well as at the church. The Spirit of God gave utterance to the brothers as they spoke the word of God and the testimonies of the saints were rich and full of love as they bore witness to the blessing of God in their lives and the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It was very sad to say goodbye at the airport in Arequipa. We embraced in the love of God and wept together. The fellowship we shared was rich in the Lord, Jesus Christ. The time had arrived that we were to move on to Lima.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Midwest Region Spiritual Conference 2007 God Wants Unconditional Love

*By Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr.*

Picture this: 9:00, Saturday morning. Hardly a cloud in the sky. The wind is blowing and the birds are singing. Saints from all over the Midwest Region start to pull into the Cincinnati-Morrow Branch parking lot, anticipating the blessings God has in store for them. Car doors shut and the greetings begin: friendly hellos accompanied by long embraces; it is amazing to see the love of God in action.

After everyone entered the building, Brother Ron Genaro opened the day in prayer and as he finished praying, Sister Rose Palacios spoke in the word of the Lord confirming that God would be with us throughout the weekend. We started our conference with a seminar taught by Brother Dwayne Jordan from the Southwest region. He taught on the importance of the Navajo people to The Church of Jesus Christ. Throughout his slideshow, videos were played to show the numerous experiences of God working with the Navajo people. Brother Dwayne did an excellent job of expressing the need to pray for and work with these people; they are God's chosen ones and we need to introduce the Church to all of them.

When the seminar ended, the brothers and sisters traveled about 15 minutes to a river to baptize Sister Koren Phillips. Sister Koren lives in the Liberty, Ohio area but attends the Cincinnati-Morrow branch during the school year while going to Miami University of Oxford. With trees providing shade for the brothers and sisters, the warm July day was cooled while Brother Chuck Maddox took her into the water and baptized her. Later, Brother Doug Obradovich spoke about the importance of your baptism and how all those who are baptized remember their specific date. He raised his hand and said with a loud voice the date of his baptism. He then asked all those who were baptized in the 1960s to raise their hands; one by one he would call them by name and they

would shout their baptism date with their hands raised to the sky. He continued until he got to the 2000s. It was an awesome sight to see God's children proclaiming the date of their baptism with their hands raised to the sky. He told Sister Koren that when she has tough times and thinks it is too hard to go on, to remember the brothers and sisters of the Midwest Region holding up their hands and declaring that they are baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Once we returned to the Church, Sister Koren was confirmed by Brother Ron Genaro and the rest of the meeting was left open for God to direct with His spirit. Brother Wayne Martorana opened the afternoon service speaking on how Sister Koren came into the Church. His son, Brother Lucas Martorana, introduced her to the Church and from that simple introduction, she gave her life to Christ. It proves that you never know what kind of impact you can make on people in your life.

Brother Chuck Maddox followed Brother Wayne reminding us that as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we need to be ready to tell the world what we have. We were blessed with this awesome gift of the Church and we need to be excited to share it. Don't be slow to give your testimony to your neighbor; show your co-workers that you are a child of the King and God will bless you for your efforts. Later on in the meeting, a special prayer was offered for Brother Russ Martorana as he battles cancer. After Brother John DiBattista prayed for him, Sister Rose Palacios spoke in the word of the Lord saying that the Lord will be with Brother Russ and Sister Lena Martorana through their trials.

On Sunday morning, Brother John Genaro opened the meeting on the importance of love. He said that Jesus already has enough friends; He needs and wants men and women with

unconditional love for Him. He asked the congregation, "How can we obtain that unconditional love?" Brother John explained that it might not be easy, but it is possible. He gave three ways to make Jesus more than a friend in your life: fast and pray, look at your lifestyle, and be obedient. He said that this change starts with us, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ. How can we spread the Gospel if we don't have an unconditional love for God? Once we work on obtaining that love, then we can go out into the world and show them the true love of God.

The Midwest Region Conference was a truly blessed weekend. From fellowship to a baptism, the spirit of God was felt throughout the weekend. The Cincinnati-Morrow Branch was honored to host the conference and is thankful that the brothers and sisters made the journey from great distances to attend. Remember, God has enough friends; He wants those who have an unconditional love for Him.

### Letting It Shine

Continued from Page 1

didn't produce light? Have you ever switched on a fully functional lamp that didn't illuminate a room? Of course not! Darkness has no power over light. When light decides to shine, the darkness flees instantly. There is no struggle or debate over which will prevail. Light wins every time. The same is true spiritually, so we should have confidence in the light Jesus can shine through us. We shouldn't be afraid to go through the darkness — whatever the darkness may be: trials, temptations, confrontations, etc. We should be certain that Christ's light can overcome whatever is set in our path. Sometimes we can get comfortable shining our light in brightly lit rooms while there are dark corners of the world that desperately need a glimmer of what we have the potential to give. Just as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to pay the

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is not an unfamiliar one to us. It is a sad story of how there was not even ten righteous people in the city, and God rained upon them fire and brimstone, which destroyed everyone and everything. Earlier, Abraham had pleaded with God to spare the city if there were even ten righteous. God said He would, but because there weren't even that many, they were destroyed. Lot and his family were the only ones spared. Two angels actually came to the home of Lot, and actually held them by the hand when it was time to flee, guiding them far away from the impending destruction. Even in this miraculous protection of his family, Lot's wife turned back to look (when they were commanded not to), and became a pillar of salt. She disappeared forever.

There are many lessons from this story other than the obvious one. *"And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways"* (Genesis 19:2). Destruction and danger are at every turn in our lives. The FIRST lesson we learn from this story is that as saints of God, we MUST let Him in to our homes and our hearts. In this story, the angels said they would stay in the streets all night, but Lot pressed them to stay safely in his home overnight. We need to press the Lord, and open the doors widely for Him to come in.

*"Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes; only unto these men do nothing: for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof"* (Genesis 19:8). Incredible that Lot would put his daughters at such great risk to prevent the wicked people of the city from getting their hands on the two angels in order to "know" them. As the people tried to push Lot's door down, the angels blinded everyone outside the door, and they could not see the door anymore. The SECOND lesson is when danger and problems of life are ready to push your door down, DON'T try to come up with your own solution. Lot's solution was a terrible one. There was never any need to fear or worry. The angels demonstrated the power of God and blinded the wicked. When problems come we need to DO NOTHING and wait for God to come to our rescue. His solution is always the best.

*"And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him; and they brought him forth, and set him without the city"* (Genesis 19:16). The THIRD lesson we learn is that the Lord loves us so much, He's willing to take us BY THE HAND and take us where we need to be, even if we are "lingering."

So far the lessons we are learning are to LET HIM DO IT. Let Him into our lives, let Him figure it out for us, let Him take us by the hand and take us to our place of safety and deliverance. In the 26<sup>th</sup> verse we read that Lot's wife couldn't resist the temptation, but looked back to see fire and brimstone raining down from heaven to destroy everything. By disobeying God she turned to a pillar of salt and she was no more. The FOURTH lesson, is to forget the past. The best kind of memory to have is a short term memory. Let's forget the sins we committed yesterday. Let's forget the argument we had with someone. Let's forget what others may have done to us. Let us put the past out of our minds. Like a rip current in the ocean, it will suck us back, and we'll find ourselves never able to progress in our lives.

We are approaching a time when like Lot, we will have to flee the cities. We will have to flee God's wrath upon the wicked. When that time comes, or when tragedy and despair confront us in our lives, let us remember this story of Sodom and Gomorrah, and we will know how to move from being surrounded by evil, to a mountain cave of safety. Just let the angel take your hand.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



## Let's Learn How to Stand Up for The Book of Mormon

A few years ago I was at a friend's house and another visitor asked me about The Church of Jesus Christ. She was shocked to learn that we believe in two books, the Bible and The Book of Mormon. The Bible tells us the stories of the Jewish people and how God worked with them and how Jesus came to them. The Book of Mormon tells us about the history of all the people in the Americas including the First Nations, or American Indians. It tells us in the Bible that one of the sons of Israel was going to leave and "go over the wall" which means to cross the ocean.

In the Bible, a man named Jacob, known as Israel, had twelve sons. His first son was named Judah, and all of his family became the tribe of people called Jews. Israel's favorite son was Joseph. He gave Joseph a fancy coat woven of many colors. Joseph's jealous older brothers sold him to be a slave in Egypt. Later, Joseph rose to power and ruled under the Pharaoh in Egypt. During a time of starvation, he found his family, forgave them for selling him, and gave them a place in Egypt. This was the man whose family came to the Americas many years later.

When their father got old and was ready to die, he called all of his twelve sons together and prayed a blessing on each of them and told them what would happen to their sides of the family in the far away future. Read the first book of the Bible,

Genesis Chapter 49 to see what was promised to each of the twelve sons. Their father said many mysterious things. Memorize verse 22 where Israel said, "Joseph is a fruitful bough [like the branch of an apple tree that is packed with fruit], even a fruitful bough [branch] by a well; whose branches run over the wall [many ignorant people in those days thought that the sea was like a big wall]." Israel is telling his son, Joseph, that his family after him will go across that ocean, and they did. They became our Native American friends. Israel also told his sons that God was going to bless these people above all the blessings he gives to anyone else, even though others will shoot at these people and hate them (Genesis 49:22-26).

I told her that in the Bible, Jesus told His friends that He had to leave and go to be with his "other sheep." Jesus explained over and over that we are all like sheep and He is like a shepherd to us. Jesus protects us day and night. If something bad comes to hurt His sheep, our shepherd is right there fighting to save them. If one of the sheep wanders off and gets lost, the shepherd, Jesus, goes hunting for the sheep He loves. When we are hungry, or thirsty, the shepherd takes his sheep to a place of quiet water so they can drink without falling in. If we are sick and ask our shepherd, Jesus, to help us, He will heal us, and care for us. Jesus never forgot those sheep in the Americas. He came to them and taught them about the way to live. (See the book of John, 10<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 7-18.) The Book of Mormon tells the story of His visit and teachings here in America with His other sheep.

The verse we need to write on

our hearts and memorize is in John 10:16, "...other sheep I have which are not of this fold [part of the group living in Jerusalem]: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." This is the Bible proving that there are other people that Jesus went to visit. I told her that The Book of Mormon is the record of all the people who lived in North, Central and South America and Jesus came to work with them too.

I asked her to read The Book of Mormon. I promised her that there is not one thing in The Book of Mormon that is against the words written and

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

JOHN	I
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B	C	X	N	I	D	M	F	P
H	I	H	A	V	E	N	O	E
S	O	T	H	E	R	A	L	H
J	V	P	E	E	H	S	D	S



## Aliquippa, PA

By Brother Pete Oestreicher

On June 24, 2007, eleven brothers, sisters and friends of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated achieving a milestone in their personal and spiritual lives. Ten young people who graduated from high school and college during the past five years were honored, and one brother who had wandered away from the flock requested reinstatement into the fold, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Many visitors were in attendance to help honor these individuals. Sister Ciara Slaiman and her mother, Tammy, inspired us with a beautiful rendition of the first and last verses of *Amazing Grace*. Their song was so moving that Brother Don Ross asked them to return and sing the second and third verses in the very near future.

Brother Jim Abbott, visiting with his wife Sister Betty from the Roscoe Mission, opened the meeting. For the past week the scripture, Hebrews 2:1, had been on Brother Jim's mind.

*"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."*

Brother Jim implored all of us to remember what Christ did for us, and told the graduates to take the Lord with them wherever they go. He warned them that the enemy would be there, that they should take one battle at a time, and as long as they have Christ in their lives, they don't have anything to worry about.

Brother Gary Martin, visiting with his wife Sister Darlene from the Fredonia Branch, continued Brother Jim's message. He told all of us to give more earnest heed, to apply what we learn, and his message to the graduates was, "Welcome to the real world." The graduates will be going down many "halls" (college, job, family), and whatever hall they choose,

they must take the Lord with them. Brother Gary beseeched us to pursue the things of God in order to be used by God. He then referred to a thought he learned from Brother Russell Cadman: We all go through different periods in our lives, and we all have the ability to increase our service to the Lord.

Brother Henry Cardillo from the Youngstown, Ohio Branch used 1 Corinthians 15:58 to give the graduates suggestions on how to add value to their lives. He encouraged them to get their education, but to make sure they used it for the Lord. Whatever you gain, use it for the Lord. He recommended that they make it their goal to add value to the Church, since God sacrificed His Son to give value to our lives.

Apostle Paul Palmieri introduced the reinstatement portion of the service, using 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, regarding the *ministry of reconciliation*.

Through this ministry, ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ have the power to bring saints back to the Lord. Brother Paul used the prodigal son as an example of reconciliation, and pointed out that the father was so overjoyed with his son's return, that he ran to greet him. Brother Paul was glad to be experiencing Brother Carl McCartney's return.

Brother John Mark D'Antonio reinstated Brother Carl. We then heard from Brother Carl and his family during testimony service. Brother Carl thanked his wife for her support, and expressed that he loves everyone. Joan, Brother Carl's wife, mentioned they have been together for twenty years, and that Carl always loved the Church. She thanked everyone for the love she has been shown. Sister Paula Hemmings, Brother Carl's daughter, testified that her father taught her to love the Church, and praised God for bringing him back. She was overjoyed they were able to share communion today; and Brother Ben Hemmings, his grandson, stated that he always had a natural grandfather, and now he has a spiritual grandfather.

After the meeting everyone proceeded downstairs for a dinner provided by the MBA, and coordinated by Brother Joel Ondik, MBA Presi-

dent. After the meal, Sister Karen Progar introduced the graduates, provided some pertinent information about them, and gave them the opportunity to express themselves. Brother Brandon Hunt, Sunday School Superintendent, presented the high school graduates with a Bible and college graduates a Book of Mormon, provided by Sunday School.

The honored graduates included: Sister Kristy Rogalla, Sister Desiree Palmieri, Will Robbins, a special friend of Sister Desi, Arthur Intrieri, Sister Amanda Gula, Sister Brittany Giannetti, Sister Jocelyn Giannetti, Sister Megan Gibson, Sister Ciara Slaiman, and Sister Jennifer Consolo.

Everyone enjoyed cake in honor of the graduates. We congratulate them for their achievements thus far, and pray that they take the Lord with them in all their future endeavors.

## Ordination in Yucaipa, CA

The Yucaipa, California branch was blessed with the ordination of Sister Vanessa Tostado as deaconess on December 17, 2007. Her grandmother, Sister Bertha Gonzalez, washed her feet and Brother David Arreola ordained her. The Lord gave Sister Bennie Jones two beautiful experiences confirming this joyful event – one preceding the ordination and one on the day of the ordination.

### Experience from November 2006:

"Sister Vanessa Tostado asked for prayer. As the brothers were praying, I saw a large invisible shield come down from heaven. It completely covered Sister Vanessa. As this shield covered her, I saw many large darts being thrown at her, but they bounced off and did not touch her. I also saw people hitting her, but their fists bounced back as she was protected with this invisible shield. I saw Sister Vanessa trying to dodge the darts and the fists. Each time she

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## Ordination in Yucaipa, CA

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flinched and raised her hands to protect herself. I thought to myself, 'Oh, Lord! She does not see the shield you have placed over her.' "

### Experience on December 17, 2007:

"As Sister Vanessa was having her feet washed by her grandmother, setting her aside for the office of deaconess, I saw a large bright light coming down from heaven and in the middle of this light I saw a large red pillow all trimmed with gold with large gold tassels on each corner. This pillow was given to Sister Vanessa."

"When Sister Vanessa was having hands laid upon her ordaining her into the office of deaconess, I saw the throne of God appear before her. She then stood up, took this red pillow in both hands and walked over to the foot of the throne. She placed the red pillow down upon the ground and knelt upon it before the Lord. She bowed her head and said, 'My Lord, your handmaid.' The Lord touched her head and said, 'I am pleased.' Sister Vanessa then stood up and this red pillow turned into a ball of fire. This flame went from the floor around and behind her, surrounding her completely like a blanket or a pair of large wings."

We thank and praise God for His goodness and for calling new workers into the vineyard! May God richly bless Sister Vanessa in the office of deaconess.

## The Power of God Unto Salvation

By Sister Diana Stigleman

With the passing of time come many changes. Still, there are two constants that remain true. They are God's love for His children and the love of His saints for one another. As we welcomed Apostles Leonard A. Lovalvo and Peter Scolaro on Sunday, May 27, 2007 their very presence was a reminder of that wonderful gift of love, and the heritage we share

through Jesus Christ.

As Brother Leonard opened our meeting at the Plumbrook Branch in Sterling Heights, Michigan he reached back into time and spoke of another apostle, Paul. Brother Leonard told us; while the Apostle Paul was a religious man he had not yet experienced "the power of God unto salvation." Paul went about attempting to destroy all of God's children and Christ's Church. It wasn't until he heard the voice of Christ and was struck blind that Paul finally experienced that power.

Brother Leonard later brought us forward in time as he explained what it would take for us to experience that power. Foremost we must believe. Then the steps of faith, repentance and baptism fall into place. As the ministry petitions God, for the reception of the Holy Ghost, we are also given the gift of discernment to be used daily. He cautioned us that we cannot stop there. We are called to tell others of Christ. We must partake in sacrament as it is our communion with the Lord. The washing of feet is an important ordinance. He stated it is to "show our humility to one another." Brother Leonard also reminded us of anointing (for healings) and the blessing of little children.

For those in the congregation who were not baptized, our brother concluded his sermon with words from Isaiah 55:6, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found."

Brother Peter, now picked up the banner and with a great affection, reflected back to his earlier days in the Church. He spoke about a time when his parents would take all five of their children, pack them into the car, and "go visiting" Sunday afternoon following church services. They came unannounced and were welcomed everywhere they went. He remembered the brothers and sisters had little in common with one another, but became unified through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In those days the saints "didn't have time for other things." Their lives totally revolved around Christ's Church and one another.

He began reading from Hebrews 6:9, "But, beloved, we are persuaded

better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though thus we speak." Our brother then prompted us to be diligent in our work for Christ. He added that it took 70 men to replace the spirit found within one old man, by the name of Moses. Through further scripture Brother Peter asked us not to be slothful, to remember our values as a Christian nation and to emulate the life of Christ. Brother Peter stated, "The key word is **believe**." He then pleaded, we must put ourselves into and show others, the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Miami-Dade Mission

By Sister Eileen Katsaras

God's Spirit is moving and we feel it at our meetings! When we are anointed, we are healed. The elders are directed by the Lord to bring us subjects that are necessary for our daily living, knowing we are here for a reason!

Apostle Dick Christman visits us often on his way to Peru. We are delighted to see the children in our Mission growing, and we have great hope for the Lord's heritage to continue.

Evangelist Miguel Bicelis opens his home for Fasting and Prayer services; and we take turns hosting our Wednesday night meetings. We often read from *The Gospel News*. The wonderful articles encourage us to walk closer to the Lord and to live righteously.

Brother Daniel Severson was baptized by his father, Brother Justin, and we rejoice that the Lord continues to call. We are pleased to have our new young brother in our Mission. We are determined to remember our promise to the Lord, to serve Him all the days of our life. That is our prayer for all of our brothers and sisters; God wants to build His Church and His Kingdom by His Spirit.

We were happy to welcome visitors from Maine: Brother Darryl Onorato and his son Brother Josh. His son, Brother Justin Onorato, has

been in Miami and an asset to our Mission as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher.

Brother Darryl related that when we see the suffering of other people, we don't know if we could go through that kind of loss. In Matthew 11:28-30 the Lord said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Brother Justin Severson spoke, "God is omnipotent – He promised that He would deliver. [Our missionaries were spared in Africa, as well as Brother Miguel was spared on his last trip to Peru.] Trusting in the Lord is like a tree planted by a river. Many saints in the Church have a testimony of how they were spared. What shall separate us from Jesus Christ? Man



**Brother Justin Severson baptizing his son, Daniel.**

searches for the best. If you have this Gospel until the end, you are richer than the richest man on earth! Let's tell the world of Jesus Christ. Tell them how great it is to be under the sound of the Gospel of Truth, that they may partake of the same glory, and the salvation that we have been given."

## They Found The Source

In terms of the San Carlos reservation, its borders are clearly defined. As you drive through its streets you can't help but notice the difference in life within the limits of the reservation and the state of a nation struggling to overcome the stereotypes associated with its people. Make your way a little farther into the reservation, though, and there you'll find The Church of Jesus Christ. A solitary spot where, during its annual Vacation Bible School, ninety Apache children found the never-ending source of love that God has for them.

If you've never had the joy of experiencing it, I would ask you to picture a visible kind of love. One could see love as coordinators and staff met with each other to discuss the week, as teachers took care in decorating and planning lessons, as helpers cut supplies for crafts, as meals were prepared, and as songs were reviewed and skits created and rehearsed. A love was building that could in no way be contained as the children began to arrive early on Monday morning.

This year's theme invited the children to "Take the Plunge" and experience Christ through Bible stories involving water. The five "splash points," or themes taught about service, obedience, faith, courage, and worship. During each lesson, craft, and song the children dove deeper into an understanding of Christ's limitless love for mankind and for each of them. As the week progressed and as they learned about and received love, so did they share it.

For the staff, our days were not over once the children left for home. Each participant played an active role in keeping the week exciting. From morning skits that had us rolling in the aisles, to a backyard makeover that restored beauty to the grounds, to free time activities involving a little friendly competition, we all had a wonderful time together!

On Wednesday night a meeting was held at the church. The service began with some song selections from those who could sing in Spanish. Our

brothers then encouraged us with a wonderful message of service. We were taught to be a little more "hard core" in our service to the Lord and to be actively seeking out opportunities to be used of God. The meeting was closed with more singing from a group in the Apache language.

The final day of VBS came quickly. It was a day full of special activities for the kids as we wrapped up lessons, had water balloon fights, games of piñatas for each class, and practiced songs for the evening program. We were incredibly blessed that evening as families and friends filed into the building to see the children sing praises to God and receive awards for attending the VBS. A social was held after the meeting where all could enjoy a time of fellowship and treats of popsicles and watermelon. It was a beautiful way to share love with one another before saying goodbye.

As the song states, "God is the source of all the good things in life (oh yeah!)." Let us each be limitless in the love that we show others so that we might lead those thirsty for living water to The Source.

## Ordinations in Mt. Laurel, NJ

The Mount Laurel Branch, currently under construction, met in the Hopelawn branch at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday May 2, 2007 to celebrate and initiate the ordinations of four (4) brothers; Jimmy Sgro – Deacon, Joseph Bonaduce – Teacher, Tony Micale – Teacher, and Joe Benyola – Evangelist.

Brother Joe Benyola welcomed everyone including visiting Evangelists Alex Gentile, Joel Gehley, Nephi DeMercurio and Lyle Criscuolo. Brother Joe asked that we keep a prayer in our hearts for the Lord's presence in our meeting. Brother James Crudup opened the service in prayer.

To start, Brother James Sgro

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## Ordinations in Mt. Laurel

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spoke about the offices and ordinations that were going to take place. He spoke of Moses, Aaron and the tabernacle – our tabernacle being The Church of Jesus Christ. He spoke on a deacon's job quoting scripture from the Book of Acts. Brother Salvatore Sgro spoke from the Minister's Manual on the office and duties of a teacher as well.

Apostle Paul Benyola commented on the most important calling which is being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Additional callings – deacons, deaconesses, teachers, elders, evangelists, and apostles – are callings which have been given to us to better serve the spiritual and natural needs of the members. And therefore, as a body of Christ, let us all support one another.

After this message, we sang *I Surrender All*. Brother Joe Benyola washed Brother Jimmy Sgro's feet, Brother Arthur Searcy washed Brother Joe Bonaduce's feet, and Brother Paul Benyola washed Brother Tony Micale's feet. Our brothers were then ordained – Brother Jimmy Sgro was ordained by Brother James Sgro, Brother Joe Bonaduce was ordained by Brother Sam Sgro, and Brother Tony Micale was ordained by Brother Alex Gentile. Our brothers were then asked to express themselves about their ordination and the spirit of God.

The meeting was turned over to Brother Joseph Perri who spoke on the office and ordination of an Evangelist. He also thanked our visiting Evangelists for taking the time to be present at this meeting. He read from Timothy regarding the work of an Evangelist. This position takes on more responsibility. We sang *To the Work*. Brother Joe Benyola came forward and had his feet washed by Brother James Sgro, and was then ordained into the office of Evangelist by Brother Paul Benyola. The meeting was turned over to our visiting Evangelists. Each one spoke for a few minutes on the joys of serving the Lord and membership.

Brother Joe Benyola thanked everyone for coming and sharing in this spiritual event.

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## Peru

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Brother Jonathan Scolaro remained behind in Arequipa and held classes with some of the saints there who were interested in learning the English language. Brother Miguel Bicelis and I continued on to Lima, arriving later in the afternoon then proceeding to the hotel. Brother Juan Mestas traveled by bus to Lima to join us. That journey takes approximately 14 hours and our two resident ministers rotate for a monthly visit to Lima to further establish a work there. These brothers do it joyfully with great desire in their hearts for the work of the Lord and the souls of the people there. Their untiring efforts, as they leave their families behind, are greatly appreciated and blessed by God.

Sunday morning, we met in the home of Brother Vicente Gongora's mother and father who live in Lima. It was so nice to meet them along with other family members and friends and share the Gospel. We sang some hymns, had prayer and the brethren spoke. The blessing of God was there. Several anointings took place and questions were asked and answered relative to the Church's beliefs and other situations which had arisen in their lives. We were received very well at this home and great potential exists in Lima for the Gospel to progress there. We visited with other friends who show interest in the Gospel, Maria Luisa, who is a sister to Vickie Tenorio, along with her mother,

daughter and others. We again sang, had prayer and spoke of the goodness of God and the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ. We continued on to visit with Vickie Tenorio and her husband Humberto, who so graciously received us. Vickie was anointed as she was scheduled for surgery that upcoming week and wanted God to be with her. Our visit was short as we had to get to the airport for our return flight to the USA.

We thank God for the great work of the Lord in Peru and ask for your prayers that the Gospel might continue to grow there. May the Spirit of the Lord bring the increase to the seeds of love that are planted and watered by those who labor in this place. The salvation of the souls of the children of men is the goal to the honor and glory of God, the Father, and the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Letting It Shine

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ultimate price in order to let their lights shine, so should we recognize that (in the long run) Jesus will prevail through whatever darkness we face.

## Humble Light

When was the last time you made a humble apology to someone you hurt? When was the last time you did it in front of 150 people? Sometimes we associate humility with humiliation, and that is why we avoid saying we're sorry, but when we abase ourselves in Christ, amazing things can happen. During the Saturday night service at camp, a mother got up in her testimony and asked forgiveness of her teenage daughter, expressing a desire to cease quarrelling and mend their relationship. Her daughter's heart was touched. Walls that she had spent years building were crushed in a moment. The young woman requested baptism and the ordinance was performed the next day. Our lives don't have to be perfect in order for us to shine the light. Sometimes it doesn't take a perfectly crafted testimony or a sinless life to get others to understand Christ's

love. Sometimes all it takes is a humble action.

### Shine When No One Is Looking

How beautiful it is to witness the family of God care for one another! Throughout the weekend, there were many people who shined their lights without realizing it – they were simply acting as loving brothers and sisters. Sometimes this meant going the extra mile or doing undesirable jobs. Some people took a few extra minutes to wipe down the dining hall tables after each meal at the request of the camp staff. Some people spent their recreation hours rewiring the sound system in the meeting hall in preparation for the evening service. Others offered to care for children of busy moms. Many offered a steady arm to elderly saints who had trouble managing the camp's steep hills. Maybe these seem like small things that have little impact on the big picture, but that is not true! Loving actions toward our brothers and sisters in Christ are the building blocks of a strong and compassionate community – the type of community that attracts outsiders with its extraordinary love.

These are just a few of the wonderful thoughts that Jesus inspired us with during the Campout. Praise God that His light is as bright today as it has ever been. It is up to us to shine it to others!

### The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

preached in the Bible. She said, "What about polygamy, having more than one wife? How could you think that was the right way to live?"

I realized that she did not know that The Book of Mormon says this is against what God wants us to do, that it is an abomination to God. Read the book of Jacob, Chapter 2:26 & 27 and Chapter 3, verses 5 & 6. God says, in Jacob 2:26 "...I will not suffer [allow] that this people will do like their ancestors did in the old days...hear me, and listen to the word of the Lord:

...There shall not any man among you have more than one wife, and concubines [ladies that live with a man who is not their husband] he shall have none."

Some of the other groups who say they believe in The Book of Mormon started changing scripture and doing what pleased them. We do NOT do this. In our Church, many people have had true visions, miracles, and even dreams guiding and directing them. However we, as a church, do not accept anything that is different or against the pure scripture in The Book of Mormon and the Bible. If it is not what we are taught in scriptures, it is not accepted by us in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We can learn our Bible scriptures and Book of Mormon scriptures and when others ask us about The Church of Jesus Christ, we will have the answers. We know it is our love that will draw others to our church, but it is also the fact that we have the pure Gospel. Nothing is added to God's word, or taken away. We are led and directed by our shepherd, Jesus, and the word of God.

With love,  
Sister Jan

## Ordinations

Sister Sandra O'Brien was ordained a Deaconess on July 1, 2007 at the Anaheim, California Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Rita Koeth and she was ordained by Brother Rudy Meo.

Sister Tammy Nardozzi was ordained a Deaconess on August 12, 2007 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Rosalie Mott and she was ordained by Brother Tony Calabrese.

Sister Dora Armstrong was ordained a Deaconess on August 12, 2007 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Rose Palacios and she was ordained by Brother Mark Naro.

## Children Blessed

Shon Michael Hutsko, son of Timothy and Stephanie Hutsko, was blessed on April 8, 2007 in the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch.

Michael Deuesenberry, son of Michael Ray Deuesenberry and Renee Lynn Staggers was blessed on June 17, 2007 in the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Bill and Sister Rose DiFranco of the San Diego, California Branch celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Helen DePiero of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated 61 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on June 10, 2007.

Sister Mary Nolfi of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated 60 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 30, 2007.

Sister Rosemarie Ali of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated 50 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on November 4, 2006.

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Daniel James Severson was baptized on July 15, 2007 at the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. He was baptized by Brother Justin Severson, and confirmed by Brother Miguel Bicelis.

Brother James A. Miskov was baptized on August 26, 2007 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Mark Naro and confirmed by Brother Frank Palacios.

(Continued on Page 12)

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

Continued from Page 11

Sister Alison Grace Gibson was baptized January 21, 2007 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Don Ross and confirmed by Brother David DeLuca.

Sister Samantha Jo Gianetti was baptized on July 8, 2007 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Paul Ciotti and confirmed by Brother Ralph Ciotti.

Sister Tawney Marie Palmieri was baptized on July 8, 2007 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Paul A. Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Paul Palmieri.

Brother Jordan Douglas Gibson was baptized on July 8, 2007 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother David DeLuca and confirmed by Brother Paul A. Palmieri.

Brother Ray Fedele Intrieri, Jr., was baptized on July 15, 2007 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother John Mark D'Antonio and confirmed by Brother Tony Ross.

Sister Allyssa Denise Camarda was baptized on July 12, 2007 at the Modesto, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rich Deulus and confirmed by Brother David Picciuto.

Sister Shantae Monique Segovia was baptized on July 19, 2007 at the Modesto, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rich Deulus and confirmed by Brother Rudy Meo.

Sister Cassandra Calderon was baptized on July 19, 2007 at the Modesto, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rich Deulus and confirmed by Brother David Picciuto.

Brother Carlos Mosqueda was baptized on July 19, 2007 at the Modesto, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Joe Ciarolla and confirmed by Brother Tony Picciuto.

Sister Amy Lauren Burkart was baptized on July 19, 2007 at the Modesto, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rudy Meo and confirmed by Brother Joe Ciarolla.

Sister Jerrica Nicole Picciuto was baptized on July 19, 2007 at the Modesto, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Picciuto and confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

Sister Angie Bloom was reinstated on June 24, 2007 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother Anthony M. Staley was baptized on July 5, 2007 at the GMBA Campout. He was baptized by Brother Ken Staley and confirmed by Brother Larry Ali.

### BOB PLAHOVINSAK

Brother Bob Plahovinsak of the Edison, New Jersey Branch passed on to his reward on August 26, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Sister Nancy; his daughter, Lisa and son-in-law Jason Tchoz; sister, Doreen; and granddaughters Shelby, Trista and Lyla.

### EUGENE HARRY KOON

Brother Harry Koon of the Liberty, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on May 7, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Sister Phyllis Corrado Koon; two sons, David (Cheryl) and Mark (Laura) Koon and two grandchildren.

### KENNETH MALLON BALDWIN

Brother Kenneth Mallon Baldwin of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch passed on to his reward on August 11, 2007. He was preceded in death by his parents, Brother Cleveland and Sister Margaret Baldwin, and a brother, Samuel. He is survived by his wife, Judy Baldwin; one daughter, Ayish Kenju Baldwin; two sisters, Karen Baldwin and Sharon Sloan; three brothers, Brother Keith, Kirkwood and Stephen Baldwin, along with many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

## OBITUARIES

### JENNIE PIETRANGELO

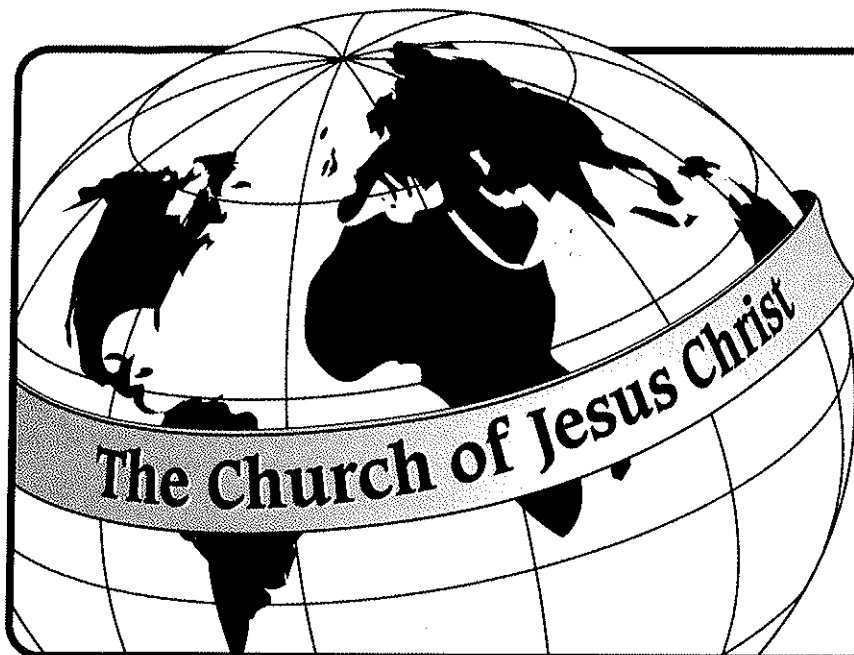
Sister Jennie Pietrangelo of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to her reward on July 18, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Brother Louis Pietrangelo; her daughters, Sister Marilyn Scolaro and her husband Brother Peter, and Sister Carolyn Griffith and her husband Brother John; her sister, Sister Jean DePerno, and her brother, Brother David DiBattista and wife Sister Bert; grandchildren Brother Christopher Scolaro, Sister Julie Gibson, Brother Scott Griffith and Brother Bryan Griffith; and 8 great grandchildren.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

November, 2007

Volume 63, No. 11

## And Who Is My Neighbor?

The saints in Dominica have been waiting several years to have a meeting place to call their own. They have been blest to have had the use of a community building to hold services in. The Field Committee has been working with the saints to find a more permanent location. Last year an opportunity arose to acquire land, design and begin plans to construct a church building. Some unforeseen obstacles surfaced and we did not have the liberty to build a church facility. We decided to put the issue aside and focus on other needs of the saints in Dominica.

In June the field team made a trip to Dominica. We had no intention of looking for a meeting place, but the Lord had something in mind. During the course of our visitation to the members of the community, we were told of sites available for rent. The Lord led us not to just one, but *three* potential meeting facilities! Now we had too many choices! We decided to take it slowly and not jump to any conclusions. The Field Committee and the saints in Dominica had been down this road of anticipation many times before and the disappointments were hard to take. So we returned home and spent the week petitioning the Lord in prayer,

seeking His guidance in even the smallest of details regarding the building sites.

The weeks unfolded and the Lord revealed His pleasure – we knew which location to pursue. We took it slow and made sure every detail was addressed. The brothers in Dominica handled the dealings like professionals.

Over the course of the next few

months we continued with negotiations for the facility. At one point it looked as though it was going to fall through. We were not deterred and left it in God's hands. The obstacles were lifted and the deal was in place. The taking of occupancy coincidentally corresponded to our recent trip in September.

Upon our arrival we were very excited to attend to our first order of

(Continued on Page 2)



Dominica Church Building



## And Who Is My Neighbor?

Continued from Page 1

business, the long awaited **new church building!** We cleaned out our prior meeting place of more than five years and reminisced about the many blessings had there. Our emotions were mixed, but we knew it was time to go. We said a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for His provision and we said goodbye. We headed off to our new meeting place, a rental home on the Carib Territory in Salybia. We had everything in order by the end of the day. The Lord has greatly blessed us with a new building to hold church services

two-year-old daughter came to church very agitated and sick with a high fever and was anointed. Praise be to God, she left the meeting happy and smiling! It was also a true blessing to witness the unity of the saints in Dominica as they pulled together to support our Brother Felix with the unexpected death of his mother during our visit.

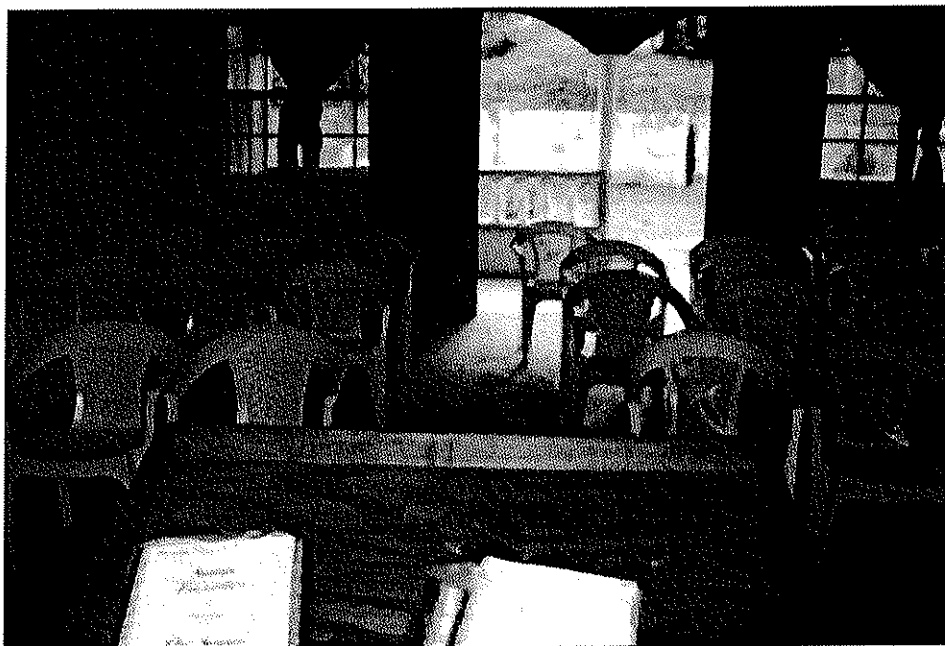
The church is now centrally located, and two of the brothers are within walking distance from their homes. This is a great joy for them, and they look forward to bringing many more of their friends and family to church. The Lord has blessed us with a two-year lease. We hope to be

That same day Sister Helena of Dominica also brought us to visit her friend. Sister Helena did not know that we had visited her friend on a previous trip. The friend remembered the brothers visiting her several years ago. She said that they came to her house and offered to pray for her. She recalled that they took out a little bottle of oil and a drop was placed on her head. They prayed for her headaches to go away. She said that on the Sunday which followed that visit, the headaches left her, never to return again. Sister Helena received a great blessing in hearing this testimony from her friend. She had not realized we had visited previously. Sister Helena recounted the blessing to the congregation at our Wednesday night service.

Some of you may remember praying for the little boy, Jerry, who received severe skull and brain injuries due to being caught under the back wheels and axle of a van a few years ago. Well, he just celebrated his fourth birthday! We still marvel at the miracle of the healing that was witnessed at the time of his head injury. He continues to develop fully and is enjoying his second year of full-time preschool. He is a live wire and goes nonstop!

Earlier this year our friend Esmine had a severe stroke. She has been quick to seek the Lord's healing in this illness. During our June visit she was still very impaired and was sad that she had lost much mobility. She had the blessing of a new great-granddaughter in the house and needed her strength. She was anointed that Sunday. The next evening we went to visit her home and she was not even there. She was up and about and went to visit her friends that were sick, which involved walking up a steep, unpaved hill with no lighting, and several miles down the road to get there. She continues to do well. She is the first one ready for church each Sunday!

In June we went to see Esmine's son who was in the hospital convalescing from a serious ankle injury, which involved a cut through to the bone. The doctors told him it would



Inside of new Church Building in Dominica

in. The added benefit, of which we were not seeking, was that the house has two extra rooms we can use as missionary quarters. God truly takes care of all our needs, even the ones we do not request of Him. We also continue to pray that all goes well with installation of a roadside sign with the Church's name.

We held our first meeting in the new building that Sunday. We enjoyed a wonderful service, and the blessings of feet washing. The sister of our mission Elder, Brother Mathius, and her daughter were in attendance. Her

able to use this time to work towards a permanent building location. Keep the leadership of the tribe in your prayers, since they are the ones to grant permission for churches to build on the territory.

Meeting our new neighbors was next on our agenda. We were so blest to visit with them and invite them to church. Several of them received anointing for healing. We were encouraged to hear that some of the new neighbors have been coming to services in the weeks that followed our visit.

be at least six months of recovery before he could resume his work duties. He was anointed and we asked for God's blessing on him and his family. Well, he is back to work in record time, only three months. We are very thankful to God for His healing power. His family, which has the addition of a new baby boy, was very encouraged by this.

The blessings have come in many forms this year. This summer the saints of Dominica enjoyed themselves as they ventured into a week of teaching the children about the Lord. With just a little support they stepped out on faith and reaped the blessings of their first solo Vacation Bible School. Fifty plus children attended and a good time was had by all. Unity accomplishes much and always pleases the Lord. Currently preparations are underway for the 2008 Summer Vacation Bible School, which will be held in the new Salybia building.

A few weeks following the VBS the saints would be put to the test. In August, Hurricane Dean hit the island of Dominica pretty hard. The saints banded together to transport everyone to a safe location, board up homes, and check in on extended family members. Once again the Lord was pleased with the unity and love

demonstrated by the saints. Thankfully the damage which was sustained was limited to trees, crops and mudslides. The damage was still evident during our trip. Due to the crop and farm damage, there is a shortage of food availability on the island. We were able to respond to the disaster wrought by the hurricane and shipped 1400 pounds of non-perishable food to the saints, their families and neighbors. The food finally arrived while we were there and the saints have since distributed the provisions with great care. We marvel at how the Lord can transform our trials into opportunities to grow in unity. The brothers and sisters were very thankful of our prayers for their safety and appreciated receiving this food in their time of need. They praise the Lord for always providing for them.

With each passing year we see blessing upon blessing in the mission field of Dominica. This year brought on many new blessings as well as challenges; the birth of babies and the passing of parents; the spiritual peace and the torrent of hurricanes. The Lord continues to provide daily what is needed amongst our loved ones in Dominica. The impact from the hurricane took its toll. We greatly appreciate everyone's support, as well as the support of the Quorum of

Seventy, with the disaster relief expenses. Please continue to remember the mission and the committee in your prayers. May God continue to bless you and your families.

The Dominica Field Committee

## Notice

There is an excellent way to get involved and help the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. The IMOC needs Historians and Travel Coordinator helps. Please check the General Church Website, [www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org), "How Do I Get Involved" link for the position descriptions. The Lord will reward you.

## Note of Thanks

Sister Ethel Cadman wishes to thank all the brothers and sisters who sent her many wishes for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Damage from Hurricane Dean in Dominica

## Publication Notice

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## Follow the Example

As many gathered in San Carlos for our quarterly region feet washing, the Lord gathered up blessings from His storehouse for us. Brother Michael Watson opened the preaching service and shared how when he arrived that morning and saw the vandalism which had been done to the building, he was angry. He expressed though how it is the Love of Christ that allows us to look past those things and realize there are people in the world that need the love of Christ. The world has the 'eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die' mentality. Sometimes we can get caught up in that, and give of our time and resources to those things instead of to God.

Christ gave examples which are opposite of the world's mentality. To illustrate, Brother Michael read Mosiah 3:19 "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." He also illustrated death, and how in the world it is the end, but in Christ death is the beginning – baptism being a watery grave and each person coming out of the water a new creature.

Brother Michael read Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me." Paul also wrote in the scriptures "I die daily." Brother Michael explained how we are a part of a selfish economic system in the United States, but in the Church it is a

communal system where we work together to support one another.

Brother Michael shared a point from a recent seminar he attended where the speaker said one of our largest areas of opportunity is with our children. We point our children to worldly success, positions, titles, and beauty, instead of pointing them towards spiritual success, pointing them towards Christ.

Brother Michael also referenced Mark 9:33-35. In those scriptures, the disciples looked for glory on earth. When we start taking the credit, we are in trouble, and the moment we think we have humility is the moment we do not have it. He also read John 13 and described how out of Christ's closest friends, there was only one at the cross when He died. Although He knew their thoughts, He still knelt before them, washed their feet, and loved them. Brother Michael petitioned us to show the love they (the world) have not seen, because it is by our love that the world will recognize us and the Church. He continued on how the world will see Christ through our love, not by our perfection. When we make mistakes, we need to confess them and repent. He asked us to recognize what it means to be a servant and why we are servants as we prepared for feet washing.

The congregation sang *More Like the Master*. Then Brother A.J. Dyer followed and expressed the message he received was live your life by the example Christ has already set. We need to live 'the life' so others will want to serve as well. He referenced the song we just sang and said how the lyrics of the hymn should be our goal, to get closer to our Saviour Jesus Christ. We need to be more like the Master in our prayers of love and hope when we pray during feet washing, because that is what we have to give to the world: love, support, and spiritual strength to uplift one another. He challenged us to think about our prayers for feet washing, and asked that they lift up someone spiritually. Then he asked that we be humble as a little child as we offer those prayers.

Brother Barry Mazzeo then addressed the congregation and shared

about the feet washing service held at GMBA Campout in July. He said how those in attendance could feel the Spirit of God's presence, and how the gift of tongues, interpretation of tongues, and visions were manifested there. He encouraged us to invite that same spirit into our feet washing service. Brother Barry also commissioned us to follow the example God gave – Christ washed Judas' feet, and therefore we should kneel and pray for one another.

## God Calls and Many Answer

*Sister Karen L. Progar*

If you think about the sermons that we hear, in almost every one the Elder speaking mentions the necessity for baptism. Before I was baptized I thought all of those sermons were aimed at me and here is the truth of it, they were. They were also aimed at every other person in the congregation who had thus far failed to heed the call.

During this summer, the Aliquippa Branch has been richly blessed because five individuals heard the call and heeded it. At GMBA Campout three young people asked for their baptisms and were baptized on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Brother Jordan Gibson, Sister Samantha Giannetti and Sister Tawney Palmieri obeyed the call, bringing great joy to all of us in attendance.

Brother Chris Gehly spoke at our meeting following the baptisms. He gave a brief report of his trip to Africa and the 39 baptisms that were performed in Malawi and Mozambique. He then told us how Enos wrestled before receiving the remission of his sins. Is this not the same testimony we bear? He also wanted to impress upon the candidates that today was just step one. As we fulfill the promise we made at the water's edge to serve God to the best of our ability, part of that promise is sharing our testimony with others.

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden it light" (Matthew 11:28-30).*

Often times in our lives, we become so burdened with troubles and problems that arise. At times they seem impossible to solve or overcome. Sometimes it is marital problems that seem irreversible. Other problems can occur with our families, in which an incident separates us from each other, and to mend the relationships seems impossible. Other problems of life occur with our finances, or natural things of life. Maybe we lose our job, or cannot find a job. The debt mounts, and we feel as if we are losing it all. Other problems are illnesses that come upon us, and the doctors seem to not have a cure. And then there are other problems of addiction which cause us to constantly slide into sin until our conscience is seared with a hot iron, and we no longer feel any guilt for our actions. All of these things can be taken away by Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, many in these situations will say, "But how? I prayed and nothing happened, so I gave up!"

The passage above is an invitation from Jesus Christ to everyone who is asking these questions. He states we should "Come unto him all ye that labor and are heavy laden..." Notice He does not discriminate between saint and sinner, male or female, old or young. He sends the invitation to everyone. He uses the term "labor" which could literally mean those who are working hard, but in this context, the word "labor" means those of us who are laboring in our minds to solve our own problems. This would cause anyone to become heavy laden or discouraged, because we can't seem to find the answers with our natural mind. He states He will give us rest. Rest from what? Rest from the worry and despair we find ourselves in due to lack of answers. Did you ever meet someone who is always happy? These are people who don't take life so seriously, and when problems abound, they keep everything in perspective and rely on some higher being or force to see them through. We as saints of God should be the happiest people on earth, since our higher power actually exists, and He is the God of the universe!

Jesus goes on to ask us to take His yoke upon us. The word "yoke" in the scripture means His "word." When we take His word and fully apply it to our lives, we learn of Him, and understand better His ways and thoughts. According to this scripture, we learn His character which is one of meekness and lowly of heart...simple and humble. Anyone who can take on the character of Christ...one of meekness and humbleness like He did will easily navigate through life's storms, knowing that He is guiding our ship, and not us. He says we shall find rest unto our souls. Depression, anxiety and afflictions of the mind can all be attributed to an unsettled soul. Those who have made the commitment to serve Him have the gift of the Holy Ghost within, which magnifies our conscience. We feel things more deeply because we have the mind of Christ within us, which holds a mirror up to us and makes us see ourselves.

Jesus ends by saying that His yoke, or word is easy, and His burden is light. Whatever burden we feel by following His word is actually much easier than following the rules or laws of the world or of Satan. Many who have left the Church say they feel freedom. How sad, because they don't realize they had freedom when serving God, but when they stepped away from Him, they were chained to sin and the things of this world. How Satan can appear as an angel of light!

But for those of us who are walking in the light of His word, how easy is it to live the life He wants us to live. The meek shall inherit the earth, and by taking on the character of Christ, we will come out victorious every time, without fail. Let's rid ourselves of these mind weights and give it all to Him.

*"I took it there, I took it there, I laid it down, I laid it down, I left it there. When Jesus called, I took it there, I laid it down, I laid it down, I left it there!" (#165, The Songs of Zion).*

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## The Lost Books of the Bible

Dear Friends,

There are 66 books in the Bible. The first 39 books tell us the history of God's twelve tribes for hundreds of years. The next 27 books, called the New Testament, cover Jewish history with the birth of Jesus and the early days of the Church. The King James Version Bible was put together by teachers and scholars about 400 years ago. But some things in the Bible were changed or are missing. The Bible talks about books that we do not have a record of. In 18 different places, the writer tells us to keep reading and lists these lost books. Some of them are as follows:

In Numbers 21:14 it talks about how Moses traveled through enemy territory and it says "...in the book of the wars of the Lord, is said what he did in the Red sea, and in the brooks of Arnon and at the stream of the brooks that goeth down ..." I wish I could read what happened during the wars of the Lord, but this book is lost and not in our Bible.

In II Samuel 1:18, David is crying because his friend Jonathon and King Saul were killed in battle. Seven verses tell about how great they were and we are told, "it is written in the book of Jasher." Who is Jasher? I wondered. What else did he tell us about these mighty warriors of God?

Three books called the Book of Samuel the Seer, Nathan the Prophet, and Gad the Seer are listed in I Chronicles 29:29 as telling us more about the acts of David when he was



king. Remember David's faith when he fought Goliath? Wouldn't it be exciting to read about his other battles and how he loved the Lord?

David had a son named Solomon who was the wisest man who ever lived. In I Kings 11:41, we read, "Now the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?" In II Chronicles 9:29 it says in the Book of Nathan the prophet, and the Prophet Ahijah the Shilonite, and the visions of Iddo the seer, the rest of the acts of Solomon first and last (beginning to end) are told. I loved the story of Solomon deciding which woman was the real mother of a baby (see I Kings 3:16-23). Wouldn't it be fascinating to read other mysteries he solved? But these books of the acts of Solomon also are lost.

Books about other kings in the Bible are listed in II Chronicles 13:22 and 20:34. II Chronicles 12:15 reads, "Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies?" We do not have them either. Where are they? You might ask.

You see, in the old days most people could not read. People did not own books. Scrolls of thin paper made from papyrus reeds were fragile. There also was much warfare and times when vast libraries were burned or stolen. Records were lost.

Then after Jesus died, a falling away of true believers happened. By 560 years after Jesus' days on earth, a group of men seeking power through religion started many false teachings and evil churches. The ancient Bible

writings in Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic languages were in the power of people who did not truly love and serve God. Changes were made.

For hundreds and hundreds of years, people lived in ignorance and superstition in what is called the Dark Ages. It took many changes before the printing press was invented, and before people who were scholars started reading and translating the 66 books of the Bible into English so everyone could read the words. Ancient writings were found and studied. There were other Bibles put together, but King James of England approved of the version we have today. We do not have the lost books to study and

(Continued on Page 11)

### WORD SEARCH

LOST	LORD
BOOKS	SAMUEL
OF	GAD
KINGS	THE
OF	SEER
ISRAEL	PROPHET
JASHER	IDDO
NAHOR	NATHAN
JEHU	THE
WARS	SHILONITE
OF	ABIJAH
THE	SHEMAIAH

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



## Sister Mabel Bickerton

*"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" (Proverbs 31:10).*

Our current General Ladies' Uplift Circle President, Sister Karen Progar, has written about our former President, Sister Mabel Bickerton, who recently passed away at 105 years of age. She gave 31 years of service as the President of the General Circle and it is fitting that we recognize her service to the Circle and The Church of Jesus Christ. Proverbs 31:31 is a fitting scripture that defines her service, *"Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."* Sister Karen shares some personal remembrances of the impact of Sister Mabel on her life.

"As a church, we don't write tributes to people as a rule, however, a tribute to Sister Mabel Bickerton is not a tribute to an individual it is a tribute to the spirit of the Ladies' Uplift Circle and to The Church of Jesus Christ that it represents. Sister Mabel is the ultimate example of service.

"My remembrance has more to do with my childhood rather than with the Circle. I remember those annual Vacation Bible Schools that Sister Mabel created for all of us for so many years. I used to marvel that not only did she write the lesson, but she also wrote the songs that accompanied those lessons. As General Church President, Apostle Paul Palmieri recently said, 'Sister Mabel was the original creator of the Church's Education Committee.' What a marvelous work and how numerous the recipients of those lessons.

"I am also going to share a remembrance told to me by Brother Lyle Criscuolo a few days ago. He told me that in 1967 he was on patrol in Vietnam one Sunday morning (Saturday here). His helicopter was

downed by enemy fire and he was being shot at. His life was spared that day and not until years later did he know that he was spared because the sisters were praying for him in General Circle at the very moment of the attack. Sister Mabel had noticed that the normally cheerful and outgoing Sister Mary Criscuolo was very withdrawn and worried looking. When Sister Mabel heard that Sister Mary was concerned about Lyle (who at that time was not a member of the Church) she brought the conference to attention and a special prayer was had for Lyle. As Brother Lyle tells it, he was miraculously saved from death that day. This shows to me the importance of Sister Mabel's work in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was in tuned with the Spirit and willing to do whatever the Lord had for her to do.

"Years of Vacation Bible School lessons (30), 20 years writing The Children's Corner in *The Gospel News* and 31 years as President of the Circle sets an example that few will ever be able to match, but all of us should be able to appreciate. I am truly blessed to have known her and know that many of you have wonderful experiences to share as well.

"I think it will be more interesting for each of us to see how her service to the Church impacted its members. Here's what I propose; if you have something you would like everyone to know about how the life of our sister impacted your life, send it via email to the General Circle Editor, Sister Terri Bravo, via her home address or [editor@generalladiescircle.org](mailto:editor@generalladiescircle.org) and she will include that remembrance in the *Gospel News*."

## Women on Missionary Work

*By Sister Terri Bravo*

For over 85 years the sisters of the Ladies' Uplift Circle have supported domestic and foreign mission projects. Their spiritual and financial dedication has contributed to the growth of branches and missions

worldwide. Sister Mary Ross, in the 1960's traveled with her husband, Brother John, for a six-month missionary tour to Africa. God is no respecter of persons and He is allowing brothers and sisters to be involved in the exciting adventure of missionary work. For those who have or are actively involved in missionary work there is a spiritual invigoration one receives when you see God working in the lives of men, women and children.

Brother Paul Benyola, speaking about the importance of the sister's role in Church work says that sisters bring the "soft touch" of the Gospel. Sisters can and do play an important role and God is no respecter of persons when it comes to doing a work for Him.

An article titled, "Women on Missionary Work," submitted by Sister Pierina DiFalco, needs to be shared with our *Gospel News* readers. It is important to note that whether actively participating or playing the supporting role at home, sisters participate in the spread of the Gospel. It reads as follows:

On March 5, the Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle held a meeting in which Sister Barbara Straccia and Sister Karen Pandone led a two-part presentation on sisters that travel to foreign fields and sisters that stay behind and support their families while their husbands are on missionary work.

Sister Cathy Gentile spoke about her trip to the mission on the island of Sardinia, Italy. She used pictures to tell of her blessed trip. She explained that the church building is beautiful and so are our brothers and sisters. One elderly sister, Immaculata, had been ill for quite awhile. Many people in her town knew of her illness. The brothers anointed her and four days later she was able to attend the Sunday church meeting!! Sister Immaculata was so excited she wanted the townspeople to know of her miraculous healing. After the service she and our sisters took a fifteen minute walk all around the town. Sister Cathy said you could hear people saying, "That's

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## Plumbrook Hosts Youth In Action

The Plumbrook Branch had the privilege to host the Youth In Action. Brother Phil Buffa and Brother Mike Nuzzi along with 27 young people from the Youth In Action, YIA, were with us for the entire week.

On Saturday, a seminar on how to canvass the neighborhood was presented to the youth. They were given informational fliers to pass to the neighbors regarding our Church, along with invitations to attend our branches' various activities and meetings during the week. Included on the agenda were Singspirations and a special Wednesday evening meeting with our visiting elders and evangelists.

The following day, Sunday School was conducted and taught by YIA members. We were blessed with visits from many elders, brothers, sisters, and friends. After opening prayer, the YIA group introduced themselves. Then Brother Ken Lombardo, our main speaker, reminisced about campout and elaborated on thanking God for the peace and love we experience in The Church of Jesus Christ. This was followed with a blessed season of testimony.

Chapel throughout the week consisted of discussions of various scriptures. They covered the diversity of the spiritual gifts, but also how those gifts were of the same Spirit. We were taught that all spiritual gifts are equal and should be exercised with the love of God.

Further discussions led to thoughts of serving God in your youth, the love of Christ, repentance, baptism, and receiving His nature and spirit. The speakers shared that the Lord wants to be there for us, wants to bless His Church and wants to see us grow strong in His Church. A reading

of the Lord's Prayer was followed by topics of what to pray for and how to pray. The scriptures of reference were taken from both The Book of Mormon and Bible.

During the week the families that hosted the YIA had socials at their homes. Other evenings consisted of BBQ dinners, campfire singing, and testimonies at the church. Four afternoons were spent canvassing the neighborhood. We visited homes, the hospital and a senior's home. In addition, preparation was made for Vacation Bible School.

On Wednesday evening, there were many visiting brothers and sisters, along with a number of evangelists present. In opening, Brother Lou Vitto instilled within us a need to have a revival so our spirits can be on fire with flames from our voices. He added that each and every one should hope to be revived, so we can stand strong in the army of God and that we need to pray for God's blessing to come down and meet all our needs.

After prayer and a hymn, Brother Tom Everett began to speak. While using several references our brother brought the thought to us "Who's your Father?" In the scriptures, we are called the sons and daughters of God. Throughout his sermon one scripture seemed to stand out above all the rest. I Corinthians, Chapter 2:16, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

The remainder of the evening was spent in fellowship and socializing with refreshments.

Sunday was the last day of YIA. Among our visitors was Brother Jerry Valenti, chairman of Youth In Action. The topic, "Why not you!" was his theme. Using the Book of Esther, Chapter 2:21, Brother Jerry described Esther as an ambassador for her people. In addressing the youth, our brother emphasized that it is an advantage to start out early to live a righteous life and do for the Lord. He then focused on the entire congregation and told us to do something, instead of nothing. "We all have gifts

and talents that are exciting to share. When God is in the matter, all will turn out for His honor and glory. We must allow God to use us. Anyone can be used by God."

As the elders were at the sacrament table, Brother Mike Nuzzi heard the sound of wind and a loud voice say, "Ask Him!" Then sacrament was administered.

Towards the end of the service Brother Mike Nuzzi saw fire come down from heaven and cover the young people who were standing in front of the rostrum. Sister Susan Moraco said she had prayed that the Lord would protect the YIA, that He would surround them with fire just as He did when He visited on this continent after the destruction. This vision was the answer to her prayer.

While Brother Frank Natoli was praying for the YIA group, Brother Mike Nuzzi heard these words and spoke them, "The Lord is pleased, He is pleased, He is very pleased."

In closing, Brother Phil Buffa addressed the YIA concerning their role and efforts for the week. Then Brother Valenti thanked everyone for a week that was filled with so many blessings.

We were blessed with a total of twenty-seven young people in the Youth In Action experience. It was such a pleasure to observe them. They were requested to give a brief comment on their week. Here are some of their thoughts at the end of the week.

God's spirit and the feeling of being closer to God were felt. They were more comfortable praying together and speaking in front of others. Canvassing was a good experience with the opportunity to spread the Gospel to others; planting the seed and letting God go from there. It was a good opportunity to work with other youth in the Church and bond while doing God's work. They enjoyed great fellowship with the brothers, sisters and friends, and would take those memories home with them.

Surely this week the Lord had showered His people with His Spirit of love and blessings.

## God Calls and Many Answer

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The same day, Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. from the McKees Rocks Branch shared two great definitions that I want to pass on to you in case you haven't heard them. *"Grace is receiving what you did not deserve. Mercy is not receiving what you deserve."* This plainly states the condition in which each of us finds ourselves. He concluded by reminding us that Jesus came to make it possible for us to receive salvation.

Just a week later, Brother Ray Intrieri made his commitment to the Lord. Brother Darrell Rossi, from Gastonia, North Carolina opened our meeting that Sunday with many visitors in attendance from the Glassport Branch where Brother Ray grew up. Brother Darrell reminded us that conviction and commitment are required for a successful life in the Church.

He was followed by Presiding Elder, Brother John M. D'Antonio who spoke of the choices we make to do good or evil. He told us that Jesus desires that we produce good fruit and that we should strive to be the peaceable followers of Christ. He concluded by advising us that we must have a desire to bring forth that good fruit.

The latest baptism took place at the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area MBA Campout in September when Sister Joan McCartney rendered obedience. Sister Joan had been attending the branch for several months and knew that someday she wanted to be baptized. As she learned how the process works, she heard the call of God through His Spirit and obeyed it.

Add these five baptisms to one in January and a half dozen brothers and sisters have joined our ranks this year. More importantly, six souls have rendered obedience and have begun their walk with God. It has truly been a wonderful summer at the Aliquippa Branch, and we look forward to seeing what God has in store for us as we enter the Fall. We know with assurance that God can continue to work with those who hear the word preached and pray that many will

continue to come and hear the wonderful words of life preached throughout our branches and missions.

## Deaconesses Ordained in Youngstown, Ohio

Never is a time more enjoyable than when the saints of God gather together in fellowship with one another. So it was on September 9, 2007 when Sister Saundra Cardillo and Sister Linda Italiano were called of God to become Deaconesses in His Church.

Brother Henry Cardillo welcomed the large crowd and asked Brother Russell Martorana to open the meeting with prayer. Apostle Phil Jackson was introduced as our opening speaker. Brother Phil quoted Christ when He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest in your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." He spoke of the responsibilities that they will be undertaking and the even greater task of supporting the brothers and sisters, whatever their needs. The Church does not take this office lightly but recognizes its responsibility and asset to the Church. Many will never see your labors but as you labor, He will find rest for your souls. The work is not limited to the saints alone, but with all of those that they will meet on life's way. When they do this, their blessings will be great and their joy unspeakable. He felt to dedicate this day to our two sisters.

Area President, Brother Frank (Tony) Calabrese spoke of the long-term friendship that he shared with these sisters and of their enthusiasm and dedication to the Lord. "Though the most visible part of this office is the setting of the Lord's Supper, their greater work will be done outside of this sanctuary. They will become an aid and a comfort to the sisters of the Church. This is a great work. Women possess a tender heart that we men don't normally have. Women see the needs of

others and respond by sending cards, visiting, telephoning and most importantly praying to God for their needs." He went on to say that they will be great comforters to their husbands who are Elders in the Church.

Brother Wayne Martorana assured our sisters that this is not a promotion as the outside world views it but that their responsibilities will be even greater because now they are servants to all. God will work with them in an even greater capacity. He will now begin to refine them. They will now learn to listen for the voice of God prompting them to heed His call. Being prayerful in all matters will make them obedient because the way will be prepared for them to do His will.

Our closing speaker was another long-time childhood friend, Brother John Genaro. He encouraged Saundra and Linda to always have the light of God shining on them so they can recognize their imperfections as they continue on towards God's perfection. He spoke of how it uplifts him whenever he sees these two sisters because they are always so joyful. He noted that they are genuinely happy in their service to the Lord and how they give of their warmth and hospitality to others and that others react to them because they make them feel so comforted by the greetings they receive.

Brother Ron Genaro outlined the duties of a Deaconess. Sister Cathy Genaro then washed Sister Saundra's feet and Sister Jean Pusateri washed Sister Linda's feet. All of the attending Elders came forward to pray for direction as to who would ordain our sisters. Brother Henry Cardillo ordained Sister Saundra and Brother Mike Italiano ordained Sister Linda. May God bless both of these couples as they labor for the Lord.

Brother Richard Santilli related an experience that Sister Annabel Santilli had: "As I was praying, the word of the Lord came forth and said,

"My two sisters I have called  
To come and work for me  
When they set the table  
I will be with them.

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## Deaconesses Ordained

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"One may go to other lands  
While another stays home  
But wherever their feet may trod,  
I will go with them,

"I will lead and guide them  
In all that they do  
For wherever they may go  
I will be beside them.

"Their families, I will take care of them  
For I have many blessings  
In my storehouse saith the Lord."

## While We Are Waiting

By Sister Dorothy M. Miller

The brothers and sisters of the Omaha-Bedford Mission wish to greet the *Gospel News* readers in the name of the Lord. We want to share some of the blessings we have received this past year. We started the year fasting and praying that God would send us the help we need for the growth of our mission. God never leaves the prayers of the righteous unanswered. We now have Brother Rick Scaglione III, who is in the US Air Force stationed at nearby Offutt AFB. Not only does he meet with us each Sunday, his testimony has drawn others from the base to our meetings. During the Memorial Day holiday we were blessed with a visit from Brother Rick's father and mother, Brother Richard, Jr. and his wife Sister Jessie. Their testimonies were invaluable to our members. Brother Richard opened the Sunday service using Peter's walk on the water. He pointed out that although his faith was not complete, it took a good measure of faith just to climb out of the boat. He encouraged us to use whatever measure of faith we have to work for the Lord knowing that God will not let us fail when we work for Him.

Our mission as a group decided to attend the April General Conference with two objectives in mind – to enjoy the blessing of gathering with the saints, and to visit Brother English

Webb, who was gravely ill.

We wanted him and his family to know that we appreciate the sacrifices he has made in support of our mission. As many of you know, God used Brother English Webb to strengthen the foundation of the Church here. So when we heard of his illness, God laid it upon our hearts to do something special for him. At conference time Brother English was still confined to the hospital. We all gathered in the hospital chapel and held a service. Brother English was very weak in body, but he preached a powerful sermon telling us how God had brought him back from the edge of death. His words inspired our hearts that God had answered our prayers regarding our brother, for truly we knew he was on the way to recovery.

The members of Brother English's family who attended the service testified that they felt the power of God. They thanked the Omaha saints and stated that this was the first time that they heard the Gospel preached with such power.

The weekend of August 18-19 the Omaha Bedford Mission held their annual mini-conference. We invited saints and visitors from far and near. We were blessed to welcome Brother John Genaro, Brother Tony Calabrese, and Sister Koran Phillips from the Midwest Ohio Region and Brother Mitchell Edwards and one of the deacons, Brother LaVern, from the South Bend Branch. We were also pleased to have visitors from the Omaha area who from time to time attend our services.

The theme for the conference was *The Highway To Holiness*. We began the weekend with a fasting and prayer service asking God to bless our gathering with His Spirit. For our Saturday afternoon program using 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 31:19-21, we devised a game called *The Road to Eternal Life*. To emphasize our journey on this road we divided the members into panels using a question and answer format to share the "when, where, what, who and how" of seeking *The Road to Eternal Life*. Members were questioned using the following subjects: The Word of God, the Melchisedek Priesthood,

Your Spiritual Calling, and Past and Future Prophecy. Our purpose was to entertain the audience with our testimonies and the word of God in such a manner that they could take part and learn of our Church doctrine and why and how God called us into the Church. We sang *The Songs of Zion* and Restoration hymns to emphasize the joy of the Gospel. Brother Clifton pointed out that God wants us to be happy saints.

Brother Tony Calabrese opened the Sunday morning Service. He asked us all to close our eyes and then said, "Don't you see that light shining in the middle of the United States." That light is your mission. Using Matthew 5:14-16 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Nephi 31-20 he emphasized that *WHILE WE ARE WAITING* for the promises of God concerning the gathering of the House of Israel and the Peaceful Reign we must be the light in the world loving our fellow man unconditionally as Jesus did. We must press forward with a steadfast hope, feasting upon the Word of God. We must allow God's word to raise our level of righteousness and keep the Gospel pure.

Brother Mitchell spoke using the 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Alma to emphasize the importance of the latter day work. Brother Clifton preached the importance of the Spirit of God directing the work we do in God's name. His Spirit should shine out from us that all will know that we are God's people.

Brother John Genero followed speaking of the power in the seeds planted here to bring forth fruit here in *THE LAND OF LOVE*. We must use our testimonies as fruit that will be a blessing to the growth of our mission. We heard many beautiful testimonies from the members and visitors. Just before the meeting was closed Brother John felt the Spirit of God fall upon him to pray for the children in our midst. He came from out of the pulpit and knelt before the children and prayed a powerful prayer begging God to protect them from the temptations of the world, that they may receive the heritage of this mission of the Church.

Another answer to our fasting and praying for God to send the help we need for the growth of our mission

came the week following our mini-conference. Brother Clifton received a call from Brother Chris DeRoo, informing him that he was now living in the Des Moines, Iowa area which is within driving distance of the Omaha area. He, his wife Sister Becky and their five children would be coming to Omaha as often as possible to meet with us. We know that God sent him and his family to help us. Therefore, we now have another Elder to assist in the ministry proving God is good all the time!

More than thirty years ago God made a promise that there would always be a remnant of His work in this part of His vineyard and named it *THE LAND OF LOVE*; for this reason we labor to bring the Gospel to this part of Nebraska and Iowa. We pray that God will send more reinforcements to assist our Presiding Elder, Brother Clifton who faithfully labors according to God's word to preach and teach the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember us in your prayers and as the Lord lays it upon your hearts

not think about the fact that the 66 books of the Bible were written over years and years. They may say it is wrong to add to the Bible. They may show you two separate verses in Deuteronomy from the beginning of the Bible and one written in Revelations 22:18 & 19, the last book of the Bible that tell you not to add to or change that separate book. The truth is that the warning is not to add to, or change only that separate book. When those books were written, they were not put in one book, the Bible, yet. At the time the last book, Revelations, was added to the Bible, over one thousand five hundred years of Jewish history had passed. Many things were lost, but the pure Book of Mormon fills in all the gaps.

Some day we will have more records from the other tribes of Israel to read and learn from. Until then, stand up for our Book of Mormon. Along with the Bible, the way of life will lead you to heaven.

With love,  
Sister Jan

those beautiful children. The brothers and sisters showed her so much love. She told of how the sisters wanted to meet her and touch her because she was their sister in Christ from America. She returned their love and was very blessed from this experience.

The second half of the presentation concentrated on the sisters who stayed home while their husbands went on missionary work. A discussion was held on how they coped and what they missed the most. One central theme was that the sisters missed the daily communication with their husbands. While there are modern devices such as cell phones, sometimes the connections aren't good and they are unable to share a simple conversation.

Sometimes, there is an urgent need for a brother to go on a missionary trip and sisters are called to assume family responsibilities. Sister Lisa DiBattista spoke of how she had only one week to help her husband, Joe, to prepare for a missionary trip. In that week he had to get his passport, shots and arrange for vacation time from his job. All this was done by God's grace. He cleared the way for this trip to occur.

Sister Lorraine DeMercurio spoke of a time when her husband, Brother Nephi, went on a seven week missionary tour. She prayed that while her husband was away she would have something to do, too. The Lord inspired her to visit the sick and the widows. She chose to use her time wisely and in this way was a joint worker with her husband.

After a question and answer period we were dismissed in prayer and had refreshments and a time of fellowship. A collection was taken for the day care center in India.

It would be a blessing to all of our Gospel News readers if you would share a testimony of your experience on the domestic or foreign missionary fields. Your testimony could be just the encouragement that someone needs to become involved in missionary efforts. Please send it to me, Sister Terri Bravo, as follows: [editor@generalladiescircle.org](mailto:editor@generalladiescircle.org), or drop me a note at my home address.

## The Children's Corner

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read. All we know is that they are not in the Bible as we know it.

The Book of Mormon did not go through centuries of being changed. It was written on plates of metal and safely hid in a stone box in the Hill Cumorah for centuries. It was still in its pure form. When God chose, He sent the Angel Moroni to deliver the original golden plates to a young man named Joseph Smith. God gave Joseph Smith special stones that showed him the English words from the ancient language there. We call this The Book of Mormon. The beautiful and simple rules to love and serve God were there.

There are many people who think that it is wrong to believe in anything besides the Bible. They will tell you, "Oh no! The Bible is all you need." Most people do not think to read and learn how we got our Bible. They do

## Women on Missionary Work

Continued from Page 7

Immaculata who was sick." Our sister was a living testimony of the Church and our Lord who can perform miracles.

God works with the children, too. Sister Cathy illustrated this with a testimony of the faithful desire of a youth named Gwendolina. Knowing that her Dad was concerned with her spiritual welfare she sent him a special note, "Don't worry Daddy, when I grow up, I want to be a member in The Church of Jesus Christ." God bless this little girl! The Lord has blessed her with wisdom beyond her years.

Sister Karen Pandone then showed us pictures of her trip to India. It is one of the poorer missionary spots in the world. She showed pictures of a day care center that she visited and you couldn't help but fall in love with

## Children Blessed

Ian Andrew Kaplan, son of Amy M. Kaplan (Bonaduce) and Jeffrey Kaplan was blessed on June 24, 2007 in the Mt. Laurel, New Jersey Branch.

Candido Giovanni Nolfi, son of Samantha and Jason Nolfi was blessed on June 17, 2007 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Paige Cisson, daughter of Kirt and Carri Gehly Cisson was blessed on September 23, 2007 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Angel Jewel Guerrero, daughter of Jennifer R. Guerrero and Andrew Stearns was blessed on September 30, 2007 in the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Carl Frammolino of the Butler, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on September 28, 2007.

## Ordinations

Sister Suzan Kattan was ordained a Deaconess on September 23, 2007 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Susan Ciotti and she was ordained by Brother Tom D'Orazio.

Brother Arthur Gehly, Jr., was ordained an Elder on August 26, 2007 at the Herndon, Virginia Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr. and he was ordained by Brother Paul Gehly.

Brother Clarence Smith, Jr., was ordained an Elder on August 26, 2007 at the Herndon, Virginia Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Richard Scaglione, Jr. He was ordained by Brother Lawrence King.

Sister Barbara Nuzzi was ordained a Deaconess on August 5, 2007 at the Liberty, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Jean Genaro and she was ordained by Brother Wayne Martorana.

Sister Sandra Cardillo was ordained a Deaconess on September 9, 2007 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Cathy Genaro and she was ordained by Brother Henry Cardillo.

Sister Linda Italiano was ordained a Deaconess on September 9, 2007 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Jean Pusateri and she was ordained by Brother Mike Italiano

Ostrander (Craig), Brother David Lovalvo (Sister Darlene), Sister Jennifer Staley (Brother Cameron), Greg Batalucco (Jenni); and seven great-grandchildren. She also leaves to mourn many other family members and brothers and sisters in Christ.

### CLIFFORD CAMPBELL

Clifford Campbell of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on August 29, 2007. He was preceded in death by his father, Brother James Campbell. He is survived by his mother, Sister Thelma Campbell; one sister, Sister Erma Draskovich and her husband Brother Joseph, and several nieces and nephews.

## OBITUARIES

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

### ANNE MARY LOVALVO

Sister Anne Mary Lovalvo of the Saline, Michigan Mission passed on to her reward on August 20, 2007.

She is survived by her son, Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo and his wife Sister Loretta; her daughter, Sister Rosanne Batalucco, and her husband Brother Harold; grandchildren Deana Pate (David), Brother Duane Lovalvo (Sister Joannah), Sister Renee

## Baptisms and Reinstatements

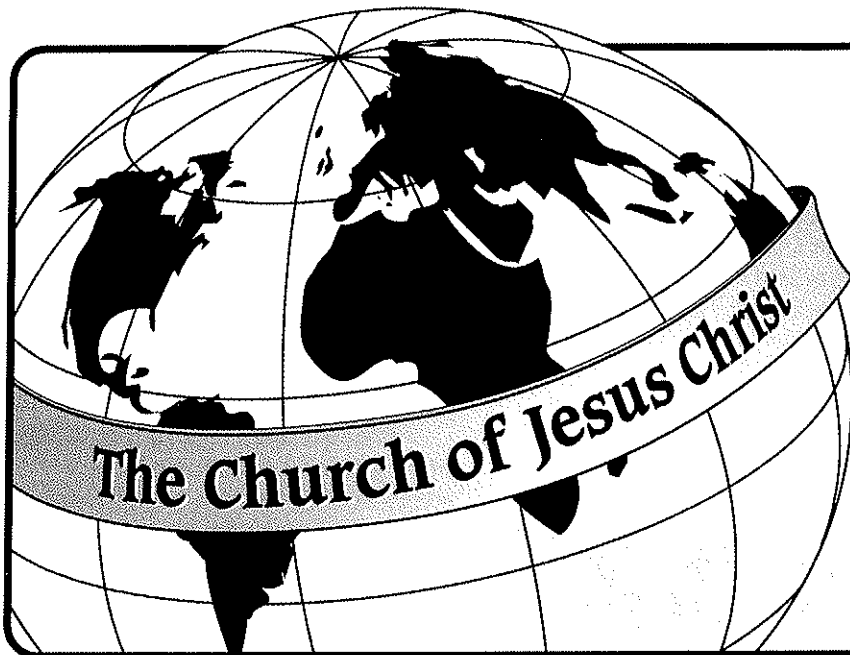
Sister Joan McCartney was baptized on September 16, 2007 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Apostle Paul Palmieri and confirmed by Brother John Mark D'Antonio.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

December, 2007

Volume 63, No. 12

## Praising God in Guatemala

*By Brother Steve Curtin*

God prepared the way for our trip to Guatemala months before we departed. I was privileged to travel with Brothers Carl Huttenberger, Sal Azzinaro, Mario Morales and Sister Olga Morales. We were greeted at the airport by Brother Luis Marroquin, the president, and only Elder, of the Church in Guatemala. During our stay we had the blessing of visiting, fellowshiping, teaching, preaching and praising. It would be an understatement to say how wonderful it was to see my brothers and sisters again. The love of Jesus they carry is more than words can express. Here are a few highlights from our trip.

Through a sister and brother from the Freehold, NJ Branch, we had been introduced to a family living in the town of Taxisco in the region of Santa Rosa. After a season of prayer the first morning, the brothers decided that we would go there that day. We visited the humble home of Leticia, the sister of Sister Thelma Carillo, and were able to spend time with her beautiful family. While there, the brothers anointed Leticia's father-in-law who is elderly, afflicted, and very weak. Afterwards we were told he felt much better and stronger

after being anointed. He even threw out his walker! We also had a special word of prayer for the family and the potential work there. It was a joy to see Leticia and the children in her family in Church on Sunday – it took them five hours to travel to the church by bus. Please keep this family and town in prayer as there is much need, and they would like the Church to be

established there.

A few weeks prior to the trip the Lord had given me a lesson topic on the importance of testimony and praise, which I had prepared not knowing exactly when the Lord would have me teach this. While fasting and praying the days prior to our trip, I felt inspired that perhaps the young brothers and sisters in Guatemala would benefit from this lesson. I did not share this with anyone but kept it

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Family from Santa Rosa.



## Praising God in Guatemala

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to myself seeking God's direction. On the plane with Brother Carl, he had mentioned to me the idea of my teaching a class during our visit, and in particular said the young people needed to be taught and encouraged to testify. Once on the ground in Guatemala, Brother Luis concurred.

Being blessed by this confirmation, I proceeded to purchase stones to pass out to the class because the main verse of the lesson was Luke 19:40 where Jesus said, "...if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." We want to be reminded the stones need to be quiet, and, if we withhold our praise from God, they will cry out. A second confirmation came when Sister Olga

relayed that, during the morning of the seminar while visiting with her natural sisters, they were independently discussing how we should praise God, and that if we don't the stones will cry out. At the end of the seminar each person in the class stood and thanked God for something He did for them.

We also spent time in fellowship, singing songs and eating a local favorite called Shukos, a traditional hotdog sandwich with guacamole, sauerkraut, mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup and hot chile sauce.

The last day of our trip was blessed with a Sunday service in the branch located in the downtown area of Guatemala City. We enjoyed the preaching of Brothers Sal and Mario, and the testimonies of our brothers and sisters. Brother Sal's main message was about how God has given us His Spirit and we should use the Spirit of God to grow in the Gospel and to work for the Lord. He was inspired to direct our youth and other members of the branch to seek God's direction and to be open to His calling to start filling the offices of the Church. Our meeting was also filled with the music of praise, singing *The Songs of Zion* and other selections with our voices, piano, guitar and violin.

And then there were the goodbyes, but we don't say goodbye. We embrace, and cry with joy and sadness and say, "God be with you until we meet again."

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Young sisters from Guatemala.



Church building in Guatemala.

## Blessings at Southwest Region Conference

"Good morning brothers, sisters, FAMILY!" was Brother Craig Meo's opening greeting to all those gathered in Mesa for the Sunday service of Southwest Region Conference. He then said, "This is our home, and we need to feel it, believe it, and promote it!"

Being yoked! A yoke is a fixed hard piece of equipment to keep the animals next to each other, Brother Craig explained. Normally this yoking scripture is used for coaching those in relationships, or choosing a mate. "Pick someone you are equally yoked with, choose someone with a tender heart, select someone you can bring the message of Christ to," are thoughts Brother Craig admits to thinking of when reading and teaching on this portion of scripture.

The questions he posed to the congregation though were, "What am I yoked to – what do I put my time, effort and money into? What do we yoke ourselves to daily/weekly?" Brother Craig then gave some statistics: on average the adult Christian spends 480 minutes working, 240 minutes watching television, and 30 minutes exercising a day. He then admitted he has never spent 240 minutes in prayer. He then asked "How are we yoking our soul today?"

Brother Craig paraphrased Matthew 5 by saying, go be reconciled to your brother before going before the altar, and then exhorted the congregation saying how we cannot allow these things to creep into our hearts. We need to forgive, love and do His work, and be calm, peaceful, and joyful. These things hold us back when we don't let them go.

The brother of Jared at the seashore did not call on the Lord for four years. Brother Craig asked, "What was he yoked to? Was he occupied with busyness?" Brother Craig encouraged the congregation to study the scriptures and its topics every day. If we want a Christ-driven life, He needs to be the purpose for everything! When that is the case our fear of sharing our testimony disappears.

Brother Michael Watson proclaimed how he was thankful for Brother Craig's message because it was for all of us! He shared how after he was baptized he waited two years to testify, but he was thankful God allows him now to speak. Brother Michael shared how we chose to carry these burdens with us, but that the Lord is looking for those ready and willing to shed those burdens.

Brother Michael challenged the congregation, "Why distract ourselves with junk mail, email, television when it takes away from our family and from God?" He stated how God wants us to be spending that time with Him. Our first instinct becomes to follow Christ and be Christ-like when we continuously take the time to choose Christ. Our nature then turns into God's nature. Brother Michael said there will still be a yoke, but it will be easy. It does not mean there will not be trials. He then expressed how he loved to hear the testimonies of the older brothers and sisters who exclaim that He is sweeter as the years go by and that it was worth it all! He explained how it is beautiful because there will be difficult times, but He will see us through and give rest for our souls.

Brother Michael then read Luke 9:57-62, "...a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Brother Michael then explained how the Lord wants people who are dedicated and looking forward. He

said "We take the cross for the crown. We take the cross of Jesus Christ and have to be willing to give ourselves to the Lord. Our minds put emphasis on things that are not important, therefore we need to come together and love one another as a group."

"It is amazing to see the people of God united," Brother Jordan Giannetti began. "We have a specific purpose which is to reflect Jesus Christ! We all represent Jesus Christ in our lives. He lives within our hearts." He continued that the only way mankind can find salvation is through His door. "People are born in darkness and die in it, therefore we need to reach those people," Brother Jordan pleaded. "Spiritual urgency – we should all have it, and generate it when we see those suffering around us. We need to shine that light!"

Brother Jordan then described a company meeting he attended where the theme was how the company needed to change and transform to keep up with the market. Brother Jordan explained how the world is the same, always saying to change, innovate, keep up, but the message of Jesus Christ does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The world promotes busyness, and filling our lives with change. He asked, "How do we make sure we make time for God and not yoke ourselves to these burdens?" Answering, Brother Jordan read from II Corinthians 6 and expressed how we are the temple of the Living God, but that there is more to that – God does not dwell in an unholy temple. He asked us to sanctify ourselves and sanctify them with our words. "Are our temples filled with unholy things? They may not be sinful things, but are there things filling our time?" Brother Jordan requested that we strive to make room in our vessels for Him. Brother Jordan quoted King David where he said, "I have hidden thy word in my heart," and said how we will be the salt of the earth, that city on the hill, that people if we continually ask ourselves, "What can I clean out of my temple?" He exhorted

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## Southwest Region Conference

Continued from Page 3

how we must help each other too. We need to be interested in each other's lives and how we're doing spiritually. It is glorious to see the genuine love of God, but we should see it more often. "We can do better! Let's pick each other up! Let's pray for one another! Let's not rest until we know we are each safe," Brother Jordan exclaimed.

Brother Larry Watson followed by sharing how it's beautiful to see the congregation and feel the Spirit of God. He then announced how he just turned 60 and is not a young man, but that he still feels young and that the fire is still burning. He said how he loves to preach the Gospel, and asked "Do you love hearing it? Do you love giving your testimony?" Every one of us has been given a talent and when we use it to glorify God He will bless us. He continued that no matter what talent He has given us, we can use it to honor Him in our workplaces, no matter what we do.

He expressed that the longer he serves Him, the sweeter He grows and he has never regretted it or being part of His kingdom. He then read from Philippians 4:6&7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Brother Larry explained that a few visitors to the Tse Bonito Branch who are from the Philippines shared that with all the wealth we have in this country (the U.S.) we are not happy and peaceful as those they left in the Philippines, who had at least ten times less money than we do.

Brother Larry then continued to read in Philippians, "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." He pleaded, "It begins with what we think!" Then he asked us what we

think about during the day, at night, first thing in the morning. Are we able to think on these things? He answered, this is what we need to start with, our thought life. That is what leads to what we do, what we say, and what peace we have.

Then Brother Larry shared a story regarding a Christian truck driver company owner who required all of his employees to take a polygraph test after he hired them. One of the questions he would ask is if they believed in God. Most of his employees would say yes, but every once in awhile, one of them would answer no to believing in God. In those instances the test would show the employee was lying. Brother Larry addressed the congregation saying we need to not be ashamed about how we spend our time and our money when we stand and meet our maker. He then petitioned us to share our testimonies so others won't have to be ashamed either.

Brother Barry Mazzeo began his address with, "Isn't the love of Jesus something wonderful," and instructed the congregation to embrace the person on each side of them and tell them they love them. He stated how Jesus Christ was knocking on our hearts, and to those who had rendered obedience he said, "I speak to you by way of commandment: continue on the straight and narrow which leads to life eternal." He then extended an invitation, "Come unto Christ," and said, "I speak unto those who have no covenant with Christ, a word of testimony." Brother Barry expressed his thanks for the brothers and sisters whose lives reflected the love of Jesus Christ. He shared how the Spirit of God knocked at the door of his heart, and he waited for a revelation. Brother Barry continued his story by saying he felt the Spirit in a home meeting in Scottsdale. His brother asked for his baptism that day, but he struggled in his spirit. Then in Bell a few Sundays later, nine people asked for their baptisms and again he waited for an experience. Finally he took courage and asked for his baptism as well. Then Jesus said I love you and penned it in His precious blood. He explained how you do not need a great

outpouring of experiences when you sit in a meeting and hear the songs and testimonies -- the Lord is knocking at your hearts.

Again he extended the invitation by saying come all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Brother Barry then declared how we live in an unfriendly, sinful heart-ached world. The world cannot give or take away, come and drink of the living water. "We make mistakes," he said, "we need to call upon the Lord to forgive us and come into our lives. It does not matter what we have done, what our status is in life. Christ went to Calvary for love, and God is love." He closed by thanking God for the wonderful family and fellowship of the saints. He shared how the longer he serves Him, the sweeter He grows; He never leaves us, but walks with us. "Bless you everyone until your soul is filled with joy unspeakable and glorified."

In preparation for the apostles to lead the sacrament portion of the service, Brother Joe Calabrese expressed his happiness to be here to witness The Church of Jesus Christ in action. He shared how we have been drinking at those waters, the living water. He said how he wants to see what God has promised His people in action. Brother Joe continued, "When Christ came they did not recognize him and they crucified Him because they could not stand the competition. This is the way it had to be as He set up His church and showed the example -- that we would be His people. Christ taught His disciples and followers how to pray and follow the commandments. He told them to pray in the order of The Lord's Prayer." Brother Joe said, "Christ gave us basic things, first give glory to God and second follow the example. No one can match Christ's example, and no one can inherit the kingdom of God without that LOVE of God."

As he asked the other brothers to begin to prepare for communion, Brother Joe said this was given to us by way of instruction, "Do this in remembrance of Me." He continued

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"And these things have I written, which are a lesser part of the things which he taught the people; and I have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus hath spoken. And when they shall have received this, which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them. And if it so be that they will not believe these things, then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation. Behold I was about to write them, all which were engraven upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbade it, saying: I will try the faith of my people" (3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 26:8-11).*

Mormon, in finalizing the history of his people did not actually write everything that was said or took place, but instead wrote the "lesser" things, which today we have as The Book of Mormon. There are deeper things of God which would enlighten our spiritual understanding and broaden our knowledge of how He works, but these deeper things cannot be given to us unless we first faithfully accept and believe the easier teachings. It is hard to believe that there can be teachings deeper than what we read in the Bible and Book of Mormon, since these books contain all we need to obtain salvation. Yet, when you really think about it, how often in our lives do we question why things around us happen the way they do. How often do we question our own inability to resist temptation, and sin, and sometimes feel like God isn't listening? How often do we question things we see in the Church, and wonder to ourselves if God sees and hears? So many questions, uncertainty even about our own salvation and so much opinion abounds. These are the areas that are unknown to us. There are answers to these questions, but the Lord will not answer every question we have, or tell us everything we need to know. Why? If He were to do that, we would not have to rely or trust in Him. But as our trust (or faith) in Him grows stronger and stronger, and we are rooted deeper and deeper, then the Lord is comfortable with telling us the deeper things of life.

It is important to realize that His ways and thoughts are higher than ours. It could be easy to deny the truth of The Book of Mormon, or even the Bible for that matter when we begin to delve into the reasoning and opinions of others. We can get easily confused in thinking that these opinions are truth, when in fact they are merely an attempt of mankind to justify their reasoning and opinions. But Jesus asks us not to reason or form opinions in order to find answers to the unknown. He asks us to believe based on complete faith and trust in Him, even when this belief in our natural minds seems foolish. Remember His mind is so much greater than ours. It is always comical to come across a person who vehemently denies The Book of Mormon, but never read one word from it! This just confirms the foolishness of men's minds. A person like that can never receive greater things. They will die drinking nothing but milk. But when we can go against popular opinion and trust the things that are written, even if we can't explain them, then we are the ones who will gain greater spiritual insight. In this passage of scripture, Jesus even teaches the children and loosens their lips. The children then spoke great and marvelous things to their parents (even greater things than Jesus spoke!). Why did Jesus use children to do this? The reason is because only children possess an innocent and sincere faith and trust. The adults are too clouded with doubt and cynicism. We should be like a little child, innocent in our trust and belief in our Heavenly Father. When we do this, He can grant to us greater and deeper things, and can give us answers to questions we were never able to answer. Even in our day to day lives, the smallest questions or uncertainties can be answered if we constantly demonstrate childlike faith and trust in the one who loves us more than anyone in this world – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## The Children Who Saw Jesus

Dear Friends,

Can you imagine how wonderful it would be if everyone in this country loved Jesus and had a heart full of kindness and faith? Can you think how nice it would be to be able to trust every other person? No one would think they were better than someone else and hurt their feelings. You would never have to lock a door or worry about thieves or robbers. You and your family or friends could sleep out in your backyard, or under a tree someplace and never be afraid. You could talk to any stranger. All children would be loved and safe. Everyone would help each other and work together too. If your family needed something, all they had to do was mention it and another would help you.

This was how the Americas were after Christ was born and after He allowed Himself to be crucified. Thousands of evil people tried to kill all of the followers of God. They did not listen to the warnings of the ministers and prophets and refused to change. At the death of Jesus, God sent a huge destruction on this land. The Book of Mormon tells us that fire, earthquakes, and storms destroyed entire cities. A huge, mist of volcanic vapor covered the land for three days of darkness as the survivors cried and screamed in sorrow and fear (3rd Nephi, Ch. 8). Then they heard a quiet and beautiful voice talking sadly about all of the things people had done wrong. That sweet voice was the voice of Jesus. When the skies cleared, a huge



multitude crawled out from under their ruined homes (3 Nephi 11:1). As they were marveling and showing one another all the changes that had taken place, they began remembering and talking about the prophecies telling them about Jesus.

While they were talking, they heard another voice as if it came from heaven. They looked all around trying to see where the voice came from. The voice was not loud, or mean, but it pierced them to their soul and their hearts started to burn. Again, they heard the voice but could not understand it. And the third time they heard the voice, they opened their ears to hear it and their eyes looked to the heaven, and they understood the voice. It was the voice of God saying, "Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name—hear ye him." And as they understood and looked up into heaven, they saw a man descending out of heaven. He was clothed in a white robe, and he came down and stood in the middle of them. It was Jesus! He walked among them, one by one. He told them to come close and see with their eyes and feel with their hands the places that nails had been pounded when they crucified Him. Each one went forward and witnessed it was Jesus.

Then they all cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God!" And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus and did worship him.

Gently, Jesus started teaching them how to set up His Church. He called forth a man named Nephi from the crowd. Nephi came to Jesus and fell upon his knees and kissed the feet

of Jesus with love. Jesus told him, "I give you power that you will baptize this people when I have again gone back to heaven." And the Lord called others and gave them the power to baptize and began baptizing, and He told them the words to use. These are the same words we use today in The Church of Jesus Christ.

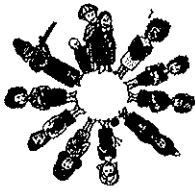
After more teaching, Jesus called for all the sick and healed them. Then He wanted the children brought to Him. When they were gathered, one by one, He prayed for each child. The heavens opened and angels came down as though they were in the midst of fire. They made a circle around the children and talked with them while their parents rejoiced (3rd Nephi 17:24).

(Continued on Page 10)

### WORD SEARCH

JESUS	AN
SON	ANGEL
OF	CAME
GOD	TO
CALLED	THEM
ALL	WERE
THE	ENCIRCLED
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E	C	C	E	D	E	I	L	R
L	A	J	L	B	V	F	S	I
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C	T	T	O	G	R	O	F	E
T	H	E	M	F	E	R	E	W



## The Joy of a Business Meeting

By Sister Terri Bravo

The sisters met for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference at Greensburg, Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 13th. For those who haven't had the opportunity to attend one of these meetings the prevailing feeling is joy: joy to serve the Lord, joy to be together, joy to report on the local and area Circles' activities and joy to disburse funds. The sisters of the Circle would agree that it is better to give than to receive.

Our President, Sister Karen Progar, opened the meeting and welcomed a good representation of the seven domestic areas. Sister Lorraine DeMercurio opened with the theme of walking with Jesus. She used the scripture, Romans 10:11-15. She spoke of the importance of feet washing and how it is symbolic of our being washed from sin. She explained that as we walk with Jesus we need to allow Him to direct us. This theme was continued in our afternoon service when the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area presented a program on the same topic. It is a joy to see how God works in our sisters' hearts and how the spirit works when one is willing to listen.

Sister Karen spoke of one of our former presidents, Sister Mabel Bickerton, who recently passed away at 105 years old. For over 30 years she led the Circle and we are all beneficiaries of her service. She had many talents, which she used for the Lord. For example, she wrote hymns, prepared Sunday school and VBS lessons, and wrote the Children's Corner for the *Gospel News*. She was a dedicated worker who truly walked with Jesus. Sister Karen asked that if anyone has a personal memory of Sister Mabel to please forward it to

Sister Lisa Champine at:  
[websister@generalladiescircle.org](mailto:websister@generalladiescircle.org).

The Circle will continue in its efforts to increase its membership and our sisters surprised us with t-shirts with the "Join Circle" logo. Our desire is to help the youth to develop a heart to serve the Lord in the Circle. Our Youth Enhancement Officer, Sister Lynette Huttenberger, reported on her efforts with the youth from 11 to 15 years of age. She has a Book Club and on-line Web chat that she has conducted.

We all anticipate with joy the disbursement of funds. Sister Bonnie Metzler said, "Donations given are a reflection of God's blessing in your life." The sisters in the Local and

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*"For those who haven't had the opportunity to attend one of these meetings, the prevailing feeling is joy: joy to serve the Lord, joy to be together, joy to report on the local and area Circles' activities and joy to disburse funds. The sisters of the Circle would agree that it is better to give than to receive."*

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Area Circles hold fundraisers and work diligently to support missionary work. The sisters responsibly vote and feel joy when we disburse our funds to worthy Church projects. Our funds were disbursed as follows:

General Fund: IMOC: \$5,000.  
Native American Fund: Three Vacation Bible schools were each given \$900 (Tse Bonito, Lakeside and San Carlos).  
Native American Newsletter: \$2,100.  
Card Sender: \$75.  
Communion Cloth Committee: \$300.

In addition, our six-month project is to raise an additional \$5,000 to aid the Church in missionary work.

Sister Karen cheerfully says, "We don't hold onto our money." Funds raised are for a purpose and it is our joy to give.

Sister Lorraine volunteered to become the liaison to the IMOC. She was given the floor to remind us of the election of officers in 2008. Due to health issues she would like us to pray for someone to fill her position. At this point in her life she would like to focus on supporting her husband, Brother Nephi, in his missionary efforts. We appreciate her years of service to God and the Ladies' Uplift Circle. She reminded us that the vice presidency is an important office and we should be prayerful because the sister who would fill this position would have the potential of becoming president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. We encourage our readers to join us in prayer to seek the Lord's will.

Our next fellowship weekend will be in 2010. Four willing sisters volunteered to lead the project: Sister Angela Yoder, Sister Marian Yoder, Sister Robin Burns and Sister Jo Ann Niehl. The sisters voted to hold the event at either Charlotte, North Carolina or Nashville, Tennessee. The final decision will be made at our April 2008 Conference when the sisters present the possibilities. We hope many sisters come and join us as we are planning on celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that weekend.

In the afternoon we received a presentation from members of the newly-formed Native American Outreach Committee. They helped us to understand the purpose of the committee: reaching Native Americans through a quarterly newsletter, DVD and online journal. It is very exciting to hear of their efforts and feel their enthusiasm for participation in working for the Lord. We enjoyed a season of testimony. The part of the meeting that always dampens our joy is when we must adjourn the meeting. We reluctantly closed by singing *Jesus, My All, to Heaven is Gone*, and Sister Connie Frankenbery closed in prayer. We thank God for the joy He gives us in His service.





## Blessings and Growth in Modesto, California

By Sister Debbie Kyriakakos  
and Sister Jody Greger

We were truly blessed to have a Youth In Action tour come to the Modesto Branch this summer during the week of July 14-22. Six very energetic young brothers and a sister came to spread God's word to our community and uplift our branch. On Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>, their first Sunday in our branch, Brother Leonard Lovalvo gave the invitation that if anyone wanted to be baptized, this was their day. During the course of the meeting, he would ask three times. Little did he know that before his third invitation, one of our young girls was praying that if it was her day, he ask one more time. When he asked the third time, she rose to her feet and asked to be baptized. That was Allyssa Camarda, daughter of Brother Sam and Sister Tami Camarda. Due to the death of Allyssa's grandmother, Sister Mary Brown, Allyssa's baptism had to be postponed until August 12.

On that Sunday, we started at the river at 9:00 a.m. with Allyssa's baptism. She was baptized by Brother Rich Deulus. Back at the branch, Brother Leonard Lovalvo opened the meeting speaking about the gift of the Holy Ghost. Brother David Picciuto followed talking on the theme of our conference from the week before, "Stir Up the Gift that Is in Us." Our new Sister Allyssa was confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

Right before the testimony service, Brother Joe Ciarolla was inspired to get up and read just one verse from Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." As soon as Brother Joe finished reading, Brother Kenny Brown stood up and spoke in

the word of the Lord, "You have heard the word of God – open your hearts, He is knocking at the door, open your hearts now!" The Spirit of God powerfully entered our meeting as Shantae Segovia, Brother Rich Deulus' niece asked for her baptism. Then Carlos Mosqueda, son of Brother Alfredo and Sister Rosita Mosqueda asked for his baptism. Next, Cassandra Calderon, friend of the Deulus family, asked for her baptism. Then Amy Burkart, daughter of Sister Debbie Meo Kyriakakos, asked for her baptism and finally, Jerrica Picciuto, daughter of Brother David and Sister Lori Picciuto asked for her baptism. We all basked in the overflowing of God's Spirit as we sang *The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning*, then enjoyed beautiful testimonies of praise and thanksgiving. It was truly a WONDERFUL day.

These five were baptized the following Sunday, August 19, in Modesto, for yet another day of celebration and praise. That day, Sister Lisa Deulus-Martinez shared a vision that she had the morning that Sister Allyssa first asked for her baptism. She saw Christ enter our meeting, walk behind certain people, tap them on the shoulder and say, "he will come", or "she will come." When He walked behind Sister Allyssa, He tapped her on the shoulder and said "She will come today." What a glorious confirmation of not only Sister Allyssa's calling, but of all the others who also surrendered their hearts to God.

Please remember these young people in your prayers as they start their walk with the Lord, and remember us all here in Modesto as we endeavor to serve God.

## An Ordination at Vanderbilt, PA Branch

By Sister Denise Fleming

On September 9, 2007, the Vanderbilt Branch was privileged to have Apostles Paul Palmieri, Joseph

Calabrese, Paul Liberto and Thomas Liberto visit and witness the ordination of Brother Pete Darr into the office of Elder. Visitors from California, Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania were also present.

The four Apostles addressed the congregation with the message that we all need to present ourselves as true and living sacrifices. We must give of ourselves completely. We are to be part of the body; and there is something unique for all of us to do. We must all work together in our service to Christ. Brother Pete is dedicating himself to work for Christ; and we must hold up Brother Pete's hands. God will bless us as we labor for Him. The ministry needs continual prayers to move the work of the Lord.

Sister Nia Haugh sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*. Brother Chester Nolfi washed Brother Pete's feet. Our Elders circled Brother Pete and were led in prayer for direction. Brother Richard Lowther ordained Brother Pete into the office of Elder.

Brother Pete expressed himself concerning how God has blessed his life and has brought him through many difficult times. The day his wife was baptized, the Lord touched his heart, and he was soon baptized. He requested our prayers as he goes on this wonderful journey and that he will be able to tell everyone he comes in contact about our Lord and Savior.

Brother Tom Stroko presented Brother Pete with a small bottle of oil which had belonged to Brother Joseph Bittinger. We were all blessed to see another member of the Priesthood ordained.

## Why Baptism Is an Open Ordinance

By Brother Jerry Valenti

When asked why she decided to be baptized in the Church, Sister Laura Gibson (of the Levittown, PA Branch) said it was hard to explain but she could just feel the Lord's calling upon her. She said she first experienced

this feeling when witnessing the baptism of Brother Josh Boruch in July 2005. She wasn't attending the Church at the time but did begin attending the following summer when her father (Brother Mike King) became very afflicted with cancer. Brother Mike was healed of the cancer and Sister Laura was baptized in November 2006.

In attendance at Sister Laura's baptism were Brother Mike McGuire (having recently returned to the Church) and his wife, Heather. Upon witnessing this baptism, Heather also felt the drawing power of the Lord upon her, which continued throughout our Sunday meeting. Not wanting to take away from Sister Laura's day (as she so graciously expressed it), Heather did not say anything about this until the meeting had concluded. She then informed us that she too wished to be baptized and this was accomplished two weeks later.

Wendy Jackson had been dating one of our members (Brother Gordon Connor) the past few years and had become quite familiar with the Church. After witnessing the baptism of Sister Heather, she started to talk about being baptized herself. A few months later, as she spoke to one of the branch elders, she realized that there was nothing actually preventing her from being baptized and she expressed her desire to become a sister in the Church. Her baptism occurred in April 2007, the same day as the baptism of Mike O'Connell (the college roommate of Brother Josh Gehly) who asked for his baptism after many discussions with Brother Josh about the Church. Since Mike's family lived nearest to the Levittown Branch, it was decided he would be baptized in Levittown and have his membership assigned there. Although it was a driving rainstorm that day, our new brother and sister entered the waters of regeneration and we enjoyed a blessed day with many visitors in attendance, including Brother Mike's family.

These two baptisms were the first witnessed by Tina Cipolloni (a high school friend of Sister Leanna Valenti) who had been attending church since February. Tina was

introduced to the Church via the Levittown MBA Youth Group which meets monthly and has served as a vehicle to introduce the Church to many high school students in the area. When Sisters Leanna and Amanda Valenti were in a serious car accident in February 2007 but were miraculously spared, Tina became a believer in the power of God. The week after the baptisms of Brother Mike and Sister Wendy, Tina felt the Lord's Spirit touch her while singing a hymn and asked for her baptism. She was baptized in May 2007.

Larry Dowd (a neighbor of Sister Adelaide Connor) was introduced to the Church when one of our branch elders went to anoint him for an affliction. Larry began attending church in January 2007 and was very blessed whenever he was able to attend. Watching the baptism of Sister Tina from his wheelchair, Larry (who was previously baptized in another faith in an indoor pool) said, "This is the way it's supposed to be done." A few weeks later, Larry was sitting on a shore gazing at the river, when he had a vision of Jesus Christ standing at the water's edge. The Lord said to him, "What are you waiting for?" Larry asked for his baptism that week and was baptized in August 2007. As an added blessing, Larry was able to use his walker to walk into the water that day.

Levittown was the site of the GMBA Youth In Action Extended Tour for the summer of 2007. Brothers Andrew McNamara and Josh Morris did a wonderful job of telling people in the Levittown community about the Church. One couple (who shall remain nameless for now) heard about the Church from our two brothers and began attending in late July. They were on hand to witness the baptism of Brother Larry. They have been attending church pretty regularly ever since. We are waiting upon the Lord to see if they will be the next to be called. Perhaps some other visitor will witness their baptisms and feel the drawing power of the Lord upon them as well.

We praise the Lord for His Spirit which draws people to Him. We are

thankful that He is even using the ordinance of baptism as an opportunity to call others to repentance. This open witness of conversion and the intent to serve God serves as an example to others and allows the Lord to move upon them to take the same step. The Lord knew what He was doing when He established baptism as an open display, a witness to the world.

We are thankful to the Lord that He has allowed our congregation in Levittown to be quickly rebuilt. After transferring 17 members to the newly-formed Mt. Laurel Branch in 2005, our congregation was significantly smaller. However, since that time, we have been blessed with 10 baptisms, several of which were people not from church families. In addition to the six mentioned above, others called into the Church in Levittown since 2005 were Brother Josh Boruch, Sister Doreen Perri, Sister Leanna Valenti and Sister Amanda Valenti.

Based upon our experience, we would encourage any branch that has visitors attending to make every effort to have those visitors witness a baptism. The Spirit of the Lord is felt by all on these occasions and it is this spirit that draws people to serve the Lord.

## Blessings in Monongahela

*By Sister Juliette Smith*

The Monongahela Branch has enjoyed a shower of God's blessings the past few months. We hosted a week-long Youth In Action tour in July that initiated excitement as the tour members handed out over 1,100 flyers in the area. Invitations were given for our Vacation Bible School and Sunday School picnic. The familiar format of morning chapel meetings was followed by canvassing before and after lunch. One evening meeting featured a guest speaker, Russell Simms, the Executive Director of the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center. He

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## Blessings in Monongahela

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discussed the need for our young people to interact with the Native American youth to continue the bond that has existed between our Branch and the Center for many years. Several visitors attended the Bible School, including a four-year-old boy named Josh. His shyness quickly disappeared as our young people showed their love for him. Everyone was excited when he showed up the next day with his parents for our Sunday School picnic.

Those who attended our Area MBA Campout the weekend of September 14-16 came back revived with the theme, "It's Time to Fly." Daniel Nicklow felt God's calling and requested his baptism. He realized he was spiritually alone without God in his life.

Our members and visitors met at the river shore the following Sunday morning for Dan's baptism. He was immersed by Brother John Mark D'Antonio of the Aliquippa Branch. Brother Richard Lowther opened the preaching service exhorting us to pray to God for all our needs, and He will provide. We must not forget to thank God and give Him the praise He deserves. Brother Alan Metzler followed, saying that we are in the ranks of God and are marching to eternal life.

The blessings continued. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, we again went to the river shore where Brother Joshua Nicklow led Robin Lenhart into the waters of baptism. In the preaching service, Brother Richard Scaglione Sr. referred to the Church as being "the mountain of the Lord" in our day. The devil will try to prevent us from reaching that mountain top, but if we rely on God we will succeed. In our afternoon meeting, Sister Robin's husband, Brother Tim, was renewed into fellowship.

On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, twenty-one individuals from the Branch attended the Pow Wow at the Indian Center to work as volunteers, something we have done for many years. Our group takes care of serving the Native food, as well as helping prepare it. Our involvement, as always, was greatly appreciated as we con-

tinue to strengthen the bond of fellowship that we enjoy with our Native American friends. The Executive Director of the Indian Center mentioned this continuing effort at the October Board of Directors meeting.

An ordination took place on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Brother Robert Golling was ordained to the office of Deacon. When the Priesthood first discussed this calling a few months ago and expressed their thoughts, Brother Jeremy Nicklow spoke in the Spirit, **"Ordain him, ordain him, for I have called him!"** This was certainly a confirmation of God's approval of their decision. Brother Michael Scaglione washed Brother Bob's feet, and he was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione Sr. Brother Richard Scaglione Jr. opened the preaching, using the calling of Samuel to work for the Lord. He told that God sometimes calls workers with a great experience, but He also calls with a still, small voice. Brother Jeremy Nicklow followed and related God's blessing to him. He said he knew Brother Rick was inspired this morning with the topic of God's calling. He stated, "I did know in my heart as I sat here pondering what the message would be today. The Lord spoke to me. He said, **'Listen for the call.'** So I know the Lord had a message for us." Brother Jeremy continued, saying that we must always be willing and ready for God to use us, even as Samuel was ready to be used for the Lord's work.

Our feetwashing service took place in the afternoon meeting. As usual, God's peace was felt as we performed this precious ordinance. It was related that when Brothers Jeremy Nicklow and Michael Scaglione were washing each other's feet, a great blessing occurred. Jeremy had washed one foot and proceeded to wash Michael's other foot. As Jeremy was praying, Michael noticed a change in his voice. When Michael opened his eyes he saw Christ's face in place of Jeremy's. Michael later shared this experience with the congregation in his testimony. Everyone felt God's presence in our midst.

Finally, Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> brought another blessing. Ana Sauro

was led into the waters of baptism by Brother Jason Monaghan. She felt God has led her to The Church of Jesus Christ where she stated she "found a home." Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, visiting from Aliquippa, opened our morning preaching service, using the very familiar John 3:16 for his subject. God's love was shown when He sent His Son to bring us salvation. We are saved by God's grace. Nephi saw the tree which represented God's love. Brother Jason followed on the same theme. He related how his great-grandparents were led to the Church by the love they found. We must accept God's calling, or we will go away sorrowful, as the rich man did. We continue to seek God's blessings in our lives and continue to thank Him for the ones He's given us.

## Southwest Region Conference

Continued from Page 4

by saying we should be fortunate to say to the Lord it is well with my soul as we partake of the bread and the wine.

On that Sunday the Lord blessed our region with His message being delivered through many of His ministerial vessels. We were challenged to yoke ourselves to the Lord not the busyness of the world, we were asked to help each other yoke to the Lord, we were commissioned to share our testimonies of being yoked with the Lord with everyone (be not ashamed), we were invited to take upon us the yoke of Christ if we had not yet, and for those who had taken upon them the yoke of Christ were encouraged to endure to the end by following the examples given to us by Christ.

## The Children's Corner

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Can you imagine seeing angels, meeting Jesus, seeing fire come down from heaven and feeling the power of the Lord? When these children grew up, not one of them ever got tricked by

the devil and fell away. Jesus came again and taught them and set up His Church. These became a blessed and precious people. Every Native American person you know today was descended from these survivors of the great destruction. Their ancestors were the most righteous people in the land, and God spared their lives. No one thought they were better than another.

As time passed, these happy people fell in love, got married and had many children. Since there were no wars or terrible struggles, people went to church, served God, loved their families and were free to be amazingly creative. Those living in the central parts above South America, left behind wondrous works of art. They carved gold and precious metals into amazing objects. They made weaving of tiny, beautiful threads, and incredible pottery. They were inspired by God to learn how to do amazing surgeries; even on the brain. We know this because old bones and skulls found show careful, skillful surgery. God blessed them abundantly. Today, archeologists, the people who study the olden days, call this perfect period of peace the "Classical Mayan Period" from the treasures they created.

They call the people who lived in North America during this time of peace, the mound builders because they settled along rivers and spread across Eastern United States and Lower Canada. In their burial mounds are found no weapons of war. Instead, there are an amazing collection of pearls from the ocean, sky blue turquoise from the canyons and deserts, grizzly bear teeth from the Rocky Mountains, copper from far up north above Lake Superior, carved conch shells from Florida, and decorations made from shark teeth. This shows that there must have been peace so great that these people from long ago could travel wherever their boats and legs could take them from one coast to another.

Nearly two hundred years passed like this. The children who had seen Christ and had angels talk to them never fell away from loving and serving God. They raised their children and grandchildren with knowing

how Jesus had saved them from the terrible destruction, and how angels had talked with them. Their children and grandchildren enjoyed living where everyone was peaceful and good too. People were free to travel anywhere they wanted; everyone shared what they had, and all loved and served God.

We believe that a time of peace will happen again for God's people. We will all live with each other in a place called Zion. We will share with each other. We will remember that the important thing in life is not to think we are better than other people, but to realize that God sees our hearts, loves every one of us, and expects us to do the same.

With care,  
Sister Jan

## *Note of Thanks*

I would like to thank all the branches and missions and all the brothers and sisters who have sent cards and prayers for God's help for my grandson, Trevor D'Amico. God has performed a miracle and Trevor is enjoying good health. He is attending school and all reports from the doctors are excellent, thank God.

Sister Grace D'Amico and Family

## **Baptisms and Reinstatements**

Brother Dylan Stallard was baptized on March 18, 2007 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Sam Cuomo.

Brother Vincent Smith was baptized on August 26, 2007 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother Carl Romano and confirmed by Brother John Buffa.

Sister Stacey Atkins was baptized on September 23, 2007 at the Redford, Michigan Mission. She was baptized by Brother John Buffa and confirmed by Brother Frank Vitto.

Brother Daniel Nicklow was baptized on September 23, 2007 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother John Mark D'Antonio and confirmed by Brother Joshua Nicklow.

Sister Robyn Lenhart was baptized on September 30, 2007 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Joshua Nicklow and confirmed by Brother Karl Kirschner.

Sister Laura Gibson was baptized on November 19, 2006 at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Nick Boruch and confirmed by Brother Jerry Valenti.

Sister Heather McGuire was baptized on December 3, 2006 at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Mark King and confirmed by Brother Nick Boruch.

Brother Mike O'Connell was baptized on April 15, 2007 at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Chris Gehly and confirmed by Brother Jeremy Nicklow.

Sister Wendy Jackson was baptized on April 15, 2007 at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jerry Valenti and confirmed by Brother Nick Boruch.

Sister Tina Cipolloni was baptized on May 13, 2007 at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jerry Valenti and confirmed by Brother Nick Boruch.

Brother Larry Dowd was baptized on August 5, 2007 at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Brother Nick Boruch and confirmed by Brother Mark King.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

Brother Joshua Nicklow and Sister Lisa Gray were united in holy matrimony in Monongahela, Pennsylvania on May 26, 2007.

Brother Jeremy Nicklow and Sister Heather Onorato were united in holy matrimony in Monongahela, Pennsylvania on August 18, 2007.

Brother Zachary Jackson and Sister Emily Castor were united in holy matrimony in Kinsman, Ohio on July 7, 2007.

Brother Justin Onorato and Gissette Benedit were united in holy matrimony in Miami-Dade, Florida on September 29, 2007.

## Ordinations

Sister Michelle Watson was ordained a Deaconess on September 30, 2007 at the San Carlos, Arizona Mission. Her feet were washed by Sister Lynette Huttenberger and she was ordained by Brother Jim Huttenberger.

Brother Matthew Gehly was ordained a Teacher on October 7, 2007 at the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Timothy Gehly and he was ordained by Evangelist Arthur Gehly.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Branch or Mission \_\_\_\_\_

## Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother John Buffa of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ in April, 2007.

Brother Frank Vitto of the Windsor, Ontario Branch celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Arthur Gehly Sr., of the Herndon, Virginia Branch celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on October 13, 2007.

Sister Esther Cadman Eutsey of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ on October 13, 2007.

Brother Andrew Locci of the Rochester, New York Mission celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ in June, 2007.

## Children Blessed

Lucas Adam Mcfall, son of Jennifer Mcfall, was blessed on September 9, 2007 in the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Brooklyn Elsie Schweitzer, daughter of Warren and Sister Joanne Schweitzer, was blessed on October 28, 2007 in the Simi Valley, California Branch.

is survived by her son, Brother I. James Martin; daughter, Virginia Martin; and two grandsons, Steve and Doug Martin.

### JENNIE SARVAR

Sister Jennie Sarver of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on September 11, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Basil Sarver. She is survived by her sons, Roy Sarver and wife, Linda, and Ron Sarver and wife, Leslie; as well as five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### MABEL CADMAN BICKERTON

Sister Mabel Cadman Bickerton of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on September 18, 2007. She was a Deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, John C. Bickerton. She is survived by her daughters, Carol Lovell and husband Jack; Irene Yonkee and husband Ken; son John Bickerton and wife Mary; nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and two sisters, Sister Sara Vancik, and Sister Grace Landrey.

## OBITUARIES

### ELLEN MARTIN

Sister Ellen Martin of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on June 29, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband, Evangelist Idris Martin and a grandson, Kenneth Martin. She