



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

January, 2010

Volume 66, No. 1

The New Year – 2010

By Brother Donald Ross

This is the time of year when the world at large begins to make "resolutions." People will say "I will not do this, I will give up this;" whatever this means. It is most unfortunate that research shows that most of the resolutions never bear fruit.

There is only one way to bear real and true fruit in life. There is only one way to make the year different, meaningful and new – that is to make Jesus Christ your choice by rendering obedience to His commandments and by keeping His commandments. He must be our resolve! Then and only then do we bear fruit, that spiritual fruit that we read about in Galatians 5:22-23, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*" These are the "fruits" the world desperately needs today if people truly have a desire to change, and no doubt they do because there are many sincere and honest in heart. It is by these fruits that we, the creation of God, men, women and children everywhere, are "all one in Christ," as we read in Galatians, 3:28, "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor*

free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." When the Apostle Paul preached his sermon on Mars' hill in Athens, he stated in Acts 17:26, "*And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.*" Imagine that, we are all of one blood! Given the state of mankind and the world today, you would never know it!

Men and women cannot change by themselves. We cannot change our nature. Only the Lord can change us. That is why Jesus Christ set up His Church; to change the behavior and nature of man. It is only by Him and through Him that we alter our behavior and nature.

The Scriptures tell us in a number of places that we must have faith, we must repent, we must be baptized, we must receive the Holy Ghost and we must endure to the end. When we follow these steps as outlined by our Saviour, His Apostles and Ministry, both past and present, we change. The Apostle Paul states that we become a new creature and we resurrect in the newness of life!

Those of us who have taken and follow these steps have the capacity, gifts, and power to make change, positive change in the world. We can and need to make the year of 2010 an

historic year for The Church of Jesus Christ. How you might ask? By exercising and putting more and more emphasis and focus on our responsibilities. Yes; our responsibilities are plural.

We have the responsibility of telling our families, friends, and neighbors about the Restored Gospel. We have the responsibility of bearing our testimony to all who are receptive and willing to listen. We have the responsibility of inviting people to The Church of Jesus Christ. We have the responsibility of supporting our branches and missions not only through attendance but by visiting the widow and widowers, the downtrodden, those that are low in spirit, those that are not well, and last but not least, financially. We have the responsibility to pray for those who lead The Church of Jesus Christ, to follow their instruction, admonition and counsel. We have the responsibility to pray for and support all the missionary efforts and works of The Church of Jesus Christ, both domestic and foreign. The Apostle James states in James 5:16, "*...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*" He also states in James 1:27, "*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*"

(Continued on Page 11)



The Power of a Testimony

By Brother Scott Griffith

Those of us who have met the Lord each have a personal testimony of His goodness towards us. Sometimes when we have the opportunity to speak to someone about God, we become intimidated thinking we are not prepared. We should be reminded we have one of the greatest tools for this—our testimony! The power of a testimony was made evident on our last two trips to our mission in Quito, Ecuador.

In September 2009, Brothers Tony Ricci, Daniel Mora, and Scott Griffith traveled to Ecuador to support and build on the foundation laid by many brothers before. They were privileged to visit with the saints as well as many friends and visitors and discuss the things of God. Many who hear of the Restored Gospel like what they hear and are intent to listen to the principles established by Christ. The teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ are taken as sound doctrine and respected by those who hear. In one of our meetings, a visitor began to question our belief in the blessing of children. The Spirit of God was present as the explanation was being given. The blessing was how the members of our mission voiced their testimonies of their beliefs in our Church and validity of our doctrine. The power of a testimony!

Brothers Ricci and Mora met a young woman, Maria, at the hotel where we stay when in country and began to tell her of our desire to see the Church established in Quito. She

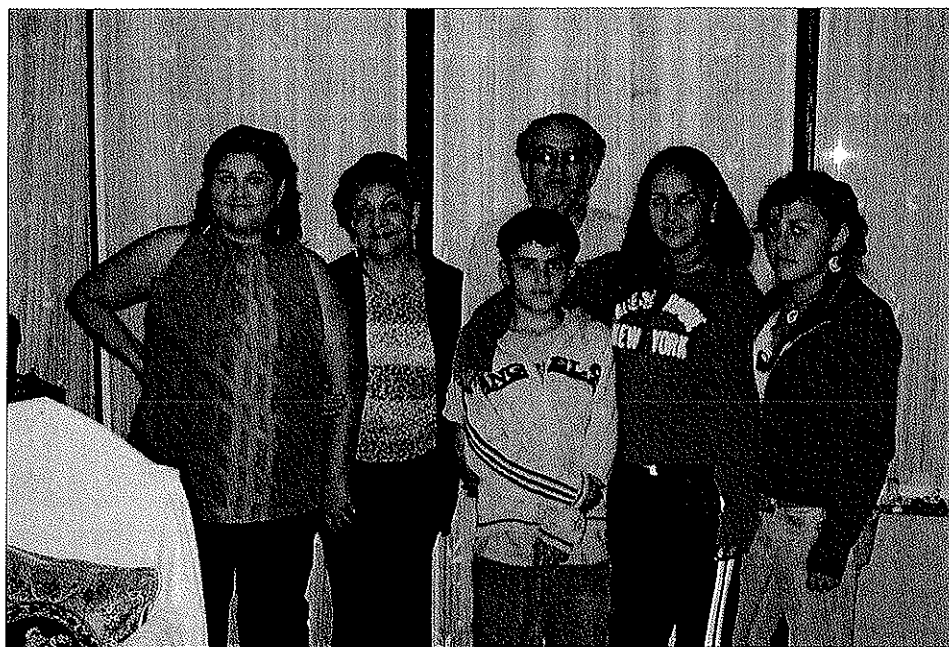
felt prompted to ask them to visit with her family. The brothers obliged and they had a wonderful visit with her and her family. As they visited with the family, they were able to testify of God's goodness in their lives and provide counsel to a family who needed God. The entire family asked for prayer, including Maria's sister, Veronica, who was to undergo surgery that week to remove a tumor at the base of her brain. The family felt good in the fact that they heard and felt the power of God.

When we returned to Quito in November, we were able to meet with Maria's family again. She stated

that since the brothers had visited in September, great changes had taken place within their family. We were informed that when her sister went to the hospital that week after the brothers left, the tumor that they were going to operate on disappeared and she did not have to be operated on! Praise God! The power of a testimony!

In November 2009, Brothers Daniel Mora and Scott Griffith traveled to Quito to meet with Yassis Peraza, a friend of one of our members. This young man informed the brothers that he was looking for something different in his life. He migrated to Ecuador from Cuba to start a new life for his family. Yassis befriended one of our members, Sister Xiomara, she shared her testimony with him. After hearing the testimony of our sister, he wanted to know more. He was given much literature of our beliefs, and when we met with him he expressed a desire to give his life to Christ through baptism. He was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. This new brother has a desire as well to see this Gospel grow throughout Ecuador and is zealous to help spread it! The power of a testimony!

(Continued on Page 4)



Maria's family in Quito, Ecuador.

Israel's Advocate: Out in the Desert

Recently I received an e-mail regarding a Native American outreach effort by two sisters – mother and daughter. There were a couple of good points I gleaned from their testimony of attending a powwow, which often is not the most ideal location or event for sharing the message of The Church of Jesus Christ. Yet, sometimes they are. Here is one of those times. Keep in mind, the names are mentioned, not to lift up or promote someone, but for you to see the realism and truth of the testimony. The e-mail was from Sister Vanessa Tostado from the Yucaipa, California Branch. She and her mother, Sister Rocio Tostado, and Brother Ron Kepics from the San Diego Branch decided to attend the biggest powwow in the desert area of Riverside County. Besides the local tribes, there are visitors from all over the United States and Canada. The host was the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

Prior to attending the powwow, the sisters prayed all week for God's guidance and blessing. Additionally, the sisters followed NAOC/Church protocol in their plans and actions. Before the main events began, Sister Rocio carefully walked up to the area where the people in charge were sitting on a platform, as they were surrounded by tribal security and police. She simply asked a security guard whether she could speak to the person in charge of the powwow. She was informed the woman in charge had gone to take care of some business, but he asked the assistant to speak to our sisters. Sister Rocio pulled out one of the flyers and gave it to the man and asked for permission to pass them out at the powwow. He read the flyer and stated he did not see anything wrong with it. They were approved to distribute them "as long as it didn't interfere with the powwow."

Our sisters went to the booths outside the main event (because of the noise and crowd inside) and

proceeded to hand out flyers. The first man they approached rejected the flyer right away, but Sister Rocio was undaunted and pushed on. It turned out all of the other flyers were accepted! While walking around the sisters noticed some of the dancers taking a break, so they decided to approach them. One of the men took it, said, "Thank you," and went back inside the tent. The other dancer accepted the flyer and began reading it. Sister Vanessa wrote, "He then began to ask us questions about our beliefs. He asked us whether we were Mexican and we said, 'Yes, but we are all the Seed of Joseph.'" He stated he believes everyone born in the North, Central and South America are Native Americans; and he added, "Our people built the pyramids in the Americas." He also told us about his love of history and quest for uniting all the tribes.

Our sisters were amazed at how willing the dancer was to speak and share his beliefs. He explained he is from the Ho-Chunk Nation. According to the Nation, Ho Chunk means "People of the Big Voice," or "People of the Sacred Language." At one time they occupied lands in the area of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota. After our sisters shared the Church's beliefs with him, he stated it was a joy for him to find someone who wants to talk about our Creator. He then shared an interesting observation with our sisters – while pointing at all the people around about buying food and handmade crafts at the booths he said, "Look at them, they're asleep, their spirits are asleep, we have to wake them up. Which one of them is willing to talk, learn and share about our Creator? They're too busy, look at them."

Our sisters shared farewells with the dancer, who, as he was walking away said, "Thank you, I love you."

Forty flyers handed out and one very special contact made – a very good day in the desert.

Tips of the Trade

Learning Experiences and Tips for Future Outreach

Recently we spent a week in Oklahoma, visiting 14 different Native American nations and having meaningful discussions with nine different tribal leaders, besides other individual and religious leaders (See September issue of the *Gospel News*). As with all missionary efforts, we learned some valuable lessons that we were encouraged to share with the Church. We understand that you may already be familiar with these tips, so this may be simply a refresher course. For those who may not be familiar with them, we hope that you find them helpful. We also understand that these tips may not necessarily be applicable to everyone or in every circumstance. So here they are:

- Always prepare with your local ministry and RMOC. Spend time in fasting and prayer.
- *The Native American Outreach Handbook* is a very useful document which is available on the Church website.
- Gather resources for handing out to those you meet and key locations. Be prepared with Church literature, such as Books of Mormon, NAOC flyers, *American Indian Moses* books, *First Voices Journals*, and have church business cards with phone numbers and addresses of branches and websites (both the General Church and www.FirstVoices.org).
- Prepare a contact list wherever possible. It's good to have a familiar point of reference, better to have someone who recommends you, and best to have someone go with you to introduce. Obtain further contacts and referrals from those you meet.
- When traveling, have both maps with directions and a GPS unit – both will come in handy, especially if the former is unreadable and the latter one fails to operate.
- Always be friendly to everyone.

(Continued on Page 4)

The Power of a Testimony

Continued from Page 2

As you can see, it does not take eloquent words or elaborate presentations to deliver the message of Christ. The simple, sincere testimony in our own words of how God changed our lives can be such an impact that it can be the tool God uses to touch others. Let us never be ashamed of our testimonies and continue to pray these testimonies increase in the country of Ecuador!



From left, Brothers Daniel Mora, Yassis Peraza, and Scott Griffith

Tips of the Trade

Continued from Page 3

- There are a couple of reasons for this tip. First, we are a happy people, so let our joy be seen. Second, you never know who you are speaking to, they could be either an angel (see Hebrew 13:2) or the very person you want to meet and share the good news with. More often than not, the people you meet are related to those on your contact list.
- Always show respect. This tip is for the same reasons as above, but also for the fact that we are visitors in their land, territory, office, or home. The Scriptures teach that we should honor all men (1 Peter 2:17 and Romans 13:7).
 - Be prepared to listen ("be swift to hear," James 1:19) as they may have some interest, comment or even concern they want to express – listen carefully because the opening you need may be in what they are telling you. And when speaking, consider Alma 38:12 – be bold but not "overbearing." Don't come across as condescending but on their level.
 - Use Jesus Christ as the starting point. Know the key points of the Plan of Redemption. It was for us; it is for them. If they are believers then it's a great common point of

interest. If not, the rest of the message will fall flat. Also, try to note you are not starting a church or trying to pull them out of theirs. God will do both of those things in His due time.

- Know and understand promises to Israel; know and understand lineage of Abraham to Native American. Can you deliver the message or explain the lineage in 60 seconds? That may be all you have. Practice, practice, practice.
- As always, your testimony of what Jesus has done for you is more impressive initially than presenting many verses of scripture.
- Ask if we could visit again as a future follow-up. A small, simple question, but it provides a sense of your reception and their interest.
- Be patient and be willing to wait. They have lives too, maybe even busier than yours. They may also want to see how patient you are. Schedule time with slack or flextime in case of extended discussions. If traveling to a location, keep in mind that although you may have put quite a bit of time into travel and want to be as efficient as possible, the purpose is to meet and discuss and share. That takes time.
- Discretely gather information, such as names and addresses where possible. Explain the purpose of the

information – to send additional materials and to stay in contact, and that we do not sell that information or share it with other people.

- Handouts; never leave anyone empty handed — give them a flyer, brochure, business card or books. You will know from their interest what to give them, but always leave them something, some small token of your interest in them.
- Leave material with interested people or those you could not see. We used a "Sorry we missed you" letter, explaining succinctly why we were there and what our message was. It was attached to church literature.
- Leave materials on tables with other periodicals where possible. Often you will be meeting them in public places where a coffee table or such may be visible. If there are other magazines or newsletters lying there, leave some of ours.
- Consider public institutions such as libraries that are always looking for books (such as the Book of Mormon or *American Indian Moses*).

These are just a few of the tips we considered, some we learned as we were performing our outreach. Do you have some to share with us? We would like to read them. E-mail your tipstomeat: talking.stick@firstvoices.org.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovatlo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Jameson Staley
1521 Registry Row
Arrington, TN 37014

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
2 Hancock Rd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

GREAT LAKES

Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST

Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC

Cheryl Cervone
437 San Vicente Blvd. - Apt. B
Santa Monica, CA 90402-1730

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST

Eugene Perri
570 N. Dover Rd.
Tequesta, FL 33469

SOUTHWEST

Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

We recently had a big snowstorm here in New Jersey dumping up to two feet of snow. When I finally decided to venture outside after the storm, my two sons, aged eight and five followed me. We were trying to climb a hill behind our backyard to go sledding. My boots would plunge deep into the snow creating giant footsteps. When I looked behind me, though, my sons could not walk through the deep snow, but were stuck after only taking one footstep, practically buried up to their waist in snow. I turned back, pulled them out of the snow, and instinctively told them to follow in the footsteps I had made with my boots. Instantly, the Lord spoke to me and told me that this is how He helps His little children through life.

Jesus told His disciples to follow Him. He told the rich young ruler to give up all that he had and to follow Him. He tells men and women everywhere, in all ages of time to put their steps in the footsteps He has already made for us, so that we can journey successfully through life, and not become "stuck" or "sink" in the things of the world. When we try to take on the world on our own, we cannot progress. But Jesus made a way for all of mankind to walk easily through life, but only if we put our feet in the footprints He made for us. Even Paul in the scripture said that we should follow him AS HE FOLLOWED CHRIST.

"And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, 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 in 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" (Luke 9:57-62).

We follow Jesus Christ by following His example and commandments. However, there are certain things we may have to give up in order to do this. The first person in this scripture needed to know that following Jesus based on emotion is not the right motive. He would not be popular in the eyes of the world for following Christ. Jesus had nowhere to lay His head, or call home. This world is not a home or friend to followers of Christ. The second person wanted to bury his father. He was too busy worrying about the affairs of life to follow Christ, saying he had to bury his father. Jesus tells him that the dead are dead. There is nothing he could do for his father's dead body. Instead, go out and preach the Gospel, or "follow in Christ's footsteps." The third man wanted to go back to his friends of the world and say goodbye, but Jesus knew his heart was still in the world. Once we make a commitment to serve the Lord, looking back makes us unfit for the kingdom of God. His heart was not fully converted. All of theses are examples of normal duties of life that were "excuses" that these men made, most likely because they really weren't interested in following the Lord in the first place. Likewise, we too must put the normal affairs of life secondary to our service to the Lord.

My boys HAD to follow in my footsteps in order to get to the top of the hill to go sledding. There was no other way. If they tried to walk a different way, they would not make it. The same is true when we follow Christ. There is no other way to run this race and complete it. We cannot try another way, or have different motives. If we do, we will never reach our destination. But following in His footsteps makes it so much easier to trudge through this world successfully and in the end, reach the glorious goal we all want to reach. Let's start 2010 by looking where the footprints of Jesus are, and putting our feet firmly in His, and push our way forward to the mark of eternal perfection.

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Tools for Change

Dear Boys and Girls,

When a new year starts, many people in this world decide to try and change. They become determined to be a better person, or do a better job at something. Thousands of them make a list of things they really want to do. They usually try to do these things on their own. Many of them are successful for awhile then give up, get discouraged and quit. But in The Church of Jesus Christ, we have powerful tools to help us change, to break old habits, be forgiven and start over to be better. Some of these tools are reading scriptures to learn God's advice and promises, praying to the Lord, asking for prayers from the Elders, listening to inspired preaching, and sharing our money with others.

Our first tool for learning about God's power to change is studying the scriptures. We have two precious books, the Bible and The Book of Mormon that show us the way. They contain the words of Jesus, God's only begotten son, who came down to earth to love and help us each. He was human like us. He really understands the things that we go through. The scriptures teach us ways to change, show love and forgiveness and become happier, more useful, better people. We learn to love and forgive others instead of hating or fearing them. We learn what we have to do to go to heaven when our bodies die.

Prayer is one of the strongest tools for a change that lasts. When you feel like you have so many problems you can't go on, much less change, Jesus tells us in Matthew



11:28, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." We learn to rest by praying and talking to Jesus about our worries and heartaches instead of gambling, drinking, overeating or taking drugs to escape. If we pray to the Lord and tell Him our troubles and ask Him into our lives and hearts to help us, we will find peace and solutions. We can also ask our ministers and church people to pray for us for help to change.

Knowledge is one of our most powerful tools for change. When you come to a meeting, you feel the Spirit of God when our Elders, or ministers, preach to us. Our Elders are different than leaders in most other churches. We follow the example taught by Jesus in the Bible and Book of Mormon. That means they are not paid money for their work. Jesus was a carpenter, Paul was a tentmaker, King Benjamin worked in his fields and Peter was a man who fished for a living. Since no one pays our Elders, they are not worried about being fired if they preach something that is unpopular. That means they can preach and teach us members however God inspires or directs them to.

Our Elders are also picked by the Lord through some experience or revelation just as they were in the Bible and Book of Mormon. They didn't just go to some Bible school or college, but they must have a special closeness to God and love for others. Sometimes, we as people make mistakes by accident or on purpose. Our Elders are a tool in God's hands to tell us when we are going the wrong way. Second, they preach through the inspiration and guidance of God. That means God can and will send us

directions of how to live the right way through listening to the words of our elders. We can change when we know the right thing to do.

Many people have money worries. If we are afraid about money, the scriptures tell us to learn to work (Romans 12:11), "[be] not slothful [lazy] in business." Then we must tithe, or give some of our money back to the Lord. God tells us in Malachi 3:10 to give the Lord (to the Church) part of your money. He said test me, and just see if I don't "open...the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Wouldn't you love to change and stop being scared about money? So if you are worried about money, pray for the Lord to help you find work, then share and give money back just like He tells us to.

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

GOD	ONE
GIVES	ANOTHER
US	PRAY
TOOLS	TITHE
TO	STUDY
CHANGE	THE
JESUS	BIBLE
TEACHES	AND
US	BOOK
TO	OF
FORGIVE	MORMON
LOVE	

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

Our Mission: To Shine Our Light and Share the Gospel

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

Our October Conference weekend in the Great Lakes Region was especially memorable as we began on Saturday with a visit from the General Church DOC, Domestic Operating Committee. On October 3rd, the members of the committee held a special meeting at Branch #2. During the day, the elders and teachers met with the committee to discuss ways to strengthen the Church on a local level. They broke into groups by branch and met specifically about the needs of each branch. The goal of this exercise was to develop ideas to increase and strengthen the membership at each branch and collectively as a Region.

Following dinner, the rest of the members were invited to a revival style evening meeting. We enjoyed singing with the accompaniment of many instruments as well as the performances of several beautiful musical selections. Brothers Pete Giannetti, Paul Aaron Palmieri, and Tony Ricci shared experiences and spoke to us about spreading the Gospel to those we come in contact with. Brother Pete opened by speaking about "putting on the garment." He spoke from John 19:23 where they took Jesus' robe and the soldiers cast lots for it. "He took off His robe of righteousness and laid it down that you and I may have the opportunity, through the great plan of salvation, at the foot of the cross of Calvary, that we might pick up that robe tonight and wear it. Oh, by the gift of God we wear that robe and He exchanges that robe for our sins." He spoke also of the parable Jesus told of the king who made a great wedding feast and prepared even the garments for those attending. He spoke of the man who did not wear the garment and was cast out. Brother Pete explained that the Lord pays our admission, provides the garment and all that we need to do is be there, put on the robe of Christ and enjoy the blessings of God. Brother Pete closed by stating, "Our focus, our

goal and our aim as a Church and as a people is that we would draw closer to Christ and never take off the robe of righteousness."

Brother Paul Aaron continued with the theme of the garment. "When the Lord makes the wedding garment He makes it perfect. The Church of Jesus Christ has a wedding garment. The price of the gown of The Church of Jesus Christ is infinite. The price cost the son of God His life, but He did it willingly because He distinctly loves each of you. He doesn't just love all of us, He loves **each** of us. That means He loves me, He loves you. It's personal. The wedding invitation is one on one." Brother Paul Aaron shared that the invitation to the feast is not just for us, it is for everyone, every friend, neighbor and person who will accept. He encouraged us to share our testimonies with all that we come in contact with.

Brother Frank Natoli, Region President, painted a picture of the feast and the beautiful table waiting for us with our name written in the blood of Christ, in a spot prepared just for us. He shared a thought that everyone has a place setting at the feast. "The question is only if we desire to sit at that table. Then, once we decide that we want to be there, like Lehi, it is not complete. We then desire our family and then our friends to join us." He again encouraged us to invite those around us to the feast to sit at the spot that the Lord has prepared for them.

The young people came forward to sing and our meeting was closed with anticipation for the day to follow.

In the morning we gathered at Branch #1 for our Region Conference. The Spirit of God was present even from our opening hymn. The pulpit was filled with the brothers from our region as well as the visitors from the DOC, Brothers Joe Benyola, Tony Ricci, Joel Calabrese and Paul Aaron Palmieri, and Apostle Dick Christman.

After a few selections from our Region choir, Brother Joe Benyola opened our meeting.

Brother Joe started by saying he had never heard the singing so beautiful in his life. While we are a talented region, he knew that it was because of the Spirit of God. He spoke of the DOC and the work to grow the Church domestically. He convinced us through use of an analogy about the end of the earth, that the most important thing will be our families and our relationship with God.

He spoke from 1 Thessalonians 5:6, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." Brother Joe spoke of being prepared and of the hope that we have as we walk through life that God has promised to help us. He spoke of the crucifixion and the sinner on the cross next to Christ and how Christ forgave him. "We should be prepared in every meeting wherever we go to say, 'Lord what do you have for me today.' The Spirit of God is always within us. We feel Him in our presence, in the music today which was so beautiful, in the songs, the preaching and the testimonies of our brothers and sisters. The most important gift that you have is your testimony to tell other people, because it is our mission to tell others so they can feel the same Spirit that you have."

Brother Tony Ricci followed with the theme "Are you ready?" He read from Ezra 7. "He [Ezra] was ready first of all because he knew the law – love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself." The next step, Brother Tony said, was to live the law. He spoke of Helaman giving the same advice to Lehi and Nephi to remember the commandments of God and do them. He said in order to do the work of the DOC and grow the Church we need to follow this plan. We need to be the example. "Ezra was made ready because he knew the law, did the law, and then he taught the law." He encouraged us to follow this example and grow closer to God so that we can be ready to share.

Brother Joel Calabrese spoke

(Continued on Page 11)



There is a Beacon Light Shining in Mt. Laurel, NJ

By Sister Lynda Sgro

These are the words that came to me sometime before our branch dedication: What does it mean to dedicate? The dictionary defines it, "to devote wholly and earnestly." In our endeavors to serve Him, the saints who reside in Mt. Laurel and the neighboring vicinity are transplants from various branches; namely, New Brunswick, Levittown, Edison, Freehold, Herndon, and Brooklyn. Through God's marvelous work, He set us here to build and dedicate a new house of worship for Him.

Initially the saints of Mt. Laurel met at Smithville School. One evening shortly before our Wednesday prayer service, one of our elders was passing by the property across the street from the school and the voice of the Lord spoke to him and said, "This is where you will build my Church." It was evening, he was in front of the school where we were meeting, and our brother thought, "I know, Lord, we meet here every Wednesday and Sunday." The Lord spoke to him again and said that "this was where we would build His Church." He let it go for the moment waiting on the Lord for the right time to share this experience.

During this same week, Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Micale were inspired to put a deposit on the same exact piece of property! This was directly across from the school. On this property sat a vacant cinderblock machine shop. The proposal to become a branch went to the Atlantic Conference for approval and was passed, including the purchase of the property confirming the aforementioned experience.

Four years later, with much planning, gutting the existing building,

Mt. Laurel Township approvals, and the new construction, we have a beautiful stone-edged building with a lofty wood ceiling that echoes the praises we sing to His glory.

Our dedication weekend took place on June 27 and 28, 2009 in conjunction with the Quorum of Twelve, Finance Committee and General Church Trustee meetings in our region. Much thought, prayer and effort went into the planning of our dedication. We had a host of 200 plus, visiting brothers and sisters from various parts of the country.

On Saturday there was an Open House followed with a beautiful DVD presentation prepared by Brother Greg Perri that captured the history and testimonies that went into our new building. In addition to the DVD, there were the personal testimonies of branch elders: Apostle Paul Benyola, Evangelist Joseph Perri, Evangelist Jim Sgro, Evangelist and Region President Joe Benyola, Brother Sam Sgro, Brother Arthur Searcy and Trustee Chairman Brother Joe Bonaduce. Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Micale also shared their testimony.

Brother Joe Benyola, Region President and 1st Presiding Elder of Mt. Laurel, gave an historical account of the building of the branch and

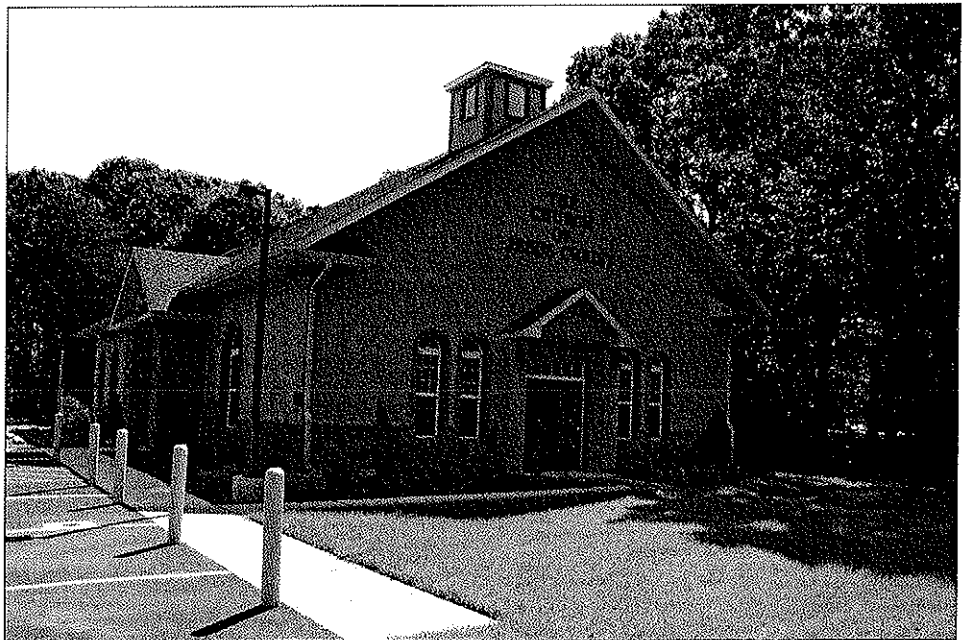
thanked all the wonderful efforts put forth by the congregation, region and General Church committees. Brother Joe presented a branch plaque, displayed on the outside of the building to Brother Arthur Searcy and Brother Sam Sgro. The plaque reads as follows:

The Church of Jesus Christ,
Organized 1862,
Dedicated June 28, 2009,
May all who pass through these doors
find peace and comfort.

A gift was given to the ladies of our branch for their support and efforts.

We then feasted on a delicious catered dinner and gathered for a singspiration.

Among our keynote speakers that evening were Apostles John Griffith and Isaac Smith. In his preaching, Brother John Griffith exhorted, "This building is no longer just mortar and stone. You can feel it's the House of God. It's becoming a home for the saints of God, where the Spirit comes to rest. We're not here dedicating a building, we're dedicating people. If you're not going to be dedicated, what's this work to us? Do you know the most important thing I see in here? It's you; you bring life to this structure.



The new Mt. Laurel church building.

We're not just dedicating the building here today; we're dedicating you, the congregation who's here. We want to dedicate you to His service. At the water's edge we all said yes to serving Him all the days of our life."

Brother Ike Smith stated that "this structure is not just built with hands. We're building this structure – His Kingdom on earth, the Church of Jesus Christ."

On Sunday we had seven of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles present, the General Church Trustees and Finance Committee members for whom we are grateful for their support, in financing, construction and the dedication of the Mt. Laurel Branch.

Brother Jim Sgro, our presiding elder, in his opening remarks related a dream the Lord gave him the night before. He said in the dream that he, Brother Sam Sgro and Sister Lynda Sgro went to visit the late Sister Jennie Micale (Brother Sam's sister and Brother Tony Micale's mother) in her home, which was now in heaven. As most families do, they gathered in her kitchen. She brought out wonderful cookies and ice cream which she always did as Brother Jim remembered as a little boy when going to her home. While sitting in her kitchen, it was not the kitchen of the old home where Sister Jennie lived in Edison, but a new kitchen and it was beautiful. The floor was made of crystal clear glass through which we could see the earth and all its glory. Brother Jim said to Aunt Jenny, "We have this new building, why don't you come with me to church and visit us? Sister Jennie replied, "No, it's better here. This is where church is for me now."

Driving to church that morning, our brother began to weep as the Lord allowed him to understand the dream. The dream meant that as wonderful as the new building was it had no comparison to our home in heaven and that everything we do here is in preparation for that future home. In addition the central focus of all that we do is Jesus.

Brother Peter Scolaro opened our service and spoke on Alma 26 and Alma 48, paralleling how Ammon and Moroni were like Christ, how they had a devotion, energy and enthusiasm for

finding souls. Our brother exhorted us that "now is the time for us to be polished up and ready. We need to be like Ammon, a man of spirit, strength, and courage. Brothers and sisters, how are we going to influence the world? Start to be a man of God. Be a woman of God. Be the contents of the package you've created and start to influence the world. Let the Lord do it. Start with one person at a time. The people you know, make sure that they meet Christ when they meet you, and this place will be a symbol, a beacon light that shines forth into a dark, dark world. Do you know what these people are like out there? They're people who need the Lord."

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo favored us with a hymn – his voice echoed throughout the building when he sang *God Bless This House*.

Brother Paul Benyola, Brother Joe Perri and Brother Tony Micale all gave wonderful accounts and testimonies of how families throughout the region came together to form our wonderful branch.

The Dedication Prayer was offered by First Counselor of the Church, Apostle Tom Liberto, who addressed the congregation first in saying, "As I am called to offer the Dedication Prayer, I would that all of us who are assembled today, those who have made their commitment to the Lord, and feel there's something lacking, that today as we dedicate this building, you would rededicate your lives to the Lord. For those who have not yet dedicated your lives, what would be a better day? When would be a better time than today that we could dedicate this beautiful building? We could dedicate our lives, our hearts, our spirits to the Lord."

We had such a beautiful outpouring of God's Spirit and I wish I could comment on every speaker, every singer and every moment that was spent here. So please if you can, come visit, pray, and fellowship with us in the new branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Our desire, as with you my brothers and sisters, is to see souls enter this new building and dedicate their lives unto the Lord.

Omaha-Bedford Mission

By Sisters Dorothy Miller and Janeen Dednam-Wright

The Omaha-Bedford Mission began in 1970 when God promised, because of the faithfulness of the four original sisters, that there would always be a remnant of this work in this part of His vineyard. By the gift of tongues He proclaimed it to be "The Land of Love."

During the entire weekend of May 22-24, 2009 we scheduled and planned events for Brother Todd A. Wright's ordination to become an Elder. We experienced the beautiful spirit of "The Land of Love" right here in Omaha, Nebraska with the contributions of all of the saints.

What a blessing it was to have Apostle Paul Palmieri, President of The Church of Jesus Christ with us. He arrived in Omaha early Friday afternoon, and we could sense his enthusiasm to share the weekend with us. Other weekend guests were Brother Tony Calabrese, President of the Ohio-Midwest Region; Evangelist John Genero, Chairman of the Ohio-Midwest Region Trustees; Evangelist Mitchell Edwards of the South Bend, Indiana Branch; and Elder English Webb of the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother Clifton Wells, commented on the gathering of so many members of the Priesthood at one time in Omaha. We were very pleased to have each of our guest brothers with us because each played a significant roll in the growth of our mission. In addition, on Sunday for the ordination we had over 76 people attend, which included family members, neighbors, and friends of Brother Todd, who just wanted to be a part of this blessed day. This was an indication of the blessings God has in store for our mission if we continue to prove faithful.

Friday afternoon we started the weekend with a laid back, kick-off-your shoes fellowship of fun and fabulous foods with a Mexican theme.

(Continued on Page 10)

Ordination in Omaha

Continued from Page 9

Saturday we had a "Come and Supp" brunch giving us the opportunity to feast on a scrumptious lunch which included some of our favorite recipes from The Omaha-Bedford Mission Cookbook (proceeds to benefit our Building Fund). These two events gave the visiting Elders an opportunity to learn more of the history and needs of our mission.

Communion Service was held Saturday evening. Brother John opened the service, reminding us all of the goodness of God and the blessings we receive when we are obedient and wait on His Holy Spirit to lead and guide. Brother Tony spoke on God's calling Brother Todd into the Priesthood. The purpose of the calling is to fulfill God's purposes in the work of the Lord. It was very necessary to yield to God's will and allow the word of God to be rooted in him. This is a lesson for all of us making us instruments in God's hand.

Brother Paul shared a personal experience with us concerning his desire to upgrade his employment. He was offered a better job which would occasionally require him to work on Sundays. After praying, he turned down the job. Then God spoke to him informing him where and when he would receive a phone call offering him a much higher upgrade in his employment. This phone call and offer came exactly when God said it would, proving if we obey God's voice, He will pour out blessings upon us.

Brother Clifton reminded us God is able to do all things. Reference was made to 1 Peter 2:1-5. Our Priesthood is chosen of God to be lively stones to offer up sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. The power of God was truly in the preaching, and a beautiful spirit was felt as Brothers Tony and Paul passed Communion.

At the end of passing Communion, Brother Tony saw an image of his father, Apostle Frank Calabrese, who was instrumental in the start of our mission, looking through the door of the church. As we left the church after the Communion service, many

saints witnessed a massive double rainbow over the eastern sky covering our building. We know these were signs and a stamp of God's approval over our mission.

For the ordination service, we rented the YMCA building because we knew our building was too small to hold the crowd that would be attending. This allowed us to seat all the guests comfortably in their theater seats; and also we were able to use their large kitchen to facilitate serving over 100 people after the service.

God gave us a beautiful, sunny day for the blessed event of Brother Todd's ordination into the office of an Elder. The Apostle, Evangelists, Elders, and Teachers all gave witness to the power of Jesus Christ in their lives and the lives of many others. Elder Todd's feet were washed by Brother Tony Calabrese. Afterward, we all sang *Where He Leads Me I Will Follow*. Then the brothers all knelt in a circle surrounding Brother

"Our Priesthood is chosen of God to be lively stones to offer up sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Todd, and the Spirit fell on Brother Mitchell Edwards to pray for God's direction as the service continued. As the brothers stood and the anointing oil was held out, God revealed to Brother Paul that Brother Clifton was to ordain Brother Todd into the Priesthood.

As Brother Clifton ordained Brother Todd, one of the sisters had the following experience: "As Brother Cliff began to anoint and pray for Brother Todd, I bowed my head and closed my eyes. There was a flash of intense, white light, just as though someone had turned on ultra bright, white stage lighting. I opened my eyes and looked at the stage to see what had happened. Brother Cliff was still praying, and the Priesthood was still encircled around Brother Todd and united in prayer. Then I looked in the sound/lighting booth of the auditorium, but no one was there. The auditorium

lighting was dim, just like it was before the prayer. After Brother Todd had been ordained, he approached the podium to speak. I lowered my head once more, and the same intense, white light appeared, just like lightening brings daylight to a nighttime sky. When I looked up, the auditorium lighting remained dim, and no one was in the sound/lighting booth."

After the ordination Brother Todd gave the following testimony: He said the Lord inspired him with the words, "A change is gonna come." He said, "These words begin to describe my new office of Elder and open my mind to many changes the Lord has in store for His Church. During the ordination, I had a feeling of great peace and assurance that the Father had truly called me into the office of an Elder." Brother Todd told the audience they could call on him anytime for the work of the Lord.

Brother English spoke of God's promises for the latter days in which we now live. He read from the 10th Chapter of Moroni 1-19 in the Book of Mormon. As Moroni did he exhorted the members of the audience to go to God in prayer concerning the things they have heard today and God will reveal the truth of all things by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Paul addressed the congregation, telling everyone that, even in these trying times, we have nothing to fear because God has promised to take care of His people. He spoke of the joy he felt being with us. One sister saw tears of love in his eyes.

At the close of the meeting, Brother Tony again saw the image of Brother Frank Calabrese at the back of the auditorium looking down on the Priesthood with a pleased expression on his face.

Everyone present was invited to stay for the luncheon which was prepared by the Mission members. Another blessing was how God multiplied the food to generously feed over 100 people with a great amount left over. Many of our guests commented on the ordination and how they felt the peace of God and also how they were blessed to be a part of it.

The New Year – 2010

Continued from Page 1

We can answer the call for change. We must answer the call. Change is needed and is being sought around the world. The Church of Jesus Christ receives many inquiries from around the world, from those seeking change. Recent inquiries have been received from Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, England, Indonesia, Liberia, Pakistan, and from within established works such as Colombia, Ecuador, India, Kenya, the Philippines and Venezuela. Can you imagine The Church of Jesus Christ in some of these countries? The simple answer is yes. The Lord will prepare the way. He will answer our calls and prayers. Remember, in the not too distant future, wherever we go, we will meet a brother, a sister and a friend in Jesus Christ.

There is a resolution that we should consider and apply in our lives. Be it resolved, *"Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen"* (Mosiah 5:15).

Let us fulfill our many responsibilities. Ask God to help you to fulfill your responsibilities. He will help you. Ask Him to give you the strength and zeal to be His humble and fervent servant; that through your effort or efforts, souls will be brought to His Kingdom. He will give you the strength and zeal to accomplish your responsibilities. By doing so, by asking God with a broken heart and contrite spirit, the Lord will richly bless each of you and use each of you for His honor and glory!

He will richly bless all of us. He will richly bless The Church of Jesus Christ in 2010 and beyond! Happy New Year and God bless you all.

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

God's people are meant to be loving, caring and able to pray and help each other. When you begin to doubt and fear, remember that those bad feelings often come from the father of all liars, known as the devil. He wants us to hide our talents, be afraid to be all that we can be. He wants us to be ashamed to use the tools God plans for us. He wants us to feel like failures with no hope. But, remember, you are a child of the King! Jesus will help you fight off those feelings of fear and failure. You can change to be a better person. You can win. The Bible teaches us in James 4:7, "Submit yourself therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Enjoy your new year of changes. When something happens that discourages you, pray and ask for prayers from others. If you fall or make a mistake, ask for forgiveness and start over again. Work hard and share your money and use scripture to fight the worries from the devil. God gave us so many tools to change our lives in wonderful ways. Enjoy them.

With love,
Sister Jan

Great Lakes Region Conference

Continued from Page 7

about quenching the Spirit and about giving our testimony in every interaction in our life including those we come into contact with at work and school. He asked us to examine our lives and that in each situation we are in, remember that 'we are there' and that we have the power to affect that situation. It is personal to our experience. "How many people have been put into your life that you have yet to talk to [about the Gospel]. It is our duty to not quench the Spirit. It's our duty to tell others of what God has done for us."

Brother Paul Aaron Paulmeri also shared a few thoughts. He asked us where we are in relationship to Jesus

Christ if the end were to come now. "Sometimes when you get battled and bruised, it may feel that you are at your lowest but it might be then that you are moments away from victory and it is then that you should have great comfort." He spoke from 2 Corinthians 4th chapter about victory. "The battle is won, you just need to claim victory through Jesus Christ... We are here to give God the glory that in spite of our trials in spirit of the distresses we are more than conquerors though Jesus Christ, we are more than victors through Him if we bear in our body the remembrances of the Lord Jesus Christ."

After a musical selection by Brothers Marcus Natoli, Bryan Champine, and Brad and Derick Everett, Apostle Peter Scolaro closed our meeting with a few words. "If we are the children of light, all that we can do is absorb that light that shines upon us and glow. That is what the brothers are saying is whether we really understand our opportunity to glow in this world today, so that source of light that we are can be noticed and seen and draw others to it... The day we have to seek is the day we shine in the light brighter than every light and we'll grow. And, we will be a people, who everyone, is really expressing the conviction of having been saved without saying a word. Our lives will radiate the conviction of knowing of our salvation."

The meeting was closed following a song sung by the children of the region. The message of the weekend was clear, our mission is to shine our light to those around us, to be an example, to remember that a place is set for each and every person at the table and to share this invitation to those around us that we may grow the Church domestically for the sake of saving souls.

Happy New Year
to all our readers.

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Owen Wilcoxson and Sister Rebecca Lobzun of the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Mission, were united in holy matrimony on November 15, 2008.

Children Blessed

Trennette Emma Angeline Villeneuve, daughter of Amanda Villeneuve, was blessed on January 28, 2009 at the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Mission.

Selena Ana Gonzales, daughter of Ricardo Gonzales, was blessed on January 28, 2009 at the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Mission.

Bianca Angelita Gonzales, daughter of Ricardo Gonzales, was blessed on January 28, 2009 at the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Mission.

Leah Kattan, daughter of Brother Jeff and Sister Susan Kattan, was blessed on July 26, 2009 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Rachel Kattan, daughter of Brother Jeff and Sister Susan Kattan, was blessed on July 26, 2009 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Samuel Kattan, son of Brother Jeff and Sister Susan Kattan, was blessed on July 26, 2009 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Ernest William Montgomery, Jr., son of Shannon Michelessi and Ernest William Montgomery, Sr., was blessed on September 11, 2009 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Dillon Edward Steven Bressler, son of Tim Bressler and Desiree DeVore, was blessed on October 18, 2009 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

Leaira Marie Bradwell-Jackson, daughter of Jessica Bradwell and Maurice Jackson, was blessed on October 25, 2009 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Colin David Barnes, son of Brian and Kimberly Barnes, was blessed on November 29, 2009 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Gwenyth Christie Robbins, daughter of Will and Sister Desiree Palmieri Robbins, was blessed on November 29, 2009 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Baptisms

Sister Patricia Roberts was baptized on November 1, 2009 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother James Abbott and confirmed by Brother William Colangelo.

Ordinations

Brother Joshua Gehly was ordained an elder on October 4, 2009 at the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Christopher Gehly and he was ordained by Brother Arthur Gehly, Sr.

Brother Jeff Kattan was ordained an elder at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother George Kovacic and he was ordained by Brother Tony Ricci.

OBITUARIES

THOMAS GERALD KING

Thomas Gerald King passed on to his reward on November 19, 2009. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sister Susanna King, brother, Samuel King and foster brother, Anthony Jimerson. He is survived by his father, Brother Lawrence King, Sr. and step-mother, Sister Sylvia King; his wife, Sister Jacqui King; and three sons, William Walters, and Tyler and Trevor King; siblings, Brother Mark King and wife Judy, Lawrence King, Jr. and wife Missy, Sister Connie Frankenberry and husband Rob; step-siblings, Brother Chip Smith, Sister Cindy Bright, and Sister Judy Peton; foster brothers, Edward and Richard Jimerson.

ROBERT (BOB) DYER

Brother Robert (Bob) Dyer of the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on November 12, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Sister Sally Dyer; three children, Robert, Michael and Michelle; four grandchildren; two brothers, Ronnie Dyer and Rodney Dyer and their families.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

February, 2010

Volume 66, No. 2

Guatemala

By Brother Randy Lee

My thoughts preparing for this trip were: What will God do? I would like to watch and see what God will do. I thought I was just "going along for the ride." I thought I was joining my brothers to help them in some way. But I found God was moving me closer to Him. I feel I have witnessed something greater than anything I could do of myself. Maybe you could say I was able to see His Church in action. I have learned Luke 1:37: "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Guatemala was more than I expected. It had the traditional consecutive meetings, traveling to and from, with many discussions in between, eating and more eating. The clincher for me was the out-pouring of God's love for His people in this land. I was blessed to accompany Evangelists John DiBattista and Carl Huttenberger on this trip.

The physical appearance of the Mayan people is short, dark hair, dark skin. When you get a little closer, these children capture your heart with their smiles that go from ear to ear.

We met with Brother Luis and Sister Darlene Marroquin, our Elder in Guatemala City, who has been a

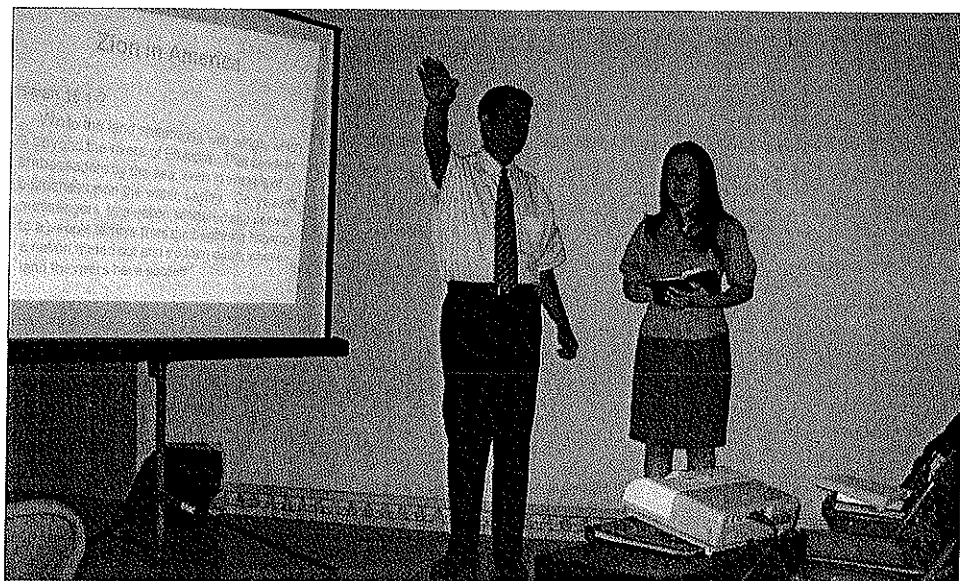
resident there for 20 years. We shared a heartwarming conversation about their lives, their needs, and their outlook of the future.

The next evening, we were invited over for dinner to the home of Brother Steve and Sister Lissette Kerby, a young family which moved to Guatemala about a year-and-a half ago. That evening we were to meet with their nanny and friends, about 40 minutes away. There was a group of 12 children and six adults. Brother Steve has been teaching these children English, then a scripture

lesson from either the Bible or Book of Mormon. This particular evening Brother Steve introduced Brothers John, Brother Carl and me as ministry from the U.S. He told them if anyone wanted prayer, we would be happy to pray for them. One notable event was a young girl who was prayed for, who then asked her mom and grandma to come and have prayer. They all left with smiles and uplifted spirits.

Saturday we drove about 1.5 hours into the mountain village and met

(Continued on Page 2)

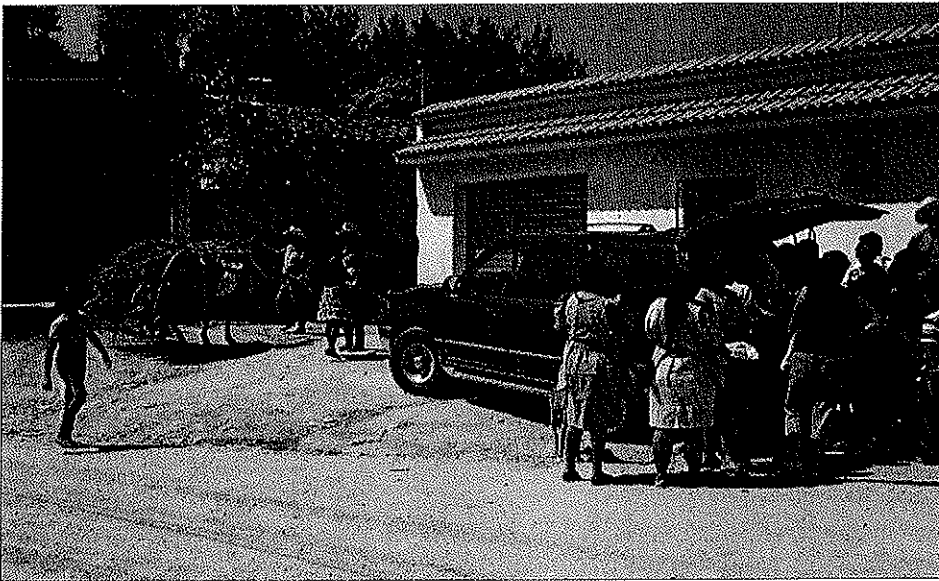


Brother John DiBattista giving a power point presentation on Zion with Sister Jessica interpreting.

Guatemala

Continued from Page 1

with the nanny of Sister Lisette when she was a little child. Once again Brother Steve taught the children English. It is much appreciated by the parents, and they often come to observe. Brother Steve and Sister Lisette use religious movies to capture their interest and which usually leads to discussion about the Church. Once again we had prayer and anointing for the old and young. Many suffer physical hardships to provide for themselves and their families. Today they brought bags of rice to pass out to the poor families.



Handing out bags of rice to the poor families.

In the evening Brother John loaded the IMOC presentation up on his laptop and shared many experiences of his trips. The brothers and sisters love to see the work the Church is doing in foreign lands.

We had Sunday School and Brother John gave a power point presentation on Zion. The young people really enjoyed it. Sister Jessica interpreted.

The preaching service was started by Brother Randy. He was inspired with two scriptures to uplift the saints. Brother Carl followed on the same subject and gave his personal testimony of the tragedies he had faced these past three years,

which brought everyone to tears. He then explained how God healed his son in the middle of all of these problems that he was facing, emphasizing Brother Randy's theme that we shall mount up on the wings of eagles.

After a nice lunch with several of the brothers and sisters, we went to another village where Brother Steve is giving English lessons. He is also sharing the Restoration story with the young people ages 7-17 and their parents. We spoke briefly and then began anointing people. The power of God came into the meeting, and before we finished, six to eight people were anointed.

Brother Steve and Sister

Lisette have been teaching children in three locations where they have freedom to present the Gospel.

Brother Steve's Update a Couple of Weeks after Our Trip

I just wanted to update you on what's happening here. First of all, of the people who were prayed for while you and the brothers were here, several reported a healing to us when we visited with them this past week-end. Some of them we still have not talked to yet.

Among those who claimed a healing was the older lady in Nueva Santa Rosa (the place we visited on

Saturday on the mountain). She told me she felt better and is not experiencing any more pain in her body. Jessica, the daughter of Lisettes ex-nanny who was prayed for that same day, also looked well. Even though she did not say anything to us because she is painfully shy, I am sure she received as well. Also, Evelyn (daughter of Ceasar and Leticia in Amatitlan) reported that she wasn't having anymore problems and she did not even want go to the doctor because she knew she was healed.

The lady in the hospital for whom you and the brothers anointed the handkerchief (also in Amatitlan) is out of the hospital. I do not know whether you remember her condition, but, basically, she was in desperate need of a blood transfusion or she was going to die. Well, the day that Mireya brought the handkerchief to the hospital and prayed with her aunt, Mireya said her aunt cried and said to thank the men who prayed for the cloth. She also said that very day four blood donors came to the hospital to donate blood for her aunt, which is unheard of here.

We visited with Igrid, the really thin girl you and the brothers prayed for. She was very upbeat, but still looked very thin. I am sure the Lord touched her, but continue to pray for her that she might fully recover.

In Aldea Del Carmen (the place we went to Friday night), we still have not heard from some of those who received prayer, but Hugo (the husband of our current nanny) is still experiencing severe headaches. God knows why, so continue to pray for him too.

These events of this trip drew me closer to God. I realize I have limited myself in so many ways. Today I can say I am a little more outspoken, a little bolder to stand up for what I have believed for so long. More importantly I have more confidence in what WE have. We have the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe I have seen the evidence of this. There are so many who would receive if they were only told. The Spirit we carry and have in our midst is very special and unique in this world.



Evangelist Ordination in Mesa, Arizona.

On November 22, 2009, in the Mesa, Arizona Branch, Brother Barry Mazzeo was ordained into the office of an Evangelist.

Sister Gabriella Cihomsky sang an original song to open the service. Directly following, Brother Ike Smith requested that the ministry stand and sing *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Brother Jim Sgro opened the preaching service by reading Moroni 9:6, "Let us labor diligently, for if we should cease to labor, we should be brought under condemnation; for we have a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay, that we may conquer the enemy of all righteousness, and rest our souls in the kingdom of God."

Brother Jim shared several beautiful stories and experiences related to this scripture, emphasizing that the power of God is available to all who labor for Him. There are no little blessings, little miracles or little labors. He also touched on the importance of passing the knowledge of Christ to the next generation – just as Mormon did to his son Moroni.

Following, Brother Stacey Light likened Brother Barry's calling to that of Nephi's youngest brothers, Jacob and Joseph. It says in the scripture that these men magnified their calling.

Brother Sam Sgro followed by praising the Lord for the great labor He performed when He came down to earth and served His creation.

Brother Brian Martorana introduced the ordination portion of

the service. He explained to the congregation that Brother Ike Smith had a dream in which he saw Brother Barry serving the brothers and sisters of the Church on the second floor of a restaurant. What Brother Ike didn't know was that the Region Evangelists had been fasting and praying about who the Lord may be calling to be an evangelist. When Brother Ike shared the dream, it was a confirmation that the Lord was indeed calling Brother Barry.

As preparations were made for the ordination, Brother Ron Mazzeo sang *Take My Life and Let It Be*.

Brother Larry Watson washed Brother Barry's feet, and Brother Jim Sgro ordained him. After the ordination was complete, Brother Barry was greeted by the brethren and his family.

Brother Barry addressed the congregation by expressing thankfulness to all who traveled to witness the event as well as to those who worked to accommodate the visitors. He also acknowledged his wife of forty-two years, Sister Nancy. He then spoke beautiful words of encouragement to the children and parents in the congregation.

Brother Pete Giannetti, Brother Jordan Giannetti and Brother Ron Mazzeo sang *Beulah Land* in preparation for Communion. After the Lord's Supper was served, the meeting closed and the saints enjoyed greeting one another, and especially rejoicing in our newly-ordained brother!

VBS in Colombia

By Sister Bonnie Metzler

God is so good! When I think that "Hola, como esta?" is about the extent of my Spanish skills, how could I possibly have agreed to teach Vacation Bible School in La Mesa, Colombia, in a little town where "Hello, how are you?" is about the extent of most of the children's English skills.

My favorite scripture "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," served as a rod for me to hold onto as I endeavored to do a work for God. As we prepared for VBS, I felt direction from God to select lessons in Spanish and English that would cover a wide range of ages. God directed me to stores, books, and provided craft activities that fit into our lesson plans, our budget, and into our suitcases.

Departing from Detroit with Brother Nephi DeMercurio and Brother Alan Metzler, we flew into Bogotá, Colombia. We visited with saints and friends for a few days. Our first Sunday in Bogotá was a blessing. I had a Sunday school class with the children that were visiting that morning. It was a gift from God to be able to share and teach the young children in Bogotá about Joseph.

Monday morning we drove to Le Mesa. It was a beautiful two-hour drive through mountains and valleys. That evening we went to the home of Francisco and Dora, a couple from Le Mesa, whom we had met in Bogotá years before. Their children, Mariana and Felipe, had attended a VBS that we held in Bogotá a few years ago. Since that time, Francisco and Dora had a desire for us to come to La Mesa and hold a VBS. As we gathered in their home to finalize our plans for the week, we prayed and thanked God for His blessings. We prayed, talked and shared materials. We were given songs and music to share with the children, which coincided with the lessons I had brought

(Continued on Page 4)

Announcement

The General Church Trustees are currently seeking a treasurer. The duties and responsibilities are outlined below. A background in finances and budgeting is helpful. If interested in gaining further insights for serving in this role, please contact Brother David DiBattista, General Church Trustee Chairman, at:

davedibattista@comcast.net

General Church Trustee Treasurer Responsibilities

1. Process all World Conference Center operating invoices and general church insurance invoices and record expenses via Quick Books Pro. Reconcile bank accounts and manage cash flow.
2. Complete semi-annual and annual Trustee Treasurer's Financial report.

3. Provide Trustees a budget comparison of expenses vs. spending plan allocation. Assist in prep of Spending Plan budget request for Finance Committee.
4. Complete a year-end statement showing interest earned, deposits, withdraws for all Trust accounts and mail report to trust holders.
5. Prepare Mutual Protection Building Fund Region invoices and mail to Regions. Track payments and receipts. Interact with insurance company and trustees for insurance claims.
6. Prepare annual Blanket Insurance invoices for each Region and General Church. Track repayment receipts and payments to insurance company. Provide cost analysis for trustees.
7. Provide Financial Report for GC Conference for use in Spending Plan report.
8. Provide GC Central Treasurer with W-9 for any non-incorporated

companies that have provided services over \$600 that calendar Year.

Approximate time allocation required for this position is 2.5 hours per week on average. More time is required at year end for report preparation and during insurance invoicing preparation (occurs usually in May).

Notice

Checks/Donations for the Foreign Missionary Works are required to be made out to the

"Humanitarian Foundation Fund"

The mailing address is:
Humanitarian Foundation Fund
P.O. Box 956
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

VBS in Colombia

Continued from Page 3

to use for the week. God is so good! Prior to that Monday evening meeting, we had not been able to discuss the plans or activities for the week. Truly God had the plan. Tuesday our lesson was "Arc de Noé." We each had a special prayer in our heart throughout that first day. The time had finally arrived! The tables were up, the chairs were up, the keyboard was in place, the music was in place, the books, pencils, crayons, and markers were ready, crafts were ready. All we needed were children! We waited and waited and waited. A long twenty minutes later, Santiago, a boy from the neighborhood, timidly walked into the room. We greeted him, "hola, como esta," then sent him back out the door to go and bring his friends back with him. He did! That first day we had twelve children. Brothers Alan, Francisco, and Nephi, welcomed all. We prayed, read the Bible, completed the lesson, sang songs, and made

Noah's Arks, complete with animals. Hearing the children singing, women from the neighborhood came over to see what the children were doing and volunteered to help. My heart was so full. Later that night we held an adult class and many of the women who had

volunteered to help with the activities in the afternoon came back for the adult class.

Our lessons continued throughout the week: David and Goliath, Joseph,

(Continued on Page 8)



Le Mesa Vacation Bible School

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Loyalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Jameson Staley
1521 Registry Row
Arrington, TN 37014

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
2 Hancock Rd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

GREAT LAKES

Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST

Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC

Cheryl Cervone
437 San Vicente Blvd. - Apt. B
Santa Monica, CA 90402-1730

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST

Eugene Perri
570 N. Dover Rd.
Tequesta, FL 33469

SOUTHWEST

Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The recent earthquake in Haiti is a reminder to us all that we live upon a planet which has the ability to either bless us with bounty or destroy us with its power. In such a beautiful country of mountains, palm trees, turquoise warm water, and tropical fruits that grow wild, it is amazing to see the devastation that this earthquake has caused. Hundreds of thousands of souls passed on and stood before the throne of God to be judged. All within a few seconds.

"And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven" (Luke 21:8-11).

These words of Jesus are immediately remembered by Christians everywhere each time there is a devastating earthquake. But do we really understand what the Lord was saying? Although some of this scripture refers to the taking of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, it also speaks about the end times. Truly, many imposters have come in these last days claiming to be the "Lord." Major religions have developed around some of these people. Others, on a much smaller scale, have led away hundreds and thousands, even to the point where they all sacrificed their own lives, as instructed by these false leaders. Jesus told His followers not to go after them. Number 169 in *The Songs of Zion* says, "Here He placed me here I'll stay." Jesus brought us to the truth and the light one day. We cannot be deceived by wolves in sheep's clothing and be carried away captive. Jesus goes on in this scripture to tell us that we will hear of wars and commotions. He told us that nations will turn against one another and great earthquakes will occur in many places as well as famines and pestilences. All of these things have occurred and continue to occur, some say with increasing frequency. He also said there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. Interestingly at the time of this earthquake in Haiti, there was an eclipse of the sun across the lands of Africa. Later in this chapter He talks about Jerusalem being taken over by the Gentiles, but that the time of the Gentiles would be fulfilled (or come to an end). In 1967, the city of Jerusalem was back under the control of Israel again. Jesus said people would be fearful of the things that they feel are coming upon the earth. There is much talk today about the year 2012, and how the Mayans believe it is the end of time since it is the end of their calendar. He tells us not to be caught unprepared during these times, because time will be short, but no one knows when the end will come. He tells us that when the fig tree, and the other trees start to bud, we will know summer is nigh. Likewise, when we see all these things happening, we will know the kingdom of God is at hand. I'm not sure there is much else we need to prove to ourselves that we are in the end times. The Church of Jesus Christ believes that the end times must include the gathering of Israel (back to knowledge of their Savior) and the building of Zion in a peaceful condition upon the land of America and in Jerusalem. These events are still to come, but all part of the end times Jesus was talking about. When Zion is fully established, life will be very different than it is today, so in a way, it will be the end of time AS WE CURRENTLY KNOW IT. There is so much for God's people to look forward to, not with fear but with joy.

Humanitarian efforts and prayers to help those in Haiti are simply our expected responsibility. We must remember, however, that Jesus predicted times like these, and that more is to come. We must realize that these things tell us the times in which we are living, and that if there was ever a time to draw close to the Lord, it is now. Like we said in last month's *Editorial Viewpoint*, let us continue following in His footsteps as we march onward to the Peaceful Reign.

The Children's Corner

Moroni Fights the King-men

(Alma 51)

It is interesting that so many, many times the old devil uses the same tricks to get people to do things that will cause endless problems for themselves. Way back in the days of the leader named Moroni, the Nephite people had fought for their freedom from kings. They were told by their leaders that giving power to kings is dangerous.

All you have to do is get a weak or selfish man in as king. Then he will listen to bad advice or decide to be greedy. He can force you to pay lots of money for taxes and put you in his jails if you say no. He can lay around using your money for fancy things while forcing you to work hard for very little pay. He can send soldiers out to arrest you if you make him mad. He can destroy families, peace and happiness. If he is a bad man, he can try and make it against the law to go to church and learn about God.

In the book of Alma, Chapter 51 the Nephite people were living in freedom, ruled by fair laws with judges who believed in God. In their nation, they were surrounded by enemies called Lamanites who had huge armies and always tried to kill them. For years they had fought for their freedom.

They needed to be united and fight together. When the Nephite nation followed God's laws strictly and helped each other, they became blessed, wealthy people. For twenty-five years under Judges, they grew in freedom, riches and blessings. But, there began to be a fight. There was a



group of men who thought they should be in control.

They thought they were a higher class of people, called "high-born." That's one of the same tricks you see the devil still trying. Sometimes today, you see people who secretly or openly think they are better than others because their family once had power and they want it too. But that was not what God wanted. He wanted freedom and equality between all the people. He knows what talents and gifts He has given each person. God does not think that birth makes leadership. God sees every person's heart.

And so the people of the land took a vote. The biggest number of them were for freedom of all people; they were called liberty men. They wanted equality and voted not to have kings rule them. They wanted the chief judge, Pahoran, to stay in office and be their chief judge. The king-men, as they called themselves were angry they had failed to take over. They had to give in but they were full of hate towards the other Nephite people who chose freedom.

Meanwhile, a huge army of the Lamanites in the surrounding countryside were gathering to attack this Godly nation. When the men who were called king-men heard that their nation was going to be attacked they were glad in their hearts. They stubbornly decided not to fight to defend their own country. There were over four thousand scattered among the great cities who refused to help!

Moroni, who was the leader of the army and who had spent his life fighting for freedom, was angry at the separation their stubbornness was causing. He sent a letter to the chief

judge for permission to force the king-men to help save their country or be put to death. It was Moroni's first care to put a stop to the argument. In the past, this had always led their nation into destruction.

The judge said yes, and Moroni commanded his army to "go against the king-men and pull down their pride and claims to nobility and level them to the earth unless they would support the cause of liberty" (Alma 51: 17). In the battle, over four thousand king-men were killed and others put into prison to be judged later. The rest joined the army and fought as one nation together, to save their country from the attacking Lamanite armies.

Those who had listened to the old

(Continued on Page 8)

WORD SEARCH

MORONI	THE
ENDED	NOBLE
THE	FAMILIES
FIGHT	COULD
OF	NOT
JUDGES	RULE
AND	AND
STUBBORN	TAKE
PRIDE	AWAY
OF	FREEDOM
KINGMEN	

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

Are YOU going to Nashville?



April 28 - May 2, 2010

General Ladies' Circle Fellowship Weekend and 90th Anniversary Celebration

**God is the same, yesterday, today and forever
(Mormon 9:9)**

*Registration Forms are available on the
General Circle Website: generalladiescircle.org
or see a Circle President in your Region or Branch*

Registrations are due by February 20th, 2010
(50% due at registration - balance due by March 30, 2010)

The Light of the World Is Jesus

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

The theme of the event was "The Light of the World is Jesus," the plan was to raise money for the missionary work of the Church, and the result was a wonderful evening and a successful fundraiser which raised over \$11,400.

It was the inspiration of Sister Judy Lambert from Branch #2. With the help of Sister Carmen Buffa and many brothers and sisters in the Region, she planned an event that was exciting, educational and enjoyable. Tickets had been sold in advance for the event and much preparation went into making it a remarkable evening. The room was decorated in respect to the theme. Centerpieces with lights and balloons representing the world adorned each table.

The evening started with a buffet style dinner. A bake sale and a silent auction of over 150 items continued throughout the entire evening. The items for the bake sale and the silent auction were donated by the members of the Region as well as local businesses. The silent auction items included beautiful baskets arranged by the brothers and sisters in the Region, with themes such as Italian cooking, a picnic in the park, and children's bath-time fun. There were also items such as jewelry from Italy purchased on a recent missionary trip for this event, handmade blankets and services such as handyman work, car detailing and tickets to local sporting events. The brothers and sisters cautiously made their way around the items and watched their bids to see if they would be the fortunate one to bring the items home. There was some friendly competition, all in fun, knowing it was for a good cause.

There were also musical presentations by several brothers and sisters. The children of the Region presented us with two songs, one written by Sister Judy especially for the night called *Reach Out*.

A DVD was sold with photos of missionary endeavors past and present. It included photos of many of our

brothers and sisters in foreign lands and those from the Region that have traveled to share the Gospel with them.

Brother Frank Natoli gave a presentation about the missionary work of the Church including some recent experiences. He showed a map of the world and indicated where branches and missions are established. He gave a brief report of the growth and needs in many areas of the Church. Brother Tony Micali, visiting from New Jersey and an active member of the missionary work in Italy, shared an experience he had on a recent trip where God spared his life.

The live auction, lead by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, brought many laughs, excitement, and most importantly money. Some of the items were a plasma TV, a haircut by Brother Lou Vitto, and a cane that belonged to Brother Arthur, former President of the Church in Africa, which sold for \$600.

As the evening came to a close, those who had bid the highest gathered their rewards and each person was presented with a small tree to take home and plant with the message, "As this tree grows, let it be a reminder of the growth of the Church through our missionary endeavors." Certainly the event was a success, measured not only by the substantial financial benefit to support the missionary work, or the enjoyment that was had in the activities, but also for the strengthening of the saints as they worked together for a common goal – contributing to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Note of Thanks

Brother Sam and Sister Arleen Risola wish to thank all our brothers, sisters and friends for all the e-mails, cards and telephone calls during Sister Arleen's recent illness. We can't express our overwhelming gratitude for all the prayers, love and support we felt. We thank God that He has been so merciful and has blessed us with His love. GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME! May God continue to bless each one of you in the New Year.

VBS in Guatemala

Continued from Page 4

and Daniel. We discussed scriptures, sang songs, completed activities and enjoyed fellowship together. The children who attended ranged in ages from four to seventeen years of age. The numbers of children grew daily, and by the end of the week we had twenty children. The volunteers had grown also, and by the end of the week, ten adults from the neighborhood were working with the children and assisting with the craft activities.

On our last evening, the children and their families attended together. The fellowship we shared was truly a blessing. The children told us they learned many things about God. The parents told us the children came home talking about God and the lessons they had learned. That night the children told us they want us to come back to La Mesa, Colombia.

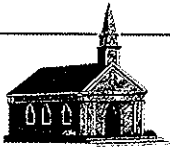
Please keep the people of La Mesa and Bogotá, Colombia in your prayers.

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

devil telling them they were better or more important than others changed. Peace and fair laws were among the people again, as they fought together to live in freedom from the Lamanites. We, too, have to watch ourselves and our pride. None of us is better than the other. The Lord loves us each. When we are united and all are praying for one important thing, we have great power just as Moroni and his people did. As long as we listen to Him and follow His laws, we will be able to put that old devil away from us. Remember Nephi 26:33, "...God denieth none that come unto him black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen and all are alike unto God both Jew and Gentile."

With care,
Sister Jan



Branch and Mission News

Missionary as Mentor

By Sister Michelle Watson

In our Sunday church services, there is often a theme or a central message that carries through preaching, singing and testimony. On an ordination Sunday, the theme is often related to labor or service. The Sunday that Brother Barry Mazzeo of the Mesa, Arizona Branch was ordained into the office of an Evangelist, the theme of the day was much more specific. The Lord emphasized the importance of mentoring the next generation.

The opening speaker, Brother Jim Sgro, began by reading from Moroni 9, specifically the verses where Mormon was addressing his son, Moroni, before dying. The Book of Mormon is full of deathbed speeches where fathers encourage, admonish and counsel their offspring. These accounts afford us some of the most memorable verses in all scripture.

Brother Jim shared a story about how Brother Augie D'Orazio spontaneously took charge of a mid-week MBA meeting because he felt the Spirit prompting him to speak to the young people. He exhorted them with all the energy of his soul. The next week, Brother D'Orazio passed away.

Often we minimize the importance of God's dealings with us, but Brother Jim begged us to realize that there is no such thing as a little blessing, a little miracle – or a little work. Although mentoring and counseling those who are less experienced may not seem like a very glamorous way to labor for the Lord, it is vitally important. If it wasn't important, then why is The Book of Mormon filled with deathbed speeches?

Brother Barry Mazzeo reinforced this point when he spoke to the congregation after his ordination had taken place. He proceeded to say the most beautiful words to the children in the

congregation. The Mesa Branch boasts approximately twenty children age thirteen and under, and their ears perked up when they discovered that Brother Barry was asking for their attention. He encouraged them to love God, and then he spent several minutes counseling their parents to do all they could to foster their children's relationship with Jesus. He reminded the congregation that we do not want to lose even *one* of our children to the world. As saints, we must take responsibility for them and their spiritual growth.

It was so touching to see how these inspired words dovetailed seamlessly with the scripture from the sermon. As Brother Barry has been called to the role of an Evangelist, the message of his ordination Sunday reminds us that missionary work often means mentorship.

Holding One Another Up

By Jameson Staley

The book of Exodus, the seventeenth chapter, tells of the Israelites' battle to protect themselves from the threat of the Amalekites. As the battle ensued, Moses looked on from a nearby hill, hands raised, holding high the rod of God. While his arms were raised, God's chosen people prevailed, but when they were lowered, they began to falter. As Moses' arms inevitably grew tired and became heavy, they were held up on either side by Aaron and Hur, and the Israelites were eventually victorious. Sometimes, as we struggle to win life's spiritual battles, there is nothing more refreshing and encouraging than when the saints of God come to our aid, supporting our arms and renewing our strength. That spirit of love that not only made Aaron and Hur appreciate the urgency of the battle but also inspired them to offer their support is alive and well today.

As the summer months of 2009 drew to a close, the Middle Tennessee Mission, located just south of Nashville, held its annual Sunday School

Picnic at Henry Horton State Park in Chapel Hill, Tennessee. The young mission, having been organized just three years ago and consisting of only eleven members scattered across the central region of Tennessee as well as two other states, has enjoyed consistent support of visiting brothers, sisters, and members of the ministry. These visits have provided encouragement and fellowship, for which they are truly and deeply grateful. The mission extended the invitation to all interested saints to join them for the picnic weekend and enlisted the support of the Midwest Area MBA and YIA for the activity. The response was overwhelming and ultimately very uplifting.

Saints from five states representing four regions of the Church made the trip to spend Labor Day weekend socializing and worshipping with the saints in Tennessee. Those in attendance spent Saturday afternoon laughing, telling stories, playing games, and enjoying lunch together. A touch football game was a chance for some competitive fun and fellowship, including visitors and their children. A water balloon toss (and, of course, the ensuing water balloon fight), provided a chance for the young—and not so young—to experience more of that same fun.

Saturday evening included an informal testimony meeting around the fire led by visiting leadership of the Midwest Area MBA and YIA. Many beautiful accounts of God's love and providence were shared, and saints who had never met one another had an opportunity to hear how the Lord had worked so similarly in one another's lives, reaffirming His unchanging and omnipresent power and goodness. Few experiences have the ability to bring the saints closer than to hear how He is working in our lives.

The day's activities provided a valued opportunity to introduce friends and periodic visitors of the mission to other saints from the Church and give them a chance to experience the love and friendship of God through a day of fun and socializing. Several of these

(Continued on Page 10)

Holding One Another Up

Continued from Page 9

friends and visitors also brought their children, a unique blessing and opportunity for outreach.

The local and visiting saints all gathered on Sunday for worship service and enjoyed many special blessings. During congregational singing, two visitors were drawn into our meeting place by the singing while they were on their way outside to do some canoeing on the campgrounds. They sat in the back row with smiles on their faces for the remainder of the singing, joining in on the songs they knew, before making a donation to the Church and going on their way. The meeting continued with a beautiful sermon by visiting apostle of the Church, Brother Phil Jackson. Using the Twenty-third Psalm as his text, he drew on his own experience and expounded upon many of the poetic lines of the Psalm to illustrate how lovingly and carefully God nurtures us, as a shepherd with His sheep.

After preaching, testimony, and communion, the service continued with the ordinance of feet washing. For the local brothers and sisters, who usually participate in this ordinance in groups of three or four, this was a very special blessing. Before commencing with the washing of feet, the brothers and the sisters gathered separately, each group united in a circle of prayer to ask that God would bless that portion of the service. For the members of the Middle Tennessee Mission, looking around at all the faces in that circle was a reminder of the love, sacrifice, and selflessness that made such a moment possible. Many of those present had driven across several states and given up a holiday weekend to spend barely a day and a half with their brothers and sisters, and they had done so not just to *receive* a blessing but more so to *be* a blessing. The love of God was evident in their actions, and it was also present in that wonderful ordinance that day.

The Middle Tennessee Mission's annual Sunday School Picnic was undoubtedly a success on many levels. It was one more time that a visitor

witnessed and felt what it is like to have friendship and joy centered on Christ. It was one more time that a young person strengthened a bond with another through fun times shared together. It was one more time that a brother or sister found encouragement in the testimony of another. And, for the saints in the Middle Tennessee Mission, it was one more time that someone reached out, just as Aaron and Hur did for Moses, to hold up their arms and ensure a victory.

Seek Ye First

By Brother Larry Watson

"This is our land and we want you off *now*!" These words still resonate in my mind all these years later. It was the summer of 1976, and I was one of several young people from our Church who were now living and working in Navajoland. My adventure began just three years earlier—it was my first real job after completing my college degree—teaching children from a vastly different culture than my own. As a single young man, I lived alone in one-half of a small single-wide trailer in a little reservation town. What a contrast to the millions of people in the Los Angeles area where I had grown up! I marvel today in retrospect, having left my family, friends, and my home branch, to relocate to a place that was so foreign to everything that I had known in my youth. And yet, I felt such a peace—a serenity really; and a profound, even supernatural, assurance, that I was in the Will of God—that it didn't seem to bother me not knowing anyone there, or that our nearest branch was nearly a three-hour drive away. Please don't misunderstand, though; it was not easy leaving home. I came from a very close family, and we had a wonderful young people's group in our branch that I was beginning to enjoy greatly; but I knew God was calling me to leave this behind.

"...Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all His righteousness; and

all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). I had heard this scripture before, but it hadn't become real to me. That was about to change very soon. The warning of a well-meaning brother prior to my departure was still ringing in my ears as I settled into my new home, "Are you sure this move is a good idea—being a single young man, why would you want to limit your opportunities for finding a wife at this point in your life?" I was 26 years old when I left for Window Rock in 1973.

Three years later I was still single, but, by then, many other young people had since made their way to the "rez," as we affectionately called it, each following their own calling which was leading them to the Navajo Nation. By this time, we had been established as a branch, and we now had a few young families, but the average age of our congregation was still well under 30 years old. Since none of us owned any property at that time, we all rented our homes, or lived in trailer parks. In those days we worshipped in two small Quonset huts which we had disassembled in California and reassembled in a little town called Red Lake about 15 miles north of us. It was sitting on ten acres of land which had been leased to a non-profit corporation called *Side by Side*, which we had formed in order to operate a demonstration farm for the community. A test of the soil conducted by a government agency, confirmed our suspicions that the dirt was composed of clay, and the land was better suited for a brick factory than growing crops. Although none of us were farmers, we pressed ahead with our project. Using an old broken down tractor we plowed and cultivated the ground. We had very little money, equipment, or expertise, but all of this was more than compensated for by our youthful energy and our resilient faith.

Brother Dennis Calabrese and I were both teachers at the time, and we both felt guided to dedicate our entire summer to working on the farm as volunteer laborers. This was before the days of Youth in Action, but we were joined by other young people

from other parts of the country who had heard about this fledgling project and were inspired to help us out, even if it was for only a few days. With the members of our branch joining us in the evenings and on Saturdays we were beginning to see results. Each seed was sown with a prayer, and some of the watering had to be done by hand—a very laborious task which involved filling up our buckets at a nearby irrigation ditch and carrying them to the garden.

It was on one of these long, hot summer days, when the incident referred to above occurred. Two Navajo young men about the exact same age as Dennis and I confronted us. They were both very intoxicated, and their simmering hostility was now boiling over. They claimed the land we were farming was theirs (it actually belonged to their grandmother) and they demanded that we get off and never return. Bracing for the worst, we tried to defuse the situation, but with no success. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, their sister appeared, and rebuked them for their belligerence, sending them home. She then turned to the two of us and apologized profusely for her brothers' behavior.

Someone hearing our story for the first time may be tempted to think, what a waste of time. And on the surface, it may seem like they are right. Yes, we had a bountiful harvest at the end of the summer; yes we shared it with the Red Lake community, and yes, by season's end we were in the best physical shape of our life. But what of any lasting value came of it? And why bring it up now, over 30 years later, long after our lease had lapsed and the farm returned back to the Red Lake community?

To me the answer is clear—at a critical time in my youth, during the summer of '76, my life was changed forever. Working hard in soil that didn't even belong to me; shoveling smelly manure to fertilize land that would eventually be returned to the Navajo, laboring at a job that they couldn't have paid me to do—God was cultivating and nurturing the soil of my heart and I didn't know it. Sermons are great, seminars are too, but some

lessons can only really be learned from our own real life experiences, something I discovered in the summer of '76.

So, what about the words of Matthew, *"...seek ye first the Kingdom of God...and all these things shall be added unto you?"* Immediately following the harvest, all the young people from our branch, including me, went to the Kansas Campout. Just before leaving to go, the Lord revealed to me that I was about to meet the girl with whom I would fall in love, marry, raise a family, and serve God. It wasn't until the end of the camp, only moments before she was about to leave to go home, that circumstances miraculously fell into place for me to take Vanessa Capone out to dinner (a story unto itself, but for another time). One year later, after a wonderful courtship, we would be married, and she would move to Window Rock to join me in our mission to the Navajo people.

A coincidence, you say? As Paul Harvey would say, "And now for the rest of the story..."

A few years after our marriage, early on a Saturday morning; when Vanessa and I had just sat down for a quiet breakfast alone, we heard a knock at the door. Upon opening it, we discovered our two young Navajo acquaintances from Redlake standing there with a big smile on their face, cold sober this time.

We ushered them into our kitchen and invited them to join us for breakfast. As they were enjoying my wife's cooking, one of them looked up and said, "By the way, has anybody been bothering you up at the farm lately?" To which I replied, "Not that I know of."

"Well," he replied, "If anybody does, you let us know and we'll take care of them. We want you two there."

Now...How about you? Are you settling for the cheap imitation this world has to offer of the "good life?" Or do you want to experience the real thing? Why eat "the scrubs on the lowlands" when you can enjoy "the grass on the summit?" Take the challenge from Jesus and "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." I promise you, you'll never regret it!

"This is my story. If you have a story to share, please submit it to Brother Gary Coppa at truestories@wowway.com for possible inclusion in a book of experiences and testimonies being compiled by the General Church Historical Committee. We are looking for stories about how the Lord has blessed you. Our goal is to preserve these stories so that they can bless others for generations to come."

Ordinations

Brother Jonathan Nath was ordained an elder on November 22, 2009 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., and he was ordained by Apostle Paul Palmieri.

Sister Joy Kurowsky was ordained a deaconess on November 22, 2009 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Joyce Kogler, and she was ordained by Brother Chuck Kogler.

Sister Chris Nicklow was ordained a deaconess on November 22, 2009 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Robin Burns, and she was ordained by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr.

Spiritual Anniversaries

Brother Sal and Sister Angie Moccio of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch celebrated their 50th spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Mary Pastore of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch celebrated her 79th spiritual anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Baptisms and Reinstatements

Sister Amanda Villeneuve was baptized on July 5, 2009 at the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Mission. She was baptized by Brother Richard Lobzun and confirmed by Brother Richard Thomas.

Sister Megan Vinsick was baptized on August 16, 2009 at the Modesto, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Rich Deulus and confirmed by Brother David Arreola.

Brother Matthew Kurowsky was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 8, 2009 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Donna Verstrate was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 22, 2009 at the Yucaipa, California Branch.

Sister Brianna Nicole Nicosia was baptized on November 29, 2009 at the Irvine, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Jim Cotellesse.

Brother Brian John Martorana was baptized on December 13, 2009 at the Mesa, Arizona Branch. He was baptized by Brother Brian Lee Martorana and confirmed by Brother Ronald Mazzeo.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____

Children Blessed

Adalyn Marielle Champine, daughter of Brother Jordan and Sister Karen Champine, was blessed on November 8, 2009 at the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Mission.

Brianna Linda Pizzaia, daughter of Robert Jr. and Pam Pizzaia, was blessed on November 29, 2009 at the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Emily Rose Nicklow, daughter of Brother Jeremy and Sister Heather Nicklow, was blessed on November 29, 2009 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Anthony Ramon Elias, Jr., son of Brother Anthony and Sister Raquel Elias, was blessed on December 20, 2009 at the Yucaipa, California Branch.

J'meaea Nevaeh Cole, daughter of Alishea Cole, was blessed on December 23, 2009 at the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Gisele Ruby Rose Lytle, daughter of Tabitha and Nino Lytle, was blessed on January 3, 2010 at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Branch.

TONY MAVRICH, JR

Brother Tony Mavrich, Jr. of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on December 11, 2009. He is survived by his children, Tony Mavrich III and his wife, Mary; Jonathan Mavrich and his wife, Patty; Angela Lisy and her husband, Fred; and Mariann Trelka and her husband, Darin; and nine grandchildren.

CARL McCARTNEY

Brother Carl McCartney of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on December 17, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Sister Joan McCartney; daughters Carla Campbell and her husband, David; Sister Paula Hemmings and her husband, Brother Tim; Jared McCartney and his wife, Teresa; grandchildren, Eric Campbell, Sister Rebecca Everett and her husband, Brother Brad; Brother Benjamin Hemmings; Megan and Hayden McCartney; also 4 step-children, 8 step-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

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

VESTALIA BICELIS

Sister Vestalia Bicelis of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch passed on to her reward on April 8, 2009. She is survived by her husband, Brother Jesus Bicelis; one son, Brother Miguel Bicelis and his wife Sister Melissa (Christman); two daughters, Sister Helen and husband Brother John Catone, and Sister Heylen and husband Brother Bryan Griffith; and eight grandsons.



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

March, 2010

Volume 66, No. 3



WORLD CONFERENCE • JUNE 25--JULY 1, 2011

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

With the 2011 World Conference less than 18 months away, preparations are well underway and progressing towards producing a marvelous, spirit-filled week. In the coming months, details will continue to unfold apprising you of the wonderful events planned for the week. We wish to share in the Conference with as many saints as possible. With that in mind, we are pleased to announce that early registration will soon be available to take advantage of paying early in an effort for all to be able to attend the Conference.

As with previous World Conferences, you can anticipate enjoying presentations from foreign works, as well as a look into the history of the domestic work in the United States and Canada. The GMBA's presentation of the Restoration is sure to be an unforgettable experience, as we see the Restoration story and its subsequent effect in the lives of people around the world.

As in previous campouts, conferences and meetings, blessings will abound when the saints gather together with the intent to praise and glorify our Lord. Spirit-filled speaking from the Word of God and glorious singing are staples we have come to enjoy when we gather together. We invite you to share in these blessings and in this special week as we celebrate "*The Everlasting Gospel*." Please plan on joining us at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois from Saturday June 25, 2011 to Friday July 1, 2011.

As the Conference approaches, more updates will be introduced in the *Gospel News*. We continue to beseech your prayers on behalf of the 2011 World Conference that the Spirit and blessings of God will move in and among His people, The Church of Jesus Christ.

God bless,

The 2011 WC Team



2009 Southwest Region Missionary Blessings

*By Evangelist Brian Martorana
Southwest Region Quorum of 70 Evangelists President*

“And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost.”

We are often reminded of the goodness of God as He has called each of us to further His Kingdom here below. For the year of 2009, God has truly blessed the Southwest Region with His Holy Spirit. We have experienced both an increase in unity and an increase in the love of God. We feel blessed that our young people have taken up the banner of Jesus Christ and have joined the priesthood in this tremendous endeavor of spreading the Gospel to both the Gentiles and to the Native Americans within our region.

Early in 2009 God blessed me with a powerful experience in which I woke up on Sunday morning and the Lord told me to go to San Carlos and speak on the conversion of Alma and the sons of Mosiah. He further told me to gather all the young people of the branch and pray that God would loosen the chains which bind them. As I was driving to San Carlos that Sunday morning, I was praying to the Lord to reveal to me just how I would gather the young people of this mission and pray for them. At this time, there were about 20 people in attendance regularly, and very few young people participated in our meetings. I was wondering whether the Lord wanted me to go from house to house and pray for the children. During Sunday

School, there was our usual number and I had a burden on my heart to fulfill what God had told me to do. After Sunday School, Brother Dan Piccuito and I were in the back room and I began to tell him my experience. As we began to have a season of prayer, we were unaware people were entering the building. When we completed our praying, there were about 70 people in attendance, and many of the young people associated with the branch were there.

I began to preach on the conversion of Alma and the sons of Mosiah. After the preaching, the spirit of testimony prevailed and many parents were concerned about their children. At this time the Spirit of God came upon us, and Brother Dan gathered the children in a circle and asked me to pray. The spirit confirmed to me this is why I was sent to San Carlos. We poured out our hearts to God that many will hear the Lord’s voice and accept His will in their lives. One brother asked to be reinstated and many of the adults asked for prayer. A powerful spirit prevailed and we left this meeting very encouraged in the ongoing work of the Native Americans on the San Carlos Reservation.

That very night, the Lord blessed me with a dream in which I saw a table from one end of the rostrum to the other end. The table was filled with food. I saw a long line of Native American people

coming into the building. I began to beckon them to come and partake of the food that was prepared for them by the Lord. Many people heeded my words and began to eat of the food. I then awoke from my dream and realized God would do a great work in San Carlos. As I was pondering on this dream, Evangelist Peter Giannetti, our Region President, called me and we began to discuss this experience. We both agreed the table was set and many would come and partake of God’s goodness.

Within a one-year period, we have enjoyed four baptisms and nine renewals. In addition God has blessed the saints with many experiences. Brother Harold’s grandson, Maddox Victor, was playing in his back yard and he fell into a garbage can from where he was not even able to call for help. Brother Harold heard his grandson calling him and he went out to rescue him. His grandson asked him how he knew he was stuck in the garbage can, and Brother Harold said he heard him calling. His grandson told him that he was unable to speak, and Brother Harold realized the Lord spoke to him concerning his grandson.

Another young man named Steve Paul, whose father is an employee of one our brothers in the Church, told our brother he had to leave for the San Carlos Hospital because his son was bitten by a scorpion. Our Brother Dan was notified the boy may not live and a helicopter was sent to the hospital to bring him to the Phoenix Children’s Hospital. When Brother Dan arrived to anoint him, his breathing was very poor. After our brother prayed for him, they heard the helicopter land in Globe. When Brother Dan asked the administrator of the hospital where the boy was flown to, they told him the boy did not have to be flown to another hospital and was sent home with his dad. Praise God from whom all blessings flow?

In Tse Bonito, New Mexico, Evangelist Larry Watson met a family which had a desire to rent his house. The couple, Rene and Rozane, have five children. They led a very different lifestyle. During Brother Watson’s

contact with them, he told them he was a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ and showed them where our Church was located. Rene and Rozane began to attend church and fell in love with the Gospel. After a short time of attending church, Rozane asked for her baptism and drastically began to change her life. Rene also began to change his lifestyle, and during a powerful service in which the Southwest Region officers were in attendance along with Apostle Paul Liberto, Rene stood up and asked for his baptism. What a glorious day for this family and the great blessing they have been to our Tse Bonito Branch.

Our region has also been blessed to have Brother Art Campbell from the Southeast Region who moved to El Paso, Texas for temporary employment. Recently we heard his employment contract ended in Texas but he found employment near the Tse Bonito Branch. We thank God that He answered our prayers in behalf of His children.

Another blessing was to have Brother Barry Mazzeo ordained as an Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ on November 22, 2009. The Quorum of 70 within our region had been praying for God's direction concerning our brother. As Brother Peter Giannetti was relating to Apostle Isaac Smith concerning our efforts in prayer, Brother Smith shared an experience in which he saw Brother Barry on a second floor of a restaurant and he was serving various people as they were coming in the door. Brother Smith was asking God why our brother was serving on the second floor, and he was given to know Brother Barry had a work to do within the Quorum of 70 Evangelists.

What a blessing it was to share this news with Brother Barry at our General Church Conference in October. As we were relating these experiences the Lord bestowed His Holy Spirit upon us and our brother shared experiences of his own that God was calling him to this work. As Nephi outlines this great vision for us all in the latter days, let us now complete the verse in 1 Nephi 13:37:

"And if they endure unto the

end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb: and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be."

What a great promise God has given to each of us as we reach out to the dying souls of mankind all around us!

Holding Meliza

By Brother Ken Lombardo

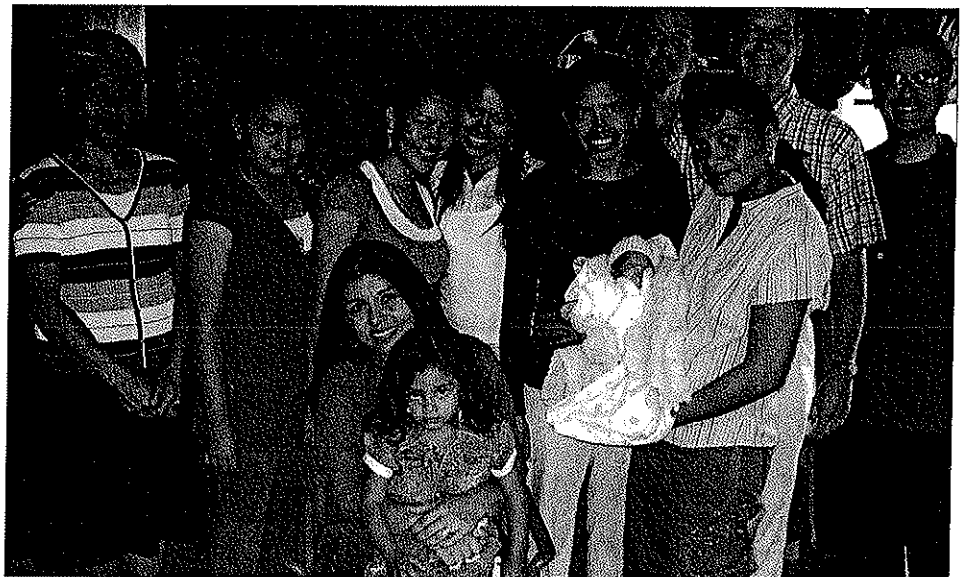
For every mission trip we make, we generally keep a running diary of the events of our days and the activities in which we participate, to make a report to our stateside committees. My personal accounts are often the subject of ridicule from my traveling partners, as I tend to wax poetic on the fine details of any day, and oft times spend more time writing about my experiences than actually experiencing them. Each trip's diary is hand-written, and then at some point in the year that follows, I make the effort to transcribe them into a digital document for posterity. More often than not, those details are things in which only I would document for posterity. More often than not, those

details are things in which only I would remotely be interested; the smell of the air, the color of the sky, the movie on the plane.

I have found, however, that with each episode, there is one moment that I can look back on and highlight as the defining moment of that trip.

In September/October of 2009, Brother Tom Curtin and I completed a two-country trip that included a weekend in Guatemala and the following week in Dominica. We found many similarities in the two locales; each is a small mission with one elder and a few faithful members; each is affected by the general poverty of the country; each has its share of trials and interpersonal dynamic issues. Brother Steve (ordained teacher) and Sister Lissette Kerby of Guatemala were bringing us around in the afternoon to visit and encourage the saints, and asked us if first we would oblige them and go see a woman with whom Sister Lissette worked named Bernarda, to pray for her sister's baby. Bernarda lived with her husband and family in a large building all together with her two sisters, Carman and Romi, and their families. Romi had delivered a baby girl named Meliza who had been born three months prematurely, weighing in at only 2.5 pounds. At the time of birth,

(Continued on Page 4)



Meliza with the group in Guatemala

Israel's Advocate: It's Time to Make Haste

Our recent General Church Conference reminded us once again what the mission of the Church is in our day and time. Actually, our mission has remained unchanged since the Gospel was first restored as evidenced by the scripture, *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth..."* Since its earliest days, the goal of our Church has been to share the Restored Gospel with every nation, kindred, tongue and people by going into all the world. Translated: It's for everyone!

In addition to that great commission, our Church has a unique commandment to begin the work of restoring Israel, beginning with the descendants of Joseph here in America. That directive is found in the Book of Mormon, such as 1 Nephi 13:38-40; 15:13; 22:6; 2 Nephi 3:11; 10:18; 30:3 and many more. The following is a very brief history of that effort.

- October 1830, the first missionaries to the Native Americans in the west stopped at the Catteraugus Reservation and met with the Seneca Nation, delivering Books of Mormon to them.
- In Spring of 1831, these same missionaries crossed the "frontier line" and began to speak with the nations of the Shawnee and the Delaware west of the Missouri River.
- The gift of tongues was spoken on November 8, 1861 with the following interpretation, "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..."
- Twice there were movements of saints from Pennsylvania to Kansas, first to Zion's Valley (later St. John) and then to 'the Colony' to be located by the "borders of the Lamanites." (At that time, the 'Indian Territory' was what we now call the State of Oklahoma.)
- Missions were established at Muncey and Ohsweken (Six Nations), Ontario in the 1930s.

- Missions were established at San Carlos and White River, Arizona in the 1960s.
- Saints moved to be near reserves and reservations throughout the 1970s and are still doing so today.
- Associations with urban Indian centers were started in the 1970s and continue on today.
- And now we are learning there are Native Americans/First Nation People everywhere; God has moved us so that we would be closer to more reserves and reservations and Indian population centers than ever before.

So what does this all mean? In 2006, Apostle John Griffith had the following experience: "While sitting in my office this morning, I began pondering over the NAOC's [Native American Outreach Committee's] role. My mind was taken away in the Spirit where a Native American approached me and asked, 'What are you doing for my people?' I answered, 'We are implementing a program to take the Gospel message to as many of your people as possible.' The Native American replied, 'Hurry, they need to hear.'"

We have a rich history of taking the great latter day message to Native Americans everywhere and many of our members have made great sacrifices to accomplish the goal. God has promised us that it would be the Gospel we preach that would go to His ancient covenant people. There is room for more of us to play a part in this great work. Some may move to places that are "on the borders of the Lamanites," while others will visit reserves and reservations in the US, Canada, Mexico and other Central and South American nations, and still others will reach out to the urban centers in their own localities. All of us can seek God's direction in sharing the Gospel with everyone we meet, asking Him to point out the Seed of Joseph to us or granting us opportunities to meet and share the great message we have for them.

What can you do right now? Be prepared; have Church flyers and literature and Books of Mormon ready. Practice your testimony and the

message of the Church. Ask for guidance from your Region Missionary Operating Committee member or your Region Native American Outreach Committee member, and offer your support for any efforts that are ongoing. It's a great work; it's a great time to be involved. Hurry!

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

"And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order; for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength" (Mosiah 4:27).

But it is requisite that we should run! Run, hasten and hurry!

Holding Meliza

Continued from Page 3

her little organs were not fully developed and the doctors told Romi they did not expect her to survive. Now at three months old she was indeed still alive, but now the doctors were saying she would be blind. They had an appointment to see the doctors the following Tuesday.

We were greeted warmly by these women and were brought into a room where little Meliza was lying on the bed. She was dressed in a pretty pink and white crocheted outfit with a tiny cap, and at first glance appeared to be a small souvenir bed pillow because she was so small. They had bathed her especially for our visit, and you could tell how much they loved this little child. Romi explained how she didn't know if or how she could take care of a blind child, and how sad it was that this baby would not enjoy the colors of the world or all the things little girls enjoy who had sight. Romi lifted her and laid her into my arms. Her face couldn't have been more than three inches wide and her tiny hands perhaps an inch wide. She began to cry this tiny whisp of a cry.

(Continued on Page 10)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS
Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jameson Staley
1521 Registry Row
Arrington, TN 37014

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST
Michael Zaino
2 Hancock Rd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

GREAT LAKES
Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48115

MIDWEST
Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC
Cheryl Cervone
437 San Vicente Blvd. - Apt. B
Santa Monica, CA 90402-1730

PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST
Eugene Perri
570 N. Dover Rd.
Tequesta, FL 33469

SOUTHWEST
Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Restoration of the Gospel is the foundation of our belief. In Matthew 7:15 Jesus warned to, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves." The Apostle Paul in Acts 20:29 said "that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock." In Revelation 12:6, the Apostle John said that "the woman [church] fled into the wilderness" that she should be fed for 1260 days (or years). This time period is known in history as the Dark Ages when no inventions occurred, and no real progress of any kind happened. The Church of Jesus Christ was not upon the earth. But the day came after 1260 years when it was brought back, or restored. Around 800 BC, Israel and surrounding areas were tortured by a plague of locusts that destroyed all the crops and wreaked havoc upon the people. The suffering due to their losses was unbelievable. But God promised things would be restored to them.

"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed" (Joel 2:25-28).

God promised the land, after such awful devastation, would return to its original beauty and lushness. Only our God could do such a thing. It is the same way when after a long cold, gray winter, the spring brings back all the colors of the flowers and trees restored to its original beauty before the winter had set in. God loves to restore! He restores each day with the sunrise. He restores our strength each morning when we awake. He restores the birds back to their nests after the long winter has ended. He restores our bodies back to health after all of our illnesses. God restored His Church to its original beauty and truth, and brought it back to earth for you and me to be a part of. If we are faithful and we endure until the end, someday when we resurrect, our body and soul will be restored to a perfect and immortal state. This land we live upon will be restored one day to be like the beauty that was found in the Garden of Eden. This time is called the Peaceful Reign, and much of what Joel is referring to is regarding these last days and the days to come. A wonderful restoration of purity and innocence, just like it was in the beginning. God said in this scripture that His people shall never be ashamed. We do not have to be ashamed of the conditions we find ourselves in, however difficult and devastating they may be. He will restore us! If we feel today as if we have lost so much in life; so much time we never spent with our children, so much time lost wallowing in sin, so much time lost to our jobs and the cares of life which have no lasting purpose, then we must remember God's promise to His people that someday, if we are faithful and righteous, all that was lost will be restored. How beautiful will the day be when His kingdom fills the earth, and peace abounds! Even our bodies will be restored to be able to live until the age of a tree! This is the hope we have as saints of God! How beautiful will be the day when we see Him face to face, and He welcomes us into His eternal kingdom! All the good that was lost in this life will be returned in that day! This is the hope of salvation we have as His children!

This spring as you look and see the flowers starting to bloom and the grass starting to turn green, remember the love of our Savior to restore all that was lost or dead. Let us never forget that although the days ahead may get worse . . . far worse, that after the darkness, the light will break through like we've never seen before when He restores all the beauty that was lost. Let's hold on a little longer, and trust in the great love of our Father. He WILL restore!

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

The Gospel News

By Sister Jan Bork

Listen to the Spirit of God, Not the Flesh

Dear Friends,

It is so interesting serving God. It is never boring. When you think about it, all of life is about change. We can't avoid change and sometimes it is very scary and fills us with worry. Serving God teaches us how we can change in the right direction, and how to handle the fears and problems in life. We start as needy little babies, totally relying on the goodness and care of others. We grow into little children, then big children. Along the way hopefully our parents or friends teach us about our Creator, God in heaven and His precious son, Jesus Christ. They can help us make all the right changes in life. They have the power.

Now, an important thing about Jesus is that He left heaven and came to earth to be human with us. Since He became a man, He knows all about human ways and how we think and act. He knows what worries us or gets us in trouble. He truly loves us and He knows the best way to change. He teaches us in the scriptures that we have a human, or flesh side and also a spiritual, or godly side. When we do the right thing and listen to the godly side, everything finally works out.

Since Jesus was one of us, He knows how it feels to go through the changes of life. He knows when we get full of pride and act important, when we are not really one bit more important than the next person! He knows when we want to be the boss and control others and it is not one bit important to our soul, or theirs. He



knows when we are listening to His ways or letting our flesh or the old devil influence us in how we act. He knows every time we change for the good or the bad.

One of Jesus' first followers was a great preacher named Paul. Paul was a well-educated, important man of the Jewish faith named Saul. He lived in the city of Jerusalem just after Christ's death and resurrection. He tried everything to destroy all believers in Christ. On his way to Damascus to hunt and imprison more Christians, Saul met the Lord (Acts 9:1-31). He repented, changed his name to Paul and had great faith that Jesus Christ was real. After this experience, he began to preach and tell Jews and Christians about his life-changing conversion and the love and power that followers of Jesus have.

The Lord was with Paul, and sent him traveling and preaching among the people who were Gentiles (not Jewish or of the Israelite people). In those days telephones or computers were not invented. Neither were cars or trains. You could not quickly send your thoughts to another. Letters were carefully written by hand and sent on long journeys that took many weeks or months to get there.

The early churches were learning and changing as they went along. The Apostle Paul constantly wrote them letters teaching them and giving them guidance. These letters are in the New Testament part of the Bible. There are 13 of them. They are (letters to the) Romans, First Corinthians, Second Corinthians, (letters to the) Galatians, (letters to the) Philippians, First Thessalonians, and Philemon (letters to the) Hebrews, Colossians, Ephesians,

1 and 2 (letters) to Timothy, and Titus. In these letters, Paul teaches us not to fear but to pray to God in the name of Jesus for all guidance and direction in life. He tells them listen to the spirit of God, not the flesh.

These Gentile nations were previously worshipping statues believing in witchcraft, wizards, magic, and fortune telling and following pagan beliefs. You must know that we can never trust those kinds of powers. They are from that old devil and you cannot count on them. The only way to be safe is to pray to God in the name of Jesus. Paul taught the people

(Continued on Page 10)

WORD SEARCH

GALATIANS	SPIRIT
FIFTH	LET
CHAPTER	US
IF	NOT
WE	BE
LIVE	DESIROUS
IN	OF
THE	VAIN
SPIRIT	GLORY
LET	PROVOKING
US	ENVYING
WALK	ONE
IN	ANOTHER
THE	

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

Come join us as
we meet for
The May GMBA
Conference

When:
May 15, 16 2010

Where:

Forest Hills, Florida



Drawn by Allie D'Orazio

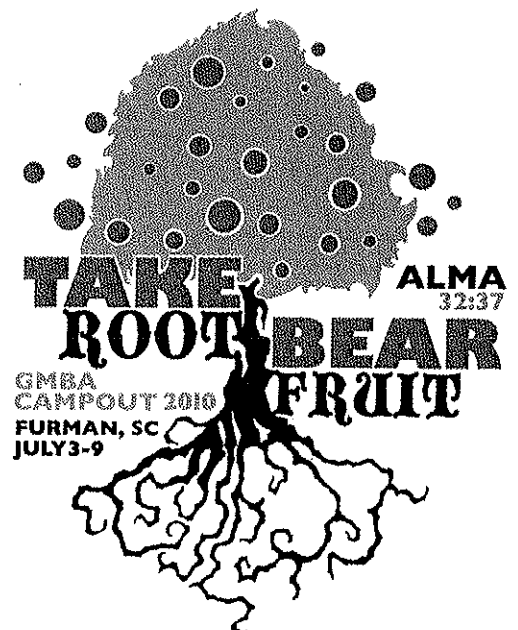
Notice

The 2010 GMBA Campout will be held at Furman University in South Carolina on July 3-9.

Campout Registration Forms are now available. If you have not seen them at your branches yet, check the gospel e-mail system or www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org. You can also check with your area president if you do not have access to e-mail.

God bless you. We hope to see you at Campout!

Brother Lucas Martorana
Camp Director





Love Your Little Ladies

Eight. That is the average age of those who attend Ladies' Circle every other Monday afternoon at the Mesa Branch. Eight-year-olds at Ladies' Circle! How is that possible? It's *Little Ladies' Circle*.

What is Little Ladies' Circle? It's an excellent way to get young girls excited about the Church and Jesus. It's a fabulous mentoring opportunity. It gives little ladies the chance to invite friends to church. It teaches girls about servanthood. Are you interested yet?

It was just a regular Ladies' Circle business meeting in the Mesa Branch, and Sister Tawnya Hood raised her hand to make a comment. She said, "I was thinking of signing Kalei up for Brownies, but then I thought that maybe we could provide something like Brownies here at the church for our little girls. What I mean is this: we can get the young girls together twice a month for lessons

taught by the sisters of the Ladies' Circle. You can teach anything you want – cooking, sewing, singing, you name it. I think it would be a great way to educate our young girls and keep them close to the Church at the same time."

The sisters thought this was a wonderful idea, and it soon became known as Little Ladies' Circle.

Six girls ages 6 to 9 attended the first meeting. Sister Tawnya explained to the girls that Little Ladies' Circle was supposed to teach them not only some fun hobbies but also how to serve God.

Since the first meeting, the girls who come to Little Ladies' Circle have participated in many different lessons. Sisters Wendy and Patty Giannetti taught the girls how to make pizza. Sister Renee Sclaro taught them how to make homemade soft pretzels. Sister Michelle Watson taught them how to crochet. Sister Nicole Landrey got them scrapbooking.

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate an element of service into their lessons. They ask the girls questions like, "How can this skill be used to help others or make someone happy?" The girls have done several service projects like writing cards for

people who were sick or in the hospital.

Sister Tawnya gave each girl a charm bracelet on the first day of Little Ladies' Circle. The girls get more charms for learning about particular skills or hobbies.

One of the unique aspects of Little Ladies' Circle is that it connects the adult sisters with the children. Our young girls need role models, and Little Ladies' Circle is a way for sisters to form mentoring relationships with the young girls in their branches. Little ladies are able to see the sisters as real people with real interests, not just Sunday School teachers or VBS coordinators.

We only have a few precious years to make an impact on our young girls. Let's be concerned for their souls. Let's show them God's love in a way they can understand. Let's reinforce that Church is a place where they belong. Most of all, let's rally around them and demonstrate how real women love Jesus.

Little Ladies' Circle is something that the girls look forward to, and it is meaningful in ways that go way beyond just having fun. If you have young girls in your branch and a few willing volunteers, why not try it and see how the Lord blesses you?



Safety, Allow Him To Take Control of Your Life!

By Sister Heather Nicklow

During a Sunday service, our elders preached a wonderful message on Safety and allowing God to take control of our lives. I was so inspired and lifted up by the message that I wanted to share the message that God sent to us in the meeting.

Jeremiah the 42nd chapter talks about how the Jews were being hunted down and killed. There were only a few men left and they came to

Jeremiah, knowing that he was a man of God, and told him that there were not many men left. Their desire was to know what God wanted so that their lives could be spared and they could be safe. The men had hit "rock bottom" and had few options left. They spoke to Jeremiah of a faith in God. They pledged to do whatever God would direct Jeremiah to prophesy unto them. Under the direction of the Spirit of God, Jeremiah prophesied to them; their safety was in their armies, something they built up. They had become a great nation with much wealth, but the people were so outnumbered now that they could no longer rely on themselves. The armies of Babylon had come in and killed them. They knew the Egyptians would keep them safe and they could depend upon God or flee and let the Egyptians

protect them. God presented them with a choice. If you don't dictate life, I will. I (God) will be your safety. Not only did God give them an answer to their question, but He also gave them the outcomes to the choices they had before Him. They could turn their fate over to God, thus proving their trust in Him; with the promise they would be spared. The alternate was to put their trust and fate into the hands of something other than God; in this case it was the Egyptians. God promised them a safety they could not provide themselves; however, they decided not to place their trust in God.

In today's society with the current conditions of the world (loss of jobs, homes, pensions, respect of persons, etc.), we should want every-

(Continued on Page 10)



General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fundraiser

**Help support the World Conference Center Beautification Project
while enjoying the fellowship of the Saints!**

On Saturday, April 10, 2010, during the General Church Conference, we will be sponsoring a soup and sandwich fundraiser.

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Price: \$11.00



Lunch choices include:
Ham and Swiss or Turkey and Swiss Sandwich
with
Vegetable or Wedding Soup

Bottled water, fresh fruit and/or cookies will also be included.

Please place your order by contacting Sis. Jacqui King at **412- 477- 2756** or at **jacquiking1@yahoo.com** subject line: luncheon

Be sure to include your **first and last name** and **meal choice**. We are only accepting individual orders for the lunches; no committee orders.

Please Note: You will receive e-mail or verbal confirmation that your order was received!

Deadline for placing orders will be midnight Sunday, April 5, 2009.

**Payment for lunches may be made
between 9:00- 9:30 AM, prior to the meeting, or at 12:00 noon.**

Safety

Continued from Page 8

one to have safety. You don't have to hit "rock bottom" to then search for God's safety as the Israelites did. We can have it right now! In 1 Nephi 22:28, Nephi says that "All nations, kindreds, tongues, and people shall dwell safely in the Holy One of Israel if it so be that they repent." Israel rejected God's safety because they were too hard hearted and would not repent.

We as a church, a people, and a nation must not harden our hearts as Israel did. They knew God could do all things, but they wouldn't let Him. God wants to show His people His mighty power. God is looking to protect His people! When the people depended on themselves, they had no safety. They did not know what tomorrow would bring and they had no way of preparing themselves. Like Israel, we don't know what will lie before us tomorrow, but just as God had promised Israel protection and a land of safety and blessings, so God has promised us the same. The Lord wants us to depend solely on Him and no one else. As the song says, we know who holds tomorrow, and we know who holds our hand.

Holding Meliza

Continued from Page 4

The lightness of her weight was contrasted by the heaviness of that moment in my mind. I knew in that instant that this was, as the expression goes, where the "rubber meets the road." These people didn't know us, and only knew that we represented the Lord Jesus and His Church. They didn't know if we had struggles of faith, or what our economic situation was in the States, or whether or not we were for real. For all they knew, we could have been Holy Men of God or complete shams. I knew as I held her, that this was the reason we were in Guatemala; for that one purpose. It was the defining moment of that trip. We knew our pleas to God just had to be heard, for there were souls at

stake. I began to weep.

We explained, through our sister interpreting, how the Lord told us in His Word in Mark and James about the power of God to heal and how we truly believed it. Everyone else in the house came into the room, making about 13 of us in all including the baby. Brother Tom took the oil and prayed a heart-emptying prayer for Meliza as I held her. We had asked Sister Lissette to translate Brother Tom's prayer for the benefit of the family, and the Spirit of God came into the room. When he was done, Brother Tom asked if anyone else could use prayer, and before we left the room we had anointed every person, including Meliza's older sister, her teen cousins and uncles and aunts. I was overwhelmed by the potential in that room and in that mission to spread the Gospel. Brother Steve told me that the Lord opens opportunities like that all the time to them. We bid farewell and went into the van, sat back and said "wow!" — feeling that God had heard our prayers.

The next day was Sunday and in the mission we talked of this experience and rallied the saints to be united in their prayers for this child; not only for her sake, but that the truth of the Restored Gospel might be shone among this family and that God would use this to bring them in. We traveled on to Dominica and relayed this testimony to them as well, and told them how this baby was, indeed, THEIR baby, too, and how God's healing would be THEIR testimony, too, for we are ONE church. Our experiences in Dominica are for another writing, but we weren't able to hear about Meliza until we were safely back in the U.S. two weeks later. I wrote to Brother Steve for an update on this baby, and his exact words were "...Regarding Meliza, she's doing well. The doctors say that she is probably not going to be blind now..."

Praise God! Don't you just love it when the doctors change their minds that way? Our Brother Mathias in Dominica asked about her and praised God along with us when we told him the news. Our hope and prayer is that the mission in Guatemala would unite and continue to support one another in

all their efforts and particularly this one. We hope that Meliza's future would include The Church of Jesus Christ. We have learned since then that she continues to have health problems and stands in need of our prayers yet. May I challenge each of you to offer a prayer for this tiny baby right now, wherever she is in the world at this moment. I believe in my heart of hearts that she was given to us as a symbol — that we might recognize that the work of the Lord is beyond the internal troubles we might face, and that His purpose is that we might reach the lost and dying, beyond the walls of our church buildings.

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

who used to read and study fake magic books to totally destroy those books and burn them in the fire, even though they were popular and worth money. They were evil then and evil now. As the spirit of God taught by Paul was helping them change into godly, loving people, the love and power grew also.

That means the old devil would try to get in there and tempt people to listen to their flesh instead of the loving spirit of God. When confusion sneaked in and people started to be mean or argue and fight, Paul wrote letters to tell them to stop bad behavior. We follow his wise words today also.

In his letter to the Church in Galatia (see chapter 5:14-26) Paul talks about how we can tell the difference between living a life where we listen to the flesh (our selfish, human side), or whether we listen to and learn from the spirit, or our godly side. He also said we should get along with one another. In verses 14-17, he teaches us, "You shall love thy neighbor as yourself. But if you bite and devour one another [fight], be careful you do not destroy each other. This I say then, walk in the Spirit and do not listen to the selfish and evil things of the flesh."

God wants us to live in love and peace. He does not want us to have

goals and desire things that are vain glory and just make us look important to ourselves. He does not want us to envy one other (Galatians 5:25-26). When we truly serve Him, we will have His spirit of kindness and love.

It is good to memorize Galatians 5:22-24. Paul teaches us that the fruits of the Spirit of God are love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), gentleness, meekness, and temperance (not being greedy). Paul reminds the followers of Jesus to think and act as the Spirit of God directs and they would see all those blessings listed above.

Which would you rather be around? You can read the words of Paul and see what true followers will be like. When we see one of the bad things we, or someone we love may be doing, we can pray, confess it to God and ask for help to remove our mistakes and wrong ways from us. It works, and the many changes of life become less fearful and clearer. Listen to that still, small voice of the Spirit of God telling you to do the right thing. Walk not in the counsel of the ungodly. Ask God to help you as you control your human side. Most of all, learn from the scriptures how to love and change ourselves and help others.

Your friend,
Sister Jan

Note of Thanks

The entire Lawrence E. King, Sr. family wishes to express appreciation for the calls, visits and prayers during the most difficult time of losing Tom King.

* * * * *

The Sgro and Bonaduce families would like to send our heartfelt thanks to all of those who prayed, sent cards or made a phone call during the difficult passing of our son and brother, Salvatore Sgro, Jr. The Lord truly blesses us each day with giving us comfort through our Church family.

God bless you,
The Sgro and Bonaduce families

Baptisms

Brother Abraham Nieves was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on April 19, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch.

Brother Dave Israel was baptized on July 12, 2009 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Len Nardozzi and confirmed by Brother Tony Calabrese.

Brother David Catalano (Jr.) was baptized on September 13, 2009 at the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Catalano (Sr.) and was confirmed by Brother Tom Goode.

Brother Freddie M. Shields was baptized on September 20, 2009 at the Omaha, Nebraska Mission. He was baptized by Brother Clifton J. Wells and confirmed by Brother Todd A. Wright.

Brother Tyler Hemmings was baptized on November 8, 2009, at the Irving, California Branch (he is a member of the San Diego, California Branch). He was baptized by Brother Tom M. Liberto and confirmed by Brother Paul Liberto.

Brother Ryan Gunter was baptized on December 6, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Tom P. Liberto and confirmed by Brother David Arreola.

Sister Alyse O'Sullivan was baptized on December 6, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Lou Ciccatti and confirmed by Brother Stacey Light.

Sister Victoria Liberto was baptized on December 6, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Tom P. Liberto and confirmed by Brother Tom M. Liberto.

Sister Amanda Liberto was baptized on December 27, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Tom P.

Liberto and confirmed by Brother Tom M. Liberto.

Sister Kim Loffredo was baptized on January 17, 2010 at the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Richard Loffredo and confirmed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Sister Janeen Dednam-Wright was baptized at the Omaha, Nebraska Mission. She was baptized by Brother Clifton J. Wells and confirmed by Brother Clifton J. Wells.

Brother Brett Orr was baptized on January 24, 2010 at the Forest Hills, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Kevin Murphy and confirmed by Brother Milford "Dee" Eutsey, Sr.

Ordinations

Brother Lorenzo Aguilar was ordained a teacher on April 26, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Stacey Light and he was ordained by Brother Paul Liberto.

Brother Jose Gonzales was ordained a teacher on April 26, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Ricardo Alcaraz and he was ordained by Brother Ysidro Gonzalez.

Sister Susana Gonzales was ordained a deaconess on April 26, 2009 at the San Diego, California Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Teresa Sanchez and she was ordained by Brother Thomas M. Liberto.

Sister Judy Steding and Sister Janice Anderson were ordained deaconesses on January 24, 2010 at the Leesburg, Florida Mission. Sister Judy's feet were washed by Sister Loraine Rose, and she was ordained by Brother Ronald Carradi, and Sister Janice's feet were washed by Sister Stella Benyola, and she was ordained by Brother George Benyola.

*** WEDDINGS ***

Sister Rose Coleman and Brother Jim Evans were united in holy matrimony on January 1, 2010 at the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

Taryn Rose Nicklow, daughter of Brother Joshua and Sister Lisa Nicklow was blessed on January 10, 2010 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Kimberly Zoe Perez, daughter of Jennifer Hernandez was blessed on January 10, 2010 at the Bell, California Branch.

Children Blessed

Ashton Ray Keith, son of Jason and Tiffany Keith was blessed on June 14, 2009 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Reid Scolaro, son of Brother Christopher and Sister Alissa Scolaro was blessed on June 21, 2009 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Mizeal Martinez, son of Brother Miguel and Sister Sonya Martinez was blessed on October 25, 2009 at the Bell, California Branch.

Melik James Wells, son of Catelyn Joy Wells was blessed on December 6, 2009 at the Omaha, Nebraska Mission.

Rory Elizabeth Mae Spangenberg, daughter of Sister Jennifer and Dan Spangenberg was blessed on December 27, 2009 at the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch.

Maia Felicia Nath, daughter of Brother Jonathan and Sister Anna Nath was blessed on January 3, 2010 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Gabrielle Josephine Consiglio, daughter of Alyse (Prokup) and Joseph Consiglio II was blessed on January 17, 2010 at the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

Carlos Abinadi Martinez, son of Brother Carlos and Sister Natali Martinez was blessed on January 31, 2010 at the Bell, California Branch.

Kaiden Michael Dodd, son of Tami Michelessi and Raheene Dodd was blessed on February 21, 2010.

SALVATORE SGRO JR.

Salvatore Sgro, Jr., son of Brother Sam Sgro, passed on to his reward on December 26, 2009. He is survived by his brother, Brother James Sgro (Linda); and sister, Sister Rose Bonaduce.

OBITUARIES

ANNE COSTARELLA

Sister Anne Costarella of the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch passed on to her reward on June 22, 2009. She was an ordained deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Sam Costarella and her son, Sammy. She is survived by her daughter, Sister Joanne Trainor, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

ALEJANDRA CORDOVA

Sister Alejandra Cordova of the San Diego, California Branch passed on to her reward on November 12, 2009. She is survived by her four sons: Jose, Vicente, Pedro and Abel Cordova; and four daughters: Yolanda Morales, Rafaela Martinez, Julia Pacheco and Elvia Alvarez, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ANNE SMITH

Sister Anne Smith of the San Diego, California Branch passed on to her reward on January 6, 2010. She is survived by her two children, JoAnn Smith and Joseph Smith, and two grandchildren, Jennifer Smith and Steven Smith.

PAT O'CALLAGHAN

Brother Pat O'Callaghan of Great Britain passed on to his reward on February 1, 2010. He was an ordained elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Beryl; children, Charmaine, Jason, Mark, Stephen, Noreen and Kevin; grandchildren, Conner, Christopher, Marlen, Lance, Charmaine, Adam, Ryan; and great-grandson Brando, as well as his brother Kevin and sister Noreen.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

April, 2010

Volume 66, No. 4



WORLD CONFERENCE • JUNE 25 – JULY 1, 2011

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

The 2011 World Conference might feel a long way away, but as it grows closer, we hope and pray that you've begun to wonder if the 2011 Conference will be just like the 1983 or 1999 World Missionary Conferences or will it be different. The planning committees are excited to say that it will be 'unique and special, unlike anything you've ever experienced before at a campout or World Conference.'

Yes, on Saturday June 25th 2011, there will be registration* with an evening orientation meeting.

Yes, on Sunday there will be morning and evening church meetings.

Yes, on Monday through Thursday there will be morning chapel for adults and a separate chapel for children.

Yes, there will be time to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Yes, there will be late evenings filled with singing and fellowship.

So what will be unique and special about the 2011 World Conference?

- Each region in the domestic church and each sector in the foreign fields are developing a 45 minute presentation highlighting their history and growth, through the blessings and miracles manifested as the Restored Gospel spread across the U.S. and the world. These presentations will be interesting, fast-moving, interactive and distinctive, drawing upon some of our most talented members, using music, video, personal testimonies and your participation.
- We're also planning on hosting a limited number of members from countries around the world to share their personal testimony of how the Everlasting Gospel has changed their lives!
- We plan to have a World Exhibit Market where you can experience, interact and purchase a 'taste' of the many countries where the Everlasting Gospel has been established.

- The GMBA is planning a two-evening presentation focusing on the 'Restoration Story' – a live reenactment along with video and musical presentations focusing on the impact of the Everlasting Gospel in a newly constructed (state of the art) facility on the college campus at Olivet Nazarene University – 60 miles from Chicago O'Hare airport.
- We anticipate enjoying and participating in a World Choir with musical selections and evening worship meetings lead by the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

Do we expect a wonderful week of uplifting experiences and encouraging reminders that we serve a living God? Do we expect to be reminded of the past, present and future of The Church of Jesus Christ during the 2011 World Conference? Absolutely – so, come and see for yourself!

May God bless you as we anticipate this unique opportunity.

The 2011 World Conference Planning Committee

** On-line registration information will be coming soon with discounted pricing opportunities for early registration and payment.*

Israel's Advocate: Ten Years After

In ten years, how old will you be? Where will you be? How many Native Americans would have heard the Restored Gospel?

The Church of Jesus Christ has set a goal of reaching 1.5 million Native Americans/First Nation People in the United States and Canada. That's not all. It has set a goal to reach 1905 Tribal/Nation/Urban Offices of Native Americans. Finally, it has set a goal of establishing a way for Native Americans to come together to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a place of unity, education, and love.

In simple terms, this project is the 1.5 million—1905—one in ten.

Possible? Absolutely! How do we know? Because we have received a promise from God. Ammon, one of the sons of Mosiah, describes what happened to him and his brothers:

"Now when our hearts were depressed, and we were about to turn back, behold, the Lord comforted us, and said: Go amongst thy brethren, the Lamanites, and bear with patience thine afflictions, and I will give unto you success" (Alma 26:27).

We have a good start on the 1.5 million. Think of all the Native Americans who were and are members in our missions in Muncey, Six Nations, San Carlos, Tse Benito, and Lakeside. Then there's years of outreach at Three Rivers Council and Detroit Inner City. Also think of all the Native Americans who have been

contacted over the years at other reserves or in urban areas such as the Seminole Reservations in Florida, the Cleveland American Indian Center, the Cherokee Reservation, missions in northern Ontario, and many more.

Then there are those individuals contacted by the saints for the last 150 years who have spoken to or shared literature with Native Americans, from Brother William Bickerton to you! Today our saints are more aware of the need to be about our Father's business and get the message of the Restored Gospel and the great things in store for the descendants of Joseph.

Contact your Branch Priesthood or your Region Native American Outreach Committee if you would like to do more to reach the remainder of the 1.5 million.



Las Vegas Mission

By Evangelist Robert McDonnell

Greetings from the Las Vegas Mission! We are happy to share that The Church of Jesus Christ, and the message of the Restored Gospel, is being preached and spread in Las Vegas, Nevada and surrounding communities.

Over the years, various members from throughout the domestic church have relocated to Las Vegas for multiple reasons: new job opportunities, job transfers, and college/university enrollments. Once all the members were contacted, we knew it was time to consider a mission in Las Vegas—then Brother Joe Tedaro, a long-time resident of Las Vegas, was baptized while visiting in California.

The first official meeting was held on October 17, 2004. There were nine members and three children from the Las Vegas area, Evangelist Tony Picciuto from Mesa, Arizona and

Evangelist Robert and Sister Diane McDonnell from Bell, California. Prior to this there were occasional visits to Las Vegas, primarily by Brother Tony Picciuto.

The Las Vegas Mission was placed under the Pacific Region Missionary Operating Committee. The first meeting was held in a small conference room at the Holiday Inn Express, in Henderson, Nevada. We had a six-month rental agreement at this location. It was an exciting day for the members in Las Vegas and for The Church of Jesus Christ. We all felt this was the time to organize the mission, and this was confirmed with a testimony given by Sister Renee Smith, originally from the Levittown Branch in Pennsylvania. She had been in Las Vegas for about twelve years and missed not having a branch to attend. She always hoped and prayed a mission or branch of the Church would someday be established in Las Vegas.

Sister Renee shared the following experience with the congregation. About two years prior to our first service, she and her son Marcus were leaving the house, and as they walked to the car they noticed a beautiful white bird flying around their

home. The bird was so beautiful they could not take their eyes off of it. They had never seen a bird like this, especially in the desert climate. It was clearly out of place, and not normal! Although they were running late for school, they just couldn't pull themselves away from watching the bird. The bird landed for a moment then flew away. Sister Renee didn't know what to think but felt a blessing and peace in her heart. As she pondered this, one day she called her mother and shared the experience. Her mother told her it was a sign from God. The white bird (that looked like a white dove) represented the Church or the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. It wasn't too long after this experience Sister Renee heard there were plans to start a mission in Las Vegas. She knew with assurance God had sent the bird as a sign that The Church of Jesus Christ would be established in Las Vegas.

Meetings continued to be held once a month. When the rental agreement ended, it was necessary to find a new location to hold services. While praying and looking for another facility to rent, Brother Jim Smith offered us a room in the building where he worked. His wife, Susan, is

a manager at the same company, and she was happy to offer the room for our church services. The room was very nice and exceeded all of our needs and expectations. God was in the matter as the room became available just as we needed to relocate. We were very appreciative and we thank Susan and Brother Jim for their generosity and kindness in accommodating the mission.

In 2006 we had our first baptism, Sister Johanna Nava, who was 15 years old at the time. Her parents, Brother Ricardo and Sister Ana, and her brother, Brother Ricky, are charter members of the mission.

After some time had passed we had to temporarily relocate once again. Thankfully God directed us to a business facility which met our needs. While meeting at this location we had two more baptisms: Sister Darla Carrillo, wife of Brother Rudy Carrillo Jr., and Sister Shakirah Smith, Sister Renee's daughter. During this time Brother Dennis Buck and his wife, Laura, started attending medical school in Las Vegas. Brother Dennis had a desire to teach Sunday School, and he always comes prepared with thought-provoking lessons. Having Sunday School is an added blessing for all. In January 2009, we were able to return to Brother Jim's office building.

We saw the handiwork of God once again in our small mission. Brother Dennis and Laura were applying to many hospitals for their residency, and it wasn't likely they would be able to remain in Las Vegas. They applied to several hospitals in other states, as well as the hospitals in Las Vegas. They had a desire to stay in Las Vegas, and through prayer and God's intervention, they were both accepted at the same hospital in Las Vegas, where they will remain for the next three to four years.

The most recent blessing in the mission took place on August 16, 2009. After much prayer and consideration, Brother Jim Smith was ordained a Deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. He showed the fruits of a Deacon from the very beginning, always concerned about the needs and comforts of the brothers and sisters.

We thank God that He is calling laborers to work in the mission.

There is an excitement in the mission as individuals are seen coming to the Lord. There are many challenges in a small mission, especially when there is not a resident minister. Thank God, we have only canceled one meeting in five years! This is possible because of the dedication of the ministers who are willing to visit and support the mission on a consistent basis. We are praying for a permanent minister and trust God will provide. We extend an invitation to any minister in the Church who may have a desire to relocate to Las Vegas. We would love to hear from you!

It seems when people think of Las Vegas the initial thought is gambling, casinos, and even the old saying, "sin city." This may be true for some, but there are always sincere souls in every city and community. The Gospel is established in Las Vegas for those who are searching for peace and a positive change in their lives. Our hope is to be that beacon light that will guide them to the Lord. There is also a saying attached to Las Vegas that you may have heard or seen on TV: "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." This is true if you are there for the wrong intentions. Our intention is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and shout it from the rooftops. No secrets here, we are looking for souls! Our vision is to have a branch of the Church in the Las Vegas area.

Las Vegas is a popular location for conventions and business conferences, and we have been blessed to have several ministers and members visit with us during their stay in Las Vegas. We encourage all members and ministry who have plans to be in Las Vegas to contact me, Brother Bob McDonnell, at 626-918-0276 or email at RDM4PWR@aol.com and I can advise of the meeting schedule. If there is no meeting scheduled, there is always the possibility for a special meeting or home visit.

Please keep our mission in your prayers, and we will continue to pray for all of the branches and missions throughout the Church.

Revival in San Diego

By Brother John Cihomsky

All things are indeed possible with God. Who could have predicted that in only five months the San Diego Branch would grow by nine members? But predictions are something only we do; God has a plan.

We praise God for the spirit of repentance felt by our youth, starting at GMBA Campout last summer when Holly Hemmings of San Diego and her cousin Austin Ciccati of Minnesota asked to be baptized. While not baptized at camp, Holly and Austin took part in the San Diego Youth In Action tour that followed during the first week of August. In that blessed week, we saw 27 participants spread the Gospel throughout the neighborhood around the San Diego Branch, culminating with four baptisms: Austin, Holly, Brandon Coppa and Gabriella Cihomsky – all according to God's plan.

The same wonderful spirit we felt at YIA was present at our Pacific Region MBA Campout in October in Idyllwild, California, where Taylor Surdock was baptized. In the following month, the new Irvine Branch hosted a Domestic Operating Committee weekend gathering, where many of our youth were again touched by God's Spirit, prompting Tyler Hemmings to ask for his baptism, bringing the total to six baptisms.

In early December, three more of our teens asked for their baptisms—Alyse O'Sullivan, Tori Liberto and Ryan Gunter – after experiencing a summer and fall full of God's blessings. And as fall turned to winter, Amanda Liberto was baptized on the last Sunday of the year, making that 10 baptisms for the year (nine San Diego members and one from Minnesota).

Praise God for this influx of young people into the Church, and we look forward to the exciting plans that God has in store for our branch, and for every branch and mission in 2010.

(Branch and Mission News continues on Page 8)

Come join us as
we meet for
The May GMBA
Conference

When:
May 15, 16 2010

Where:

Forest Hills, Florida



Drawn by Allie D'Orazio

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS
Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jameson Staley
1521 Registry Row
Arlington, TN 37014

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST
Michael Zaino
2 Hancock Rd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

GREAT LAKES
Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST
Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC
Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST
Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST
Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10).

Today many sincere and honest people find themselves in the depths of depression and discouragement due to circumstances in their lives. With the way the economy has been going, troubles, diseases, natural disasters, and a general waxing cold of love, good people, and especially the saints of God, can feel very abandoned. This feeling is felt by some in the Church today, and this editorial is for you.

Recently, the Lord gave me this scripture at our Region Conference. I didn't have an opportunity to speak, so I asked the Lord if it was His will that this scripture be read, that He give me the chance. Sure enough, I was asked to close in prayer and took the opportunity to read this verse and try to encourage our people. When I looked out, I saw a sister whose son was very afflicted with a disease. I saw her crying, and remembered that each time someone in my family passed away, she was the first to come to our home and deliver home-cooked meals, enough to last us for weeks! I saw a young teenage brother wondering what his future would hold, whose uncle was dying recently. While his uncle squirmed in extreme pain in bed, this young brother stayed up every night sleeping on the floor beside him, reading scriptures to make him feel better, until the day came when his uncle passed away. I saw others who have done so many good works to help others and relieve their pain. But I saw pain upon their own faces for things they were currently going through, and the Lord spoke this scripture to me.

God is NOT unrighteous to forget all the good things we have done for others. He sees and knows all of our actions. His love for us is incomprehensible, and when He sees us doing good for our brothers and sisters, or anyone, He remembers every single good deed. Unlike our sins, which get erased from His memory when we repent, He NEVER forgets the good works we have done in His name! When troubles or trials come into our lives, instead of allowing ourselves to be dragged down into depression, we should lift up our heads, knowing that God is not unrighteous to carry us through and help us, just as we have helped others. I have seen so many in the Church be carried through the most serious of troubles or trials, and in the end, were more blessed than ever before! I have seen many who thought the situation they were in was impossible to overcome, conquer it! I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor God's people begging for bread. I have never seen the saints of God overlooked by Him when troubles and trials come. Because there is always a time of testing and growth that comes with enduring troubles, we may not be delivered immediately. But I have always seen the saints of God delivered from their problems....ALWAYS. If anything, perhaps we should pray for patience and pray that we learn from the experience, instead of becoming discouraged thinking that God has somehow forgotten us. As life goes on, you would think we would learn this, but many who have gone through this many times, still panic when problems arise, forgetting that God is in complete control of the situation. All we really have to do is wait it out.

What a great and awesome God we serve! Oh how He loves us. Charity covers a multitude of sins, and when we extend love to others, in whatever form, it covers a multitude of sin and mistakes we have made in life. When troubles come, instead of becoming discouraged, think of someone else who is in need and do something special for them. You'll forget all about your own problems, and God will bless you and deliver you in a beautiful way. He also will cover our sins when we have charity for others. He is not unrighteous to forget our work and labour of love. Praise His name!

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Making the Right Choice

Dear Friends,

Many times in your lives you will have to make a decision and feel afraid you are making a mistake. When you are lying awake at night worrying about your decision, there is something powerful that you can do; you can pray. Ask the Lord to guide you, show you the right thing to do, and help you to be willing to do it. Scriptures in the Bible and the Book of Mormon teach us that there are three spirits trying to influence our every decision. There is the Spirit of God, the spirit of the devil and our own human spirit of the flesh.

Our goal is to not let the devil trick us and waste our time and life. Our goal is to do the thing that will bring peace and love to everyone, not hate or sadness. Have you ever seen those cartoons about someone trying to make a decision? On one shoulder there is a little angel whispering into their thoughts and telling them to do good. On the other shoulder is a mean little devil who is whispering in their ear and telling them to be selfish, unkind, greedy and mean. Then there is our human side wanting to do the right thing but also being tempted to do wrong.

We each actually do have a spiritual, or Godly side and a human or flesh side. They both want to influence us and they fight against each other. For example, the Godly side tells us, "Be kind," and the flesh side says, "Who cares! I'll do as I want." The



Godly side sees a problem and says, "Pray and fast for that person." The human side says, "I am going to gossip and tell others what is going on!"

The prophet Jonah in the Old Testament was told by God to go into the wicked city called Nineveh and start preaching and tell the people to quit sinning or God was going to destroy their city. Jonah's human side did not like the people from Nineveh. He did not want God to save them. He actually hoped they would be destroyed. So Jonah listened to the devil who also wanted these people to lose their souls. Jonah got into a ship and sailed far away from Nineveh, actually in the opposite direction.

God sent a huge storm, and the small ship was almost sinking. Jonah confessed to the other people on the ship that he was defying God, and told them to toss him into the wild sea. When they did, God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah (read Jonah, Chapter 1-4). For three days and three nights he was tossed and turned in the belly of that great fish. How he suffered for listening to his human side and letting the devil influence him instead of following God's directions! The Bible says that the weeds wrapped around his head as he lay in the belly of that great fish. He nearly suffocated inside that creature before God had the fish spit Jonah out. Then Jonah made the right decision and went to preach to Nineveh! The entire city of over one hundred and twenty thousand people repented of their evil ways and started serving God.

In the Bible (Mathew 26:36-46), Jesus was facing the day that He knew He would be taken to be judged and crucified. As He went to pray in

the Garden of Gethsemane, He asked His friends, the Apostles, to come with Him. He asked them to wait and watch with Him while He went away to pray. When He came back they were sleeping, even though He had told them He needed them to watch and be with Him. Jesus said, "Watch, and pray that you not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." They had wanted to help Jesus but they went and rested instead.

This means at times your spirit will want to do the right thing but the devil will try and tempt you to do the wrong thing. In this case, the friends of Jesus failed to keep the Lord company at His most sorrowful hour. In our case, we may likewise be tempted to rest or take the easy way

(Continued on Page 11)

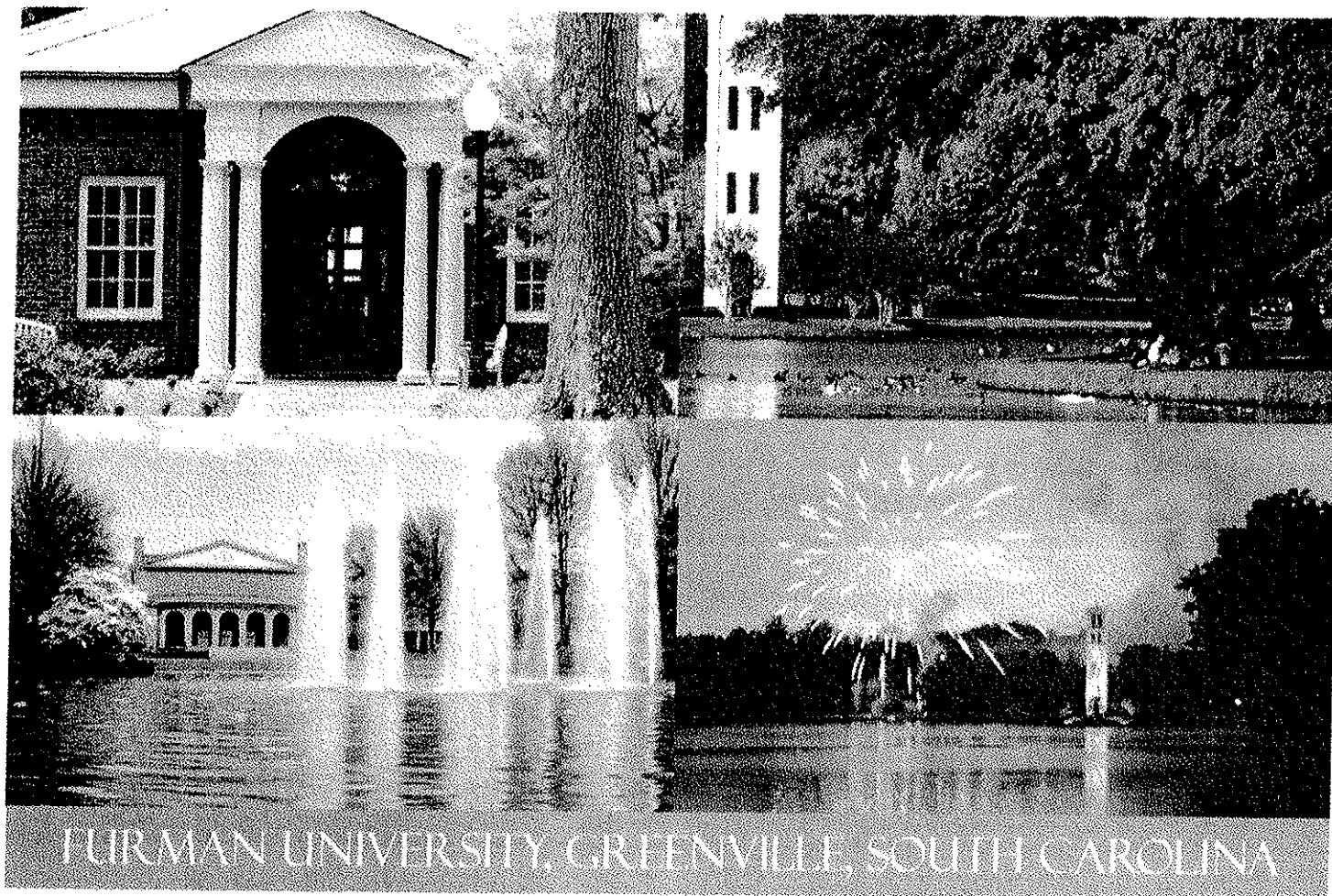
WORD SEARCH

THE	PRAY	WILL
SPIRIT	JAMES	FLEE
IS	FOUR	FROM
WILLING	SEVEN	YOU
THE	RESIST	JESUS
FLESH	THE	PRAYED
IS	DEVIL	FOR
WEAK	AND	US
SO	HE	

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

take root and bear fruit!

Alma 32:37



mark your calendar for

GMBA Campout July 3- 9, 2010

Lucas Martorana, director; Tony Moraco, assistant director

registration forms forthcoming

Branch and Mission News

Continued from Page 3

Celebrating 75 Years at Branch #2*By Sister Carolynn O'Connor*

Detroit Branch #2 celebrated 75 years of service to the Church in October. The branch was established in 1929 as a mission. Started by Brother Ismael D'Amico with early converts such as Brother Emil and Sister Anna Carlini, and comprised primarily of Italian immigrants living on the west side of Detroit, this small group thrived through the hard work of the brothers and sisters and became a branch in 1934.

Invitations were sent to all who had been members of the branch over the 75-year period. The invitation was for a two-day event held in October to reminisce and celebrate the work that has gone on throughout the Church as a result of the members of Branch #2.

Much preparation went into the event and many brothers and sisters labored to make it a success, from finding and reaching out to past members to preparing for the activities, it was done as a labor of love for the Lord. We currently have past members serving in branches from coast to coast. Over the 75 years we have had 202 baptisms, 264 children blessed, and 91 weddings performed.

Each guest was greeted at the door with a program and a commemorative pin that read Branch #2, 75th Anniversary, 1934-2009. Below each pin was a ribbon and the ribbon was customized to indicate how long that person had been a member of the congregation at Branch #2.

The guests then had an opportunity to walk around and view artifacts and photos from years gone by. On the back wall was a huge tree with branches that extended wide. On the tree were photos of the congregational members at events such as branch trips, baptisms, picnics, and gatherings that had taken place over the 75 years. The oldest photos were placed on the trunk of the tree spreading to the most

recent ones on the young branches. It was a beautiful representation of our history.

Along with the pictures were artifacts, including photos of the four locations where Branch #2 met over the years – the garage of Brother Emil and Sister Anna Carlini, the buildings on Bayside and South Electric in Detroit, and our current location in Allen Park, Michigan. There were also actual seats that had been taken from those locations and saved over the years. Documentation was displayed, such as our newsletters and the bicentennial celebration program.

There was a photo presentation that had been made the previous year that had photos of each current member from birth, to baptisms, to weddings and beyond. This played in the back of the auditorium, and in the front was a video that was made of our 50th anniversary. Appropriately it ended with Brother Alex Gentile, then presiding elder, referencing how quickly our 75th anniversary would be here.

Displayed in the annex was a list of all the members past and present that have had an active role in the Region and General Church, offices which also included our beloved Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the Church for many years. Many of the same members appeared in various positions. It also listed members who

have served in mission fields around the world. Branch #2 members have heavily supported the spreading of the Gospel in missions domestically and around the world. Currently, we have members who are active in Italy, India, Venezuela, Columbia, The Cree Nation, and the Canadian missions.

After the brothers and sisters had time to walk around and view the items and spend some time reminiscing, a catered dinner was served. It was enjoyed by all! A large tent had been put up outside with seating to accommodate the large group there for dinner. A beautiful cake was served by the young women of the branch, wearing aprons that had been made by Sister Rose Ferrante over 50 years ago.

We gathered for a meeting in the auditorium. The meeting began with a video presentation showing photos from over the past 75 years. Then Brother Dino DiMelis, Presiding Elder, asked several members to talk about the history of the branch in the early years by talking about the charter members. Many that spoke were descendants of the early members and spoke of an intense dedication and love for the Church. The pillars of the Church spoken about included Brother Fredericco and Sister Palmina Straccia, Brother Joe and Sister Antoinette Straccia, Brother Antonio



Brothers, Sisters, Children and Friends at the 75th Anniversary of Detroit, Branch 2

and Sister Chiara Gentile, Brother Reno and Sister Isabella Bologna, Brother Emil and Sister Anna Carlini, Brother Ishmael and Sister Julia D'Amico, Brother Biaggio and Sister Mary Scarsella and many more whose names would be familiar to many.

Sister Tammy Mendenhall, recently transferred to Branch #2, did not have the pleasure of knowing those spoken about. When she went home that evening, she was praying and praising God for the early brothers and sisters that she had heard about that night. She thought that she would have loved the opportunity to meet them. All of a sudden she could hear singing, and the Spirit told her that these were the voices of the brothers and sisters from early Branch #2. They were singing *The longer I Serve Him the Sweeter He Grows*.

Our night slipped away quickly, and after the choir sang and the children sang a song, our meeting was brought to a close with the promise of the day to follow.

We gathered again in the morning for more edification. God has blessed Branch #2 immensely over the 75 years. Many laborers and leaders in the Church, some who have stayed on to worship with us and others who have gone on to serve God in other parts of the vineyard, have been part of Branch #2 history. We praise God for His mercy and love and look forward to His blessings in years to come.

Come Home, Come Home

By Sister Kathy Vitto

The week of October 11, 2009 Brother Sam Onorato of the Windsor Branch had been given a message from God to invite another soul home. Each day the message was getting stronger until he felt he would burst on Sunday. Brother Sam came to Sunday school as usual, and the message was stronger yet. Alan Flowers was there with his wife Sister Laurie (Wright).

Alan had been attending the Windsor Branch for approximately

three years with his wife. They almost always came to Sunday School and attended the Sunday services. They sat near the front, and we could feel God was working with Alan. We would hear him weep during many a sermon, prayer, song, or testimony. He was studying the Word and asking questions. He was learning and loving what he learned.

Brother Don Collison spoke the morning of the 18th on how glad he was to be home from visiting his sister, Sister Ilene Smith in Missouri. He explained that she and her husband, the late Brother Chuck Smith, had moved there after an experience that they were to bring the Gospel to the Restoration Churches and gather them together. "She and her husband made quite an impression upon those people. Now in her old age, some of them are looking in on her and taking care of her needs. Isn't that wonderful! Ask and it shall be given, seek and ye shall find. God is as real as the prayers we offer and the prayers He answers."

Brother Don continued: "It's good to see our young couple [newly baptized Brother Josh O'Neil and his wife, Sister Krystal] taking up the Gospel to carry on from us who are aged. The Lord adds to the Church daily as He sees fit."

Brother Don then told us of a sister who asked the Lord for things, and everything she asked for she received. Each time she received, she fasted and prayed in thanksgiving for what God gave. What a wonderful example. Brother Don instructed us, "If you want to know where the Kingdom of the Lord is, just kneel down and ask God. Death is not the end of life, it is only the beginning. The death of Brother Gaetano and Sister Frances Gerace's 16-year-old son is what it took to bring the Gospel to the City of Windsor. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man will open the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me.'"

Brother Perry Vitto followed speaking on the Love of God and what His Church and Gospel are all about. Taking from Moroni 6:1-4, "And now I speak concerning baptism. Behold, elders, priests, and teachers

were baptized; and they were not baptized save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it. Neither did they receive any unto baptism save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins. And none were received unto baptism save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end. And after they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ; and their names were taken that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith."

Brother Perry continued by saying, "We have not changed God's

(Continued on Page 10)

Youth In Action 2010

The GMBA is sponsoring the following YIA tours for the summer of 2010:

Spartanburg, South Carolina
July 9 through July 18

LaGrange, Kentucky (tour A)
July 24 through August 1

Irvine, California
July 24 through August 1

LaGrange, Kentucky (tour B)
August 7 through August 15

Please encourage all young people to consider participating in one or more of these activities.

Come Home, Come Home

Continued from Page 9

commands and teachings one iota, otherwise we might as well join the crowds out there in the world."

After Communion the meeting was left open for the congregation to express themselves. Alan Flowers stood with tears in his eyes and asked for his baptism. Oh how glorious it is to be in the House of the Lord when another soul gives himself to the service of our God!

Brother Sam then came to his feet and told our congregation how he had been instructed with the message to "COME HOME!" We all were overcome with God's goodness.

We had to wait for three weeks to go to "the waters of regeneration" as Alan needed to visit his mother who had recently taken ill.

On November 8th we met at the water's edge to witness another soul giving his life over to the service of our Lord. Brother Perry Vitto took him into the water, and with the authority given him by Jesus Christ baptized our new brother into the fold.

After we gathered in the branch our Presiding Elder, Brother John Collison, greeted us with these words, "You need the Restored Gospel to be prepared. You need to see and to feel and to hear those things that Christ had taught and showed. He set the example. Without the ancient order of things the people will never be prepared. Brother Alan going into the waters of baptism is a preparation of the coming of the Lord. We need to take ourselves out of the way. We get in the way too much. The things that we struggle with become so burdensome it takes our minds, our hearts off the Lord. Don't think for a moment you can do it any other way. It's not going to happen. It is so beautiful to see that the ordinances are being fulfilled in these the latter days. And the foundation of it all is love. We will preach about love until we die. You come here and you will hear about it. If you want to be loved, you come here and you will be loved. You have a soul that will live forever and it is

you that determines what will happen to that soul. You will never die! And the Lord has placed within you the ability to discern right from wrong."

Apostle Leonard A. Lovalvo, offered prayer prior to the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon our new brother. Brother Don Collison felt inspired to confirm Brother Alan.

Brother Leonard reminisced about his younger years as a child and how he delighted in going to the water's edge to witness baptisms. "Alan, your old man was washed away and you came out a new creature. Our minds govern the way we think, but our spirit is changed when we receive the Holy Ghost, the mind of Christ, so we will all think like Him." Brother Leonard continued with encouraging words for the whole congregation. He instructed us on how important it is to keep our garments spotless before the Lord and how we are in constant battle with ourselves, so we must weigh all our thoughts and actions. He told us about our potential to plant a seed and how much we can do with the love of Christ within us. We should work together as a team that we may garnish souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. He inquired, "What does the Lord delight in? A broken heart and a contrite spirit!"

Brother Perry followed: "What a wonderful day this is! The Lord is going to keep looking at us, we can't hide it, can we, this love that we share? There is also something that scares us about making this choice isn't there? Alan felt that fear! But, he let it all go. I told Alan one day we are going to pray that fear away! As he makes this walk, as we make this walk, it is paramount in our lives to get down on our knees and take a moment. It is that Holy Spirit that is going to carry us to help us do things that we didn't know we were capable of. Maybe give our testimony, you'll hear yourself and say I didn't know I had that in me. I didn't know I could have that affect on that person, I didn't know I could be that kind of example. We will find it on our knees. Nephi said 'Pray for your performance that your performance will be for the welfare of your soul.' The Spirit of

God teaches a man to pray. We hold the biggest key to our salvation. It's our walk, no one else can do it for you. If we don't pray for God to give us strength where we are weak we won't make it. This Holy Spirit that was rendered on Alan today, on each one of us, is the strength no man has within himself until it is laid upon him, until we are washed clean. The writer said, 'We're free from the fears of tomorrow, we're free from the sins of the past.' Our one fear now is that we don't want to leave anyone behind. May God bless each and every one of you."

Brother Don softly and lovingly concluded. "The Prophet said, 'Where is the house that he built unto me and where is the place of my rest?' Today Brother Alan, is the first day of your new life building the house for the Lord, the place where the Lord can rest and where you can find rest. The prophet said, 'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall rise up on wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not be faint.' Today is the day of probation, a time not to be wasted, we will all give an account to the Lord, the keeper of the gate."

We enjoyed many testimonies of the brothers and sisters. Our new Brother Alan expressed himself by thanking God for all the people that had been put in his path to help him get to where he is today.

We dismissed after a glorious service and fellowshiped once again with a lovely lunch.

A New Name in Glory

By Sister Connie Rossi

"There's a new name written down in glory, and it's mine, O yes, it's mine! And the white-robed angels sing the story, A sinner has come home." That is the song we sang here in Spartanburg, South Carolina as we welcomed a new Brother into the family of God. It had rained all night the night before and there was even a slight lingering

shower as we made our way to the baptismal site. But as we ventured into the early, cold morning we anticipated a blessing because we knew the Spirit of the Lord was present with our new brother and each of the saints.

Brother David Christopher Miller began visiting our branch several months ago and often spoke of the love he always felt from the saints.



Brother Harold Littlejohn baptizing Brother Chris

He mentioned that he has been looking for the right church for a long time, and he knows that this is where he wants to be. Our brother went to the Elders and made his desire to be baptized known. On January 17, 2010 Brother Chris, as he likes to be called, went down to the waters of regeneration and was baptized by Brother Harold Littlejohn. After returning to the church, Brother Willie Brown laid hands on Brother Chris for the reception of the Holy Spirit.

We continued our fellowship with one another by enjoying a luncheon prepared by the sisters of the branch.

We want to thank God for bringing Brother Chris to our branch, and we ask all the saints to keep our new brother in your prayers as he begins his walk with the Lord in The Church of Jesus Christ.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Greensburg Branch
112 Walton Tea Room Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Another Baptism in Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Connie Rossi

"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

God is so good as He has blessed the Spartanburg Branch with yet another baptism. We had just welcomed a new brother on January 17, and today, February 14, 2010, we welcomed Sister Kelly Ann Rooney into The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Kelly has been attending the Spartanburg Branch for the past year and a half and has recently married Brother Eric Rooney. She has been faithful in her attendance and continuously sought to learn as much as she could about the Church.

On Sunday, February 14, 2010 our Sister stood to her feet during testimony and shared with the branch how much she has enjoyed attending the Church and that she always tries to find out as much as she can about something before making a decision. Sister Kelly testified to the fact that she now knows that this is the true Church and we are, indeed, God's people and proclaimed her desire to be baptized. The heavens rejoiced as we praised the Lord for this joyous announcement! Sister Kelly also shared her desire to be baptized that same afternoon. Why wait! The meeting was dismissed, the proper preparations were made and the congregation headed to the waters.

It was a cold, winter afternoon but our sister was determined to be baptized. As she proclaimed her allegiance to the Lord, Brother Darrell Rossi led her into the waters of regeneration as the saints and friends looked on. She was placed in the water a sinner and came up a new child of God. Sister Kelly mentioned as she came back to shore that the water wasn't cold at all. The Lord had wrapped Himself around her and kept her warm! She had hands laid on her for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost by Brother Harold Littlejohn and

received her first Communion. Oh, what a joyous occasion!

Brother Harold mentioned that wouldn't it be wonderful if we could baptize at least one person per month. How glorious that would be. We thank the Lord for our new sister and we beseech our brothers and sisters to continue to pray for Sister Kelly that our heavenly Father will keep her in His care and she will always walk this walk as a mighty soldier of the Lord. Amen!



Brother Darrell Rossi baptizing Sister Kelly

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

out instead of letting God use us to do good. Maybe when we think about helping someone or calling them to cheer them up, we watch television or do some other fun thing instead. Later, we are sorry for failing to do good. The flesh won instead of the good Spirit of God. Again, the message is to pray and ask God to guide every one of your decisions.

We can't read the future, but God can. Remember in James 4:7 we are promised, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." We can be sure we are making the right choices and decisions if we pray and follow God's teachings.

With love,
Your friend, Sister Jan

Notice

ATTENTION! Former members and friends of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch: We will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the dedication of the Monongahela Branch on Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25, 2010. Please plan to join us. Any questions? Contact Brother Richard Scaglione, Branch Historian, at riscaglione@verizon.net or phone 724-258-8960.

Alyssa Catherine Faist daughter of Matthew and Sister Alyse Faist, was blessed on July 17, 2009 at the Bronx, New York Mission.

Jay Alan Degnegaard, Jr., son of Jay and Lydia Degnegaard, was blessed on October 11, 2009 in Nutterfort, West Virginia.

Lomar Marcus Dunn, Jr., son of Lomar Dunn and Marcella Blair, was blessed on November 15, 2009 at the Bronx, New York Mission.

Ordinations

Sister Barbara Straccia was ordained a Deaconess on March 14, 2010 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Shirley Paxon and she was ordained by Brother John Straccia.

Brother Paul Stallard was ordained an Elder on March 14, 2010 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. His feet were washed by Apostle Peter Scolaro and he was ordained by Brother Malcom Paxon.

Sister Jan Humphrey was ordained a Deaconess on March 21, 2010 at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Branch. Her feet were washed by Sister Flo LaRosa and she was ordained by Brother George Kovacic.

KATHERINE COCCO

Sister Katherine Cocco of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, passed on to her reward on January 19, 2010. She was an ordained deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. She is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Michael. She is survived by her son, Joseph (Kamille); daughters, Deborah (Carl Jacobson) Cocco, Dawn (Robert) Cocco Dice; 10 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; brothers, Tane, John, Harry and Felix; sisters, Rose Maselli-Scott and Sharon Maselli.

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Dominic DiBattista and Sherita Wilson were united in holy matrimony on January 1, 2010 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Children Blessed

Tyler Matthew Faist, son of Matthew and Sister Alyse Faist, was blessed on July 17, 2009 at the Bronx, New York Mission.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____

OBITUARIES

FRANK BANYACSKI

Brother Frank Banyacski of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch passed on to his reward on October 5, 2009. He was an ordained teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Ethel; a son, Brother Thomas F. Banyacski and his wife Sister Linda; along with two grandchildren, Brother Tom Jr. and Danielle.

JULIA SALERNO

Sister Julia Salerno of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed on to her reward on March 4, 2010. She is preceded in death by her husband, Brother Carmen Gene, and son Romeo. She is survived by her sons, James (Elsa) and Robert; daughter, Sister Judy; her sisters, Kathryn, Veronica and Sophi; along with eight grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

May, 2010

Volume 66, No.5

The Church of Jesus Christ Established in the Country of Burundi, Africa

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

Another country on the continent of Africa has embraced The Church of Jesus Christ. It is important to give a brief history of how the country of Burundi came to know of our church. We received an inquiry from a Pastor requesting to know about our faith, and from reading his letter he sounded very sincere. Knowing that Brother Alexander Rudatsikira, our Church President in the country of Rwanda, was born in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, we determined it best to send him to investigate this man's interest. The initial visit of Brother Alexander with this individual seemed to be fruitful at the time, however, it was not long before the real intent of this man came to light.

While there he decided to locate several childhood friends he knew to introduce the Restored Gospel to them. Having successfully found his friends, he had the opportunity to tell them of our Church beliefs. They accepted the message of our beliefs and they told Brother Alexander there were other individuals whom they thought would like to hear about the faith and

beliefs of our Church. Brother Alexander was then introduced to a young man by the name of Francois Hakizimana and immediately began to preach the Restored Gospel to him. Listening to Brother Alexander for several days introducing the faith and beliefs of our Church, Francois was convinced that what he was hearing were his exact beliefs. Francois, along with a group he was holding Bible study with, confessed they were dissatisfied with the church they had been attending because of the many points of Jesus' doctrine the church was not following.

Brother Alexander returned home and advised us he was not able to meet with the man whom he was supposed to talk to, but found some of his childhood friends and a group with whom he began to preach the Gospel, and they were receptive to the faith of our Church. We requested that Brother Alexander continue corresponding with Francois, to discern if there was a genuine interest in our Church with this group. I would like to share part of a letter I received from one of the

men Brother Alexander found living in Bujumbura. His name is Leopold, and not only does he express his own feelings, but that of the group with whom he was meeting. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Evangelist Perri, Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

We are writing on behalf of a small group of people living in Bujumbura (Capital City of the Republic of BURUNDI). We have been blessed to meet with the man of God from Rwanda serving the Lord in The Church of Jesus Christ in the country of Rwanda, his name is Pastor Alexander Rudatsikira. During his visit to the Republic of Burundi last year we met with him and we had the opportunity to discuss the work of God and the confusion that reigns today in many churches in our country in particular and all over the world in general. The Lord gave us an opportunity to listen to him sharing with us about the church he belongs to. We were very curious to hear much about his church which is very different from the churches we are familiar with today. We love that The Church of Jesus Christ is the church where Ministers are very humble and friendly. We have seen this man Pastor Alex; he has been for us a symbol of his church.

(Continued on Page 2)

We love to belong to the church where the structure of the church is a model of the church Jesus Christ has started, where you have 12 apostles, 70 Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Deacons and Deaconesses. This reminds us of the church Jesus Christ left behind when He went back to His Father, and where everything is done by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

We are delighted to know a church where the doctrine of Jesus Christ is still applied like Feet Washing. Most churches do not practice feet washing while the Bible commands us to observe it very often. Jesus Christ set feet washing to teach us to be humble; therefore, those who do not want to be humble, they do not want to practice this doctrine in their churches.

We love to belong to the Church where Holy Communion is observed every Sunday as our Lord commanded us to do and using one cup instead of hundreds of cups as it is being done today in all churches pretending that they are trying to avoid the transmission of illness.

We appreciate that The Church of Jesus Christ does not believe in paying salary to ministers. We have seen some people starting churches which their main goal is to seek honor, power and money.

We just provide a breakdown of what we appreciate in this church, there are many other ordinances such as baptism which takes place down by a body of water like the ocean or lake and children are not baptized, but are blest as Jesus did. Therefore, Evangelist Perri, we are praying and expressing our strong desire to see The Church of Jesus Christ established in our country of Burundi and that the Church may spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ among our people of Burundi. We are now meeting in cell every Tuesday and Thursday in order to keep ourselves together. We do not know much, but are sharing the Gospel to many others who want to know. The End !"

After approximately one year of correspondence with this group of people in Burundi, it was decided by

our Africa Sector officers to ask for permission from the New Works Committee to go to Rwanda in June, 2009 during our missionary visit. On June 6, 2009 we were invited to the home of Brother Alexander where we met a married couple, Francois and Aline, and two men, Leopold and Osborn. For the next three days we presented our Faith, the Restoration, the Ordinances and structure of the Church to them. At the end of the third day we asked them what were their thoughts.

Their answer to us by Francois was that they had heard the same message from Brother Alexander. They accepted the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ and desired to be baptized. My brothers and I met together to discuss our feelings about their request for baptism. We unanimously decided to baptize them. We saw their sincerity in the questions they asked and acceptance of our answers. They accepted the faith of our Church as it had been explained to them.

We returned back to the room where we had been meeting and gave them our answer. Almost immediately they clapped their hands as a sign signifying they were pleased to hear the news we would baptize them and welcome them into The Church of Jesus Christ. These new converts to our

Church were baptized June 9, 2009 by Brother Alexander and Brother Jean Pierre, both Pastors of our Church in Rwanda. Brother Alexander relayed to us there was a revelation given that Brother Francois would be blessed of God to be their spiritual leader in Burundi. Before proceeding to bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost upon them, the Priesthood felt the calling of God to also ordain Brother Francois a Teacher. Brother Francois was very active in the church he had attended, as a youth coordinator, and we feel he will do very well as a spiritual leader for his people and our Church. They returned back to Burundi, and for eight months Brother Francois continued to hold meetings, teach, and pray that it would be the will of God that The Church of Jesus Christ would be established in their country. Brother Alexander and I have continued to correspond with Brother Francois, encouraging them to be united and prayerful as a group.

In 2010 Brother Bob McDonnell and I desired to make a missionary trip to Burundi to investigate the feasibility of establishing our Church in that country. As time passed since the four people from Burundi were baptized, we received an appeal from Brother Francois to come and establish



Brothers and Sisters in Burundi, Africa

the Church. There were a number of people requesting baptism and an experience was relayed to us for Brother Francois' ordination as a Pastor. The New Works Committee granted permission to visit Burundi coinciding with a scheduled trip to Rwanda.

We began our trip on February 12, 2010. After visiting with the Church membership in Rwanda, on February 22, 2010, Brothers Alexander, Bob McDonnell and I flew to Bujumbura, Burundi where we were met at the airport by Brother Francois and a few other people who would eventually become our brothers and sisters in Christ. What a welcomed sight it was to see our brother after eight months and to meet the others. For the next two days we met with Brother Francois in training sessions concerning the faith, restoration, ordinances and responsibilities of a pastor and as a spiritual leader of the Church. We observed him very intently, and listened to his responses to our questions. Brother Alexander, Church President in Rwanda, observed to ensure that Brother Francois understood everything we presented to him. At the end of the second day of training and questioning, Brothers Bob, Alexander and I felt God's inspiration confirming to us that Brother Francois Hakizimana was called of God and ready to be ordained into the Priesthood after the order of the Son of God—Jesus Christ.

Wednesday morning, February 24, 2010 was the first official meeting of The Church of Jesus Christ held in the country of Burundi by missionaries from America. It was on this day that Brother Alexander Rudatsikira introduced Brother Bob and I to the congregation where there were 58 adults in attendance. We warmly welcomed an enthusiastic group that was assembled. We use the term enthusiastic because of their singing and clapping of hands to show us they were happy. The day they had been praying for had finally arrived. Evangelist Bob McDonnell and I felt good liberty in preaching the Restored Gospel, our faith, ordinances, etc., to the group of 58 people in attendance. The afternoon

activities consisted of consecrating and setting aside the basins, pails and towels for feet washing and the ordination.

This date was set aside for the ordination of Brother Francois Hakizimana as a Pastor. His feet were washed by Brother Alexander and he was ordained by Evangelist Joseph Perri. History was made for The Church of Jesus Christ in Burundi. When we ordain a brother into the Ministry we use the term Pastor instead of Elder. The term Elder is not respected nor has any pastoral authority in many African countries. After his ordination the congregation clapped showing Brother Francois their support. At this time he was given the opportunity to speak to the congregation. He felt very humbled and requested the prayers of everyone that he, with God's help, would be able to fulfill his calling as a Pastor. His mother related a conversation she had with an older gentleman when Brother Francois was a small boy. This man told her the day would come when God would use him to preach the Gospel and he would become a spiritual leader and Pastor among his people. Beside the experience for his calling, this was a good confirmation of Brother Francois being ordained into the Ministry.

The next day we had 45 in attendance; some had to work and others were attending school. Each day we taught our faith, ordinances, Establishment, Apostasy, and Restoration, etc. At the end of Thursday's meeting, 35 had called for their baptism. On Friday morning, the 26th of February, we assembled on the shores overlooking Lake Tanganyika. The water was calm, and the weather overcast, and fortunate for us the sun was hazy shielding us from the heat. When we met at the shore of the lake, we were informed there would be 36 baptisms.

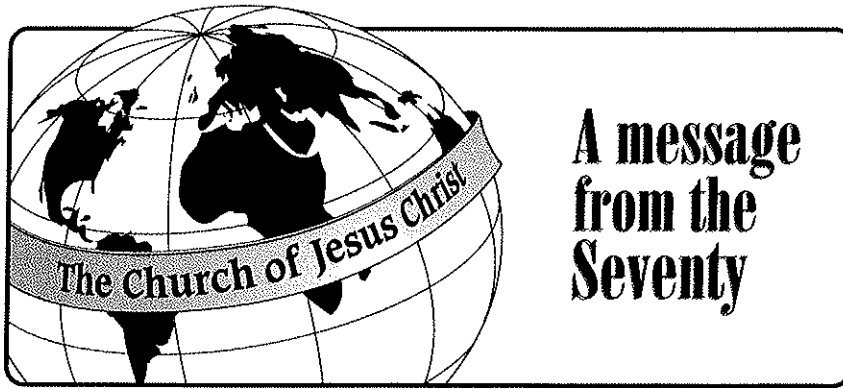
The following is an experience of determination: A sister by the name of Helen Ntimpirangeza had to undergo surgery on her abdomen. She knew there was a day set when baptisms would take place, and she wanted to be baptized. A couple days after sur-

gery, she asked the doctor to discharge her and send her home. She wanted to be discharged so she could get baptized. He refused, telling her she just had surgery and there could be complications if he let her go home. She continued for the next day or so to request being discharged. Finally and reluctantly the doctor discharged her and sent her home. Whether she told the doctor the real reason for wanting to be discharged or not we were not told. On the morning of the 26th I recognized just about everyone present except this woman. I asked Brother Francois if he knew her, and he said she had been attending worship services with the group for some time and wanted to be baptized. Inquiring why we did not see her at any of the meetings, he mentioned she was hospitalized and had surgery. He called her over to where we were standing on the shore; he said something to her in their language. She showed us the bandage covering her entire stomach. The bandage was also covered with clear cellophane tape. When we saw it our first reaction was not to allow her to go into the water for fear of something serious happening to her. However, we conferred with all the Priesthood. They spoke to her of our concern, and she would not take no for an answer. She was determined to go into the water and get baptized because she had looked forward to that day for some time. She told us nothing would happen by her going into the water for baptism. What faith and determination on her part. She was baptized that morning.

In the afternoon we confirmed each person that was baptized and ordained two Deacons and two Deaconesses. On Saturday we consecrated the communion cloths and utensils, appointed a secretary and a three person finance committee consisting of a Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and an alternate, and trained the newly-ordained officers.

Sunday morning we met with the brothers and sisters who were bap-

(Continued on Page 11)



Blessings in Venezuela

By Evangelist Richard Scaglione, Sr.

As I left for my second missionary trip to Venezuela, I had a feeling of guilt. I was leaving my wife with deep snow drifts, power outages, and below freezing temperatures for my sunny, 95 degree destination. However, I knew that God would take care of her during my absence. I was able to leave with her support and blessing. I'm sure this is the concern of every missionary as we endeavor to do the Lord's work.

Brother Frank Palacios and I spent six days in Maracaibo, a city described as having the hottest year round temperatures in Venezuela. As I prepared for the trip, my thoughts were on the agenda of tasks to be covered. Ministerial training and reinforcement of Church doctrine and ordinances were to be our primary objectives. Our Elder in the Maracaibo Mission, Brother José Chavez Hernandez, was ordained a year ago. His brother, Angel, was ordained a Teacher in the Church on our trip last May. We also wanted to visit those in El Palo that we and our brothers on previous trips had met and ministered to. My concern was how to cover the long list of objectives in such a short time. The reality of my concern was quickly replaced with the thought, "Don't worry! The Lord will get it done!" And He did!

God's Spirit was evident as we met with our two brothers. We stressed the fact that they have been called by God, not by man. They have been ordained and given the authority to be God's ambassadors to preach and teach the Restored Gospel of Je-

sus Christ and to administer His ordinances. They were reminded to use both the Bible and Book of Mormon, the "two sticks that have become one in God's hand." A handout was given that shows various topics are covered in both books and bear witness that Christ's teachings are the same.

Our brothers' responses reflected the willingness to accept their duties with the sincerity and dignity of a servant of God. They showed their desire to strive for the harmony that is necessary in our ministry. Their spiritual growth was quite evident throughout our discussions. Scriptures were reviewed to explain our doctrine and how we must follow Christ's teachings and examples in administering the ordinances. We answered their questions by referring to God's Word.

We also met with their family members to review the need for their total support of Brother José and Brother Angel as they fulfill the duties of their respective offices. Each was reminded to work together in love and harmony for God's blessings and spiritual growth. They all showed their love and promised to follow our advice.

Meetings are being held in the family apartment as the Community Center is still being renovated. Potential visitors are reluctant to attend "house meetings" because of the distrust and fear which exist in their country. However, our brothers continue to share their testimonies with any-

Atlantic Coast RMOC

*By RMOC Chairman,
Evangelist J. Joseph Perri*

Our committee is very active in our region. We have brothers that are also involved in foreign mission fields. We continue to find the means of spreading the Gospel so we can enlarge our borders and find other areas within our region to be active. It is our intent with the help of God to share the Restored Gospel with as many who would desire to listen. The Church of Jesus Christ is precious in that its officers hope for a better life for those who seek the truth and salvation.

There are a number of areas within the Atlantic Coast Region where our committee is active. We have Brother Matthew Rogolino actively working in the Brooklyn Mission with the assistance of other brothers and sisters. Some from the neighborhood have visited the mission. Meetings are also being held every Sunday in the Bowery with good attendance and during the week at the Monmouth County prison.

Visits are made by the Priesthood of the Brunswick, Maine Branch and Brother Sam Sgro from the Mt. Laurel, New Jersey Branch to assist our mission in Dedham, Massachusetts. Meetings are held once per month at the Holiday Inn, and if anyone knows someone living in the Boston area, we would love to have them worship with us. Kindly inform our RMOC and we will follow up with the individual whose name we receive.

The missionary effort in the Montreal, Canada area continues. Contacts have been made with interested persons who have made inquiries about our Church. There are several people who attend the meetings and are close to baptism. Sister Jimena Mott has been recommended to be ordained a Deaconess to assist her husband, Brother Timothy. This ordination will take place sometime during the next several months.

Brother Philip Arcuri, who is in

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued on Page 7)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS
Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST
Michael Zaino
2 Hancock Rd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

GREAT LAKES
Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST
Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC
Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST
Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST
Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"And he had sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fulness of his wrath should come upon them. And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them. And the fulness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity" (Ether 2:8,9).

There is quite a controversy stirring over whether or not immigrants into the United States should be allowed in if they are not legal citizens, especially from Mexico. At the heart of the controversy is money. When too many illegal immigrants are here, it affects our economy, and people are afraid of any possible loss to their money. Interestingly, we are all immigrants to this land of promise, even beyond just the United States. The Jaredites were the first recorded people to arrive in the promised land as outlined in the book of Ether, and the brother of Jared was given the decree in the above scripture regarding this land that whoever would come here must serve God or be swept off when they become ripe in iniquity. The people of Lehi and the Mulekites were other recorded groups that came to this land, and a remnant of the people of Lehi remains here (the Native Americans....even they are not technically "native"). Then the Gentiles arrived from Europe, Africans arrived from Africa, Asians arrived from Asia and it is safe to say, that everyone upon the land of promise, North, Central or South America are "immigrants." As the United States tries to limit who can come into its country or not, regardless of the political reasons good or bad, we must remember that all people are upon all the lands of the Americas by invitation from God, and must serve God. The Jaredites, Mulekites, people of Lehi, all were swept off the land due to their disobedience to God. I think a more important decree should be made throughout the Americas that people must turn to God, rather than who is a legal citizen of a particular country or not.

"And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God -- that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fulness come, that ye may not bring down the fulness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done" (Ether 2:11).

The Book of Ether sends a warning to the Gentiles upon the land of promise today. What is more important than immigration reform is spiritual reform. If only the leaders of the nations of the Americas would realize the decrees of God regarding this land! If only the people upon the land of promise would recognize this is a blessed land, free from bondage and captivity from all other nations, and free from kings or queens, but it is a land of freedom. This freedom is a blessing of God so that we can serve God freely, and not be restricted like Daniel was (and then was thrown in the lion's den!). Unfortunately many have taken this freedom as being free to commit sin, and live a life in open rebellion to the commandments of God. The warning in Ether is from the time of the Jaredites, until "forever!" This means the warning still stands today. God is an unchanging God, and will not excuse the Gentiles just as He did not excuse Lehi's family and the Jaredites.

We have a responsibility to tell others about the joy that comes in serving God. We need to tell others upon this land of promise that serving God will bring down upon them the blessings of God. We know that not serving Him will bring down upon them His wrath. Let us all strive to be missionaries upon this land of promise wherever we go and whoever we talk to. Let's bring as many as we can on board the ark of safety. Let's do as God commanded and serve Him as we are so blessed to be upon this, the beautiful Promised Land!

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



“Believe in One God”

Dear Friends,

Do you know how blessed and safe we are because we believe in one God? Do you realize that for thousands of years there have been people who lived and died without knowing there was one God and His One, Begotten Son, Jesus Christ?

For example, the people that I descended from were from a part of Europe that once worshipped the spirits of trees. Many of you descended from people living near Rome in the days when people worshipped statues and even false Greek gods. Some of us are descended from people who feared the forces God has created in nature. They worshipped the false gods of thunder, or rain, or spring.

Throughout those long years of ignorance and unbelief, the Jews in the world kept the idea of one God alive. They were persecuted and murdered for their beliefs but they still refused to bow down before statues, or pray to the forces of nature. People didn't understand what caused lightning (friction in the clouds) or why stars fell in night skies (meteor showers). They were often tricked by others to let them have control over their lives. These others would pretend to have special powers or magic. They often called themselves wizards, or magicians. Today there is an increase in people pretending to have magic, and power. We are not ever supposed to trust them, rely on them, or pay them and ask them to tell us their

ideas about our future. Our future is in God's hands, not some psychic's or magician's.

We are not superstitious in The Church of Jesus Christ. We know that special numbers or coins cannot bring us “luck.” We know that God, the Creator and His Son, Jesus Christ, who love us, hear our prayers and overcome all things that want to harm us.

We do not have to make special offerings to fire, moon, or spirits in the air to be blessed. We have the One, true God, and His Son, Jesus Christ, to help us. When we have serious questions that need answers, we can fast and pray to get those answers.

Fasting and praying clears your heart and body from any distractions. You can really concentrate on pouring your heart out to God. He then speaks to you. In your mind, a peace and feeling of trust will come. You will know what to do. Even if the answer is to sit back and wait; you will know.

In the Bible and Book of Mormon, people have always relied on great men and women of God to help them. When Jared realized that he and his family and friends needed guidance from God about where to go, he asked his faithful brother, the Brother of Jared, to pray for them all. He prayed too. When great kings worried about whether to go into battle, they called on prophets like Samuel to pray with them and ask God what to do.

Who are those men and women of God that you know YOU can trust? Who can you quietly go to and ask them to pray for you? If you are having a serious or small problem in your

life, God can help you. Think about someone in Church that you know loves God. Ask to talk with them. Tell them your prayer needs. Ask them THEIR prayer needs. Now go and pray for one another in the name of Jesus. The Bible says, “When two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Then, thank God and Jesus for hearing your prayers.

We don't need to fear nature, evil people, aliens, or a scary future. OUR futures are in God's hands. Don't watch stories on television or movies that use tricks to make you think that aliens and wizards can have power over your future. GOD has power over YOUR future. Pray, think about Him, and love others. Tell them what He has done for you and how His Son, Jesus, has helped you. He cares for you.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

JESUS	IN	OF
SAID	MY	THEM
WHEN	NAME	PRAY
TWO	I	HE
OF	AM	LOVES
MORE	IN	US
ARE	THE	ALL
GATHERED	MIDST	

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

Blessings in Venezuela

Continued from Page 4

one who will listen. Some have promised to come and hear the Restored Gospel. Seeds are being planted, and the hope is to reap the harvest.

Brother José now has a car, and we were able to travel at practically no expense. We did visit several family relatives in El Palo, where we were warmly greeted. We shared good conversation and fellowship with them. We also extended the love of the brothers who had visited in past years and shared many good memories.

Our Sunday service was held in the family's apartment. I led the Sunday School lesson, and Brother Frank delivered the sermon with Brother José following. We both focused on the need to strive for unity in the Church as well as in the family, and God will send His blessings. Scriptures were used to support this theme. Brother José prepared and administered Communion. Testimonies were then shared.

Brother Frank and I were extremely pleased with the spiritual growth of our two brothers in their respective offices. Our final conversation with them was to continue striving for a higher spiritual level. They were told to share their testimonies with any who will listen. Then tell them, "Come and see; come and feel God's Spirit."

Atlantic Coast RMOC

Continued from Page 4

charge of the Cottageville, South Carolina mission field, reports progress is being made among those who have requested prayer for their illness and stated they have been healed. These individuals are expressing their love for our Church and for our brothers who visit the Native American. The tribe recently elected a new Chief who personally invited our brothers to attend a powwow in the month of May. With each visit made, there seems to be a greater interest in hearing about the faith of our Church.

I had the opportunity recently to make contact with Sister Deloria Green, a Native American originally from the San Carlos, Arizona Mission and her husband, Charles Green in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

There are a number of our brothers and sisters who remember Brother Claude Kayson and his wife, Sister Isadora, from the San Carlos Reservation Mission. Brother Kayson was an Elder of our Church at the San Carlos Reservation until the time of his death. Sister Isadora was a faithful member and a Deaconess in the San Carlos Mission until her passing last year. Sister Deloria is the granddaughter of Brother and Sister Kayson. A number of years ago, our Church held worship services in the Native American Center in Bridgeton, New Jersey. By visiting Sister Deloria last month, we were informed it was in the home of Charles Green's grandmother where we also conducted a number of our Church services. Some of the Native Americans that we met with have passed away and since there was a general lack of interest in attending our Church meetings, we abandoned the work. The visit with Sister Deloria has revived our interest with the desire to renew our acquaintance with a number of Native Americans that we befriended years ago.

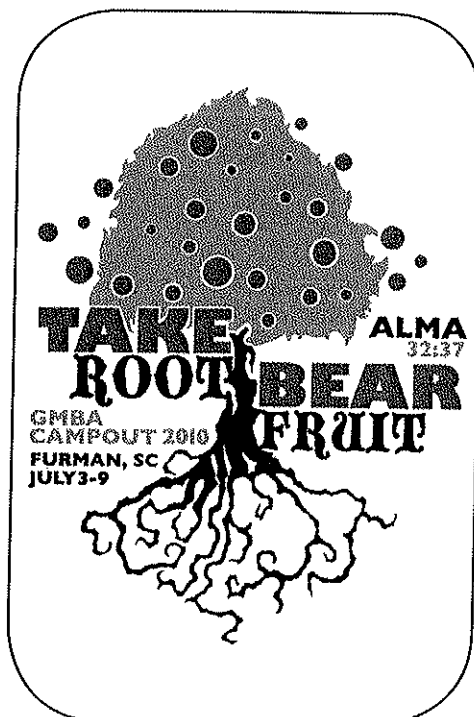
We are trying to encourage our young people to participate by traveling with us to Bridgeton. There will be a powwow on June 12-13 which the RMOC, along with young people from our region will attend.

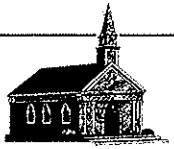
From the state of Rhode Island, Brother Michael McGuire and his wife, Sister Joann, continue to visit and work among the Native Americans. Sister Joann is on the Board of the Tamaqua Museum and the Nuweeton School. Our brother informs us that they attend most of their functions but progress has been slow. They both inform us that they have tried their best to keep abreast with everything that goes on with the Native Americans in the area. The tribes that are being referred to are the Narragansett's, Wampanoag, Pequot and Mohican.

We have scheduled Evangelistic meetings on Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23 with visiting Evangelists Frank Natoli and Tony Ricci. We will conduct a Saturday afternoon and an evening meeting. On Wednesday evening, June 30, an Evangelistic meeting is also scheduled for the membership of our region.

As RMOC Chairman, I oversee all missionary work in our region. I am not only involved in some of the mission fields in our region, but also involved in a number of mission fields in Africa. Brother Carl Huttenberger is Field Chairman for Guatemala; Brothers Tom Curtain and Ken Lombardo in Dominica; Brother Philip Arcuri, DR Congo Field Chairman, assisted by Brother Tom Goode; Brother Jerry Valenti, Central America Sector Chair; Brother Joseph Benyola, DOC Vice Chair. From reading this report it is easily understood my brothers and I are trying to become involved as much as possible in the Great Work of the Lord as time allows and with as many brothers and sisters that desire to become involved.

SEE YOU AT GMBA CAMPOUT





Branch and Mission News

Blessings in San Diego

On April 4, 2010, The Church of Jesus Christ gathered in San Diego and experienced something truly amazing—not only a blessed Easter service, but also the ordination of Brother Jose Gonzalez into the office of an elder.

The first part of the meeting focused on our hope in Jesus Christ. Evangelist Barry Mazzeo related how Easter represents that wonderful hope that comes through Jesus Christ, who became the sacrificial “Lamb of God” to atone for our sins. Jesus came in the foreordained fullness of time to “pave the way” by offering His redeeming blood for the sins of all mankind. He then resurrected on the dawn of a new day or “new beginning,” providing for the resurrection of all mankind. Brother Barry quoted I Corinthians 15:19-20: *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead...”*

Brother Barry explained that in addition to the hope of Christ in our daily lives, we have the glorious hope of the Resurrection and the opportunity to see Him one day face to face. He emphasized that Jesus is the author of “new beginnings,” and He helps us in our daily lives. With the Lord, we become victors and can overcome all of life’s problems, referencing Romans 6:4: *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life,”* as well as Psalms 34:19: *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”*

Brother Ron Mazzeo followed and spoke on the infallible proof of Christ’s resurrection as He appeared to many after His death—to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9), to the Disciples at

Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13 and Luke 24:13-35), to the Disciples/Apostles with Thomas absent (Luke 24:36-48 and John 20:19-25), to the eleven with Thomas present (Mark 16:14-18 and John 21:1-24) and to above 500 brethren at once (I Corinthians 15:6).

Moreover, Brother Ron emphasized that through the eyes of faith we can also see Christ manifested in our lives. Anyone baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ has had their own infallible truth of the living Savior revealed in their personal lives. Those who are baptized can also say, *“Did not our heart burn within us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?”* as the disciples at Emmaus had stated. The invitation to come to Christ without delay was extended to anyone not baptized, so that he or she could also become infallible witnesses of the resurrected Christ today, just as others had experienced being with Christ in years past.

Following the preaching service, we transitioned to the ordination of Brother Jose Gonzalez. The San Diego ministry spoke of experiences related to his calling into the priesthood, and how the Lord worked with Brother Jose in order to prepare him for the ministry, including going on missionary trips to Spanish-speaking countries, where he assisted as an interpreter.

Apostle Paul Liberto read from Alma chapter 13 that speaks of the *“high priesthood being after the order of His Son, which order was from the foundation of the world; or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things.”* The scripture further states that men were called *“on account of their exceeding faith and repentance, and their righteousness before God, they choosing to repent and work righteousness rather than to perish.”* The scripture was an acknowledgment that Brother Jose truly had been called according to the foreknowledge of God because of his faith and good works.

Brother Jose was set apart for the work of the ministry as Brother Ron washed his feet and offered a

heartfelt prayer, which was a touching moment to all of us and surely to God. Afterwards, the congregation sang *Jesus Use Me*, and the ministry knelt in prayer, with Brother Paul calling upon the Lord for the power of His Holy Spirit to choose a minister for the ordination of Brother Jose through the laying on of hands. Evangelist Stacy Light answered the call and ordained Brother Jose into the royal priesthood. It was beautiful to watch our newly-ordained Brother Jose embrace his comrades in the ministry and then embrace his wife and children.

During the testimony service, various members expressed their love towards God, Brother Jose, and the family of God. The day’s blessings culminated with our newly-ordained Brother Jose, along with his fellow ministers, passing communion to the congregation. It was a fitting reminder of the timeless sacrifice of our resurrected Lord, who broke the bands of death for His followers. The service concluded with the congregation singing with joy and reverence, *The Old Rugged Cross*.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

*Thanks to all the mothers
and spiritual mothers for
their examples and
guidance to the children
in our church.*



“What Is It That Ye Desire Of Me...”

By Evangelist Brian Martorana

“And it came to pass when Jesus had said these words, he spake unto his disciples, one by one, saying unto them: What is it that ye desire of me, after that I am gone to the Father?” (III Nephi 28:1).

As a young minister in the Gospel, I often read about the day of Pentecost and how wonderful it must have been to witness everyone being filled with the Holy Ghost and listening to Peter’s sermon about the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. In my mind it would have been beautiful to witness three thousand souls giving their lives to Christ and also enjoying the great blessing of baptizing them unto the Lord. On one of our missionary trips to India, we actually spent all morning in the waters of regeneration baptizing candidates who had surrendered their life unto the Lord. We also spent most of the afternoon bestowing the gift of the Holy Ghost. What a great feeling as I remembered my desire that one day I could be a part of such a glorious day similar to the day of Pentecost. While I was taking in all the blessings of this beautiful day, I had one more desire of the Lord. I desired that one day I would have the opportunity to baptize my children into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On December 13, 2009 God also granted me that desire as my oldest son, Brian John, asked for his baptism in our afternoon testimony service. This day will be easy for me to remember as it is my natural birthday as well. So along with the thought of getting older, I have the wonderful memory of another year that my son has surrendered his life to the Lord. As we approached the water’s shore, a beautiful white dove flew right by me and I mentioned this to my wife and son. After the baptism, Brian was confirmed by Brother Ron Mazzeo and we all felt a wonderful spirit in his prayer. As the saints began to depart, the white dove remained until we physically left the water’s shore. Truly God is good and

able to fulfill all our good desires.

The theme of our March 13, 2010 Southwest Regional Conference was taken from Acts 2:46,47:

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Brother Pete Giannetti, our Region President, was inspired with this theme of the Lord adding to the Church daily. Are we unified as the people of God in fasting and praying continually that God will call our children, families and friends to repentance? Are we preaching about repentance and baptism in our meetings and when others look upon us do they witness a victorious life in Christ? Our dear brother challenged each branch and mission to fulfill this beautiful scripture in the 2nd Chapter of Acts.

*“And they, continuing
daily with one accord
in the temple, and
breaking bread from
house to house, did eat
their meat with gladness
and singleness of heart.
Praising God, and
having favour with all
the people. And the Lord
added to the church
daily such as should
be saved.”*

On Saturday afternoon we truly felt the glory of God in our midst as our Region Ladies’ Circle presented a program called “Pursue.” Pursue was inspired by a sermon where David pursued those who had been taken by an enemy of the House of Israel. The sisters collected over one hundred names of people who have been affiliated with the church in each branch of our region. Each individual received a card with encouraging words of kindness and love. We are praying that as we reach out in this manner, God will give the increase and our friends will have the desire to worship with us once again. Evangelist Barry Mazzeo testified under the Spirit of God that when he was not in fellowship, the Ladies’ Circle sent him a card that touched his heart and turned his mind toward God’s goodness in his life.

Brother Patrick Giannetti, our region Historian, began to share experiences received by the brothers and sisters of our region. We all began to feel God’s Spirit as we marveled concerning the goodness of God. At one point in the service, I began to sing to myself *Isn’t the Love of Jesus Something Wonderful*, and immediately Brother Pete Giannetti started to sing this song and we felt God’s presence come into the room.

Evangelist Joe Ignagni of the Fort Worth, Texas Branch shared an experience in which a woman came to visit their branch along with her family. After several days, the ministry decided to go to her home and visit her. When they went to her house, another party answered the door and they did not know our visitor’s new address. The ministry began to fast and pray and this woman came to church with 15 family members. She testified to the saints she had a dream in which Brother Joe Ignagni appeared to her and asked her to please come back to Church. As our brother testified of this experience, Brother Ron Mazzeo spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was as follows: “I, the Lord, will answer your prayer. If you will show forth the desire, I will per-

"What Is It That You Desire of Me..."

Continued from Page 9

form the work saith the Lord." The Lord confirmed the theme of our conference that if we have the desire, He will do the work of adding to the Church daily such as should be saved.

For the first three months of this year, the San Carlos, Arizona Mission has been blessed with three baptisms and four reinstatements. One couple, Kenneth and Karen Key have been close to our Church and have known Brother Dan and Sister Delores Piccuto for several years. Karen has been afflicted with cancer and had asked Brother Dan to pray for her. While her health has been improving, she has told our brother that, as soon as she is able to leave the hospital, she wants to give her life to the Lord. Her husband also wants to be baptized with his wife. We have many requests for prayer on all our Native American Indian Reservations as many people are reaching out for our help. Let us continue to petition the Lord for healing and deliverance in their behalf.

Today the Lord is looking at our hearts in a similar way as when He inquired about the disciple's desires on this land. Surely the Lord could grant to us another Day of Pentecost and add to every branch and mission on a daily basis. God is also able to call our own children to repentance and reveal to visitors the need to continue attending church. In addition, the Lord has promised not to leave us alone in these endeavors but He will actually perform the work. I encourage everyone to seek the Lord while we labor to build His kingdom and God is faithful to grant the desires of our heart.

Note of Thanks

I wish to thank each one of you for your prayers, calls, cards and gifts during my convalescence from my fall down the steps. God is so good.

Sister Elizabeth Staley

Encouragement to Continue to Labor for the Lord

By Brother Anthony J. Micale

One thing is sure, today is no different than before. Men of God that desired to serve the Lord went out to preach the word of salvation to the lost souls of men and women.

One of the best examples of this is the four sons of Mosiah, Ammon being the leader. The Lord saw them through, but it did not come easy. They had many trials. They were told that it was impossible to convert the Lamanites. They trusted in God and His direction and they converted thousands of souls. Nothing is impossible with God.

Just like today, the Lamanites were in darkness and a stiff-necked people. The sons of Mosiah were spit upon, thrown out of their cities, and beaten. But in the end the Lord gave them great success. The Lamanites were so converted to the Lord that they chose to die rather than take up their swords against their enemies. Because of their example, thousands of their enemies believed and were converted unto the Lord.

Today God is looking for more people like the sons of Mosiah who are willing to step out against all odds and preach the Word to whoever will listen. Ammon, after many years of labor, looked back at their success and praised God for what they accomplished in converting many souls. What a great blessing was bestowed upon them.

Today is no different. The world is in darkness. We must understand that it will not be easy, but we know if we prove faithful and labor in the vineyard, just like the sons of Mosiah, the Lord will see us through, and bring us much success.

They were instruments in God's hands, and a great work was done. Because of this, their place is secure in God's Kingdom. Thousands were saved from the gates of hell and

brought to sing redeeming love because of the power in God's Word. God was merciful and He could have destroyed them. His arm is always reaching out to us that none might perish. Ammon desired that He could speak as an angel unto the ends of the earth. This was his joy that he would bring many souls unto repentance. We as the saints of God in His Church can do the same as the sons of Mosiah. It was not easy but it was worth it all.

An Experience

By Sister Betty D'Orazio

God works in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform certainly came into play on Saturday, March 13 around 5:00 pm.

We were experiencing a terrible rain storm in New Jersey, one which we hadn't seen in a very long time with flooding and strong winds bringing down many trees. As I was watching the storm, I saw a fire truck come down the street and they parked facing my home. Three firemen came out of the truck and up my walk. I went to the door to see if I could be of help and they said, "We got the 911 call to come to 91, what's wrong?" I looked at him and said that I was fine, and that I hadn't called them. He turned to his partner and said, "What was the house number?" He replied, "91." They checked around the house and said all was fine and proceeded to get into the fire truck. Just at that moment a live wire in front of my home came whipping down and instead of hitting my house, it hit the fire truck setting off an explosion of fire works and popping. The road was closed off for two days. Thank God he took care of the firemen as well.

The Psalmist wrote it perfectly in Psalm 91:

*"For He shall give
His angels charge
over thee, to keep thee
in all thy ways."*

Church in Burundi

Continued from Page 3

tized in a worship service. After several hymns were sung and opening prayer was offered, Brother Francois opened the meeting for the brothers and sisters who wanted to testify. Those who took the opportunity to testify, praised God for The Church of Jesus Christ coming to Burundi and for the privilege to be baptized and give their life to Christ. A brother by the name of Alfonse said he never wanted to attend church; however, when he was invited to attend worship and Bible study service, he heard the faith of our Church and started attending regularly. He was one of the 36 baptized and was ordained a Deacon. Sister Helen testified that she had no ill effects from being baptized. She requested to be anointed, not only for a complete healing, but so that she would be able to fulfill the promise to serve God the balance of her days. What a wonderful beginning of a new life with Christ.

At the conclusion of testimonies, we were asked to bless 10 children, one two weeks old and the son of Brother Francois and his wife, Sister Aline. The sermon part of our meeting was taken from the words of the Apostle Paul written in Romans 12:1 & 2. The theme was, "Presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice Holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service."

To conclude the last item of business that was needed to make our visit to Burundi official, I made a statement before the congregation: "On this 28th day of February, 2010 The Church of Jesus Christ has been established with the ordained and appointed officers together with the Executive Committee for the newly-organized branch of Cibitoke, Burundi." It was very sad, as it always is, to say farewell to our brothers and sisters whom we just met. Let us remember this new mission field and the Church membership in our daily prayers that God may bless and care for each one with His Spirit and Love.

Baptisms

Sister Desiree Fisher was baptized on November 22, 2009 at the Muncey, Ontario Mission. She was baptized by Brother Nestor Gomez and confirmed by Brother Nestor Gomez.

Sister Sabrina Fisher was baptized on November 22, 2009 at the Muncey, Ontario Mission. She was baptized by Brother Nestor Gomez and confirmed by Brother Gary Coppa.

Sister Racine Johnson was baptized on December 6, 2009 at the Muncey, Ontario Mission. She was baptized by Brother Gary Coppa and confirmed by Brother Jerry Benyola.

Brother Jared Stone was baptized on March 13, 2010 at the Hollywood, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Joseph Catone, Sr. and confirmed by Brother John Catone.

Sister Melanie Hippolyte was baptized on March 14, 2010 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch. She was baptized by Brother David Checchi and confirmed by Brother Justin Severson.

Brother Jonathan Checchi was baptized on March 14, 2010 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother David Checchi and confirmed by Brother Rocco Benyola.

Brother James Adam Griffin was baptized on March 14, 2010 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rocco Benyola and confirmed by Brother John D'Orazio.

Brother Alonso Hippolyte was baptized on March 14, 2010 at the Treasure Coast, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Rocco Ben-

nyola and confirmed by Brother David Checchi.

Brother Chris Murphy was baptized on March 14, 2010 at the Forest Hills Branch, Florida. He was baptized by Brother Kevin Murphy and confirmed by Brother Phil Benyola, Sr.

Sister Jackie Ivankovich was baptized on March 14, 2010 at the Forest Hills Branch, Florida. She was baptized by Brother Phil Benyola, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Scott Griffith.

Sister Irma Ivankovich was baptized on March 14, 2010 at the Forest Hills Branch, Florida. She was baptized by Brother Phil Benyola, Sr. and confirmed by Brother Lou Pietrangelo.

Brother Harold Dickson was baptized on March 21, 2010 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1. He was baptized by Brother Keith Lesperance and confirmed by Brother Peter Scolaro.

Sister Donna Bilardo was baptized on March 28, 2010 at the Irvine, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Rudy Meo.

Sister Melissa Rosete was baptized on March 28, 2010 at the Irvine, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Isidro Gonzalez.

Correction

Sister Freddie M. Shields was baptized on September 20, 2009 at the Omaha, Nebraska Mission. She was baptized by Brother Clifton J. Wells and confirmed by Brother Todd A. Wright.

Ordinations

Brother George Grosbeck, Jr. was ordained a deacon on February 21, 2010 at the Muncey, Ontario Mission. His feet were washed by Brother Phil Buffa and he was ordained by Brother Tom Everett.

Brother Mikal Grissett was ordained a deacon on March 21, 2010 at the Mid-Georgia Mission. His feet were washed by Brother Clinton Casson and he was confirmed by Brother Sam Risola.

Brother Rusty Knowles was ordained a teacher on March 21, 2010 at the Mid-Georgia Mission. His feet were washed by Brother Kevin Murphy and he was ordained by Brother Tom Jones.

Brother Jose Gonzalez was ordained an elder on April 4, 2010 in the San Diego, California Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Ron Mazzeo and he was ordained by Brother Stacey Light.

OBITUARIES

ATTILIO TROVARELLI

Brother Attilio Trovarelli of the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch received the gift of eternal salvation on April 25, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents, Antonio and Elvira Trovarelli and his brother, Albert. He is

survived by his wife, Sister Angeline Trovarelli, daughters; Donna (Brother Kenneth) Henderson, Sister Joyce (Jonathan) Krumpe, two sisters; Eva (late Louis) Deperro, Elena Accettola; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and dear friends.

MARGE BLAKELY

Sister Marge Blakely of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Mission passed on to her reward on November 8, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Hoyle Cleo Blakely and son, Jack. She is survived by children, Elizabeth (John) Kish, Bud Blakely and Marjorie Blakely; four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and her sister, Sister Ann (Brother Mike) Radd, along with a host of nieces and nephews.

JOHN IMPASTATO

Brother John Impastato of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to his reward on March 5, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Sister Bridget (Bessie) and three children, Sal (Mark and Bess), Patricia and Angela; two grandchildren; Karen and Michael Skupny; one sister, Sister Virginia (Brother Frank) Conti; two brothers, Natale and Brother Sam (Judy) Impastato.

ELIZABETH (BETTY) EILER

Sister Elizabeth (Betty) Eiler of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her reward on March 8, 2010. She was preceded in death by four sisters: Sister Mary Tamburrino and her husband Brother Dan; Sister Joan Gibson and her husband, Brother James; Sister Ruth Jumper and her husband, Brother Chuck; and Sister Sarah Palmeri. She is survived by her husband, Edward; two sons, Brother Jeffrey and wife, Amber; Jonathan and wife, Kelly; three granddaughters, Chelsea, Breanna and Caitlyn; Sister Eva Ondik and her husband, Mike; brother-in-law, Brother Sela Palmieri; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Gianfirmi, Frank
43245 Polo Circle Apt. #3
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48313
586-566-5770

Piacentino, Michael and Theresa
588 Dawn Ridge Drive
Troy, Michigan 48096
248-731-7423

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____

NOTICE

The 2010 General Membership Directory is available for purchase. The price is \$9.00 each plus shipping. Place your order with the Print House at:

8282 Boettner Road
Bridgewater, MI 48115
734-429-5080
printhouse1@aol.com

A limited number of books are available. Order soon.



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

July, 2010

Volume 66, No.7

A Branch Grows in Bogota

By Evangelist Anthony Ricci

"It grew in boarded up lots and out of neglected rubbish heaps and it was the only tree that grew out of cement. It grew lushly." These words are from the third paragraph in the 1943 Betty Smith novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." From the most unlikely places, under the most unusual circumstances, she says, a tree grew in Brooklyn.

I can say to you, my brothers and sisters and can report back to The Church of Jesus Christ, a **BRANCH GROWS IN COLOMBIA!!** We witnessed firsthand when a seed is planted, God can grow it, no matter the circumstances!

From the outside our little mission in a little neighborhood looks like any other storefront; but what happens inside is that God changes lives!!



The outside of the mission



The inside of the mission—
Brother Juan leads the singing

Inside the song of Redeeming Love is sung! Truly, in this area of town, under the most unlikely circumstances, our amazing God, continues to call men and women and changes their lives.

Evangelist Bob Nicklow, Jr., Brother Juan Rivas and this writer, from May 29 through June 7, 2010 in the country of Colombia can testify that the Spirit of God is at work in this land of the Lamanites! How truly blessed that, through the dedicated labor of brothers and sisters on the Colombia Committee, God has

not forgotten HIS people in Bogota.

When preparing for this trip—we had our plans, but truly asked God to take control and lead us to what HE would want us to do. One thing I have learned through the years and from having the privilege of being able to work for the Church and the Gospel is that **GOD NEVER FAILS** and **HE ALWAYS, ALWAYS PROVIDES!!** This trip would be no different.

One great advantage to having a mission with an opening right on the street in a lively neighborhood is that the community sees and is aware we are there. Our meetings have people coming in from the street and we are always on the radar of the neighborhood children. At our first Sunday meeting, a 14 year-old boy was there with his 10 year-old brother. There was no doubt, they, along with the congregation and other visitors, were being affected by the spoken word. We could actually see the physical change on the people as the Word of God was being preached. I can actually stand as an eyewitness of how the spoken word was received and saw the Word of God breaking chains.

The next few busy days were filled with visiting the saints and holding meetings at night. We saw that these young people began to bring their families. The two young boys we spoke of earlier brought their mother

(Continued on Page 2)

A Branch Grows in Bogota

Continued from Page 1

and their step-sister. They liked what they saw and heard. As the theme of baptism was preached and taught, you could begin to see the seed not only being planted but beginning to grow.

A portion of our trip was dedicated to go to La Mesa, a beautiful town about two hours from Bogota where we spent three days in meetings, visiting, and passing out flyers. One special evening, we had the opportunity to defend the Book of Mormon in speaking and reading about Jesus in the pages of truth. I wish all of you reading this report could have been present as the Spirit of God entered that meeting. It was wonderful to see the faces, to hear the amens, to know these words were reaching into their hearts. These are the type of special blessings we receive as we labor for The Church!

After all these blessings, God still had more to bestow upon us. We came back to Bogota Thursday afternoon and set up for our evening meeting. In that meeting the young boy (who had attended previously) asked for his baptism. Upon checking with his parents, they were more than happy to see their son make this commitment to Jesus Christ. The next night a mother of one of the young girls attending came to see what all this excitement was about; and she asked for her baptism.

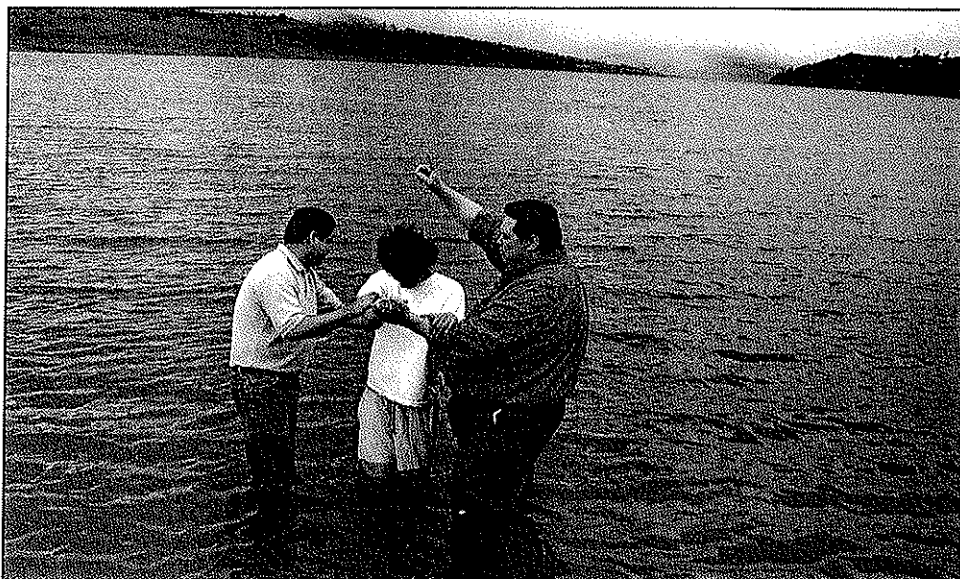
That Saturday, everyone boarded a bus for our two hour ride to a beautiful lake—

*“Habiendoseme dado
autoridad de Jesu
Cristo, yo te bautizo en el
nombre del Padre y del
Hijo y del Espiritu Santo.
Amen”*

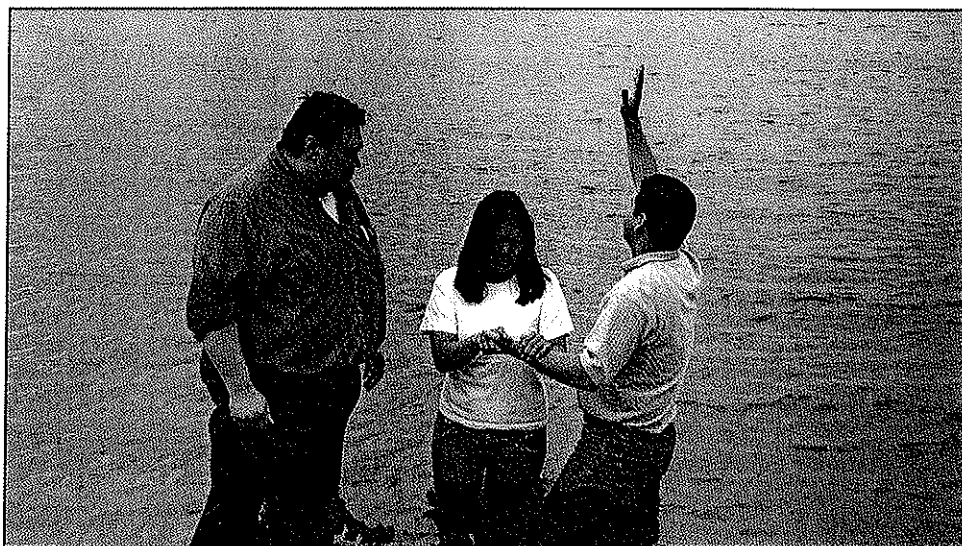
—and two new names were written down in GLORY. (III Nephi 11:25—if you want to see what this says).

Brother Camilo and Sister Francy—YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER IN CHRIST! Isn't our God truly amazing? Two people who never walked into a meeting before this last trip; and now they are members of the Kingdom of God!

BLESSED BE THE NAME OF OUR REDEEMER! We confirmed our new brother and sister at the shore. What a witness to all those who were watching!



Brother Camilo being baptized



Sister Francy being baptized

That night in our room as ministers, as brothers, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we rejoiced and offered prayers of thanksgiving to our loving God. It is truly humbling to be in a foreign field and see how the Spirit of God moves on people and be able to witness God's power in places one would think the Gospel can never grow! Yet God is still GOD!

The amazing thing is that we witness and see these things every Sunday in our branches and missions. We have experienced and witnessed, a Brother Camilo and Sister Francy hearing the Gospel for the first time. Remember how beautiful it sounded to us when we first heard it? How excited we were on the morning we rendered obedience. I can say confidently—the Spirit of God is the same in Asia, in Africa, in Europe, in Mexico, in Central America, in South America, on the Reservations, and in the blessed land of the United States of America—wherever The Church of Jesus Christ is established!

A Branch Grows in Bogota

Continued from Page 2

I praise and bless God for the opportunity Brothers Bob, Juan, and I had to work in this wonderful field. I also thank God for the love and unity we had in working together and am so happy to say to you: *"It grew in boarded up lots and out of neglected rubbish heaps and it was the only tree that grew out of cement. It grew lushly."* A BRANCH GROWS IN BOGOTA. As always, TO THE WORK!!



Newly Baptized Brother Camilo and Sister Francly



A Branch Grows In Bogota

A Testimony

By Brother George Katsaras

I must share a special testimony that just happened!

We received a warning that high winds of 60 mph were approaching our area with tornadoes. We have large canopies and tents throughout our back yard and many kennels. We even had three-week old puppies nursing on our patio with a canvas protecting them from the rain.

At first, I thought I must lock down every thing. Then I realized the storm was only minutes away traveling at 45 mph. There was no time left and without help, I could not do anything.

This was a potential disaster. Where is my faith? My wife, Sister Eileen, my three-year old granddaughter, Angelika and myself knelt in our living room and prayed. We asked the Lord to give us the much needed rain but please, not the wind!

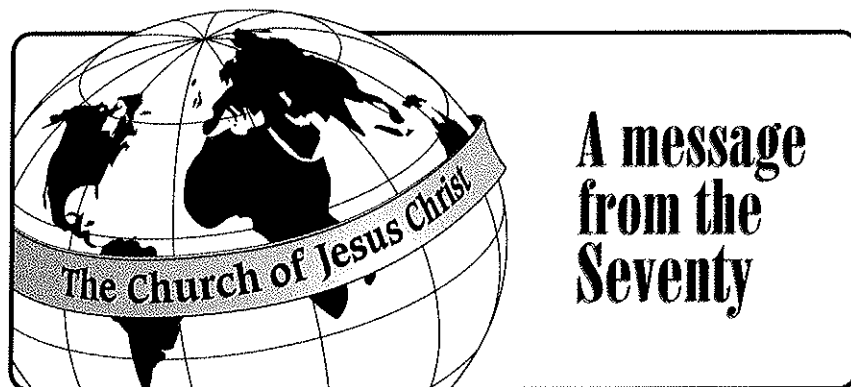
Before the storm reached us, I had to sew up part of the canvas on the patio that was dry rotted. We waited for the rain and the storm to pass. I looked into the sky and there was black to the north and south but coming towards us was an area of white.

As it passed over us, we got some rain but very little wind. I watched in the distance as large palm trees were shaking in the wind. The canvas on our patio shook a little as we expected but nothing more than a few insignificant shakes.

We were amazed at this but not surprised. GOD IS GOOD!

Life is a blessing.

*How we live it
is a choice!*



The Lord Is Working Miracles in Burundi

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

I want to share the following experience of what the Lord is doing for The Church of Jesus Christ in Burundi.

A woman by the name of Odette, age 25, gave birth to a baby boy in May and two days after delivering the baby, she became mentally ill. She took her baby and began to run away from her home screaming uncontrollably; however some of her family and neighbors who saw her in this condition went after her, caught her and the baby, and brought her to a doctor. She was admitted to a hospital but her condition grew worse and it became very alarming when she began to break windows and mirrors so the doctors put her in a room by herself hoping she would calm down.

After 12 days and no improvement, she was taken to a mental hospital. Her family members were consulted by the doctors who were trying to cure her but failed with every treatment attempt. It was decided by the physicians treating her to put her in an institution. However, instead of getting better, Odette grew progressively worse.

Brother Francois informed me the doctors advised the family they were unable to help and committed her to an institution at a military camp many miles away from the village where she lived. She had served some years in the Burundian Army and was entitled to medical care at the hospital in this military camp. Brother Francois, being a part of the extended family and hearing the news of her mental condi-

tion, did what a man of God would do. He knelt on his knees and pleaded with God to intervene and help Odette.

Brother Francois stated (using his own words) *"Our Heavenly Father heard my prayer and sent His Holy Spirit to help us to cope with that difficult moment."* The military camp was 150 km or 93 miles away from Bujumbura, the capital city, close to the village where he lived but he decided to make a trip to see Odette. Upon arriving at the military camp, Brother Francois requested and received permission to see her. Brother Francois said, *"Before entering into the room where she was, I said a short prayer. When I saw her, I found her being bruised all over having a lot of wounds on her entire body. The first miracle that happened was, when she set her eyes at me, she recognized me and became very calm."*

Brother Francois requested and received permission from her treating physician to take her home and he brought her back to the village near Bujumbura where she lived. He said, *"I am so excited to say that after praying for her, she is so much better. Now she is healthy thanks to this God's miracle and we are extremely happy to hear our relative Odette decided to receive salvation. She wishes to receive baptism and become one among our fellowship in The Church of Jesus Christ. What a joy!"* Can you feel the excitement and joy Brother Francois felt by what God allowed to occur by

God's Healing Experienced in the DR Congo

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

During the month of February while Brother Bob McDonnell and I were in the country of Burundi establishing the Church, I received an e-mail from Brother Cipeng, our Church President in the DR Congo, which indicated there was a serious need for prayer.

Brother Cipeng informed me his baby grandson of four weeks developed a heart problem with by which he was experiencing a respiratory problem because of having difficulty breathing. The baby was taken to the hospital, examined and the preliminary results showed blood flowing to the heart but his right and left ventricles were not working properly. Brother Cipeng and his family were advised to see a cardiologist who would be a specialist with this type of medical problem.

The Cipeng family was very troubled at this news and felt the only doctor or specialist they wanted to consult was our God. Brother Cipeng appealed to me to have the Church membership go into prayer for God to perform a healing on the child. Brother Cipeng and the family members also knew having the baby under the care of a cardiologist who would certainly operate to repair the problem the child was having would be very costly, more than they were able to pay.

Word was sent out to our brothers and sisters to remember the baby in prayer asking for God to perform a miracle. In a few days, Brother Cipeng sent word the blessing they were waiting for happened, saying, while they were all praying, God performed a MIRACLE—MAY OUR GOD BE GLORIFIED. After 12 days of the baby being in the hospital for observation, the attending physician gave the family a report the child was well, the baby did not have to go to see the specialist. As Brother Cipeng

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued on Page 11)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

GREAT LAKES

Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST

Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC

Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST

Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST

Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away" Isaiah 51:9-11.

The war in Afghanistan. The oils spill in the gulf. The extreme weather conditions throughout the world. The snowballing sin upon the land of America. The love of many waxing cold. The resistance of many to hear the Truth. The blindness of Israel to their Savior. The Church of Jesus Christ as a primary target for the evil one. Weariness, weakness and affliction affecting the saints of God.

Our God is and will always be a God of deliverance to His people. The Lord is "awaking" in a sense, to the conditions around the world today. But let us not forget it was He who delivered Israel from the Egyptians (thus the references to Rahab and the dragon above). He parted the Red Sea, delivering His people, and then drowning the enemy. He used the same sea for both deliverance and for death. Everlasting joy and gladness await those who persevere the conditions of this life, and keep the faith in Him who is a great deliverer.

"I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who are thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and the son of a man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest that Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? And where is the fury of the oppressor?" Isaiah 51:12-13.

Why should we fear a man, though he may be an anti-Christ, or a terrorist, or a hater of freedom? This man will die, as all men and their children will do. Let us not forget that our God created the incomprehensible heavens and foundations of this great earth. He will bind Satan (where is the fury of the oppressor?) and cause that His people will live in peace someday when He brings about Zion upon the earth. He will bind Satan even when we just utter the words "Jesus Christ." Who do we have to fear?

"The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. But I am the Lord thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The Lord of hosts is his name. And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people" Isaiah 51:14-16.

Those throughout the world who are in spiritual captivity will be loosed, and come to Zion someday singing songs of deliverance. God will part the seas, and remove the obstacles just as He did for Israel. All nations will flow unto Zion someday. The House of Israel will be gathered when they believe in our Savior, and many will even return to the land of their inheritance, Jerusalem. God will deliver His people. He has delivered us today by calling us out of this world of darkness into the truth of His Gospel. Let us not fear anymore the frightening news we hear every day. Let us not fear anymore the evil one who will try to destroy us. Let us not fear anything, except to maintain a fear of our great Lord that we might displease Him. He is in complete control of our destiny, and there is no one greater than He. God will deliver us!

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



Come Away From Sin

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been some place or done something that makes you feel sorry and ashamed later? Did you know that shame can be a good thing if it makes us stop doing something harmful? And did you know that shame can be a bad thing if it makes us unwilling to keep on trying to do good?

Because that is what serving God is all about—keeping on trying. None of us is perfect, but Jesus loves us anyway. None of us lives such a perfect life that we never make mistakes; yet Jesus loves us.

One time, I invited a friend with problems to come to church. She told me that she wasn't "good enough" to come to church. I laughed and told her that is why we all come together to worship God. We come because we are not perfect.

I told her that if we were perfect, then we could stay at home and show off our perfect little selves to each other. We wouldn't need God's peace, God's hope, or the joy that knowing Christ brings to our lives.

The brother of Jared, in the Book of Mormon, was a godly man. He was chosen to lead a group of God's followers to a promised land. They traveled through a vast, wild land. Over mountains, across wild rivers and hot deserts, they prayed and walked. Months turned into years.

Finally they reached the edge of a beautiful ocean, and there they relaxed. They were so relieved to be through with carrying tents, and tools, and seeds, and beehives. They set up shelters at the seashore and forgot about calling upon God.

For four years the brother of Jared, a man who loved God, joined his people in forgetting God. But God had a plan to use these people and bring them to the Americas. He spoke with his minister, the brother of Jared, from a cloud.

Can you imagine how shocked and ashamed the brother of Jared was of his behavior? God had answered so many of his prayers. After the Lord brought the people through terrible dangers and difficulties, they had relaxed and forgotten to call upon Him.

The Lord talked with the brother of Jared for three hours from a cloud and chastened (scolded and warned) him. The brother of Jared was so sorry. He repented of the evil he had done, and begged God to forgive the others, too. And God did.

These people went on to journey across the wild waters of the ocean to come to the Americas.

The brother of Jared did the right thing with his shame. He felt it, recognized it, and asked God to forgive him. And God did. God removed it and the brother of Jared kept on trying.

In fact, after this terrible time, the brother of Jared loved the Lord so deeply and faithfully that he saw Jesus' finger, then Jesus showed Himself to this man in the Spirit, many years before He was born on the earth.

The brother of Jared was *truly* forgiven.

We must do the very same thing when we have sinned and are sick with shame. We must hold our shame up to the Light of Jesus so we can be clean again. And then we've got to keep on trying. By doing these things, we will learn about ourselves, our weak sides and our strong sides. And Jesus will keep on loving us.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

THE
BROTHER
OF
JARED
HIS
PEOPLE
THROUGH
A
WILDERNESS
AND
FORGOT
TO
CALL
ON
GOD
HIS
SHAME

WAS
FORGIVEN
AND
JESUS
SHOWED
HIMSELF
IN
THE
SPIRIT
ETHER
BOOK
OF
MORMON
JESUS
IS
LOVE

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

Independence

By Brother Don Ross

The United States of America celebrates Independence Day on July 4th of each year. It is of course a national holiday commemorating our declared independence from the United Kingdom. A statement declaring our nation's independence was issued on July 4, 1776 by the Continental Congress. The principle author was Thomas Jefferson.

The second sentence of this declaration is a sweeping statement of human rights:

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

This is one of the best known sentences in the English language and the most potent and consequential words in American history! (Source: Wikipedia).

In the dictionary, independence is defined as, "free from the influence, guidance, or control of another or others."

This definition is very appropriate for the members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Why? Because we have been made spiritually free by our acceptance, belief, and strict adherence to the commandments of Jesus Christ.

His commandments state we must have faith, we must repent, we must be baptized, and then we receive the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands by the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. We can now truly pursue life, liberty, and happiness through our Lord and Saviour. He has made us free from the influence, guidance, or

control of the adversary of all righteousness. By the mercies and grace of the Lord, we are now spiritually free, the greatest freedom that men and women can experience in their lifetime!

Jesus Christ declared in John 8: 31-32,

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him. If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Lord further declared to the Apostle Thomas and to the whole world both past and present in John 14:6,

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The Lord offers spiritual truth. It is the Lord and His truth that makes us truly free. The chorus of that beautiful hymn *I'm Free* by William and Gloria Gaither states:

*I'm free from the fear of tomorrow;
I'm free from the guilt of the past;
For I've traded my shackles for a glorious song;
I'm free, praise the Lord, free at last!*

Let us consider the official name of the Statute of Liberty that is inscribed with the following:

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Its official name is "Liberty Enlightening the World" (French: la Liberte éclairant le monde).

Jesus Christ offers the true "Liberty Enlightening the World." He does it through His words and through The Church of Jesus Christ. Consider His sermon drawn from Isaiah 61:1 and found in Luke 4:18-19 which states:

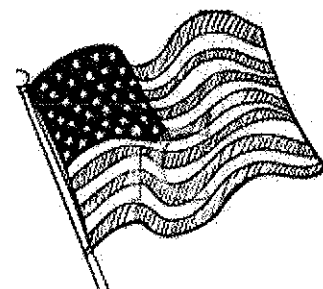
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he had anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

These words declare spiritual enlightenment, spiritual freedom, a spiritual healing, and spiritual liberty. These are spiritual words of freedom and independence! He is truth! His words are truth! He made us free! He makes us free!

Jesus Christ brought spiritual freedom and it is free. There is no charge! Isaiah 55:1 declares:

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Do you wish to be free and experience true independence? If you do, the only answer is to "fully accept His Gospel and all its principles." That Gospel is found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

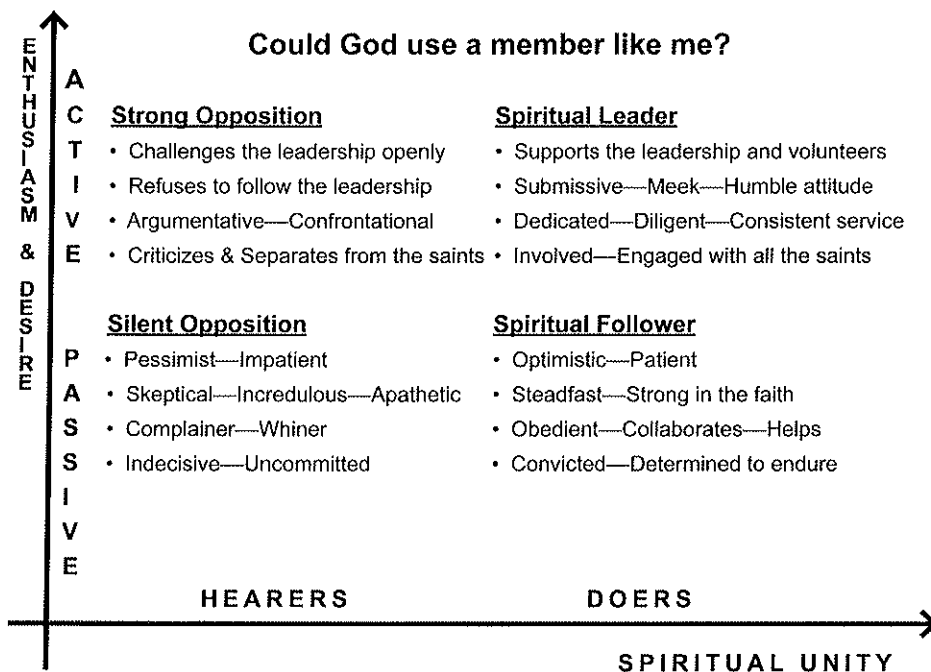


Enjoy your freedom and independence. God bless you all.

Southeast Region Quorum of Seventy

Evangalists Dennis Moraco, Gene Perry, and Miguel Bicelis held evangelistic meetings at the Treasure Coast Branch on April 17 and 18, 2010. Brother Miguel led the Saturday evening meeting, where he presented *Jesus Model of Spiritual Leadership* to the congregation. The message was primarily based on the example and teachings of Christ in ministering to others, while most of the meeting was focused on the behaviors and attitude of the saints towards leadership in the Church at every level. Brother Miguel referred to a quadrant matrix where most of the members of the Church find themselves at different stages of spiritual growth.

Brother Miguel mentioned we have a choice to be “Hearers or Doers” of the word, according to James 1:19-27. He placed these on horizontal axis called “Spiritual Unity.” He also mentioned we can be enthusiastic and have a strong desire for what we do or don’t do with the word, which normally drives our level of activity (or passivity) in the service of God. He placed “Active and Passive” in the vertical axis and called it “Enthusiasm & Desire.” See graph below:



He explained there are passive and active members, when it comes to the work of the Lord. What is important is that we all become “doers” at whatever level of desire and enthusiasm we might have. In other words, we should be obedient, committed, humble, and steadfast in keeping the word of God. An “active doer” is not necessarily a member of the ministry or a deacon, but a member who follows and supports the ministry and leadership of the Church by praying, attending, participating, testifying, and keeping the message true in their daily walk with Christ. Both, “Active Doer” and “Passive Doer” members exercise humility and want to minister to others. These contributors eventually take responsibility to carry the standard of Christ and to share the Gospel with others.

On the other hand, the “Hearer” members tend not to be involved or to participate with other members in supporting the spiritual and temporal objectives of the congregation. An “Active Hearer” may challenge the unity of the ministry in making a decision or may express his/her strong opposition in participating with the congregation, or going along with the ministry in outreach programs or opportunities to help or minister to others. Alma (the son)

and Saul were cited as examples of men who were not doing the will of God with great desire and enthusiasm, being found in great opposition to The Church of Jesus Christ; and, by the grace of God after their conversion, they became great spiritual leaders in the Church.

A “Passive Hearer” may simply murmur and complain with other members and relatives about whatever they don’t agree with, and thus justify why they don’t participate with everyone else. They often don’t approach their ordained Teachers for help or clarification on issues they disagree with. They could be pessimistic, apathetic, skeptical, indecisive, and or uncommitted. Brother Miguel shared several examples from the Scriptures that displayed the attitude in this category, from the time of Moses and the exodus from Egypt, Lehi’s journey in the wilderness, to the time of Christ. He said these are the members with a “silent opposition” that would most likely find it difficult to endure to the end, while those that are a “strong opposition” to the ministry or the brethren tend to be more willing to engage in scriptural studies and debates.

Brother Miguel projected several scriptures where Jesus gave examples of ministering by His standard and mentioned about the style of leadership demonstrated by our Lord. He made the following key points about Christ’s *Model of Spiritual Leadership*:

(1) Jesus taught first by example or illustration, followed by an explanation of what He did or would do, and finally spoke of the benefit(s) of following His leadership. (John 13: 12-17)

(2) Jesus demonstrated that, to be great in His eyes, one must minister and serve others. (Matthew 20:25-28)

(3) Jesus demonstrated how He would recognize those who don’t waste His talents. (Matthew 25:20-21)

(4) God’s word shows God blesses those who lead others in righteousness and humility. (Jarom 1:7; Jacob 1:18-19; and 3 Nephi 1:18-21)

(Continued on Page 11)



Branch and Mission News

Great Lakes Region Conference

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

We gathered at the Burton Manor in Livonia Michigan, where that hall became The Church of Jesus Christ for the day. With the aid of a flute, bass, two guitars and a viola we sang hymns of praise and prepared our hearts for the words to come.

Brother Jeff Giannetti, Region President, welcomed us with these words, "The greatest advertisement for the Church to draw others to it, is that this body would be the happiest group of people on the face of the earth. When people would talk of the people of God they would refer to us as in 4th Nephi—that there could not be a happier people on the face of the land. We should be a people whose life is filled with rejoicing because we are saved in the kingdom of God." Brother Jeff expressed that if he chose a mission as the newly-elected president, his mission would be to work with us to be a happier people even in the midst of the trials to come.

Brother Larry Champine opened our meeting. The theme of his sermon was "How do I measure up?" "In order to be the happiest people on the face of the earth we [each] need to be happy." He read from Romans 12:3,

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Brother Larry explained that while when we stand in the presence of God, we are nothing yet each man gets his

own measure. He encouraged us to contemplate how we are using this measure and what we are doing to increase it.

He referenced a dream accepted by the region many years ago the theme of which was, We all need to work together and be united. "If we don't embrace our measure, how can we please God?" Brother Larry also explained that without faith it is impossible to please Him. We can go through the motions and it is not enough. We need to have faith.

"How are we going to show the world that we are The Church of Jesus Christ if we are not measuring up? How can I hold the position in any part of the Church if the Spirit of God is not with me? I bring nothing to the office. Every measure counts. I am responsible for my measure. I am trying to find a way to lengthen it."

Brother Larry spoke also about each measure working together to increase the total body. "The end result of everyone working together is love." Brother Larry concluded by exhorting us to walk on the water more and exercise our faith.

Brother Frank Natoli followed. He said that while he was praying and preparing for conference, the thought came to his mind that we might have enough faith to walk on the water.

Brother Frank asked us if any of us have witnessed a miracle. "If you believe in those miracles, what separates us from walking on the water? It requires faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

He spoke also of our measure and how to increase it. He used an analogy of baking a cake and how we are ingredients and we need to work together. If one ingredient is left out, the cake does not come out. "It is not good enough for one or two to walk away from this meeting with determination to work harder if we want to see greater manifestations of the gifts of God and see the Church grow." He encouraged each of us to walk away with that yearning.

"The Lord knows of your desires and He wants to give them to you. Bring your measure before Him and

He will bless you. He will add to what you bring. We have to be willing to go before the Lord and prove Him. It requires us to be the people of God. Others will be drawn by our love and souls will come. Recognize the measure that has been given to you. You may be a pinch of salt in that cake, but if you are not there, the cake does not work. The Lord needs us. God needs a people for His commission. The Lord needs you and I to make that perfect recipe."

After Sister Jennifer Champine, Sister Alyssa Giannetti and Brother Derek Everett presented us with a song, Brother Brett Gibson read from the 18th chapter of 3rd Nephi as we prepared for the ordinance of communion. During the initial prayer, the tongues were spoken.

Brother Jeff then invited Brother Ted Lunsford to come forward. He said that Brother Ted was a wonderful example of a happy saint. Brother Ted unequivocally showed joy as he said,

"Six hundred and ninety seven days ago, I was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. That is the day I started living."

Brother Jeff closed our meeting with these thoughts. "If you exercise the portion of the measure you were given, He will be there to extend it. The minute we try to extend our measure, God will be there to lift us up and take us to heights and measures that we cannot take on our own. He invites us to step out on faith. You will walk on the water and there His hand you will find. Peter gets knocked because he sunk but he was the only one who got out of the boat to try. His faith was great enough. He sunk that time and then he walked on the water from there because he extended himself and found God waiting."

Brother Jeff informed us that God waits for us; it is not the other way around. We need to get out on the water, challenge conventional thinking, and be in tune to the Lord's direction.

A Great Work Begins in Oldham County

By Sister Elizabeth Kall

S*ee the Laborers in the Vineyard*

On May 22, the saints gathered at East Oldham Middle School—meeting location of the saints in Oldham County, Kentucky. Our purpose: to organize a two-year effort, launched by the General Church, in an effort to grow the work and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in that area.

Brothers and sisters from Ohio and Pennsylvania gathered to plan out how to best support the saints during this two-year span. The meeting was opened with remarks from Apostles Phil Jackson and Paul Palmieri.

The brothers stated that the General Church, with the help of the Domestic Operating Committee, is in the process of expanding its focus to better support smaller missions scattered throughout the Church. The program, set to launch in Oldham County on June 1, is the first initiative of its kind. The brothers stressed that the Lord would certainly bless our efforts as we commence this work.

Count Their Numbers, Note the Few

The meeting was turned over to Brother Doug Obradovich who told of the many experiences he and other saints have had regarding the work in Kentucky. He stressed that while times are not always easy; the Lord has been merciful in seeing to the needs of His followers.

Be sure that although their numbers are few, the Lord has blessed the membership in this location. He has opened up opportunities for the saints to share their testimonies with neighbors and friends. The Lord has also paved the way for our brother to be present in the lives of local youth in a program he's called Rock-N-Rock. This has opened the door to teach young men and women the lessons of Jesus Christ (our Rock) while giving them an outlet for friendly competition on the basketball court.

Heed the Call, the Invitation

The committee then broke into two teams to discuss the needs of the mission and the various levels of support that would be required over the next two years. Plans were created and brothers and sisters volunteered to oversee sub-committees such as travel, lodging, ministerial support, programs, and advertising.

We are certain that the Lord will do a great work in the Oldham County area. As plans get underway, it is expedient that we, brothers and sisters in Christ, heed the call to assist in whichever way we are able. The committee invites you to ask yourself today, "What talent do I possess that could be used in Oldham County for the honor and glory of my Lord?"

One Last Call, a Call for You

In short, workers are needed. If any are willing, we would encourage you to be prayerful about assisting with this new initiative. There are certainly many ways for you to play an active role!

- *Can you commit to setting aside time to fast and pray diligently for the work?*
- *Can you commit to call/write the saints of Oldham County and encourage them?*
- *Can you commit to visit the mission once? Once a month? Once a quarter?*
- *Can you commit to relocating to Oldham County?*

The committee solicits your prayers over the next two years. Let us be prayerful that the Lord would bless every effort. It is our prayer that as blessings come forth in Oldham County, this same initiative would be implemented in another outpost of the domestic church.

For those who feel prompted to be a part of the work, please contact: Sister Robin Burns for more information at the World Operations Center rdburnswcc@msn.com or 724-837-4425.

Obey My Voice

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Fathers' Day brought a number of visitors to the Aliquippa Branch. In celebration of Brother Carl Frammolino's birthday, his entire family surprised him with a visit and attended the branch for our meeting.

Brother John and Sister Caryl DiBattista, from the Midwest Region, were also in attendance. Brother John opened the meeting telling us how important it is to have a purpose. He began by sharing an experience he had as a young boy with his grandfather, Brother Tony DiBattista. At the time, Brother John didn't understand his grandfather's explanation of a time when all men would be friends and a New Jerusalem would come to this earth. The one thing he was sure of was that everyone has a purpose and a destiny to fulfill for God. Using Jeremiah 7:17-25 as his reference, Brother John focused on the need to obey the voice of God in order to be His people. He was able to share a number of experiences in which the Lord preserved his life in order for him to reach the point where he was ready to serve the Lord. Brother John told us that the Lord required him to love the world. He didn't understand that experience at the time, but as his service has developed in the Church he became aware that the missionary work in which he is involved is taking the Gospel to all men throughout the world, from Nepal to Italy, from Mozambique to Mexico, wherever men inquire about God, fulfilling that commandment to love the world.

The sermon was concluded with Brother John reminding us that the God of Abraham and Isaac lives in The Church of Jesus Christ. An expression that Brother John heard touched him. "Fate is what life hands you, destiny is what you make of it." He asked each of us, "What is keeping you from your destiny?" giving everyone pause to consider, whether members or not.

Brother David DeLuca, Presiding Elder, briefly spoke to the congrega-

Miracles in Burundi

Continued from Page 4

reading this miraculous healing?

Brother Francois mentioned there are others who witnessed this miracle and also want to be baptized. *Praise God!* He desires to teach them what committing their life to Christ and the Church means first before baptism. He will see what their reaction will be after telling them serving God is a lifetime commitment and should they still feel they want to be baptized, he will baptize them.

God is showing our brothers and sisters and even those who are relatives and friends, the power of healing is within The Church of Jesus Christ in Burundi. Not only is the Restored Gospel good news that salvation of souls is being offered by Christ, but one can receive healing of the body also from sickness when faith in our Creator is exercised. Now that the people know Brother Francois is an Ordained Pastor, his neighbors call on him for anointing their sick and counseling them for problems they may be experiencing.

When visiting his home in February, he told us of an experience in which he was called to his neighbor's house because there was an evil spirit tormenting the occupants. He told us he prayed and rebuked that spirit in the name of Jesus. The good news coming from Burundi is encouraging. Prayers are being answered to the glory of God and His Son, Jesus. Brother Francois requests prayer for the Church in Burundi so it will remain strong and the membership will stay committed in their service to God.

Healing in Congo

Continued from Page 4

put it in his words, *"The High Doctor did His work. Please accept recognition from my family and I. I thank you a lot and my special thanks goes to my Heavenly Father and His Son our Lord Jesus Christ."*

This is a marvelous and wonderful experience to glorify God who is still on his throne and in control!

Southeast Region

Continued from Page 8

Finally, Brother Miguel asked the congregation and visitors to ask themselves whether God can use us as we are or should we try to be more supportive of the ministry, get more involved; be more humble, more submissive to God, and more obedient to His word. There was significant participation from the congregation in asking questions about how to improve service to God. Others testified briefly how they have seen themselves in the quadrant and how they need to pray about their attitude towards serving others. The Evangelists were very encouraged by the response during and after the meeting ended.

On Sunday, April 18, Brother Dennis Moraco opened the meeting, encouraging the saints in their journeys to serve God. He mentioned his personal account of how God has rescued him and his family from so many trials; how God is our provider and our refuge in the time of need. He mentioned how many times we are led by the Spirit of God to pray for others and how God would manifest Himself through the outcome and answer to the prayer. He cited many times when God protected the saints in their journeys from terrible crashes, sparing their lives. Brother Gene Perri followed the preaching thanking God for healing him and sustaining him during his afflictions. His words were also very encouraging to all who attended.

The Southeast Region Evangelists continue to encourage the saints throughout Florida and Georgia. Evangelist Mark Kovacic is preparing for a second Oklahoma Native American outreach (June 5-12, 2010), and an Evangelistic Weekend in Quincy, and he is working with the Atlanta Local MBA to perform an outreach to Native Americans in Metro Atlanta, starting with a mass mailing, with planned follow-ups. Evangelist Sam Risola is consistently supporting the saints in Mid-Georgia, Orlando, and Cape Coral. Evangelists Dennis Moraco and Miguel Bicelis will hold evangelistic meetings in Lake Worth and

Cape Coral during the summer. Evangelists Gene Perri and George Benyola continue to encourage the saints in the Leesburg/Orlando area, Treasure Coast and Lake Worth.

Obey My Voice

Continued from Page 10

tion regarding what our contribution to the Church is before turning the meeting over to a time of testimony.

During our testimonies, we were thrilled to hear Sister Donna Bogle and her family testify to God's grace in her behalf. Less than two weeks ago, Sister Donna was in the Wednesday night service, after which she suddenly became ill with a terrible headache. She immediately requested anointing and went home. During the night, her headache worsened, she became violently ill and was subsequently life flighted to a hospital in Pittsburgh. It turned out that Sister Donna had a bleeding vein in her brain. The family was told that Sister Donna would be in the hospital for several weeks while the injury was monitored. There was a concern that a stroke could follow the injury. Miraculously, tests revealed that her brain showed no evidence of damage and she was sent home to recuperate, eight days after the trial began. What a blessing to our sister and what a marvelous answered prayer.

It was a wonderful Fathers' Day in the Aliquippa Branch, with many having the opportunity to praise our Heavenly Father, while still others had the opportunity to consider their service to God.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Youth In Action Committee has decided to cancel the following Tours due to low registration:

Spartanburg, South Carolina
YIA Tour—July 9-18

LaGrange, Kentucky YIA Tour
(Tour "A")—July 24-August 1

If you have any questions, contact Brother Mario G. Zaccagnini.

Children Blessed

Logan Wayne Israel, son of Brother Dave and Sister Dana Israel was blessed on January 10, 2010 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Gavin Lee Nardoizzi, son of Sister Melissa Nardoizzi was blessed on March 7, 2010 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Baptisms

Sister Claudia Preston was baptized on May 16, 2010 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jerry Chambers and confirmed by Brother John Straccia.

Brother David Preston was baptized on May 16, 2010 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Stallard and confirmed by Brother Lou Vitto.

Sister Kathy Thong was baptized on June 13, 2010 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Dick Christman and confirmed by Brother Thomas P. Liberto.

Sister Rachel Alessio was baptized on June 20, 2010 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Liberto and confirmed by Brother Thomas M. Liberto.

Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Louise Donkin of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated 70 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on June 9, 2010.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____

OBITUARIES

STIRLING TATE

Brother Stirling Tate of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on April 23, 2010. He is survived by his brothers, Barrett, Roland and Brother Blaine Tate; sisters, Nancy Sabo, Patricia Bedocs, Carol Ann Lambert and many nieces and nephews including Brother Troy Tate and Sister Michelle (Dan) Bowens.

SCOTT KING

Scott King passed on to his reward on May 9, 2010. He is survived by his son, Cameron Joseph King; mother, Sister Mary Jo King; father, Gary (Carla); sister, Tracey (Brian) Younce; step-brother, Brother Zachary Dziak; grandfather, Henry King; grandmother, Margaret Bowers; step-grandmother, Sister Vera Naro and nieces and nephews.

FRANCESCA (FRANCES) PALPOSI

Sister Francesca (Frances) Palposi of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to her reward on May 15, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Brother Edward; two children, Sister Stephanie (Michael) Rado and Vito Palposi (Melanie); two grandchildren, Alyse and Dustin Palposi; one sister, Sister Rose Altomare and many nieces and nephews.

RUDOLPH MEO

Brother Rudolph Meo of the Irvine, California Branch passed on to his reward on June 7, 2010. He was an ordained elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Harriet; four children, Debbie, Ruth, Craig and Jeff; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Gianfirmi, Frank
43285 Polo Circle, Apartment 3
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
(586) 566-5770

Piacentino, Michael and Theresa
5898 Dawn Ridge Drive
Troy, MI 48098
(248) 731-7423

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Huttenberger, Jim and Lynette
21572 Montbury Drive
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 600-5221

King, Patrick and Bernadette
2700 S. White Mountain Road #522
Show Low, AZ 85901
(928) 551-4381

Murillo, Juan and Lucy
85 Backbone Hill
Millstone, NJ 08510
(732) 637-8899

Onorato, Justin
1600 SW 12th Avenue
Miami, FL 33129
(305) 484-2647

Zaino, Michael
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

July, 2010

Volume 66, No.7

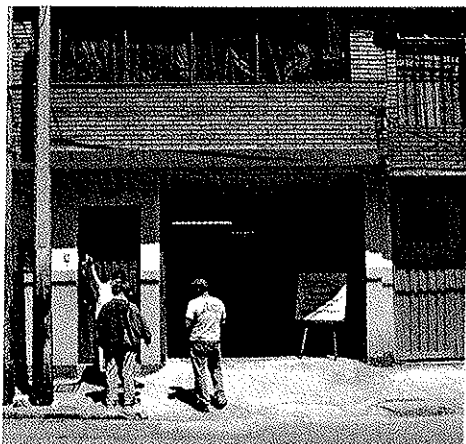
A Branch Grows in Bogota

By Evangelist Anthony Ricci

"It grew in boarded up lots and out of neglected rubbish heaps and it was the only tree that grew out of cement. It grew lushly." These words are from the third paragraph in the 1943 Betty Smith novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." From the most unlikely places, under the most unusual circumstances, she says, a tree grew in Brooklyn.

I can say to you, my brothers and sisters and can report back to The Church of Jesus Christ, a BRANCH GROWS IN COLOMBIA!! We witnessed firsthand when a seed is planted, God can grow it, no matter the circumstances!

From the outside our little mission in a little neighborhood looks like any other storefront; but what happens inside is that God changes lives!!



The outside of the mission



The inside of the mission—
Brother Juan leads the singing

Inside the song of Redeeming Love is sung! Truly, in this area of town, under the most unlikely circumstances, our amazing God, continues to call men and women and changes their lives.

Evangelist Bob Nicklow, Jr., Brother Juan Rivas and this writer, from May 29 through June 7, 2010 in the country of Colombia can testify that the Spirit of God is at work in this land of the Lamanites! How truly blessed that, through the dedicated labor of brothers and sisters on the Colombia Committee, God has

not forgotten HIS people in Bogota.

When preparing for this trip—we had our plans, but truly asked God to take control and lead us to what HE would want us to do. One thing I have learned through the years and from having the privilege of being able to work for the Church and the Gospel is that GOD NEVER FAILS and HE ALWAYS, ALWAYS PROVIDES!! This trip would be no different.

One great advantage to having a mission with an opening right on the street in a lively neighborhood is that the community sees and is aware we are there. Our meetings have people coming in from the street and we are always on the radar of the neighborhood children. At our first Sunday meeting, a 14 year-old boy was there with his 10 year-old brother. There was no doubt, they, along with the congregation and other visitors, were being affected by the spoken word. We could actually see the physical change on the people as the Word of God was being preached. I can actually stand as an eyewitness of how the spoken word was received and saw the Word of God breaking chains.

The next few busy days were filled with visiting the saints and holding meetings at night. We saw that these young people began to bring their families. The two young boys we spoke of earlier brought their mother

(Continued on Page 2)

A Branch Grows in Bogota

Continued from Page 1

and their step-sister. They liked what they saw and heard. As the theme of baptism was preached and taught, you could begin to see the seed not only being planted but beginning to grow.

A portion of our trip was dedicated to go to La Mesa, a beautiful town about two hours from Bogota where we spent three days in meetings, visiting, and passing out flyers. One special evening, we had the opportunity to defend the Book of Mormon in speaking and reading about Jesus in the pages of truth. I wish all of you reading this report could have been present as the Spirit of God entered that meeting. It was wonderful to see the faces, to hear the amens, to know these words were reaching into their hearts. These are the type of special blessings we receive as we labor for The Church!

After all these blessings, God still had more to bestow upon us. We came back to Bogota Thursday afternoon and set up for our evening meeting. In that meeting the young boy (who had attended previously) asked for his baptism. Upon checking with his parents, they were more than happy to see their son make this commitment to Jesus Christ. The next night a mother of one of the young girls attending came to see what all this excitement was about; and she asked for her baptism.

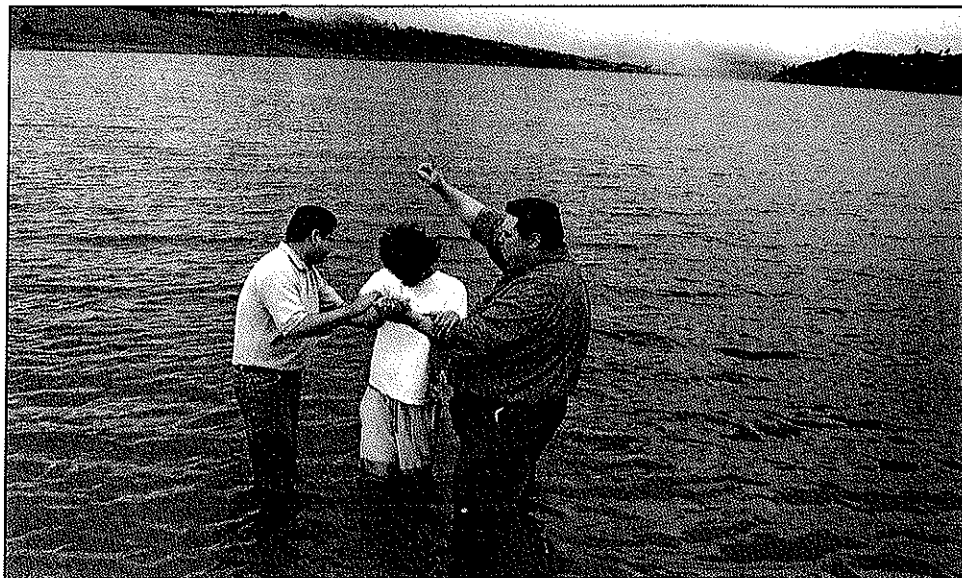
That Saturday, everyone boarded a bus for our two hour ride to a beautiful lake—

*“Habiendoseme dado
autoridad de Jesu
Cristo, yo te bautizo en el
nombre del Padre y del
Hijo y del Espiritu Santo.
Amen”*

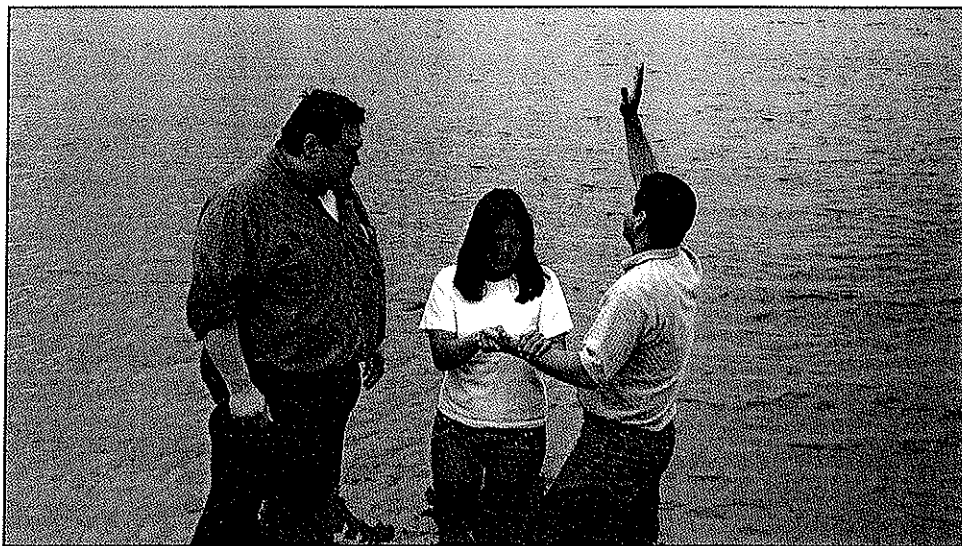
—and two new names were written down in GLORY. (III Nephi 11:25—if you want to see what this says).

Brother Camilo and Sister Francy—YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER IN CHRIST! Isn't our God truly amazing? Two people who never walked into a meeting before this last trip; and now they are members of the Kingdom of God!

BLESSED BE THE NAME OF OUR REDEEMER! We confirmed our new brother and sister at the shore. What a witness to all those who were watching!



Brother Camilo being baptized



Sister Francy being baptized

That night in our room as ministers, as brothers, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we rejoiced and offered prayers of thanksgiving to our loving God. It is truly humbling to be in a foreign field and see how the Spirit of God moves on people and be able to witness God's power in places one would think the Gospel can never grow! Yet God is still GOD!

The amazing thing is that we witness and see these things every Sunday in our branches and missions. We have experienced and witnessed, a Brother Camilo and Sister Francy hearing the Gospel for the first time. Remember how beautiful it sounded to us when we first heard it? How excited we were on the morning we rendered obedience. I can say confidently—the Spirit of God is the same in Asia, in Africa, in Europe, in Mexico, in Central America, in South America, on the Reservations, and in the blessed land of the United States of America—wherever The Church of Jesus Christ is established!

A Branch Grows in Bogota

Continued from Page 2

I praise and bless God for the opportunity Brothers Bob, Juan, and I had to work in this wonderful field. I also thank God for the love and unity we had in working together and am so happy to say to you: *"It grew in boarded up lots and out of neglected rubbish heaps and it was the only tree that grew out of cement. It grew lushly."* A BRANCH GROWS IN BOGOTA. As always, TO THE WORK!!



Newly Baptized Brother Camilo and Sister Francly



A Branch Grows In Bogota

A Testimony

By Brother George Katsaras

I must share a special testimony that just happened!

We received a warning that high winds of 60 mph were approaching our area with tornadoes. We have large canopies and tents throughout our back yard and many kennels. We even had three-week old puppies nursing on our patio with a canvas protecting them from the rain.

At first, I thought I must lock down every thing. Then I realized the storm was only minutes away traveling at 45 mph. There was no time left and without help, I could not do anything.

This was a potential disaster. Where is my faith? My wife, Sister Eileen, my three-year old granddaughter, Angelika and myself knelt in our living room and prayed. We asked the Lord to give us the much needed rain but please, not the wind!

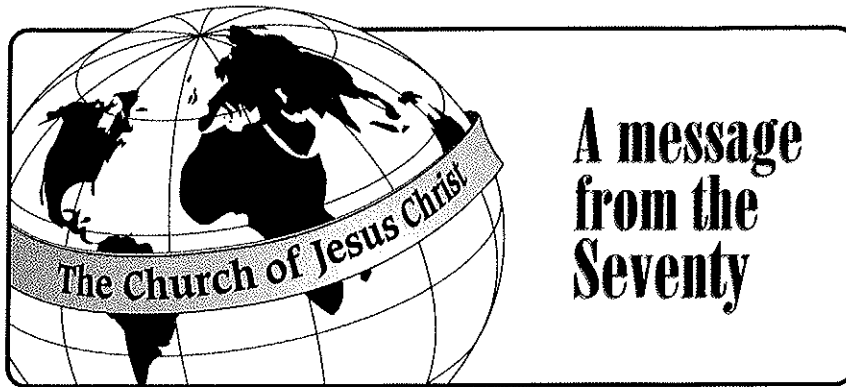
Before the storm reached us, I had to sew up part of the canvas on the patio that was dry rotted. We waited for the rain and the storm to pass. I looked into the sky and there was black to the north and south but coming towards us was an area of white.

As it passed over us, we got some rain but very little wind. I watched in the distance as large palm trees were shaking in the wind. The canvas on our patio shook a little as we expected but nothing more than a few insignificant shakes.

We were amazed at this but not surprised. GOD IS GOOD!

Life is a blessing.

*How we live it
is a choice!*



The Lord Is Working Miracles in Burundi

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

I want to share the following experience of what the Lord is doing for The Church of Jesus Christ in Burundi.

A woman by the name of Odette, age 25, gave birth to a baby boy in May and two days after delivering the baby, she became mentally ill. She took her baby and began to run away from her home screaming uncontrollably; however some of her family and neighbors who saw her in this condition went after her, caught her and the baby, and brought her to a doctor. She was admitted to a hospital but her condition grew worse and it became very alarming when she began to break windows and mirrors so the doctors put her in a room by herself hoping she would calm down.

After 12 days and no improvement, she was taken to a mental hospital. Her family members were consulted by the doctors who were trying to cure her but failed with every treatment attempt. It was decided by the physicians treating her to put her in an institution. However, instead of getting better, Odette grew progressively worse.

Brother Francois informed me the doctors advised the family they were unable to help and committed her to an institution at a military camp many miles away from the village where she lived. She had served some years in the Burundian Army and was entitled to medical care at the hospital in this military camp. Brother Francois, being a part of the extended family and hearing the news of her mental condi-

tion, did what a man of God would do. He knelt on his knees and pleaded with God to intervene and help Odette.

Brother Francois stated (using his own words) *"Our Heavenly Father heard my prayer and sent His Holy Spirit to help us to cope with that difficult moment."* The military camp was 150 km or 93 miles away from Bujumbura, the capital city, close to the village where he lived but he decided to make a trip to see Odette. Upon arriving at the military camp, Brother Francois requested and received permission to see her. Brother Francois said, *"Before entering into the room where she was, I said a short prayer. When I saw her, I found her being bruised all over having a lot of wounds on her entire body. The first miracle that happened was, when she set her eyes at me, she recognized me and became very calm."*

Brother Francois requested and received permission from her treating physician to take her home and he brought her back to the village near Bujumbura where she lived. He said, *"I am so excited to say that after praying for her, she is so much better. Now she is healthy thanks to this God's miracle and we are extremely happy to hear our relative Odette decided to receive salvation. She wishes to receive baptism and become one among our fellowship in The Church of Jesus Christ. What a joy!"* Can you feel the excitement and joy Brother Francois felt by what God allowed to occur by

God's Healing Experienced in the DR Congo

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

During the month of February while Brother Bob McDonnell and I were in the country of Burundi establishing the Church, I received an e-mail from Brother Cipeng, our Church President in the DR Congo, which indicated there was a serious need for prayer.

Brother Cipeng informed me his baby grandson of four weeks developed a heart problem with by which he was experiencing a respiratory problem because of having difficulty breathing. The baby was taken to the hospital, examined and the preliminary results showed blood flowing to the heart but his right and left ventricles were not working properly. Brother Cipeng and his family were advised to see a cardiologist who would be a specialist with this type of medical problem.

The Cipeng family was very troubled at this news and felt the only doctor or specialist they wanted to consult was our God. Brother Cipeng appealed to me to have the Church membership go into prayer for God to perform a healing on the child. Brother Cipeng and the family members also knew having the baby under the care of a cardiologist who would certainly operate to repair the problem the child was having would be very costly, more than they were able to pay.

Word was sent out to our brothers and sisters to remember the baby in prayer asking for God to perform a miracle. In a few days, Brother Cipeng sent word the blessing they were waiting for happened, saying, while they were all praying, God performed a MIRACLE—MAY OUR GOD BE GLORIFIED. After 12 days of the baby being in the hospital for observation, the attending physician gave the family a report the child was well, the baby did not have to go to see the specialist. As Brother Cipeng

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued on Page 11)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

GREAT LAKES

Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST

Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC

Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST

Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST

Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away" Isaiah 51:9-11.

The war in Afghanistan. The oils spill in the gulf. The extreme weather conditions throughout the world. The snowballing sin upon the land of America. The love of many waxing cold. The resistance of many to hear the Truth. The blindness of Israel to their Savior. The Church of Jesus Christ as a primary target for the evil one. Weariness, weakness and affliction affecting the saints of God.

Our God is and will always be a God of deliverance to His people. The Lord is "awaking" in a sense, to the conditions around the world today. But let us not forget it was He who delivered Israel from the Egyptians (thus the references to Rahab and the dragon above). He parted the Red Sea, delivering His people, and then drowning the enemy. He used the same sea for both deliverance and for death. Everlasting joy and gladness await those who persevere the conditions of this life, and keep the faith in Him who is a great deliverer.

"I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who are thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and the son of a man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest that Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? And where is the fury of the oppressor?" Isaiah 51:12-13.

Why should we fear a man, though he may be an anti-Christ, or a terrorist, or a hater of freedom? This man will die, as all men and their children will do. Let us not forget that our God created the incomprehensible heavens and foundations of this great earth. He will bind Satan (where is the fury of the oppressor?) and cause that His people will live in peace someday when He brings about Zion upon the earth. He will bind Satan even when we just utter the words "Jesus Christ." Who do we have to fear?

"The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. But I am the Lord thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The Lord of hosts is his name. And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people" Isaiah 51:14-16.

Those throughout the world who are in spiritual captivity will be loosed, and come to Zion someday singing songs of deliverance. God will part the seas, and remove the obstacles just as He did for Israel. All nations will flow unto Zion someday. The House of Israel will be gathered when they believe in our Savior, and many will even return to the land of their inheritance, Jerusalem. God will deliver His people. He has delivered us today by calling us out of this world of darkness into the truth of His Gospel. Let us not fear anymore the frightening news we hear every day. Let us not fear anymore the evil one who will try to destroy us. Let us not fear anything, except to maintain a fear of our great Lord that we might displease Him. He is in complete control of our destiny, and there is no one greater than He. God will deliver us!

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



Come Away From Sin

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been some place or done something that makes you feel sorry and ashamed later? Did you know that shame can be a good thing if it makes us stop doing something harmful? And did you know that shame can be a bad thing if it makes us unwilling to keep on trying to do good?

Because that is what serving God is all about—keeping on trying. None of us is perfect, but Jesus loves us anyway. None of us lives such a perfect life that we never make mistakes; yet Jesus loves us.

One time, I invited a friend with problems to come to church. She told me that she wasn't "good enough" to come to church. I laughed and told her that is why we all come together to worship God. We come because we are not perfect.

I told her that if we were perfect, then we could stay at home and show off our perfect little selves to each other. We wouldn't need God's peace, God's hope, or the joy that knowing Christ brings to our lives.

The brother of Jared, in the Book of Mormon, was a godly man. He was chosen to lead a group of God's followers to a promised land. They traveled through a vast, wild land. Over mountains, across wild rivers and hot deserts, they prayed and walked. Months turned into years.

Finally they reached the edge of a beautiful ocean, and there they relaxed. They were so relieved to be through with carrying tents, and tools, and seeds, and beehives. They set up shelters at the seashore and forgot about calling upon God.

For four years the brother of Jared, a man who loved God, joined his people in forgetting God. But God had a plan to use these people and bring them to the Americas. He spoke with his minister, the brother of Jared, from a cloud.

Can you imagine how shocked and ashamed the brother of Jared was of his behavior? God had answered so many of his prayers. After the Lord brought the people through terrible dangers and difficulties, they had relaxed and forgotten to call upon Him.

The Lord talked with the brother of Jared for three hours from a cloud and chastened (scolded and warned) him. The brother of Jared was so sorry. He repented of the evil he had done, and begged God to forgive the others, too. And God did.

These people went on to journey across the wild waters of the ocean to come to the Americas.

The brother of Jared did the right thing with his shame. He felt it, recognized it, and asked God to forgive him. And God did. God removed it and the brother of Jared kept on trying.

In fact, after this terrible time, the brother of Jared loved the Lord so deeply and faithfully that he saw Jesus' finger, then Jesus showed Himself to this man in the Spirit, many years before He was born on the earth.

The brother of Jared was *truly* forgiven.

We must do the very same thing when we have sinned and are sick with shame. We must hold our shame up to the Light of Jesus so we can be clean again. And then we've got to keep on trying. By doing these things, we will learn about ourselves, our weak sides and our strong sides. And Jesus will keep on loving us.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

THE
BROTHER
OF
JARED
HIS
PEOPLE
THROUGH
A
WILDERNESS
AND
FORGOT
TO
CALL
ON
GOD
HIS
SHAME

WAS
FORGIVEN
AND
JESUS
SHOWED
HIMSELF
IN
THE
SPIRIT
ETHER
BOOK
OF
MORMON
JESUS
IS
LOVE

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

Independence

By Brother Don Ross

The United States of America celebrates Independence Day on July 4th of each year. It is of course a national holiday commemorating our declared independence from the United Kingdom. A statement declaring our nation's independence was issued on July 4, 1776 by the Continental Congress. The principle author was Thomas Jefferson.

The second sentence of this declaration is a sweeping statement of human rights:

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

This is one of the best known sentences in the English language and the most potent and consequential words in American history! (Source: Wikipedia).

In the dictionary, independence is defined as, "free from the influence, guidance, or control of another or others."

This definition is very appropriate for the members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Why? Because we have been made spiritually free by our acceptance, belief, and strict adherence to the commandments of Jesus Christ.

His commandments state we must have faith, we must repent, we must be baptized, and then we receive the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands by the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. We can now truly pursue life, liberty, and happiness through our Lord and Saviour. He has made us free from the influence, guidance, or

control of the adversary of all righteousness. By the mercies and grace of the Lord, we are now spiritually free, the greatest freedom that men and women can experience in their lifetime!

Jesus Christ declared in John 8: 31-32,

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him. If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Lord further declared to the Apostle Thomas and to the whole world both past and present in John 14:6,

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The Lord offers spiritual truth. It is the Lord and His truth that makes us truly free. The chorus of that beautiful hymn *I'm Free* by William and Gloria Gaither states:

*I'm free from the fear of tomorrow;
I'm free from the guilt of the past;
For I've traded my shackles for a glorious song;
I'm free, praise the Lord, free at last!*

Let us consider the official name of the Statute of Liberty that is inscribed with the following:

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

* * * * *

Its official name is "Liberty Enlightening the World" (French: la Liberte eclairant le monde).

Jesus Christ offers the true "Liberty Enlightening the World." He does it through His words and through The Church of Jesus Christ. Consider His sermon drawn from Isaiah 61:1 and found in Luke 4:18-19 which states:

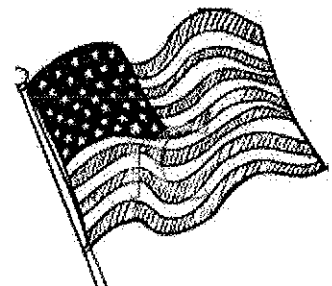
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he had anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

These words declare spiritual enlightenment, spiritual freedom, a spiritual healing, and spiritual liberty. These are spiritual words of freedom and independence! He is truth! His words are truth! He made us free! He makes us free!

Jesus Christ brought spiritual freedom and it is free. There is no charge! Isaiah 55:1 declares:

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Do you wish to be free and experience true independence? If you do, the only answer is to "fully accept His Gospel and all its principles." That Gospel is found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

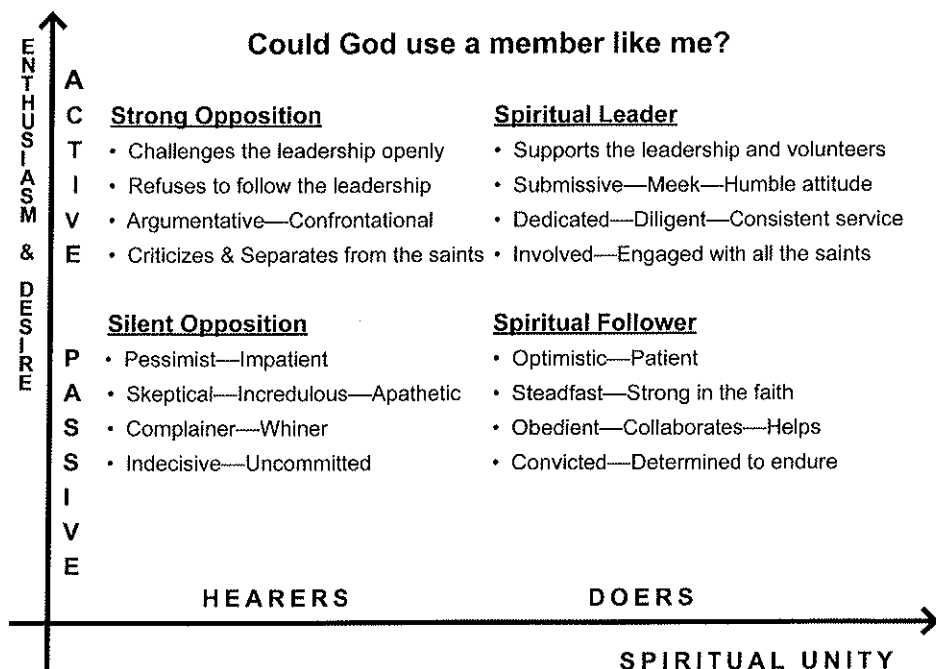


Enjoy your freedom and independence. God bless you all.

Southeast Region Quorum of Seventy

Evangeliasts Dennis Moraco, Gene Perry, and Miguel Bicelis held evangelistic meetings at the Treasure Coast Branch on April 17 and 18, 2010. Brother Miguel led the Saturday evening meeting, where he presented *Jesus Model of Spiritual Leadership* to the congregation. The message was primarily based on the example and teachings of Christ in ministering to others, while most of the meeting was focused on the behaviors and attitude of the saints towards leadership in the Church at every level. Brother Miguel referred to a quadrant matrix where most of the members of the Church find themselves at different stages of spiritual growth.

Brother Miguel mentioned we have a choice to be “Hearers or Doers” of the word, according to James 1:19-27. He placed these on horizontal axis called “Spiritual Unity.” He also mentioned we can be enthusiastic and have a strong desire for what we do or don’t do with the word, which normally drives our level of activity (or passivity) in the service of God. He placed “Active and Passive” in the vertical axis and called it “Enthusiasm & Desire.” See graph below:



He explained there are passive and active members, when it comes to the work of the Lord. What is important is that we all become “doers” at whatever level of desire and enthusiasm we might have. In other words, we should be obedient, committed, humble, and steadfast in keeping the word of God. An “active doer” is not necessarily a member of the ministry or a deacon, but a member who follows and supports the ministry and leadership of the Church by praying, attending, participating, testifying, and keeping the message true in their daily walk with Christ. Both, “Active Doer” and “Passive Doer” members exercise humility and want to minister to others. These contributors eventually take responsibility to carry the standard of Christ and to share the Gospel with others.

On the other hand, the “Hearer” members tend not to be involved or to participate with other members in supporting the spiritual and temporal objectives of the congregation. An “Active Hearer” may challenge the unity of the ministry in making a decision or may express his/her strong opposition in participating with the congregation, or going along with the ministry in outreach programs or opportunities to help or minister to others. Alma (the son)

and Saul were cited as examples of men who were not doing the will of God with great desire and enthusiasm, being found in great opposition to The Church of Jesus Christ; and, by the grace of God after their conversion, they became great spiritual leaders in the Church.

A “Passive Hearer” may simply murmur and complain with other members and relatives about whatever they don’t agree with, and thus justify why they don’t participate with everyone else. They often don’t approach their ordained Teachers for help or clarification on issues they disagree with. They could be pessimistic, apathetic, skeptical, indecisive, and or uncommitted. Brother Miguel shared several examples from the Scriptures that displayed the attitude in this category, from the time of Moses and the exodus from Egypt, Lehi’s journey in the wilderness, to the time of Christ. He said these are the members with a “silent opposition” that would most likely find it difficult to endure to the end, while those that are a “strong opposition” to the ministry or the brethren tend to be more willing to engage in scriptural studies and debates.

Brother Miguel projected several scriptures where Jesus gave examples of ministering by His standard and mentioned about the style of leadership demonstrated by our Lord. He made the following key points about Christ’s *Model of Spiritual Leadership*:

(1) Jesus taught first by example or illustration, followed by an explanation of what He did or would do, and finally spoke of the benefit(s) of following His leadership. (John 13: 12-17)

(2) Jesus demonstrated that, to be great in His eyes, one must minister and serve others. (Matthew 20:25-28)

(3) Jesus demonstrated how He would recognize those who don’t waste His talents. (Matthew 25:20-21)

(4) God’s word shows God blesses those who lead others in righteousness and humility. (Jarom 1:7; Jacob 1:18-19; and 3 Nephi 1:18-21)

(Continued on Page 11)



Branch and Mission News

Great Lakes Region Conference

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

We gathered at the Burton Manor in Livonia Michigan, where that hall became The Church of Jesus Christ for the day. With the aid of a flute, bass, two guitars and a viola we sang hymns of praise and prepared our hearts for the words to come.

Brother Jeff Giannetti, Region President, welcomed us with these words, "The greatest advertisement for the Church to draw others to it, is that this body would be the happiest group of people on the face of the earth. When people would talk of the people of God they would refer to us as in 4th Nephi—that there could not be a happier people on the face of the land. We should be a people whose life is filled with rejoicing because we are saved in the kingdom of God." Brother Jeff expressed that if he chose a mission as the newly-elected president, his mission would be to work with us to be a happier people even in the midst of the trials to come.

Brother Larry Champine opened our meeting. The theme of his sermon was "How do I measure up?" "In order to be the happiest people on the face of the earth we [each] need to be happy." He read from Romans 12:3,

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Brother Larry explained that while when we stand in the presence of God, we are nothing yet each man gets his

own measure. He encouraged us to contemplate how we are using this measure and what we are doing to increase it.

He referenced a dream accepted by the region many years ago the theme of which was, We all need to work together and be united. "If we don't embrace our measure, how can we please God?" Brother Larry also explained that without faith it is impossible to please Him. We can go through the motions and it is not enough. We need to have faith.

"How are we going to show the world that we are The Church of Jesus Christ if we are not measuring up? How can I hold the position in any part of the Church if the Spirit of God is not with me? I bring nothing to the office. Every measure counts. I am responsible for my measure. I am trying to find a way to lengthen it."

Brother Larry spoke also about each measure working together to increase the total body. "The end result of everyone working together is love." Brother Larry concluded by exhorting us to walk on the water more and exercise our faith.

Brother Frank Natoli followed. He said that while he was praying and preparing for conference, the thought came to his mind that we might have enough faith to walk on the water.

Brother Frank asked us if any of us have witnessed a miracle. "If you believe in those miracles, what separates us from walking on the water? It requires faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

He spoke also of our measure and how to increase it. He used an analogy of baking a cake and how we are ingredients and we need to work together. If one ingredient is left out, the cake does not come out. "It is not good enough for one or two to walk away from this meeting with determination to work harder if we want to see greater manifestations of the gifts of God and see the Church grow." He encouraged each of us to walk away with that yearning.

"The Lord knows of your desires and He wants to give them to you. Bring your measure before Him and

He will bless you. He will add to what you bring. We have to be willing to go before the Lord and prove Him. It requires us to be the people of God. Others will be drawn by our love and souls will come. Recognize the measure that has been given to you. You may be a pinch of salt in that cake, but if you are not there, the cake does not work. The Lord needs us. God needs a people for His commission. The Lord needs you and I to make that perfect recipe."

After Sister Jennifer Champine, Sister Alyssa Giannetti and Brother Derek Everett presented us with a song, Brother Brett Gibson read from the 18th chapter of 3rd Nephi as we prepared for the ordinance of communion. During the initial prayer, the tongues were spoken.

Brother Jeff then invited Brother Ted Lunsford to come forward. He said that Brother Ted was a wonderful example of a happy saint. Brother Ted unequivocally showed joy as he said,

"Six hundred and ninety seven days ago, I was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ. That is the day I started living."

Brother Jeff closed our meeting with these thoughts. "If you exercise the portion of the measure you were given, He will be there to extend it. The minute we try to extend our measure, God will be there to lift us up and take us to heights and measures that we cannot take on our own. He invites us to step out on faith. You will walk on the water and there His hand you will find. Peter gets knocked because he sunk but he was the only one who got out of the boat to try. His faith was great enough. He sunk that time and then he walked on the water from there because he extended himself and found God waiting."

Brother Jeff informed us that God waits for us; it is not the other way around. We need to get out on the water, challenge conventional thinking, and be in tune to the Lord's direction.

A Great Work Begins in Oldham County

By Sister Elizabeth Kall

S*ee the Laborers in the Vineyard*

On May 22, the saints gathered at East Oldham Middle School—meeting location of the saints in Oldham County, Kentucky. Our purpose: to organize a two-year effort, launched by the General Church, in an effort to grow the work and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in that area.

Brothers and sisters from Ohio and Pennsylvania gathered to plan out how to best support the saints during this two-year span. The meeting was opened with remarks from Apostles Phil Jackson and Paul Palmieri. The brothers stated that the General Church, with the help of the Domestic Operating Committee, is in the process of expanding its focus to better support smaller missions scattered throughout the Church. The program, set to launch in Oldham County on June 1, is the first initiative of its kind. The brothers stressed that the Lord would certainly bless our efforts as we commence this work.

Count Their Numbers, Note the Few

The meeting was turned over to Brother Doug Obradovich who told of the many experiences he and other saints have had regarding the work in Kentucky. He stressed that while times are not always easy; the Lord has been merciful in seeing to the needs of His followers.

Be sure that although their numbers are few, the Lord has blessed the membership in this location. He has opened up opportunities for the saints to share their testimonies with neighbors and friends. The Lord has also paved the way for our brother to be present in the lives of local youth in a program he's called Rock-N-Rock. This has opened the door to teach young men and women the lessons of Jesus Christ (our Rock) while giving them an outlet for friendly competition on the basketball court.

Heed the Call, the Invitation

The committee then broke into two teams to discuss the needs of the mission and the various levels of support that would be required over the next two years. Plans were created and brothers and sisters volunteered to oversee sub-committees such as travel, lodging, ministerial support, programs, and advertising.

We are certain that the Lord will do a great work in the Oldham County area. As plans get underway, it is expedient that we, brothers and sisters in Christ, heed the call to assist in whichever way we are able. The committee invites you to ask yourself today, "What talent do I possess that could be used in Oldham County for the honor and glory of my Lord?"

One Last Call, a Call for You

In short, workers are needed. If any are willing, we would encourage you to be prayerful about assisting with this new initiative. There are certainly many ways for you to play an active role!

- *Can you commit to setting aside time to fast and pray diligently for the work?*
- *Can you commit to call/write the saints of Oldham County and encourage them?*
- *Can you commit to visit the mission once? Once a month? Once a quarter?*
- *Can you commit to relocating to Oldham County?*

The committee solicits your prayers over the next two years. Let us be prayerful that the Lord would bless every effort. It is our prayer that as blessings come forth in Oldham County, this same initiative would be implemented in another outpost of the domestic church.

For those who feel prompted to be a part of the work, please contact: Sister Robin Burns for more information at the World Operations Center rdburnswcc@msn.com or 724-837-4425.

Obey My Voice

By Sister Karen L. Progar

Fathers' Day brought a number of visitors to the Aliquippa Branch. In celebration of Brother Carl Frammolino's birthday, his entire family surprised him with a visit and attended the branch for our meeting.

Brother John and Sister Caryl DiBattista, from the Midwest Region, were also in attendance. Brother John opened the meeting telling us how important it is to have a purpose. He began by sharing an experience he had as a young boy with his grandfather, Brother Tony DiBattista. At the time, Brother John didn't understand his grandfather's explanation of a time when all men would be friends and a New Jerusalem would come to this earth. The one thing he was sure of was that everyone has a purpose and a destiny to fulfill for God. Using Jeremiah 7:17-25 as his reference, Brother John focused on the need to obey the voice of God in order to be His people. He was able to share a number of experiences in which the Lord preserved his life in order for him to reach the point where he was ready to serve the Lord. Brother John told us that the Lord required him to the love the world. He didn't understand that experience at the time, but as his service has developed in the Church he became aware that the missionary work in which he is involved is taking the Gospel to all men throughout the world, from Nepal to Italy, from Mozambique to Mexico, wherever men inquire about God, fulfilling that commandment to love the world.

The sermon was concluded with Brother John reminding us that the God of Abraham and Isaac lives in The Church of Jesus Christ. An expression that Brother John heard touched him. "Fate is what life hands you, destiny is what you make of it." He asked each of us, "What is keeping you from your destiny?" giving everyone pause to consider, whether members or not.

Brother David DeLuca, Presiding Elder, briefly spoke to the congrega-

(Continued on Page 11)

Miracles in Burundi

Continued from Page 4

reading this miraculous healing?

Brother Francois mentioned there are others who witnessed this miracle and also want to be baptized. *Praise God!* He desires to teach them what committing their life to Christ and the Church means first before baptism. He will see what their reaction will be after telling them serving God is a lifetime commitment and should they still feel they want to be baptized, he will baptize them.

God is showing our brothers and sisters and even those who are relatives and friends, the power of healing is within The Church of Jesus Christ in Burundi. Not only is the Restored Gospel good news that salvation of souls is being offered by Christ, but one can receive healing of the body also from sickness when faith in our Creator is exercised. Now that the people know Brother Francois is an Ordained Pastor, his neighbors call on him for anointing their sick and counseling them for problems they may be experiencing.

When visiting his home in February, he told us of an experience in which he was called to his neighbor's house because there was an evil spirit tormenting the occupants. He told us he prayed and rebuked that spirit in the name of Jesus. The good news coming from Burundi is encouraging. Prayers are being answered to the glory of God and His Son, Jesus. Brother Francois requests prayer for the Church in Burundi so it will remain strong and the membership will stay committed in their service to God.

Healing in Congo

Continued from Page 4

put it in his words, *"The High Doctor did His work. Please accept recognition from my family and I. I thank you a lot and my special thanks goes to my Heavenly Father and His Son our Lord Jesus Christ."*

This is a marvelous and wonderful experience to glorify God who is still on his throne and in control!

Southeast Region

Continued from Page 8

Finally, Brother Miguel asked the congregation and visitors to ask themselves whether God can use us as we are or should we try to be more supportive of the ministry, get more involved; be more humble, more submissive to God, and more obedient to His word. There was significant participation from the congregation in asking questions about how to improve service to God. Others testified briefly how they have seen themselves in the quadrant and how they need to pray about their attitude towards serving others. The Evangelists were very encouraged by the response during and after the meeting ended.

On Sunday, April 18, Brother Dennis Moraco opened the meeting, encouraging the saints in their journeys to serve God. He mentioned his personal account of how God has rescued him and his family from so many trials; how God is our provider and our refuge in the time of need. He mentioned how many times we are led by the Spirit of God to pray for others and how God would manifest Himself through the outcome and answer to the prayer. He cited many times when God protected the saints in their journeys from terrible crashes, sparing their lives. Brother Gene Perri followed the preaching thanking God for healing him and sustaining him during his afflictions. His words were also very encouraging to all who attended.

The Southeast Region Evangelists continue to encourage the saints throughout Florida and Georgia. Evangelist Mark Kovacic is preparing for a second Oklahoma Native American outreach (June 5-12, 2010), and an Evangelistic Weekend in Quincy, and he is working with the Atlanta Local MBA to perform an outreach to Native Americans in Metro Atlanta, starting with a mass mailing, with planned follow-ups. Evangelist Sam Risola is consistently supporting the saints in Mid-Georgia, Orlando, and Cape Coral. Evangelists Dennis Moraco and Miguel Bicelis will hold evangelistic meetings in Lake Worth and

Cape Coral during the summer. Evangelists Gene Perri and George Benyola continue to encourage the saints in the Leesburg/Orlando area, Treasure Coast and Lake Worth.

Obey My Voice

Continued from Page 10

tion regarding what our contribution to the Church is before turning the meeting over to a time of testimony.

During our testimonies, we were thrilled to hear Sister Donna Bogle and her family testify to God's grace in her behalf. Less than two weeks ago, Sister Donna was in the Wednesday night service, after which she suddenly became ill with a terrible headache. She immediately requested anointing and went home. During the night, her headache worsened, she became violently ill and was subsequently life flighted to a hospital in Pittsburgh. It turned out that Sister Donna had a bleeding vein in her brain. The family was told that Sister Donna would be in the hospital for several weeks while the injury was monitored. There was a concern that a stroke could follow the injury. Miraculously, tests revealed that her brain showed no evidence of damage and she was sent home to recuperate, eight days after the trial began. What a blessing to our sister and what a marvelous answered prayer.

It was a wonderful Fathers' Day in the Aliquippa Branch, with many having the opportunity to praise our Heavenly Father, while still others had the opportunity to consider their service to God.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Youth In Action Committee has decided to cancel the following Tours due to low registration:

**Spartanburg, South Carolina
YIA Tour—July 9-18**

**LaGrange, Kentucky YIA Tour
(Tour "A")—July 24-August 1**

If you have any questions, contact Brother Mario G. Zaccagnini.

Children Blessed

Logan Wayne Israel, son of Brother Dave and Sister Dana Israel was blessed on January 10, 2010 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Gavin Lee Nardoizzi, son of Sister Melissa Nardoizzi was blessed on March 7, 2010 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Baptisms

Sister Claudia Preston was baptized on May 16, 2010 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jerry Chambers and confirmed by Brother John Straccia.

Brother David Preston was baptized on May 16, 2010 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. He was baptized by Brother Paul Stallard and confirmed by Brother Lou Vitto.

Sister Kathy Thong was baptized on June 13, 2010 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Dick Christman and confirmed by Brother Thomas P. Liberto.

Sister Rachel Alessio was baptized on June 20, 2010 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Paul Liberto and confirmed by Brother Thomas M. Liberto.

Spiritual Anniversaries

Sister Louise Donkin of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch celebrated 70 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on June 9, 2010.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____

OBITUARIES

STIRLING TATE

Brother Stirling Tate of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his reward on April 23, 2010. He is survived by his brothers, Barrett, Roland and Brother Blaine Tate; sisters, Nancy Sabo, Patricia Bedocs, Carol Ann Lambert and many nieces and nephews including Brother Troy Tate and Sister Michelle (Dan) Bowens.

SCOTT KING

Scott King passed on to his reward on May 9, 2010. He is survived by his son, Cameron Joseph King; mother, Sister Mary Jo King; father, Gary (Carla); sister, Tracey (Brian) Younce; step-brother, Brother Zachary Dziak; grandfather, Henry King; grandmother, Margaret Bowers; step-grandmother, Sister Vera Naro and nieces and nephews.

FRANCESCA (FRANCES) PALPOSI

Sister Francesca (Frances) Palposi of Detroit, Michigan Branch #1 passed on to her reward on May 15, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Brother Edward; two children, Sister Stephanie (Michael) Rado and Vito Palposi (Melanie); two grandchildren, Alyse and Dustin Palposi; one sister, Sister Rose Altomare and many nieces and nephews.

RUDOLPH MEO

Brother Rudolph Meo of the Irvine, California Branch passed on to his reward on June 7, 2010. He was an ordained elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Harriet; four children, Debbie, Ruth, Craig and Jeff; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

Gianfirmi, Frank
43285 Polo Circle, Apartment 3
Sterling Heights, MI 48313
(586) 566-5770

Piacentino, Michael and Theresa
5898 Dawn Ridge Drive
Troy, MI 48098
(248) 731-7423

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Huttenberger, Jim and Lynette
21572 Montbury Drive
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 600-5221

King, Patrick and Bernadette
2700 S. White Mountain Road #522
Show Low, AZ 85901
(928) 551-4381

Murillo, Juan and Lucy
85 Backbone Hill
Millstone, NJ 08510
(732) 637-8899

Onorato, Justin
1600 SW 12th Avenue
Miami, FL 33129
(305) 484-2647

Zaino, Michael
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

August, 2010

Volume 66, No.8

He said, “Stop and Introduce Yourself”

By Apostle John Griffith

During the year 1977 my wife and I purchased a flower and gift shop in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. We weren't really experienced in the field but we had been praying for a long time for the Lord to open a door for us to own a business. This particular business door opportunity opened wide so we felt it was the right financial move for us at the time.

As I traveled along a country road every day to the flower shop I would pass a little white cottage-style home, the owners of which I did not know. Approaching this particular home, either going to or coming from the shop each day, the Lord's voice would speak to my mind the same words, “Stop and introduce yourself.” Thinking it would be strange to actually stop to introduce myself as I had no knowledge of who these people were, I would keep driving by. For three months, twice a day, I can remember hearing this voice. I considered I was to some degree losing my mind. Each time I would dismiss it as something odd happening to me.

For those early months of owning our floral business, Carolyn and I were deeply involved in learning this business as we had very little work-

ing knowledge of the floral industry. We relied quite heavily on the existing employees who all promised at the time of purchase to remain in our employ. The old owners were completely out of the picture as they relocated to Jacksonville, Florida. Three months passed. It was the end of September. One morning as I arrived to the shop, still hearing that same prompting of the Lord, an employee entered our office to resign from our employ. We were disappointed as she was a long time employee, but we knew there were three other designers to lean upon. Within fifteen minutes a second employee resigned and by noon all four designers and even the delivery boy resigned. I attempted to encourage them to stay but they weren't interested. Needless to say I was shocked, scared and really didn't know what to do. Sadly to admit, at the moment, I even felt the Lord had let me down. We depended upon His direction and yet this terrible thing had happened to us. We were frightened to think we could lose our entire investment.

That evening I drove home very discouraged and despondent. As I came upon that little white cottage-style home, again I heard that familiar

voice speaking those same words, “Stop and introduce yourself.” I was so broken mentally, not sure how to handle our dilemma I obeyed the voice and stopped. Whether someone else was in control of the car at that moment I don't know. I felt I was not in control of my actions as I exited my car and began walking to the front door of strangers. I remember questioning myself as to what I would say to whoever would answer the door. The only thought I had was to introduce myself. I knocked and knocked again.

The door opened. She was a frail elderly lady, very short in stature. She said, “Yes, can I help you?” How should I respond? “Hello my name is John Griffith. I just wanted to stop and introduce myself.” Immediately the door opened wide. “Come in, come in,” she stated. She led me into their kitchen and invited me to sit at their table for two. I still did not know who she was or what to say next. Proceeding she stated, “Papa, come here. You are the couple that bought the flower shop. I heard it sold and I heard your name mentioned at our church as being the new owners.” I sat in amazement and yet said nothing. Her husband was also elderly, somewhat stout and as short as she.

“I don't know if you believe in

(Continued on Page 2)

Stop and Introduce Yourself

Continued from Page 1

God," she expressed with excitement, "but every time I passed your flower shop the Spirit of the Lord instructed me to stop and offer my help to the new owners. You see my husband and I are retired florists. We ran our shop for 42 years."

Upon hearing her words, I almost fell off the chair. The weight of the world was immediately removed from my shoulders. For the first time upon entering their home I began to speak. Expressing what had just taken place with all of our staff leaving us, this God given couple offered to come to our shop every evening to help us in preparing the next day's orders and to train us in floral design and store management. "We will stay with you until you are comfortable to take control without us," they offered. That evening, upon my knees, I humbled myself before my God, begging forgiveness I had ever doubted His love and concern for us. You see, the Lord had already supplied our need before we recognized it. I was too busy to listen to His direction, "Stop and introduce yourself." Had I done that the first time I heard His voice, I would not had such anxiety to bear that day.

During those days of divine help, Carolyn attended floral design school and I learned the business. The Lord provided us with new employees and truly the floral shop was now ours. Of course there were some challenging days but we overcame all with our new friends, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders and the Lord's help. As for the old employees who had resigned, they started another flower shop a few blocks from ours. Their business lasted four years and eventually their business and relationship fell apart. Our shop continued to grow which supplied our family needs for more than twenty years.

The Lord has been good to us our entire lives. We praise Him knowing He is the great "I Am." Through Christ all things are possible as we love to serve our God and fellow man.

The Miraculous Incarnation

By Brother Ronald Mazzeo

The subject of this article is so sacred that every time I meditate upon it a deep reverence comes over me. I'm speaking, of course, of the condescension of Jesus Christ into the world for the unselfish purpose of redeeming the human race from their fallen state; and securing our eternal salvation, at His most expensive, personal cost.

There have been many men that have been gifted by God to do great things for the human race; for example, the discovery of electricity, invention of air travel, etc.; and then there are the many wonderful humanitarian efforts made by men like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Let's not forget the wonderful servants of God like Moses, Elijah, Melchisedek, John the Baptist, etc. We are grateful to God for all of these [I say to God because He, no doubt, inspired these men as He did Christopher Columbus to sail to this hemisphere]. Nevertheless, they all pale in comparison to what Jesus Christ accomplished on earth. No other act has profited mankind to such glorious proportions as the condescension of our Lord to earth. What other man was worthy to be heralded by the angels at his birth as the only begotten Son of God? For what other men were the very heavens and celestial bodies rearranged to announce their coming? Let's examine some pertinent scriptures that will magnify this miraculous event and reveal how auspicious an occasion it really was.

Samuel, the Lamanite, prophesied that on the eve of Christ's birth there would be great lights in the heavens and that the heavens would be filled with many signs and wonders; even to the degree that a new star would appear which they had never before seen! (Book of Mormon, Helaman 14th chapter) This prophesy is in perfect harmony with the statement of the eastern wise men who asked, "... *Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star*

in the east, and are come to worship Him" (Holy Bible, Matthew 2:2). This prophesy was fulfilled perfectly. (Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 1:21) What other man can claim ownership of his own star! Truly King David was right when he said, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork*" (Psalm 19:1).

Let's review some scriptures that set Him apart from all other men and **reveal his divine identity**. The Prophet Abinadi declared, "*I would that ye should understand that God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people*" (Book of Mormon, Mosiah 15:1). An angel of the Lord also states, "... *the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth, who was, and is from all eternity to all eternity, shall come down from heaven among the children of men, and shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay...*" (Book of Mormon, Mosiah 3:5). How truly amazing that one so glorious would deign to condescend to earth, laying His glory aside to be confined to human form!! Was such a thing ever heard of; that the creator would become the creature! Truly this was the joining of heaven and earth, creator and creature, God and man. "... *God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself...*" (Holy Bible, 2 Corinthians 5:19). Webster defines "incarnation" as taking human form. A second definition he gives is "Jesus taking human form as the Son of God." Is it any wonder that the angel of the Lord said to Nephi, "... *Knowest thou the condescension of God?*" (1 Nephi 11:16) Then he showed Nephi how this little child born of Mary was the redeemer of the world. What behooved God to personally stoop to such an extreme measure? Because no man would be worthy to perform the act of redemption. Any other man aspiring to atone for mankind would automatically be disqualified, because of his fallen state. "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*" (Romans 3:23) and his death would only be his just deserts. It would not, as the

(Continued on Page 3)

The Miraculous Incarnation

Continued from Page 2

Hebrew word “Kaphar” states, “cover” or atone for mankind’s sin. As the Apostle Peter said, “. . . ye were not redeemed with corruptible things. . . But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1 Peter 1:18,19). A great type and shadow of this is the Passover. (Exodus chapter 12) The Passover lamb, for each household, had to be selected on the 10th day of the month but was not slain until the 14th day. It was during those four days that the lamb had to be so thoroughly examined to see if there was the slightest spot or blemish that could disqualify it from being the Passover lamb; whose blood would cause the death angel to pass over their house and thusly save them from death. Just imagine how wonderful our God is that He who knew no sin would condescend to earth into the very battleground of Satan and allow Himself, as our Passover lamb, to be scrutinized by creatures He created! Just like the paschal lamb, He was thoroughly examined to find any fault. He was examined by Caiaphas, the High Priest, then sent to Pontius Pilate, Pilate sent Him to King Herod and at last back to Pilate; where after all this scrutiny Pilate makes this profound statement, “*I find in him no fault at all!*” (John 18:38) Is it any wonder that the Nephites reckoned their time according to the sign of this extraordinary man’s birth? (3 Nephi 2:8) Is it, also, any wonder that both the Julian and Gregorian calendars, used Jesus Christ to divide earth’s time by before and after His coming? i.e. BC and AD. We still do so in modern times. I love what AD stands for; “Anno Domini,” the year of our Lord. There’s a hymn that coincides with how Christ is the crux of this earthly timeline. “There’s a line that’s been drawn through the ages. On that line stands the old rugged cross. On that cross a battle is raging for the gain of man’s soul or its loss.” That line that has been drawn through the ages, [distinguishing time BC and AD] only proves to show us that the coming of Christ to earth to die for

our sins supersedes any event in the history of planet earth. Only the great incarnate one could break the bands of death and reverse the death penalty that was pronounced upon mankind at the fall of Adam and Eve. For the 4,000 years [BC], preceding His birth, men prophesied of His coming and how He would deliver mankind. Abel, the first man to enter Paradise, waited 4,000 years in Paradise, but after Anno Domini [the year of the Lord] and His ensuing death; for the first time in 4000 years the gates of Paradise opened and mother earth opened her womb to release her captive bodies. “. . . the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; . . . and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves. . .” (Matthew 27:51-53). Would the earth have obeyed any other man’s voice? Was there any other that could have “. . . abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light. . .” (2 Timothy 1:10) Listen very carefully to the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:3,4 when he said, “. . . *Jesus Christ, our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead.*” This truly reveals Christ’s dual identity as both Son of Man and Son of God. It also reveals the power that gives Him the right to be declared the only begotten Son of God. It was the fact that He accomplished what no other could accomplish—the resurrection of the dead!! He did not just prophesy of the resurrection as all who came before Him; **He actually accomplished it.** Oh, Praise His holy name!! From this we can better understand the words of Alma, “. . . *I say unto you there be many things to come; and behold, there is one thing which is of more importance than they all—for behold, the time is not far distant that the Redeemer liveth and cometh among his people*” (Alma 7:7).

Let’s examine the manner in which He condescended. Jesus was not born into a rich family. He was not a respected member of the San-

Patient in Tribulation

By Brother Perry Vitto

Patient: the word implies an ability to wait, endure without complaining, a steadiness, perserverance in performing a task; calmness, self-control.

If we combine this wonderful trait or quality of one’s personality in the midst of a time of tribulation, the task to achieve patience becomes much more difficult. I tend to feel and believe that only in and through the power of the Holy Spirit can we have this patience.

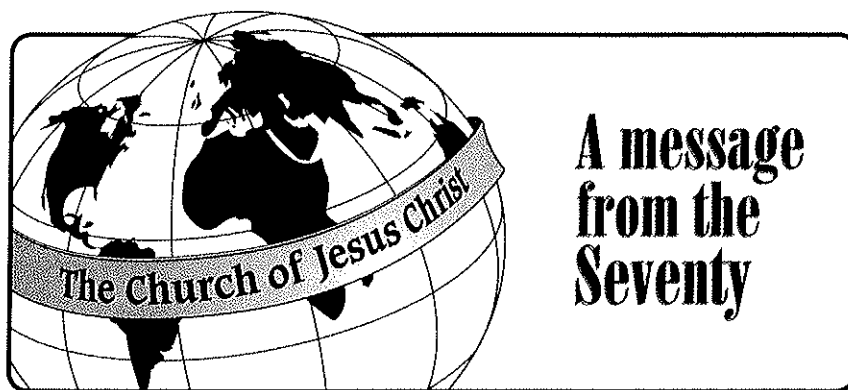
My first thoughts, spiritually speaking, go right to that saying, “the patience of Job.” While it seems incomprehensible to imagine this type of affliction accompanied by persecution from his family and friends, he held onto his faith. He was not only healed, but the Lord blessed him beyond his imagination.

The Apostle Paul’s life was full of tribulation—stoned, beaten, imprisoned, whipped, near death three times and shipwrecked twice, among other persecutions. Paul at one time in his life, preferring to leave this life, as it states in Philippians 1:23,24, “*For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.*” He chose to stay the course. He showed patience in tribulation for the growing of the Church and the spreading of the Gospel.

Thinking about today’s troubled times, we’re observing our government deliberating about sending more soldiers to support our troops that are in harms way, currently in Afghanistan. There are so many close comparisons in our time as in the time of Moroni and Helaman fighting the Lamanites. They were waiting upon their government for support and succor for their troops as thousands had died by the sword. Moroni felt those in charge, in the comfort and

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued on Page 9)



Working in the Vineyard Butler, PA Mission

By Evangelist Robert Nicklow, Jr.

The Lord was working with individuals (unknown to each other) about the Butler, Pennsylvania area. Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino felt drawn to Butler, Pennsylvania for many years as he traveled back and forth between Detroit, Michigan and The Church of Jesus Christ in Pennsylvania for conferences and other meetings. He said he had a good feeling for the Butler area every time he passed the Butler area on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Sometimes, he had a strong feeling to turn off and go into Butler to see what was there. Always on a strict schedule, he did not have the time to do this.

Years later while living in the state of California, he had an opportunity to move to the Butler area. While contemplating the move, he inquired whether it would be possible to hold some church meetings there. When he was told it would be probable, he was enthused about following through on this desire. Since that time, there have been wonderful meetings and baptisms there. Brother Charles Jumper alternated with him in holding the services until his passing in January 2003. Brother Jumper and his wife, Sister Ruth, and family were faithful in working in the mission.

Brother Paul Gehly, at the time Presiding Elder in the Greensburg Branch, was residing in Butler with his wife, Sister Carolyn. They attended Tuesday evening services at the mission which were being held

on that night when branches were not holding their own services allowing others to come to Butler for the meeting. Brother Louis Ross, an ordained teacher in the Aliquippa Branch, also assisted in the mission for many years. Many elders, teachers, and members have also worshipped in the mission which has been a big help to the members.

Unknown to Brother Frammolino, experiences were being received about the establishment of the Butler Mission. They were received by Sisters Martha Christman Buffington, Divida Kocuba and Ruth Jumper. Sister Martha related her experience as follows:

"My husband, Brother Jake Christman, and I moved from Pennsylvania to Arizona to labor on the Papago Indian Reservation. After several years, we moved to Tucson because of Jake's health. While in Tucson, Jake was involved in establishing the Tucson Mission. He became very ill, and, after tests and surgery, we found out he had cancer. He said he wanted to return to Pennsylvania to Butler County. He had worked for a company in Cranberry, Butler County; and, although we had not lived there, he always liked the area. He had a desire to go there and start a mission. He was very determined and tried to get ready to make the trip back to look for a place to live; however, he became weaker and shortly thereafter passed away."

At the time Brother Jake died, Sister Martha was working at the VA Hospital in Tucson as a nurse. She felt so sad Brother Jake could not fulfill his desire and she said her heart was very heavy; but she prayed to the Lord for Him to help her in this matter. She said she could not quit her job because she needed the income; but one day she went into her supervisor's office and asked whether she could be transferred to a hospital in Pennsylvania. Her supervisor found there were VA Hospitals in Pittsburgh and Butler, so she asked to be transferred to Butler even though she had no place to live there. Sister Martha was told it would take about a year or more for a job opening in Butler, so she kept praying and two weeks later was informed there was a Butler opening for her. Before she could move, however, she needed to sell her home in Tucson which would probably take a long time to sell, but she prayed and listed it with a real estate agent. Her prayers were answered because her home was sold in one day, and she said she knew then the Lord was in the move to Butler County.

Sister Divida Kocuba who had moved to Tucson with her husband, Brother Tom, to be with her parents, Brother Jake and Sister Martha Christman, related the Lord had been in the situation as they moved back to Pennsylvania after her father's death. She knew Brother Jake had been instrumental in starting the Imperial, Pennsylvania and Tucson, Arizona Missions and had a desire to move back to Pennsylvania to start a mission in Butler. She was sad about her father's not being able to return to Butler. She said one day after visiting her sister, Sister Nancy Botwright in Imperial and was driving home and crossed into Butler County, she was praying asking the Lord whether they should move closer to one of the established branches. As she was praying, she felt like someone was sitting next to her. She said, "Although I could not see anyone beside me, I knew my father was right beside me

(Continued on Page 10)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS
Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovaalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST
Michael Zaino
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

GREAT LAKES
Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST
Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC
Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST
Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST
Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

One of the greatest gifts any person can hope for today is TIME. People want more time to spend with their families and loved ones. Many wish they had more time to do the things that have deeper value than just working everyday for a paycheck. This includes spending quality time with their wives, husbands, children, parents, siblings or friends. Many in the Church wish they had more time to be involved in all of the activities, or go on missionary work. This is especially true for the middle aged working generation. Many years ago, it was an honor to work a lot of hours, and for many years to support your family. But today's generation is searching for something more, something deeper. They've learned that working hard for their entire life to earn the "gold watch" at their retirement, and then look back to see they've missed some of the most important times of their lives, isn't worth it. Even those who do not know the Lord, realize that there is something more to life, then running in the "rat race." Satan has caused that our economy has put us in a position to work and work and work in order to just get by, and has distracted us from the more important things of life. Even the many who find themselves out of work today are full of stress and despair, and cannot focus on true quality time with their loved ones. This world is truly moving rapidly, too fast for God's children. Many brothers and sisters work extremely long hours, and with today's technology are always "connected" to their jobs, causing them to be "on-call" 24 hours a day. Then there are Church responsibilities that they feel are more important but are left with limited time to accomplish. That leaves little or no time to spend with their children, or loved ones. Children today are growing up without parents, even though they may live in the home with their mother and father. Their parents are not available. Therefore, children look to the world for direction and example. Then when children reach an age of accountability, they find themselves running with the world instead of the ways of the Lord. What a cunning plan by the evil one! Social networking and video games have taken over the way in which our children communicate, probably because face to face interaction has been reduced considerably in their own homes. It is more comfortable and familiar for them to send a text or instant message. Even those without spouses or children, find that their work consumes them, leaving little time for the Lord. There doesn't seem to be any time for quiet meditation with our Lord, or reading His word, or being about our Father's business.

"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that No'-e [Noah] entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:38,39).

The time will come when people everywhere must be awakened from the coma-like state they are in, which is their focus on the natural things of life, and the incredible velocity of their everyday agenda. Time will run out, and many will wish they had used their time more wisely. Whether it is the "coming of the Son of Man," or whether it is the end of their life. This editorial is meant to be thought provoking, so that maybe if you find yourself in this vicious circle of everyday life, perhaps making some decisions to free up more time, or re-prioritizing your time, will change the course of your life. Perhaps if we all agree to get off the roller coaster of life, we can have more quality time with our families, and for the things of God. It has been said that in death, no one looks back and says, "I wish I had worked more in my life."

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing" (Matthew 24:45,46).

Spending all of our days and nights working for the natural things of life, will be of no value in the life to come. Let us be about our Father's business, and spend our days for the things that will have eternal value for not only us, but our children, our families and our loved ones.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Why We Work And Help Each Other

Dear Boys, Girls and Friends,

A few years ago, a student in my computer class stopped working, threw his head down on his folded arms and moaned, "This is hard!"

My job was to help him. As I patted him on the shoulder, I said, "Of course it's hard. You're learning new things! Go take a break and come back and keep working."

All of our lives we are learning. Some things are easier than others. You may be a very healthy, coordinated person who can learn and master any new sport. Be kind to those who do not have your talent. You may be a horrible speller and need to look up every word. So, keep writing, and get a dictionary! You may find it very easy to stand up in front of people and give a report; be kind to the majority of people who are afraid to stand there having everyone look at them while they talk. When they have to give a report, say a quick prayer for them that it all comes out right when they speak.

Think about when you were a baby. All you could do was lie there. Other people had to totally feed you, change your diaper and take care of you. Then you learned to roll over and scoot across a floor. Next you tried to crawl forwards and backwards before practicing how to hold onto a piece of furniture and stand up! Soon, you let go and tried a few steps alone! Bang! You crashed so



many times. Others picked you up and helped you to keep going. Each time, you kept trying. Even if you cried with frustration, or gave up awhile and just rested, you finally risked falling again. You got up and walked! Soon you were running and jumping. What if you had given up when you were a baby? What if no one helped you when you were so small and helpless? What if no one encouraged you to keep trying? What if you didn't keep trying over and over, no matter how many times you fell, until you were happily running around?

All of life is like this. Sometimes, you may have to try and learn something that you have to go over and go over. But we humans were made to try new things, to work hard and to study and learn. Just as we each needed help as a baby, we will need help throughout life. When we fall, others are needed to help us start over again. We are supposed to work and help each other; all of our examples in the scriptures of the Bible and Book of Mormon tell us to do so.

In the Book of Mormon, there was a great leader, King Benjamin. He could have forced the people in his country to pay him part of their money so he could just lie around at the palace. However, he worked with his hands and he told his people, (see Mosiah 2:14-22) And even I, myself have labored [worked] with mine own hands that I might serve you and that you would not have to pay taxes . . . I tell you that when you are in the service of your fellow beings you are only in the service of your God.

[God wants us to help others]. . . All that God requires of you is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if you would keep his commandments, you should prosper in the land. . . and God will bless you and prosper you.

King Benjamin kept talking. (see Mosiah 4:20-27) . . . You have called on God's name and begged Him to help you. . . If God has given you whatsoever you asked that is right, in faith, believing that you shall receive, then, how you ought to give of the things [substance] that you have one to another. If you judge the man who asks you for help, so he does not perish, if you condemn him, how much more will be your condemnation from God. . . I tell you to give of your things to the poor, every man according to what he has, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and bringing them relief both spiritually and naturally, according to their wants.

In the Bible, the Apostle Paul was a great leader. He was also a tent maker. When Paul visited the Church people in a city called Thessalonica, he taught the people to work. (see 1 Thess. 4:11,12) . . . and that you study to be quiet, and to do your own business; and to work with your hands, as we commanded you; That you may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that you may have a lack of nothing. Our reward for work is having a "lack of nothing," of being able to help those who do not have, of resting part of the week afterwards, and enjoying our work.

Have you thought about something that you wished you could learn to do? Is there something out there that you are willing to practice, and study and work hard to learn? Can you remember that great, excited and happy feeling of doing something that is so interesting and adding to your ability, talents, and life experiences?

In the Bible, Jesus told stories to help people understand how God works. He tells us in Matthew 25:13-20 about a man who is going to leave

(Continued on Page 11)



Branch and Mission News

Brothers Nephi and Wayne Visit Omaha!

The Omaha Mission was tremendously blessed when Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and Wayne Martorana made Omaha their last stop of the Native American Missionary Trip on Saturday, June 12 through Sunday, June 13, 2010.

On Saturday afternoon, we gathered at Brother Clifton's house and watched a DVD on Brother Nephi's mission trips to Nigeria. We learned quite a bit about the country, the Church, and the work of our brother.

Later that evening, we had a Church service and Brother Wayne, reading from Matthew 28:18-20, Jacob 5, shared that the value of each soul is the same and that Jesus paid the price in full for every soul. No one is more or less important to GOD. He further discussed the role and the promises to the seed of Joseph and that America is a choice land. He asked two questions directly to us, are we making adequate preparation for the welfare of our souls? And would you be prepared for 50 more souls?

Brother Nephi reading from Mosiah 27, Helaman 5, called attention to the fact that we can all do something for the kingdom of GOD. He advised us to remember the work of Christ and that He makes intercession for us every moment of every day. He challenged us with two questions: What can change in your life today because of the power of the resurrection? How can we look at our salvation?

On Sunday morning, Brother Nephi opened the service [reading the following scriptures: Mark 1:1-11; 1 Peter 3:21; 3 Nephi 27; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 1:1-4] comparing the Gospel to stringing pearls by taking scriptures and putting them all together to receive the big picture. He discussed baptism and that we

are saved by the redemption of Jesus Christ. Our baptism allows us to become a new person in Christ. He discussed the importance of prayer and fasting that our minds are clear to focus on the Spirit of God. In order to keep our minds clear, we take no nourishment because if we eat, digestion takes away from our mind to be clear and free to focus on GOD. He said we are all GOD's creation and our souls belong to Him. If someone borrowed something from you, would you want them to destroy it? No, you want it returned the way you gave it. He finished with Jesus, the Cross and the Resurrection.

Brother Wayne reading Isaiah 53, had a dream that all nations, tongues and kindred of people come to hear the Gospel of Jesus that the walls could not contain them. He said we must step out on faith in GOD to receive these blessings and we must be reconciled unto Christ.

Brother Clifton concluded with a question to the Omaha Mission. Are you listening today in this land of love? He stressed that GOD teaches us through dreams and revelations and we must be ready to receive Him.

Miraculous Healing in Forest Hills

By Brother Peter Benyola

*Luke 13:16 reads,
"And ought not this woman,
being a daughter of Abraham,
whom Satan hath bound, lo,
these eighteen years, be loosed
from this bond on the Sabbath day?"*

Jesus was not saying this woman should be healed because of her nationality—He was referring to the real, most important element of Abraham's lineage. This is a birthright to which we, even as non-Hebrews, can lay claim, above all: the family of faith.

In February, Sister Linda Benyola said she was alarmed when she felt a lump in her neck, so she went to her

doctor and he ordered a PET scan. The results of that test in early March revealed lymphoma throughout her entire body. After a biopsy to determine the progression, three specialists and a general practitioner all concurred that it was at least stage III Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

"This was a very stressful trial for us as we waited for the results of the test," Sister Linda said. "I was told that without a doubt, I would need several months of aggressive chemo treatments."

Sister Irma Ivanovich testified that throughout the entire weekend of Southeast Area MBA Campout, she felt a strong urgency to pray for Sister Linda. "The Lord let me know that our sister needed prayer," Sister Irma said. "Although I had not even seen her, I sensed that she was facing a health issue. I could not get her off my mind for a minute, and I even felt compelled to call Brother Phil Benyola."

Sunday, March 21, Sister Linda went under the hands of the ministry for prayer as the suspense of her biopsy results troubled her family. Brother John Griffith relates this portion of the meeting:

As Brother Bryan called for anointings, I sat back, wanting to give the branch priesthood brothers opportunity. As I watched and prayed along with the prayers of-

(Continued on Page 10)

NOTICE

All checks for donations to the HFF are to be made out as follows:

Humanitarian Foundation Fund
or
HFF

Checks are to be mailed to:

Humanitarian Foundation Fund
P.O. Box 956
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

The Call to Labor

By Sister Diana Houlihan

On January 10, 2010 Detroit, Michigan's Branch #1 was well represented as brothers and sisters came, from distances great and small, to share the afternoon service about to unfold before them. The occasion was to witness the ordinations of two young brothers, Daniel Mora, Jr. and Marcus Natoli as they became deacons in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Upon reaffirming the purpose of our afternoon service, Brother Larry Champine declared,

*"He [God] glorifies
His Church by
calling laborers."*

While speaking directly to all those who had answered the call of baptism, he stated that each individual is a vital part in the body of Christ. Then focusing his eyes on the sacrament table, with great reverence, his words implored us to think of what this table represented. After tenderly referring to Brother Marcus and Brother Daniel, as benefits of that table, he finalized his opening thoughts by saying,

*"We are the fruit of what
Jesus did by going
to the cross."*

After our choir sang, Brother Jim Lambert, a visiting elder from Michigan's Branch #2, began his sermon. Brother Jim expressed that as he sat with eyes closed listening to our choir sing, his thoughts turned to "Who is Jesus Christ to me?" Brother Jim stated, "I rolled through all the things He had done in my life and I look forward to the things He will continue to do." In speaking of Christ's love and sacrifice, he brought forth his thankfulness at being able to share in this celebration. At one point, he was actually speaking of two celebrations. He called one "a celebration of Christ" and the other the ordinations of our two young brothers. As

he connected the two celebrations, indeed they became one.

The next elder to speak was Brother Keith Lesperance. Brother Keith stated, when called as a deacon, he had only been baptized for three years. At first he could not understand the calling, and he read the 6th chapter of Acts over and over again. A kind of awaking came when he received a permanent post by the front door of the church each Sunday. There he waited for Sister Josephine Dulisse. He told us, "That sister had arthritis throughout her whole body." He marveled at how she got up three hours in advance to dress and be ready for the meeting. When she arrived at Branch #1, Sister Josephine's face was smiling. It became Brother Keith's job to escort his sister into the building and her seat. Our brother indicated he looked forward to seeing Sister Josephine's smile each Sunday. It always lifted him up. Through her and many other experiences that were yet to come, Brother Keith learned of the compassion, commitment, great joy, and yes, the trials that came with being called as a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Peter Scolaro, then spoke to the congregation. Brother Peter began by asking us, "If the scripture says thus and so, does it mean this is what the Church believes?" He followed, "It should." Brother Peter pointed out to us that if we are *all* operating under the spirit there should be no gap between the ancient church of old that we respect so much and the church we are today. Whether we are called as apostles, elders, teachers, members, deacons or deaconesses, we are the only ones who can create or eliminate that gap. Further on, Brother Peter placed a special responsibility on our deacons, when he said they were not called as janitors. Their calling was to watch over the needs of the congregation so that our people could focus entirely on Christ.

It was now time to ordain our two wonderful young brothers as deacons. At that moment God's spirit, which could be felt from the onset of our meeting, became even more

prevalent. A sense of peace, unity and humbleness surrounded all of us. Brother Marcus' feet were washed by Brother Stephen Buffa, while Brother Eric Baez washed Brother Dan's feet. Then a *large* circle of elders enclosed our two brothers. Brother Frank Natoli ordained his son, Marcus, as a deacon. Likewise, Brother Daniel Mora, Sr. ordained his son, Dan, Jr. Brother Larry gave our new deacons a moment to express themselves. Brother Dan was first to seize the time in relating how blessed he felt in his calling. He also thanked everyone for coming out and "for loving us."

As Brother Marcus began, he told us of a dream that he had in May 2008. In the dream he was in the men's class at Branch #1. "Brother Larry Champine was standing in the middle.

*He was exhorting us
to continue forth,
to be better,
to be diligent,
to be faithful."*

Before the dream ended, "Brother Larry asked us a question. We're going to have a deacon's meeting; would anyone like to join us?" In the dream, Brother Marcus felt the spirit like he never felt it before. Our brother knew he was going to be called as a deacon.

Before closing the meeting Brother Larry asked if there was anything anyone in the congregation wanted to share. One brother and three sisters expressed either confirmation of the callings or the presence of God's spirit among us. Then Brother Frank Natoli shared a dream his son had only two nights before the ordinations. Brother Marcus saw today's meeting and noted that the ordinations ended at exactly 3:30 pm. Immediately after that he saw Brother Dan running for a chair and he was running for the oil; a sister had asked to be anointed. Brother Marcus told his father, "It was as though I was running track."

(Continued on Page 11)

The Miraculous Incarnation

Continued from Page 3

hedrin. He was not even of the tribe of Levi and therefore couldn't be a high priest, according to the law that God gave to Moses. He did not come in pride with any pomp and circumstance. To the outward appearance He was just a carpenter, the son of a carpenter. He had no earthly credentials that men would notice, such as a formal education. He came as a lowly obedient and humble servant of God, His Father. At His formal entry to Jerusalem He came meek and lowly riding on a colt, the foal of an ass. There were many of that generation who could not see His true identity because they were looking at the exterior appearance. They said, ". . . *Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?*" (John 6:42) They could not see, with their eyes blinded by sin, that He who sat upon that colt was the incarnate Son of God who came to deliver them from so much more than what they sought. They wanted to be delivered from the Roman bondage that they were under. They couldn't see that Christ came to deliver them from a much greater bondage; the bondage of sin and of the grave which held mankind captive for 4,000 years. I love the words of Christ when He said, "*I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death*" (Revelation 1:18). **Only Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, possessed the keys to unlock death and the grave.** I always picture Christ, in my mind, saying "Come forth" as He did at the grave of Lazarus, when He raised him back to human life; but when He said "Come forth" at the first resurrection it was a far greater event. He was fulfilling His word that He spoke in John chapter 5 saying that the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice. And shall come forth. These didn't receive a corruptible body again as Lazarus but were changed to an immortal and incorruptible state of the eternal

world! At the end of the world, the remainder of the dead who died after Christ's resurrection shall be raised to join those of the first resurrection; and all mankind will stand before Him. "*. . . every knee should bow, . . . every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!*" (Philippians 2:10,11) What other human could have accomplished such an amazing thing? Truly, there was never a man like Jesus, the Son of God. No other feet ever walked the earth as His feet. "*. . . how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him. . . who has redeemed his people;*" (Mosiah 15:18).

Let me conclude this article with the words of a hymn I treasure. This hymn, truly captures the spirit of this article. The title of the song is: "The Wonder of Wonders."

The wonder of wonders as she looked on his face.

That this little boy spoke the worlds in their place.

The stars and the moon shining brightly on them,

The earth and the sun were created by Him.

The wonder of wonders as she looked down and smiled,

That He was her maker as well as her child.

He created the womb that had given Him birth.

He was God incarnate come down to the earth.

The wonder of wonders as she heard His small cry,

That this voice had thundered on Mt. Sinai.

His small hand she held so tenderly,

Had made a dry path through the mighty Red Sea.

CHORUS

The wonder of wonders oh how could it be?

That God became flesh and was given for me.

The almighty came down and walked among men.

The wonder of wonders, He died for my sins!!

Patient in Tribulation

Continued from Page 3

safety of their land, were neglecting those fighting for the safety of those that were disregarding their pleas for reinforcements. He was angry at the government's indifference. His feelings were that they had lost their fear and obedience in keeping the commandments of God. How similar our circumstances are today, as we look upon situations in our time and people straying from the pure teachings and fear of our Lord. Moroni wrote to who he thought was still in charge, Pahoran. Moroni was warning Pahoran to send support and reminding him that God said that He would first cleanse the inward vessel before He cleansed the outward vessel. Moroni warned that they would contend no more with the Lamanites until they had first cleansed the "inward vessel." Except they grant his epistle and come out in the spirit of freedom and strengthen and fortify the army, he would leave a part of his army behind to hold part of the land. With the strength and blessings of God upon them, no power could operate against them. "*And this because of their exceeding faith, and their patience in their tribulations—*" (Alma 60:26). Moroni's only fear was God and His commandments, not the power of the authority over him.

While our own tribulations in life will be a great trial for each of us, we can learn from these individuals and many more in the scriptures and within our lives today. That because of their great faith they had patience that God would bring them through whatever tribulations had come their way. Today we hear many times about the great human spirit one may possess going through a horrible time or affliction. We, who know the Lord, know that it is His Spirit carrying us through because it is good. We know that all that is good in life comes from God, so we give God the praise. Pray that in our own lives, when tribulation comes our way, that we may possess this virtue of patience and have peace that God will carry us through.

Working in the Vineyard

Continued from Page 4

in the car. I felt his presence so close to me that I started to laugh and spoke out loud, 'Move over Dad, I need room to drive.' I felt the Lord had answered my prayer and there was work to be done in Butler."

Sister Ruth Jumper related the following experience. "I dreamt I was in an auditorium but it wasn't in our church auditorium in Greensburg. Brother Carl Frammolino and four other brothers were on the stage and they had their arms stretched out touching each other. They were singing the hymn, "Where He Leads Me."

Later in Butler, Sister Cheryl Kocuba and her husband, Brother Greg, were baptized. The Lord blessed them with twin daughters and they have always attended services with their parents. Sister Cheryl was healed of an affliction which required extreme major surgery. It was shown to Sister Divida as she was looking at Sister Cheryl one day that she was ill and needed immediate medical attention. There were no outward physical signs this condition was upon her. Upon visiting her doctor, it was learned Sister Cheryl was afflicted and needed the surgery and the doctor began to make arrangements with a specialist and the surgery took place within a week. Sister Cheryl was healed and has been very grateful to the Lord for the revealing experience and the successful surgery.

Brother Thomas Kocuba, Sister Martha Christman Buffington, and others have also been afflicted many times and have been healed, sometimes experiencing major surgeries.

The Lord has, is, and will continue to provide His direction, spirit and blessing on the mission. Recently, on May 23, 2010, Brother Greg Kocuba was called and ordained to be a Deacon in the mission. On this blessed day over 50 members of the mission and region gathered together with a diverse group of ministry from the region. The presence of the Lord was

(Continued on Page 11)

Miraculous Healing

Continued from Page 7

ferred, I noticed Sister Linda Benyola walk forward. Observing her, I felt a strong stirring of the Spirit within me which caused me to join the circle of brothers. As I looked upon our sister seated before us, I felt as if I was trembling with the Spirit's movement within me. I was caused to step forward to anoint her. As I poured oil upon her head, I spoke in tongues. I then anointed Sister Linda with a heaviness of Spirit upon me. At the conclusion, as the brothers were taking their seats, Brother Tony Calabrese approached me visibly affected with the Spirit. He whispered to me that he was given interpretation to the tongues spoken.

*He heard the words,
"I will heal her."*

It was his desire to say nothing at the time but let it stand as a witness to the anointing of Sister Linda. I praise God for His mercy.

Sister Carol [Heckerd] Notarnicola also recounted an experience:

The Sunday night before Linda got the results of her biopsy, I dreamt that she called and told me the doctor called with the results of her biopsy and said that all of the doctors were dumbfounded that they didn't find any sign of cancer. When I first awoke, I didn't remember the dream, but as I began to pray for Linda, I remembered the dream. At first I thought that Linda had really called me, but then I knew that it was only a dream. When Linda called me that night and said they still hadn't called her with the results, I related the dream that I had the previous night. I told Linda that I felt the Lord was going to intervene on her behalf. Praise God, He did.

The following Tuesday, the results of Sister Linda's biopsy and tests revealed no cancer anywhere in her body.

"The doctors were baffled—all of them being so positive that it was

cancer," said Sister Linda. "The oncologist stated he was positive, as he had never seen anyone's PET scan light up so 'intensely.'"

Prayers and treatment continue for Sister Linda, as further tests showed other complications with her lymph nodes, but none as serious and deadly as lymphoma. Throughout this trial, the person in Sister Linda's immediate family who had the greatest equanimity was she. Several brushes with health failure throughout her life have produced an impressive measure of faith.

Sister Irma said the reason God brought her close to Sister Linda is the fact that Sister Irma also was going through similar medical tests and said that after she likewise was anointed, her symptoms gradually went away and the surgeon couldn't find the inflamed lymph node in her neck.

Revisiting the Scripture, sometimes Jesus did not work miracles among a certain group of people because of their lack of foundational faith. The woman of Luke chapter 13 was healed for two reasons: she had sufficient faith, and it was God's will. These two ingredients comprise a miracle. Faith + God's will = miracle. If one variable of the equation—either faith or God's will—is missing, we will not have a miracle. At times, we may not see a healing take place even when we faithfully pray for it. The reason may not be with our quality of faith—it may be God's will that we continue until He grants the miracle that we desire, or until He calls us home.

We must wait upon His will. We must glorify Him in His will. We are thankful the loving Savior-Redeemer God who healed the woman of Luke 13, also found it in His will to heal Sisters Linda and Irma.

*He is the same God
always, and His will is
beyond our understanding.
We praise Him in it
no matter the outcome.*

Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

on a journey and trusts his possessions to his servants. He divides his wealth among three servants, giving them each a different amount to be responsible for. To the first servant, he gave five talents, to the second two talents, and to the third one talent. The first two servants quickly went to work with their master's money [talents]. The third servant did not use or invest his master's money at all; he dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. When the master returned, the first two happily met their master, glad that they had been able to multiply their master's money. Both were told they were "good and faithful servants;" and both were rewarded with increased responsibilities in their master's service. They had worked to learn and been successful. Now they were smarter and better ready to do even more. God gave them more talents.

The third servant who did not even try was in trouble. He came to his master with only the one talent his master had originally entrusted to him. He did not increase his master's money at all. He made excuses for not working or trying to take a risk with any kind of investment. He blamed his master for making him afraid to try something new. He simply hid the money, and now he returned it, without any gain. The master was so disappointed with this person for being evil and lazy. He took his talent from him, gave it to the one who earned ten, and cast this fellow into outer darkness, where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. He did not want to work, to grow in talents or to share with others.

It is scary sometimes to be expected to learn or do new things. You might fail at first and have to keep trying. But when you work to learn one thing, then another, your talents will grow and grow. We are supposed to pray, work hard and keep growing. God will help us. Make a list of things you want to learn to do. Pray

and ask God how to do them. Every time you let God help you grow, you are doing the right thing. Above all things, help others who are worse off than you. Don't forget to be thankful to God for the many times he has helped you in your need from the time you were a baby up until this moment.

With love,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

MOSIAH	ONLY
TWO	IN
SEVENTEEN	THE
WHEN	SERVICE
YOU	OF
ARE	GOD
IN	HELP
THE	OTHERS
SERVICE	THIS
OF	PLEASES
YOUR	GOD
FELLOW	WORK
BEINGS	USE
YOU	YOUR
ARE	TALENTS

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

Working in the Vineyard

Continued from Page 10

evident in the preaching, the singing, and all activities of the day. The message of the day was "Following the direction of the Lord." Each brother of the ministry present took part in the meeting in speaking, administering the Lord's Supper, or participating in the ordination of Brother Greg. A wonderful spirit of unity was evident.

Brother Greg's feet were washed by his father, Brother Tom Kocuba. Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri offered prayer. Brother Greg was ordained into the office of a deacon by Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino.

The most beautiful part was yet to come in the testimonies of joy as Brother Greg and his wife, Sister Cheryl, stood in praise to God for the change He has brought into their lives. To watch this young couple as they testified to the honor and glory of God while their young children looked on was evidence to the direction of God in establishing this mission.

The Evangelists and members of the Penn Mid-Atlantic RMOC are committed to support these members as they labor in the mission. We praise our God for His goodness and guidance.

The Call to Labor

Continued from Page 8

Following the ordinations, as Brother Frank embraced his son, he told him to look at the time. It was exactly 3:30 pm. Moments later, the remainder of the dream was fulfilled when a sister came to the front to be anointed. Brother Dan ran for the chair and Brother Marcus for the oil.

*God surely smiled
upon our two young
brothers today, and
in the process we all
were fully blessed.*

Children Blessed

Ashley Renee Brauner, daughter of Derek and Traci Brauner was blessed on July 18, 2010 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Baptisms and Reinstatements

Brother Aaron Hale was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 30, 2010 at the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother Alma Hale was reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 30, 2010 at the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sister Erin Renee Cornel was baptized on July 18, 2010 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jeff Kattan and confirmed by Brother Tom D'Orazio.

Sister Branda Williams was baptized on July 25, 2010 at the Irvine, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Jim Cotellesse.

Brother Liam Turley was baptized on July 25, 2010 at the Irvine, California Branch. He was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Otto Henderson.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____

OBITUARIES

VINCENT J. GIBSON

Brother Vincent J. Gibson passed on to his reward on November 28, 2009. He was an ordained evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sister Sevilla; children, Cindy Prentice, Brenda Ross, Patricia McCullough, Daniel Gibson and Colleen Bealka; grandchildren, Joshua, Aaron, Alli, Jason [deceased], Jacob, Amanda, Miranda and Scotty; great-grandchildren, Madeline, Layla, Wyatt, Benjamin and Audrey; brothers, Richard, Ronald, Kenneth; and sisters, Sister Nancy Mayher, Sister Bernadine Miller.

LOUIS GENE ROSS

Brother Louis Gene Ross of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his reward on July 8, 2010. He was an ordained teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was preceded in death by his son, Brother Ryan Ross. He is survived by his wife, Sister Jennie; daughter, Sister Candace Obradovich and her husband Brother Doug; three grandchildren, Sister Courtney Curran and her husband Keal, Sister Aubrey and Brother Kiley.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank you so much for helping me to celebrate my 100th birthday. The number of cards, telephone calls and flowers were overwhelming. Your love and kindness filled me with much joy.

God bless you,
Brother Reno Bologna

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Bradwell, Bobby and Robby
215 Sarah Street
McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania 15136

Flores, Millie
1188 North Lombard Drive, # B
Anaheim, California 92801
714-402-5205

Address Correction

The Church of Jesus Christ
Spartanburg Branch
356 Successful Way
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 5413
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29304



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

September, 2010

Volume 66, No.9

What I Learned from Oldham County

By Brother Jonathan Sclaro

Imagine that nothing is holding you back. You're twenty-two years old, you just graduated from college, you're unemployed, unmarried and you have no kids. You're teetering on the brink of that irrevocable step into adulthood, hoping for one last hurrah before summer vacations become a thing of the distant past.

These were my exact circumstances when the Youth In Action committee asked if I would volunteer seven weeks of my summer to support the small, fifteen-person mission of The Church of Jesus Christ in Oldham County, Kentucky.

Before I knew it, Brother Bryan Champine and I were braving humid, 90-degree weather, knocking on strangers' doors and inviting them to attend services held at the local middle school.

Looking back, I realize that what I learned from the experience is just as significant as what I contributed. Here are a few key lessons that I took away:

Lesson #1: *Show others that they are important.*

Consider Zacchaeus. He was a short, disagreeable tax collector, a wealthy lackey of the Roman Empire and an outcast among his fellow Jews. Yet Christ called him out of the crowd, saying, "*Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house*" (Luke 19:5).

How can we expect others to listen to what we have to say if we don't *first* go out of our way to make them feel important? Show people that you care by giving them your attention, showing interest in their experiences and opinions, and simply listening to them.

When we go out of our way to connect with others, then they will be more receptive to what we have to offer. This applies to strangers in a doorway as well as members of our local branches and missions.

Seek out those who are forgotten or pushed aside and make them feel important.

Lesson #2: *Search for the need.*

Canvassing door to door, I'm told, is a lot like sales. If you allow people the opportunity to open up, you can identify some need that Christ can fulfill. Who knows what Jesus discussed with Zacchaeus in his home that afternoon when he came to visit? Who knows how long they talked? All we know is that Zacchaeus was desperately searching for something, and he was willing to climb a tree in order to see if Jesus Christ was the answer (Luke 19:4).

Lesson #3: *Point to Jesus Christ.*

Ultimately, what can we offer people? In a mission of fifteen people—on a *full* Sunday—meeting in a middle school multi-purpose room on bright red, steel folding chairs, without a regular piano player, and with one lone elder, we found ourselves telling people, "All we have to offer is the love of Jesus Christ."

One Sunday, someone stated, "What do you mean *all* we have to offer is the love of Jesus Christ? *We have the love of Jesus Christ!* What

(Continued on Page 2)

What I Learned from Oldham County

Continued from Page 1

could possibly be better?" We should never feel inadequate when we preach Christ or when we invite others to The Church of Jesus Christ. Remember, when we are weak, He is strong. We can't fix people's lives and we can't save people's souls. Ultimately, we have nothing to offer of ourselves but to point to our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Lesson #4: *Break out of your comfort zone.*

Christ was willing to spend the evening with Zacchaeus, a perfect stranger. I can say that both the regular and extended YIA tours in Kentucky were blessed with the privilege of visiting and praying with perfect strangers. We found souls struggling with addictions, mourning deaths and battling illnesses. Perhaps this was the first time, in some instances, that these individuals had ever experienced prayer.

But these people aren't unique to the mission field. How many of your co-workers, friends, neighbors and relatives have needs that could be answered through Christ? It's sometimes harder to preach Christ to those close to us than to perfect strangers. How often do we break out of our comfort zones and offer prayer or counseling with those we see on a daily basis?

Lesson #5: *Follow up.*

This lesson appears more mundane than others, but do not overlook it. Some of our visitors only came to church after four, five or six visits to their homes. Be patient, be loving, and remember that it's not just about getting people through the door of the church. It's more about consistently taking time for them and showing them the love of Christ, which leads into the final lesson...

Lesson #6: *Keep casting seed.*

Sometimes after we've done a lot of planting, we feel like nothing has grown. Remember what Paul says,

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (I Cor 3:6).

God is in control of growth. Not us. Our job is to simply plant.

That being said, our primary goal shouldn't just be to get people into the physical building, but rather to get them to look to God.

For perspective, the Obradavich family has shouldered the plow in Oldham County for ten years, planting seeds with the hope that they will one day see a field in bloom. And they aren't the only ones patiently waiting in the mission field. But we can't always look for success as man measures it.

I hope that God inspires you through these brief lessons, as He did me. The challenge for me is to continue to implement them now that I've returned to my home branch and my everyday life. Please remember the Oldham County mission in prayer, and don't be shy to drop by for a much appreciated visit!

It's Back To School Time

May God bless all our students and educators throughout the Church as school begins.

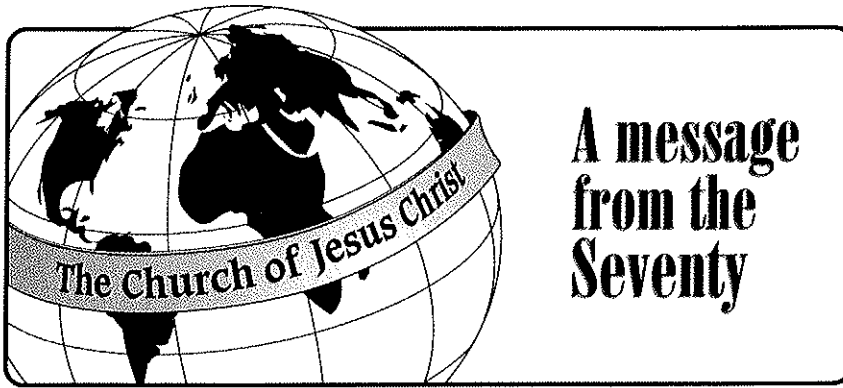
"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:13

NOTICE (Change in Gospel News)

- Gospel e-mail will replace The Gospel News as the Church's medium to communicate announcements of baptisms, renewals, ordinations, weddings, baby blessings, obituaries and milestone spiritual anniversaries.
- Timely, accurate, high-quality announcements are solicited via Gospel e-mail.
- Presiding Elders are requested to inform their membership of this change and to encourage all e-mail users to subscribe to Gospel e-mail.
- Presiding Elders are requested to appoint the Branch Gospel News Editor or another person to be the representative of the branch to implement and support announcements via Gospel e-mail. A key issue is that this person recognizes and fulfills expectations in terms of content, timeliness, sensitivity, and quality.
- The Branch Editor (or appointee) should print out and post or distribute the announcements sent by the local branch as well as those received from elsewhere for members who do not have e-mail.
- These changes are to be effective as of September 1, 2010.

God bless you,
Brother Jerry Valenti
Gospel E-mail Chairman



Native American Vision (Oklahoma Outreach 2010)

*By Brothers Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., Wayne Martorana,
Mark Kovacic and George Kovacic*

While visiting the tribal offices of an Algonquian speaking Nation we had a moment to briefly look over a copy of their current newsletter which had an article written by the chief on VISION – “the ability to see or perceive something not actually visible.” When we were invited into his office we mentioned the article and the positive nature of it. We talked to him about our “vision” for Native Peoples, in particular the coming of the “Choice Seer” and the gathering of their people. He was interested in the message and wondered how we knew such things. He also mentioned that he was being prayerful about running for principal chief again. We found him to be a man who cared greatly for his people.

The above is a typical experience we had while visiting over two dozen Native American Tribal Offices in Oklahoma. Below is a brief summary and some highlights of our follow up trip to a state whose Native American population exceeds a quarter million. We could fill several issues of the Gospel News to tell it all but what follows is a brief outline. [A more complete version of our journal is available by e-mail through Brother Mark Kovacic, mark.kovacic@comcast.net]

The purpose of the trip was to follow-up on contacts made during the 2009 outreach and make new contacts based on *First Voices Journal*

addresses. We also wanted to fellowship with Brother John Andrews and Sister Pearl [June] Perkins, both residents of Oklahoma.

During the outreach we prayed often—in fact I can testify that I have never prayed so much on a missionary journey as I have on this one. But the Lord rewarded us with His presence and success. He promised He would labor with us and He did. We were successful in not only seeing many of the contacts we made last year but even new ones. Brother John Andrews has become a great asset to us and we enjoyed a wonderful morning of fellowship with Sister Pearl in Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

This outreach effort included the expansion of the team from two to four. Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and Wayne Martorana were added on this trip. They also planned to extend their trip to include a visit to the Omaha Mission at the end.

As commonly done, we spent several weeks in advance in fasting and prayer. The Lord gave us encouragement through dreams and prayerful meditation that opened our minds to the weight of the task at hand and how dependent we are on His spirit giving us direction. Each of us going had prior experience working with Native Peoples and International Works. Whether it be in Africa, Asia or Central America, we knew that having the Spirit of God with us would help in testifying to the truth

of the message we had to share with them.

So, with confidence, anticipation and the Spirit of God we began the work the Lord placed within our hands. We used as our guideline the four point message given to the Church many years ago—

1. *Tell them that Jesus Christ died to save them.*
2. *Tell them they are the descendants of Abraham.*
3. *Remind them what God did for their forefathers.*
4. *Tell them that one day He will gather them in.*

The four of us met in Eufala, Oklahoma on Saturday, June 5th. Brother John Andrews and his wife, Shela, who live there, met with us at the hotel and we had a nice reunion.

We prayed that evening for the Lord to lead us to one of several Native Churches in the area. Although, we could not find the initial church we thought to attend, the Lord directed us to where He wanted us. We were able to make some acquaintances through this meeting and learn a lot about how the native churches were established in that area. Several of them date back to the 1870's. They are small, simple churches but the people are sincere. The people who attend these churches are mostly Creek [what eventually became the state of Oklahoma was originally divided up between what was known as the Five Civilized Tribes—Creek, Choctaw, Seminole, Chickasaw and Cherokee—however, many more tribes were relocated there later]. The man who became most interested in listening to our message was not Creek but a Cherokee who did not live in that area but an hour away. He taught the adult Sunday School Class and in conversation after the service he invited us to visit him later in the week. After Sunday School they began their service singing a hymn in Creek. Brother Wayne asked if we could sing to them and the five of us sang “Love Lifted Me” which they

(Continued on Page 4)

Native American Vision

Continued from Page 3

liked enough that we were asked to sing another and we sang "Have You Been To Jesus." They asked us to stay for lunch due to their hospitality and sharing with visitors.

Later on in the day Brother John Andrews met us at the hotel where we planned to have our own Communion Service. We were moved by a wonderful testimony from Brother John on how the Lord came to his rescue when he was in great need of prayer. We anointed him to pray that the blessing would continue.

Brother John is an ordained deacon who moved to Oklahoma in hopes of being able to work with Native Peoples as he did when he lived in the east. He has been a great help to our work and we pray that the Lord will use him even more. We received a letter from him recently relating activity he has done since we left and how the Lord has blessed him.

Monday morning began the real work. We had a listing of most of the Native American Tribal Offices in the state plus the contacts from last year's trip. Brother Mark and Brother Wayne were going to go north towards Tulsa and Brother Nephi and Brother George were going to go to west towards Oklahoma City. Both teams had mapped out the places they hoped to make it to that day.

On Monday we were able to visit several places. At one we woke up the tribal chief, due to an all night tribal function they had but he warmly welcomed us anyhow. He had previous contact with Brother Mark through the internet. The Cherokee received a packet of literature for the chief who was unavailable but an *American Indian Moses* pamphlet was donated to the local high school library. At the Muscogee Nation we had a discussion concerning many of the religious traditions of their people being similar to ours. They believe that one of their own people will one day gather all their people together.

The local Native Community Center was the other starting point where we thanked their receptionist who has been so helpful to us in getting information. We next headed to the Creek Nation. There we met a gentlemen who has been involved with their tribal government for many years. He told about how important education was to them. While talking with him he began to pass on calls coming in so he could concentrate on what we were saying. He was moved by our message of hope for Native Peoples and invited us to come back at any time. From there we headed to a Native Museum where the curator greeted us warmly since he remembered us from last year. He spoke to us at length concerning various customs and beliefs of his people. We would like to note that these trips are also great learning experiences for us.

Monday evening we enjoyed a meal with a couple we met last year at the Native Church we attended. They expressed their gratitude once more for the blankets that were sent last winter which were donated by the Ladies Circle.

We continued our journeys on Tuesday by visiting six tribal offices. It should be noted that it was not uncommon for us to find out that they recognize the *First Voices Journal*. We found men and women at each location who were very interested in the message we had for their people. Brother Mark and Brother Wayne had an opportunity to visit with the Sunday School Teacher we met on Sunday at the Native Church. They had a wonderful time of fellowship with him and were able to discuss the word of God and have prayer together.

Wednesday's travels took Brother Mark and Brother Wayne to a confederation of four tribes.

The same day, Brother Nephi and Brother George met Sister Pearl Perkins in Fort Sill. They had a wonderful morning with her talking about the experiences the Lord has given us over the years. Sister Pearl told them how Brother Joseph Bittinger took her and her sister to Sunday School

when they were little. We anointed her and gave her communion. It was hard for us to leave but we had to continue on with our travels.

We met that afternoon with a group of affiliated tribes with representatives from several nations [these meetings were interesting and can be read in full when requested as noted above]. The last tribe we tried to visit we ended up with an appointment for the following morning.

Thursday morning we waited at the tribal office but the Chief did not show up as scheduled. During the time we waited we got to share some interesting experiences with their receptionist. She related a very beautiful experience about a personage appearing to her [see complete experience in journal] and she since made greater efforts to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. Finally, the Chief made it in and was glad to sit and talk with us. He remembered us from the previous visit and had noted the materials we have been sending him. He also mentioned that they are working on projects with other tribes.

During this same time, Brother Mark and Brother Wayne were visiting the tribes that the Federal Government relocated to the land given to the five civilized tribes. They were received cordially by the nation's executive secretary. They left a packet of material and then headed to another related tribe. The special assistant to the chief met with them and noted that she has seen the *First Voices Journal*. They have over 18,000 certified members of their tribe. While speaking with her another gentlemen who is influential in tribal affairs stopped by the office and they got to share our message with him also.

Thursday was also the day we visited the Algonquian speaking Tribal Offices as noted at the beginning of this article.

That evening the four of us met and enjoyed a meal together but most importantly we praised the Lord in the name of Jesus Christ, the Holy

(Continued on Page 11)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS
Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST
Michael Zaino
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

GREAT LAKES
Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST
Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC
Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST
Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST
Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 5282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Proverbs 3:11,12).

One of the hardest things for anyone to do is to be corrected by someone else. It can be embarrassing, and hurtful to someone's ego and self-esteem. It is very hard for people to admit that they were wrong or made a mistake. Generally, when people do actually admit their faults, they usually follow it with the "reasons" why they acted the way they did. Usually these reasons are something that the person had no control over. This negates completely their admission to their fault or mistake, and frustrates others who simply want the person to admit that they were wrong...nothing else. People will actually get more respect from others if they would just admit their faults without giving a reason why they did it. Recently, while driving to Conference on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, I was driving too fast and a police officer pulled me over. He asked me if I knew why I had been pulled over. I simply said, "I was going too fast, and I'm sorry." He said, "that's the right answer." He let me go because I simply admitted that I was wrong, and was sorry for it. But because this is so difficult for people to do, the Lord many times has to chastise us for the mistakes we make in life.

Chastisement can take many forms. It can be as simple as a guilty conscious, or as severe as public humiliation [jail, etc.]. Usually, it is somewhere in between these two extremes. Without chastisement, we would not realize how serious our actions are, and will not think twice before committing the same act again. But with chastisement comes pain—pain that is difficult to take—pain that will be great enough to cause us never want to commit that act again. By not committing that act again, we increase in righteousness and decrease in sin. Thus, the outcome is actually good for our soul. The Lord will only chastise those who He loves, just like a father will chastise his son. When one of my two sons misbehave, I punish them. The punishment is severe enough to make them never want to misbehave in the same way again. I certainly don't do it because it gives me pleasure to watch them cry or be upset, but I do it because I always think, when they are older, they need to understand that acting this way is not acceptable. In the same way, God chastises us because He knows that in the future, the same behavior will have serious consequences on our soul salvation. Remember, God isn't as concerned about our comforts of life as He is saving our soul in His kingdom.

But when chastisement comes our way, do we "despise" it, or complain? Or do we have the mind of the Father, and realize it will make us better suited for His kingdom one day? This is very easy to say, and I'm sure as you read this, you agree and understand. However, when you are actually being chastised by the Lord, pull out this Editorial and read it. It will have a more profound impact on you then. Sometimes with chastisement, there is a lasting penalty that will never go away. You may abuse your body with drugs or alcohol, and then develop a serious illness as a result. You may repent and turn your life around and God may forgive you. However, you may not be healed of the damage you have done to your body. Therefore you will pay a price for the rest of your life with poor health or even early death, because of your actions. Remember, God can forgive us of all our sins, but there still may be a lasting price we must pay for our sins.

A good father [or mother] "delighteth" in their children. They love their children more than anything in this world. In the same way, God loves us more than anything He created. As this scripture says, He corrects those He loves. When we are chastised, we should rejoice to know our Lord loves us. Once the period of chastisement is over, we become more refined, like gold going through the fire. Let us grow in wisdom and understanding of the ways of the Lord, and how He works in our lives. He will never do anything to hurt us, and wants only the best for His children. He is the greatest father we can ever hope to have.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Jehoshaphat *The Good King Who Listened To Godly Advice*

Have you ever had a new amazing toy and everyone started being nice to you just so they could play with it? They really were only pretending to be your friend because they wanted something from you, but they had acted so nice at first. Well, every person in charge somewhere—at school, coaching a team, being a captain, or a leader of any kind knows how this feels. People may be acting nice, hoping to get something from you. Maybe they want you to change a rule, or let them play with your things, or be mean to someone else. Even a president or king has to be careful whose advice he listens to.

The Bible tells us what to do. When you are trying something new and need advice, or counsel, do as King David said in his very first verse of Psalms 1:1. It says, *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly. . ."* That means when you have a problem or decision to make, pray to the Lord to help you find the right answer and then listen to the words and advice of someone who also prays and believes in God.

A hundred or so years after King David and his wise son, King Solomon died, the country of Israel was divided into two parts. The southern country called Judah, continued to serve the one true God. The people left in the northern country, called Israel, quit serving God. Ahab, their King married an evil woman from Canaan, named Jezebel, who worshipped the statue called Baal. They did many terrible things in that



religion; they prayed and believed if they sacrificed a child, their false god would hear them!

God warned King Ahab that they would be destroyed if they did not stop, but Ahab and Queen Jezebel continued in their wrong ways. They built many temples and pretty places in groves of trees to trick the people of Israel to join their religion. King Ahab and his wife even murdered the ministers [priests] who served the one true God. They also taught their children to worship the bad god Baal. Finally, King Ahab was killed during a battle and his evil wife was thrown out of her tower window when enemies attacked their country. His son, Jehoram was ruler.

Meanwhile, in the southern country of Judah, King Jehoshaphat and his family were serving the one true God. When he had a big problem, he trusted in God. When they heard that a huge army was coming to attack them from beyond the sea, he called on all the people to fast and pray for God's protection. Can you imagine what we would do today if the leaders of our country told us to fast [stop eating] and get on our knees to pray and beg God to save us from our enemies?

This pleases the Lord. He wants to help and save us just as he did King Jehoshaphat and his people. God blessed them and also gave the king riches and honor in abundance. When other countries attacked Judah, God blessed the country and saved them. When horrible diseases [plagues] came, God heard them and helped them. (II Chronicles Chapter 20 1-9). Everyone knew that Jehoshaphat served a powerful God.

After the death of wicked King Ahab, his son, Jehoram, had a hard

time keeping control of the nearby country of Moab who was supposed to send him money. He asked King Jehoshaphat of Judah, and the King of Edom to bring their armies and help him in the fight. Without asking God, Jehoshaphat agreed. The soldiers planning the attack decided to sneak seven days through the desert wilderness, counting on there being enough water in the desert for men and animals. There was not.

King Jehoram panicked. "All three of these great armies will be beaten by our enemies from Moab and die!"

But Jehoshaphat said, "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord, Elisha, that we can ask of the Lord what to do?"

The three kings went down to the prophet Elisha and King Jehoram asked him, ". . . has the Lord called these three kings together to allow them to be destroyed by the armies of Moab?" (II Kings 3:13)

Elisha looked at the evil king who worshipped Baal and had killed so many of God's people in Israel. He answered, "If I did not see Jehoshaphat here, I wouldn't even look at you or answer you!" He called for a musician to play for him while he prayed. Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha and he said, "Thus saith the Lord, start digging ditches in the ground. Make this valley full of ditches. . . You will not see wind, nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water so you and your cattle and animals can drink! And this is only a light [easy] thing in the sight of the Lord." Elisha also said that they would win the battle and they were to attack the cities, destroy their water wells, cut down their trees, and fill their fields with rocks.

That night the Lord filled the ditches with water. In the morning, the Moabites, looking over the water-filled fields in the morning sun thought the land was covered in blood. They thought the armies of Israel, Edom and Judah had attacked and destroyed each other. The Moabites rushed out to find things of value to take and they were attacked

(Continued on Page 11)



Branch and Mission News

60 Years of Baptism Reunion in the Atlantic Coast

By Brother Anthony Sclaro

On Wednesday evening, July 21, 2010 brothers and sisters from a number of Atlantic Coast branches and missions met together in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch for a special meeting to observe the 60th anniversary of a wonderful and historic event that took place on July 23, 1950 when 20 young people were baptized in the Raritan Bay, just a few miles away. The meeting, hosted by the Atlantic Coast RMOC, was filled with praises to God, reminiscing, and a reunion of old acquaintances. Evangelist Eugene and Sister Florence Perri from the Lake Worth Florida Branch were visiting and were welcomed to share this special event with us.

At the beginning of the meeting, RMOC Chairman Brother Joe Perri briefly recounted making his decision, in mid-July of 1950, to be baptized, as well as the events that followed. [The full account of his testimony and the events that followed can be found in *The Church of Jesus Christ History, Volume 2*, beginning on page 312]. Brother Joe explained, he simply decided that it was his time to give his life to the Lord and embrace the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though he had no extraordinary experience that day, being born of goodly parents like Nephi in the Book of Mormon and raised in the Church, he knew beyond doubt that this was his day.

In those days, the young people of the Church busied themselves in activities and fellowship with one another during and surrounding church functions. One sister testified that there was something to do or someplace to go with the young people from church, six evenings out

of almost every week. The friendships formed in this environment provided them with a strong foundation and sense of support when they began their walk with God, which has lasted, for many of them, throughout their entire lives.

There were many young people visiting the New Brunswick Branch from various branches in the New Jersey/New York area on Sunday afternoon, July 16, 1950, when Brother Joe Perri stood up and in the course of giving his testimony, asked to be numbered among the Saints of God that day. There was nothing rehearsed about baptism among the group of young people that Sunday. The spirit of repentance and baptism took hold of the afternoon testimony meeting and as soon as Brother Joe sat down, one by one, fourteen other young people had also requested their baptism. Brother Joe told us that it was a cloudy, rainy day, but as soon as the fifteenth person asked for her baptism, the sun broke through the clouds, lighting up the room in which the saints were meeting as if affirming God was saying, "I am very pleased with what has occurred." It was a joyous occasion for the New Brunswick Branch that Sunday afternoon. Never in the history of our church in the Atlantic Coast did we experience so many requesting

baptism at one time. When news reached the other branches of what had occurred in the New Brunswick Branch that day, there were another five who requested baptism. Their names are listed here, with the sisters' married names in parentheses for readers who may not know them by their maiden name:

Joseph Perri, August "Augie" D'Orazio, Frank Mazzeo, John Rogolino, Betty Ensana [D'Orazio], Edith Arcuri [Blazer], Joan Rogolino [Longuillo], Susie Scalzone [Arcuri], Jennie Arcuri [Schmitt], Josephine Azzinaro [Jasmin], and Laura Chobin, Rose Cristello [Stransky], Angelina Cristello, Iris Hager, Bette Sipos [Panfile], Mary Jane "Dolly" Benyola [Cervone], Regina "Jeannie" Purkall [Davella], Marie Benyola [Cihomsky], Nancy Benyola [DiFede], and Mary Benyola [Perri].

A reporter from the local newspaper had attended the baptismal service held at the Perth Amboy bay shore on July 23, 1950, when Brothers Rocco Ensana and Louis Mazzeo baptized the twenty candidates. At this evening's memorial service, Sisters Mary and Florence Perri presented a program with some of the events that occurred over the 60 years. Apostle Paul Benyola read the article that was printed in the local

(Continued on Page 8)



(1950-2010) 60 Years in The Church of Jesus Christ

60 Years of Baptism

Continued from Page 7

newspaper. Evangelist Eugene Perri read II Nephi 31:20:

“Wherefore, ye must press forward with steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.”

Of the twenty that were baptized that day, five have passed on to their reward, another five are no longer members of the Church, and ten remain, of whom seven were in our midst this evening: Brother Joseph and Sister Mary Perri of the Mt. Laurel Branch, Sisters Betty D’Orazio, Susie Arcuri, and Jennie Schmitt of the Metuchen Branch, Sister Joan Longuillo of the Edison Branch, and Sister Bette Panfile, who had traveled from Rochester, New York to be with us on this occasion. Sister Mary Perri read correspondences from the other three, Sisters Marie Cihomsky, Nancy DiFede, and Josephine Jasmin, of the Southwest, Pacific Coast, and Southeast Regions, respectively. They could not be at the meeting this evening but wished to relate their memories of that wonderful day and offer words of praise and thanksgiving for God’s goodness in their lives. Afterward, each of the seven who were present at this meeting testified to the honor and glory of God, giving thanks for the gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ and telling of the blessings they have experienced throughout their lives.

Listening to their beautiful words, a number of common themes emerged: Each one expressed the joy they felt that day, and the feeling of joy that comes over them each time they look back on it. Each expressed that not every day of their life was “rosy;” there were trials in each person’s life, but they all proclaimed that the Lord was with them every step of the way, and kept them close through the dark times. And every one of them who had children in the Gospel expressed with deepest gratitude the joy that had brought into their lives.

Hearing these brothers and sisters testify to the glory of God, we could not help but reflect on the examples they have set. It has been a blessing to know them, to see their dedication to the Lord, and to have them as spiritual fathers and mothers in our lives. While some in the Church may not know any of them, there are many more whose lives have been touched by their children and grandchildren, as several dozen of them have followed their parents’ footsteps down to the waters of baptism and beyond.

After a season of singing praises to God, we dismissed and spent the remainder of the evening in fellowship and visiting one another over coffee and a cake that was decorated specially for the occasion. May God bless each of us to see many years in His service, and more importantly, may we all be refreshed and recharged when we think of the day Jesus found us and brought us into The Church of Jesus Christ.

From Near Death To A Miracle

By Brother Ishmael (Ish) Humphrey

Branch Editor’s Note:

The following article was written by Brother Ishmael Humphrey giving his testimony of how the Lord miraculously healed him of a very debilitating illness during the last two and a half years. Our Brother was near death but, not withstanding all the prayers

on his behalf, the Lord touched him and healed him. Brother Ish returned to the Spartanburg Branch in September of 2009 and is now back with us carrying out his duties as a deacon and bringing such joy and delight once again to everyone there. Praise God!

*Sister Connie Rossi
Branch Editor*

I praise our merciful God and give all honor and glory to Him in raising me up from near death to complete recovery! From December 2006 to June 2009, I watched my life slip away from multiple disorders, much physical pain, depression and severe weight loss (from 167 pounds to 109 pounds). I stand today healthier, stronger, more vigorous, more loving, and more peaceful. I have a stronger desire to serve the Lord with a first-hand experience in the ways in which our Lord works in our lives. He brought me through the fire in order to refine me.

At my lowest point I was not able to perform even the most basic needs in taking care of myself. I was so weak that I could only walk a few feet slowly with my full weight leaning on a walker. Blood clots formed in my lung and leg. During the last fifteen months of my illness I could only utter four words before being unable to speak. Not being able to speak with family and friends left me feeling very isolated. However, I never lost my faith in God and I remembered that God wants us to continuously pray for others more than for ourselves, which I consistently did daily.

When I was in the emergency room I felt I was dying and truly believed I would never see my friends and family again. Funeral arrangements were even being planned. The thought came to me: if I died today would I be able to look God in the eyes or would I bow my head in shame? It was very upsetting that I could not say for sure. Now I am determined that when I stand before God, I will be able to look Him in the

(Continued on Page 9)

From Near Death to a Miracle

Continued from Page 8

eyes and hear the precious words to enter into His kingdom.

The Spirit led me to a small hospital and after three days I was transferred to a rehabilitation facility that had a long waiting list. Miraculously I got right in! Brother Alan Metzler came to anoint me and afterward I felt a strong desire that I needed to take sacrament, which I had not done for two years. God continued to work His miracles. Up until then so many health professionals had tried to help me unsuccessfully; but immediately I began to improve. After three months all ailments and pains were gone and I rapidly began to recover. My weight is back to normal, I am now able to walk, go hiking, attend Church, lift weights, do heavy home repairs and yard work—just about anything! God is so good. Brother Harold Littlejohn asked the Lord many times why I had not yet been healed after so much fasting and praying. At one point when he was praying and meditating he asked again and the Lord revealed to him that it was so **God may be glorified.**

I thank God and the many righteous saints and friends who prayed fervently for so long on my behalf. I sometimes joke that the Lord got tired of hearing my name in so many prayers and finally moved His hand to heal me. I know He has a work for me to do. Certainly part of that work is to give my testimony often of long-suffering and subsequent healing in order to encourage others who may be going through seemingly impossible trials not to give up. We serve a merciful God who loves each and every one of us.

*Nothing is impossible
for Him. I know that
His miraculous works
continue today because
He is the same yesterday,
today and forever!*

Ordinations at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch

By Brother Dennis Everett

On Sunday March 14, 2010 the saints of the Sterling Heights Branch, along with many visiting saints and friends gathered together for a day of fellowship and to witness the ordinations of Brother Paul Stallard into the ministry and Sister Barbara Straccia as a deaconess of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The service was opened by Apostle Leonard Lovalvo who spoke from the Book of Luke, the 4th chapter verses 16 thru 22. He placed special emphasis on verse 18 which reads, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"*

Brother Leonard continued to expound on the scriptures. He stated that Jesus Christ performed many miracles and healings to show His power and how some rejoiced because of that fact. He correlated it to our own lives and how we rejoice when the Lord intervenes in our lives and relieves us of our burdens, sicknesses, etc. Brother Leonard added the fact that Jesus' purpose was to relieve men and women of their load of sin. He stated that Brother Paul and Sister Barbara will have a greater responsibility than they have now. He went on to say that individually, all of us are relatively small in the accomplishments recognized by this world, but yet through the Spirit of God we have the ability to lift people from their burdens. He reiterated how the Spirit of God can transform a life; how God can change everything about your life, including your actions and speech; and how it will lead and guide you, in summation that the Spirit of God will lead to a life changing experience. Brother

Leonard pointed out how God has used both men and women to bring about transformed lives. He concluded his message by reminding each one of us that as we look at the vastness of the universe we are really small in comparison, and how God in His infinite mercy, through Jesus Christ, has provided a way in which we might be brought back into the presence of God, and to be grateful in the hope of eternal salvation. He asked us to remember that each one of the saints has a great responsibility in the furthering of the Gospel.

Brother Malcolm Paxon, from the Atlanta, Georgia Branch, followed Brother Leonard. He expressed how wonderful it was that he had the opportunity to visit natural family as well as his spiritual family in this area of the Church. He spoke about how the evil one, even from the beginning, has tried to destroy the plan of salvation. He mentioned that during the early church, believers were put to death and how even today, the evil one is just as busy. Brother Malcolm encouraged us to be more determined to accept the responsibility that goes along with being a member of the body of Christ and to take the message of salvation to mankind. He reiterated that there is a tremendous need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world and that the brothers and sisters should be willing to step up to the challenge and accept our responsibility as members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Throughout his sermon Brother Malcolm mentioned numerous times, "We serve a merciful and a loving God" and that we can have the confidence that all He has promised in His Word will be fulfilled. While we might let Him down, he assured us that God will not let us down. He closed in reading the 18th verse and expressed how great a responsibility we have as there is no greater need in the world today than the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to pray for those trying to further God's Kingdom.

Brother Jeff Gianetti followed with a humorous story in that on the

(Continued on Page 10)

Ordinations at Sterling Hgts.

Continued from Page 9

way to church this day he found he was missing a button on his shirt sleeve and how he was trying to mend it so as not to be obvious to anyone. He humorously stated that if any of us know him, this was an unsettling situation. He stated that all he will have to do is take it to the cleaners and they would put a new button on the sleeve; they would mend it. In line with the lesson of the morning, Brother Jeff emphasized that Jesus Christ was sent to mend lives and how each one of us at one time, and all of mankind, can find themselves in that 18th verse. He concluded by saying that we, as members of the Church, have experienced that release from the burden of sin, through Jesus Christ; and that we should exude joy because of the release of the fear of tomorrow.

After a brief lunch, our afternoon meeting began. Brother Lou Vitto made an opening comment and solicited God's Spirit and blessings to be upon all those that were gathered there. A young lady, Amelia Lobzen, asked the ministry to pray for her as she was contemplating asking for her baptism and was not sure of God's calling. The ministry laid hands upon her and a prayer was offered on her behalf that the Holy Spirit would reveal to her the answers to her questions. It was only a few moments afterward that she requested her baptism.

Brother Frank Natoli then followed and asked the congregation if each of us is giving our best to God. That we might look within our hearts and measure ourselves against the standard which Christ has set. He stated that God knows us individually and asked whether we are giving our best. He encouraged us to make it a matter of prayer. He continued reading from the Book of Alma, the 13th chapter 3rd verse; how God called and prepared from the foundation of the world, according to His foreknowledge, the ministry. He pointed

out that when we think of the vastness of God and all His creation and the great responsibility of God in the universe as we know it, it demonstrated that He cares for each one of us.

Brother Frank continued reading in II Corinthians, 5:18, "*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*" He continued that Brother Paul would be brought into the ministry of reconciliation. His calling is not only for our benefit but the benefit of all mankind; and he in turn would be a servant, having the great responsibility of being in service to his fellow mankind. Brother Frank gave a few instances of the blessings he has received as a member of the priesthood and how the ministry will help in any way they can, in any capacity, in order to draw men and women to Christ. Brother Frank then gave instruction to preach the pure Word of God, not to add to it and not to take anything from it.

The ordinance of feet washing was performed on both candidates and they were ordained into their respective offices.

Brother Lou Vitto closed by saying that he hoped something that was said, something that was done may have touched our hearts. This writer, along with all those that were in attendance, can say "Amen" to all that was said and done this day.

Two More Are Chosen

By Sister Kathy Vitto

On Sunday, March 28, 2010 two more servants were ordained to labor for our Lord. A deaconess, Sister Martha Zaccagnini and a deacon, Brother Sam Onorato were called. Many revelations were given to ordain them together. What a blessing to hear the Lord's instructions and then an even greater blessing to follow them.

The Windsor Branch was filled to near capacity with the families of Sister Martha and Brother Sam, as well as many friends and visitors. Joining the Windsor Ministry of Presiding Elder John Collison, and Brothers Don Collison, and Perry Vitto were visiting Apostles: Brothers Peter Scolaro and Leonard Lovalvo; Evangelist Brother Mike LaSala, and Elders: Brothers Brett Gibson and Larry Henderson.

Sister Martha is the daughter of the late Elder Brother Sam and Sister Mary Cuomo. Sister Martha carries with her the same sweet and gentle spirit that Sister Mary always displayed. Sister Martha had a great desire to work for the Lord. She continued to do her part and pray for God's direction. God saw her humility and patience and she was blessed with the same calling as her mother.

Brother Sam is a very quiet and humble young man who was also raised in the Gospel. He is the son of Brother Mario and the late Sister Enza. Brother Sam and his wife, Sister Stephanie, had wanted another child for more than 6 years. They began to exercise their faith with fasting and prayer. After much fasting and prayer it was revealed to them they needed to put forth a greater service to God. After this revelation and doing the work that He had directed them to be a part of, they were blessed with their daughter, Ava, and then Brother Sam's calling as a deacon.

Sister Martha's feet were washed by Sister Nicole Collison and she was ordained by Brother John Collison. Brother Sam's feet were washed by his father, Brother Mario, and he was ordained by Brother Mike LaSala.

Our meeting was filled with joy and blessings that began and ended with the voice of our Lord echoing through the Priesthood, the testimonies of our new deaconess and deacon and the lovely songs sung by the congregation.

Not wanting to end such a glorious day, we continued on to a lovely luncheon and more fellowship with our brothers, sisters, and friends.

Native American Vision

Continued from Page 4

One of Israel, as we shared various experiences and workings of the Spirit that each team had in the last few days.

Friday morning Brother Wayne and Brother Nephi headed to the northern part of Oklahoma to try and make some contacts.

Brother George and Brother Mark met Brother John Andrews that morning for breakfast and had a discussion. After this meeting the brothers were going to be heading back east and felt sorry in leaving Brother John behind who they encouraged to make follow up visits whenever possible. We left him with literature and our sincere prayers.

Brother Wayne and Brother Nephi headed north and stopped at the Inter-Tribal Council which is a consortium of thirty one tribes in Oklahoma serving Native American environmental needs. They were fortunate to meet with the second chief, who encouraged them to "come back when you can."

From this point the brothers headed towards Omaha, Nebraska to meet with the saints in that area.

Most importantly, we all left Oklahoma greatly encouraged that—

*the Native People,
now more than ever,
are interested in the
message of
the Restored Gospel,
that Jesus Christ
is Lord of Lords and
there is a glorious
future for them as
the Great Creator has
covenanted with
their ancestors.*

* * * * *

Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

by the armies of the three kings and defeated! God's words to Elisha came true!

Jehoshaphat had listened to God's advice. He set up his kingdom so even the judges and courts were not allowed to take gifts or show favorites. He set up good men to be rulers and judges. He was king for twenty-five years in Judah and the country had peace and safety. Whenever he was scared or worried about what to do, he turned to God and the prophets of God to give him advice. Remember, we serve a living God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. When you have a problem and need advice, ask a godly person who will tell you about the love and power of the Lord. He loves you and will help you every time.

Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

WHEN	OF	GOD
YOU	JUDAH	DID
HAVE A	AND	DELIVER
PROBLEM	ALL OF	THEM
PRAY	HIS	US
ASK	PEOPLE	TOO
GOD	FASTED	FROM
THE	AND	EVIL
KING	PRAYED	HARM

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

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your calls, cards, and prayers during the lengthy illness and recent passing of my late husband, Brother Louis Ross. Your expressions of love and concern will always be remembered and they were a source of strength. My family and I send all of you our thanks and love.

May God bless you all for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Love in Christ,
Sister Jennie Ross

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank everyone throughout the Church. To all of those who prayed, sent cards and phone us during his illness and ultimately the passing away of my husband, Brother John Impastato, you have been a great blessing and comfort to me.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Sister Bessie Impastato



Wedding

Sister Cynthia Rae Giannetti and Michael Anthony Harb were united in holy matrimony on July 17, 2010 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Spiritual Anniversary

Sister Kay Vitto of the Windsor, Ontario Branch celebrated 60 years in The Church of Jesus Christ on September 17, 2010.

Children Blessed

Zyden Isaiah DeMercurio, son of Brother Nephi and Sister Jennifer DeMercurio was blessed on June 20, 2010 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Addison Lynn Hess, daughter of Michael and Stacy Hess was blessed on August 1, 2010 in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Correction

Ava Antoinetta Onorato, daughter of Brother Sam and Sister Stephanie Onorato was blessed on April 25, 2010 at the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

Baptisms

Brother Angelo Scime was baptized on May 2, 2010 at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch. He was baptized by Brother Chuck Maddox Sr., and confirmed by Brother John D'Orazio.

Sister Kayla Ali of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch was baptized on July 7, 2010 at the GMBA Campout. She was baptized by Brother Larry Ali and confirmed by Brother Jason Monaghan.

Brother Gary F. Tamburrrino was baptized on August 1, 2010 at the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He was baptized by Apostle Paul Palmieri and confirmed by Brother Tony Ross.

Sister Alicia Palcios was baptized on August 8, 2010 at the Irvine, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Jim Huttenberger.

Sister Elizabeth Azzinaro was baptized on August 8, 2010 at the Simi Valley, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Sal Azzinaro and confirmed by Brother Jim Huttenberger.

Sister Marissa Hemmings was baptized on August 22, 2010 at the San Diego, California Branch. She was baptized by Brother Lou Ciccati and confirmed by Brother Jim Huttenberger.

Ordinations

Brother Gregory Kocuba was ordained a deacon on May 23, 2010 in the Butler, Pennsylvania Mission. His feet were washed by Brother Thomas Kocuba and he was ordained by Evangelist Carl J. Frammolino.

OBITUARIES

JOHN P. RICCO

Brother John P. Ricco passed on to his reward on July 8, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Sister Joan A. (Freeman) Ricco; daughters, Sister Denise (Andrew) Pennell and Debra Ricco; step-sons, Dale Freeman and David (Amy); seven grandsons, five granddaughters, and two great-granddaughters; brother, Edward (MaryAnn) Palmer; sisters, Mary Lou (Bernie) McDivitt and Mary Ann (Robert) Wallace, along with several nieces, nephews and close friends.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Campitelle, Rosalie
42241 Toddmark Lane #119
Clinton Twp., Michigan 48038
586-790-0347

Eutsey, Dwayne, Colleena,
and Keith
8104 Peachtree Landing Circle
Fairburn, Georgia 30213
770-629-2947

Giannetti, Brittany
Giannetti, Samantha Jo
Harb, Cindy
1335 Fourth Street
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania 15010
724-843-1366

Maddox, Chuck and Dianne
5465 Third Road
Lake Worth, Florida 33467
561-670-2449

Meador, Lisa Capone
714 Henry Clay
Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065
586-491-3108

Saragosa, Patricia
11406 Hidden Oaks Drive
Clio, Michigan 48420
810-547-1359

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

October, 2010

Volume 66, No.10

Taking Root and Bearing Fruit

During the first week of July, brothers, sisters, family, and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ gathered in Greenville, South Carolina to attend the General Missionary Benevolent Association's annual Campout. Held at Furman University, also the site of the event in 2007, the campout provided the opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship that the saints have come to anticipate and enjoy over the past four-plus decades. Under the direction of Brother Lucas Martorana, the theme "*Take Root, Bear Fruit*" was chosen as the spiritual focus of the week. While the scriptures are replete with figurative references to fruit, trees, and other plant life to convey spiritual truths, Alma 32:37, which likens our faith in God to a seed planted in our hearts and requiring much care, served as the inspiration for the week's theme and was a starting point for the discussions, studies, and sermons throughout the week.

Taking the lead in the Sunday morning worship service, Brother Jeff Giannetti, former GMBA President, made certain to identify the literal

meaning of the fruit that we should strive to produce in our lives: the love of God. While the fifth chapter of Galatians lists several virtues that embody the fruit of the Spirit that followers of Christ should seek to produce, I Nephi 11:22 clarifies that God's love is the most desirable thing we could ever seek to experience or exhibit in our lives. This echoed the theme of a recent GMBA Campout: "*Love As I Have Loved You.*" This teaching, which Christ delivered to His disciples shortly before His death, captures in a single commandment the essence of our service to God, and the avenue through which all other good works may be performed.

While saints have come to expect great blessings and tender, spirit-filled moments from GMBA Campouts, they have also learned that they can count on sharing a few—make that many—laughs during the week. One such opportunity presented itself during the Monday morning chapel service, in which Brother Patrick Monaghan, who coordinated the seminars for the campout, kicked off the week's events with "Root Camp." In a laugh-out-

loud funny [yet spiritually insightful] skit, Brother Patrick played the superior officer of a military team. Serving in his squad were all the seminar leaders of the various age groups that would meet to study and grow together during the week. Outfitted in matching camouflage shirts with their names emblazoned on the back, the trainees responded to Brother Patrick's questions with emphatic and militaristic refrain, "Yes, Sir!" After he had offered some spiritual exhortation, he presented each trainee with dog tags imprinted with the week's theme. The skit even included an uplifting message from "Commander" Palmieri [Apostle and President of the church, Brother Paul Palmieri] via video conference, one of many effective uses of technology during the week.

The week's theme, so full of spiritual substance and potential for discussion, was broken down into four subtopics, one for each day of seminars.

Monday's topic, "Fertile Ground," drew largely from the Parable of the Sower and included discussions about how a deep appreciation

(Continued on Page 2)

Taking Root and Bearing Fruit

Continued from Page 1

for Jesus Christ's sacrifice and God's love in our lives enables our hearts to become good ground wherein the spiritual fruit of the Spirit can abound.

On *Tuesday*, groups explored the topic of **"Connecting to Christ,"** emphasizing the importance of developing deep, wide roots in the gospel and acknowledging that it is only through Christ that they may bear fruit. This day also included enumerating actions [such as reading the Word of God] and attitudes [such as humility] that would undoubtedly lead to producing fruit in believers' lives.

Next came *Wednesday* and the process of **"Bearing Much Fruit,"** which every servant of God should desire to fulfill and which has the power to glorify God in the world and change lives for the better.

As seminars concluded on *Thursday*, the focus shifted to **"Staying Alive,"** or, in other words, enduring in our obedience to God and consistently bearing spiritual fruit. To complete this final step in the process, groups agreed that the formula of faith, diligence, and patience [as presented in the thirty-second chapter of Alma] was essential to continuing in a dedicated and productive life of service to God.

Aside from the daily seminars and worship services, there were several other opportunities to attend special sessions that focused on various spiritual topics. One highlight of the week was a presentation that the GMBA officers made to the young people on Monday night and then to the adults later in the week. Integrating speaking, songs, videos, and visual aids, the presentation, which ranged from very serious to humorous at times, challenged its audience to raise its stan-

dard of service to God by effecting a fundamental shift in thinking. Instead of asking what we can do just to "get by" in our spiritual lives, why not ask just how righteous we can actually become? Why not avoid the gray area of the perceived "bare minimum" of service and run toward the light that is Christ and righteousness? Additionally, the officers encouraged those in attendance to strongly consider how the way they allocate the time in their busy lives reflects their dedication to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. As the brothers presented this material to the young people Monday evening, the Spirit was at work in the room, and it inspired a blessed time of testimonies and prayers.

When believers take time away from the outside world and focus together with the intention of growing closer to one another and to God, His Spirit is always present, and what often results is a newly ignited desire to dedicate one's life to the Lord. For some at campout, that includes taking the first step in a lifelong walk with Christ: baptism. One of the most joyful aspects of GMBA Campout has always been the opportunity to witness this ordinance and to see firsthand the welcoming of a new soul into God's kingdom.

In order for all in attendance to experience this blessing, however, it is necessary that an adequate baptismal site can be located. At the beginning of the week, Head Deacon Brother Eric Darr, knowing that there would likely be requests for baptism, set out to find a suitable location. After visiting several locations and struggling to find an ideal site to accommodate the group, he continued praying for God's direction. Eventually, he was led to a home built next to a body of water and sought out the owner's permission to use it as a baptismal site. To his surprise, the woman who owned the

home shared with him that she, too, was a Christian and that she believed her property was a gift from God, intended for His work and purposes. She expressed that she would gladly allow the property to be used for the baptisms. The two joyfully shared testimonies with one another about God's blessings, and on Thursday of that week, the saints traveled to her home to witness the baptisms of Sister Alyssa Maddox and Sister Kayla Ali. As those in attendance made their way down the path from the home to the water, they read uplifting scriptures that had been engraved into the walkway, a simple yet beautiful confirmation of God's provision for the saints in finding a place in which they could witness the salvation of souls through baptism. In addition, three others [Brother Andrew Dahl, Brother Olme Pineda, and Brother Liam Turley] requested baptism during the week.

GMBA Campout 2010 concluded with the Thursday evening worship service, which included presentations by the youth and adult choirs, as well as a photo and video recap of special moments from the week. As another blessed week of GMBA Campout drew to a close, there had been ample opportunities for self-examination, growth, and change for all in attendance. The week's theme had inspired attendees to make fertile ground out of their lives, to plant Christ deep within, and to spread out roots in every direction that would eventually yield the most desirable of all fruit. Along with those who attended campout, all servants of God are presented with the challenge of bearing much fruit, engaging in the process of producing as well as being pruned, which the Lord does to each of us to make us more fruitful.

May we each take root in Christ and bear the fruit of His love in our lives.

IN ALL THINGS

Be Prayerful in all things that we are to...

Give heed to the word of God
Keep His commandments always in all things
Be united in all things
Believe in all things which are good
Keep the commandments of God and be blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual
Stand as witness of God at all times and in all things
Teach the word of God in all things
Give thanks in all things
Be temperate in all things
Be perfectly honest and upright in all things
Be diligent and temperate in all things
Be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods,
neither let it be heard out of our mouth
Be pleasing to all men in all things, not seeking our own profit,
but the profit of many, that they may be saved
Be instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need
Obey our parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord
Show our self with a pattern of good works
Adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things

Be Thankful in all things that God has given us, His Son, Jesus Christ...

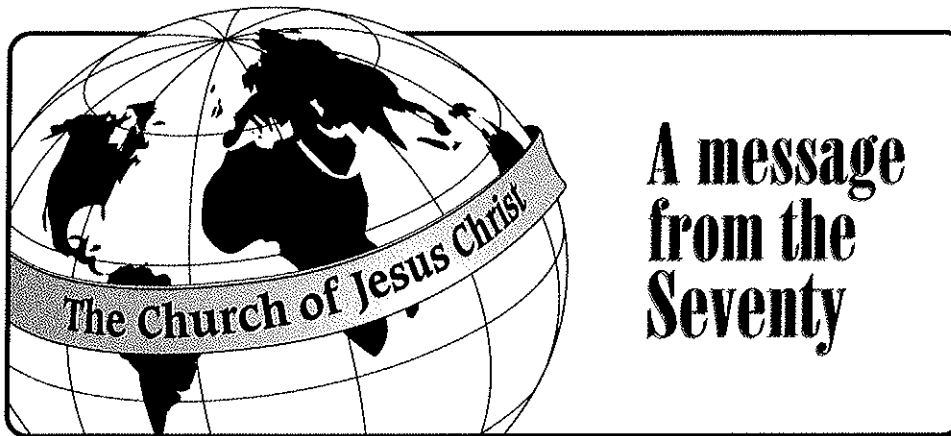
In all things it behoved Him to be made like us
He was made a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God
He was made reconciliation for the sins of the people
Christ is the head of the body and of the church
He is the firstborn from the dead
That in all things He might have the preeminence

Glorify God in all things for...

God is able to make all grace abound toward you
Always having all sufficiency in all things
That we may abound to every good work

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God
If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth
That God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ
To whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen.



GREAT LAKES Q70 REPORT

By Evangelist Tom Everett, Great Lakes Evangelist Chairman

*“And the Lord of the vineyard said unto them [His servants]:
Go to, and labor in the vineyard with all your might.
For behold, this is the last time I shall nourish my vineyard;
for the end is nigh at hand, and the season speedily cometh;
and if ye labor with your might with me ye shall have
joy in the fruit which I shall lay up unto myself
against the time which will soon come.*

*And it came to pass that the servants did go and
labor with their mights . . . and they did obey the
commandments of the Lord of the vineyard in all things.*

*And there began to be the natural fruit again in the
vineyard; and the natural branches began to grow
and thrive exceedingly . . .” (Jacob 5:71-73).*

There has been what appears to be an awakening among our Native American missions within the last year: renewed interest, young people attending church, and even membership renewals, baptisms and ordinations. This has been true in the Great Lakes Region at the Muncey Mission in Ontario, Canada as well.

There have been a dozen baptisms and renewals within the last year at Muncey that began with an Evangelistic meeting in August 2009 during Vacation Bible School.

There is a new Native Brother at the Saugeen Mission where Brother Matthew Collison has been laboring among the Seed of Joseph for years. We now have two native brothers who are also on the tribal council at Saugeen.

Evangelists from our region and other regions have made contacts on the Red Lake Reserve in Minnesota, and Fort Berthold, North Dakota. In Red Lake, two native men related an experience that led them to believe their people are of the House of Israel even before our brothers spoke to them.

There are now six members, including an ordained teacher, on or near the Fort Berthold Reserve in North Dakota.

Brother Matthew Sutherland [Cree] still labors tirelessly up in northern Ontario even though he is in his mid-80's to tell his people they need to turn to Jesus Christ and the “Book of Joseph” as he calls it [Book of Mormon].

We are developing a plan for Six Nations to revive the mission and reach the people where we once had a thriving congregation. We solicit your prayers.

Nephi prophesied that “. . . For after the book of which I have spoken shall come forth, and be written unto the Gentiles, and sealed up again unto the Lord, there shall be many which shall believe the words which shall be written; and they shall carry them forth unto the remnant of our seed.

And then shall the remnant of our seed know concerning us, how that we came out from Jerusalem, and that they are descendants of the Jews.

And the gospel of Jesus Christ shall be declared among them; wherefore, they shall be restored unto a knowledge of their fathers, and also to a knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers.

*And then shall they rejoice. . .”
(II Nephi 30:3-6).*

The Mayan prophet Chilam Balam prophesied in “The Book of Chilam Balam of Tizimin” that in the last half of 1862 “the Lord” would arrive in benign holiness. The Church of Jesus Christ with headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania was organized in July of 1862. [last half of 1862]

(Continued on Page 11)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carl Huttnerberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS
Alex Gentile
Paul Libertio
Leonard A. Lovaglio
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST
Michael Zaino
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

GREAT LAKES
Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST
Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC
Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST
Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST
Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God" (Isaiah 35:1-2).

The previous chapter in Isaiah speaks of a great destruction, and then this chapter describes a hope for the future for God's people. In this utopian future, the spiritual evil as well as the physical catastrophe will be reversed. The desert places of Israel will blossom as beautifully as the bounty of places like Carmel, Sharon, as well as the grandeur of the cedars of Lebanon. This time of peace and spiritual utopia we call Zion.

"Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you" (Isaiah 35:3-4).

Israel, who has been persecuted for many centuries, having endured their hardships, will become strong in this day. Even though they will be fearful seeing the wrath of God unleashed, they will have no need to fear since God's acts of judgment are acts of mercy. The unrighteous shall be cut off, and it will usher in a time of unparalleled blessing and prosperity on the earth for not only them, but all who dwell in his Peaceful Kingdom. Only the more righteous, Jew or Gentile, will be spared and live a long time in Zion.

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes" (Isaiah 35:5-7).

God will heal all the horrible bodily diseases that exist, and the dry desert lands of Israel, and also the Americas [the Promised Land] will become lush and bountiful. The dragons [or "jackals" who are dangerous animals] will be gone, and in its place, beautiful grasslands. This imagery is not just physical, but spiritual as well. Satan will be bound in Christ's kingdom.

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein" (Isaiah 35:8).

A distinct road will lead to the New Jerusalem, or Zion, to lead those who have been spared, to this place. Again, think of this as both physical and spiritual as well. With Satan bound, no one can make a mistake in finding their way to Zion. The wayfaring man, or people who know how to travel, will not be able to reach Zion on their own, but instead will be given a clear highway from the Lord on which all they need to do is follow. This highway and mode of travel will be unlike anything they have ever experienced before. This highway will only take the holy to this Kingdom.

The Book of Mormon instructs us to read the prophecies of Isaiah. Not only do they pertain to the descendents of Joseph, but to all those adopted into Israel through Jesus Christ. This prophecy is for all of us today striving to serve God. It is our hope for a new day that should strengthen our spiritual bones, knowing our God will come to save us from the conditions of this world around us.

"No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with song of everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 25:9-10).

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

God Keeps the Promised Land Holy

The Lord called the Americas a Promised Land. The agreement or promise is that if we serve the true and living God, this would remain a blessed land. If the people living here start doing evil and being evil, and stop serving God, they will be wiped off the face of the land. In fact, this has happened two times already.

These nations of people are written about in the Book of Mormon. The first group was the Jaredites (read the book of Ether). Way back in the days after Noah and the flood, the foolish people of the earth started to build a tower to heaven. God came, changed their languages and scattered them all over the earth. A good man called the Brother of Jared begged God to not change their language and to bring him, and twenty-two members of his family and friends, to a blessed and good land where they could serve God and prosper. God was pleased with this man's faith and love. He brought them to the Americas, a blessed land, choice above all others. They crossed the deep ocean in ships built like a dish that could go on top of, or deep underneath the water. After nearly a year of sea travel, they landed in an area of eastern Mexico along the beautiful, warm seashore.

Within a few years they had grown into thousands of people. In the beginning they were a blessed



people who loved God and helped each other. But as the years passed, some of their leaders began to crave power. They wanted to look important and rule others. Huge wars broke out between sons of the king, their fathers, and others who craved power. Some of the people followed one person; the others left or began fighting battles to have their favorite person rule. They formed secret combinations or clubs that God hates (see Ether 8:18-36). These groups made secret plans to take over. We are warned today that God hates things done in secret to get power and gain and that the devil loves to destroy good people by doing this. The Book of Mormon says that we must do away with this evil. In fact, that is the reason we do not want church members today to belong to secret organizations. You cannot trust them. They make hidden plans. They are not what God likes.

But the Jaredite nation did not stop these secret organizations. Over and over one group would band together and try and take over God's peaceful people. During one space of time, God stopped the rain so people would turn away from being evil and start praying and helping each other (Ether 9:30-35). Many died. God even sent poisonous serpents [great snakes] that chased the herds away so the people had nothing to eat until they became sorry and kind again to one another. God gave them wonderful preachers to remind them of the true ways of

power and kindness. He gave them every chance to lead good lives on this Promised Land.

As the hundreds of years passed, the numbers of people grew. Soon the land was filled with millions of people. Some years there were good kings who led their people to do right. At those times, the Jaredite nation was the greatest on earth (Ether 10:28). The people were blessed and wealthy. But soon, they would stop listening to God. Secret groups would start planning to kill and take over. Then there were more wars and murders everywhere. God sent preachers and prophets to warn the people, but they were filled with hate and tried to kill God's messengers.

The Promised Land was filled with millions of people who had stopped teaching their children about God, and being kind and loving to one another.

One great prophet who begged people to repent and be kind and good to each other and serve God was named Ether. He is the one who wrote this record by engraving it on thin sheets of gold metal that God hid in a safe place. The king of the land, named Coriantumr, was a great warrior trained in war and the cunning, sneaky ways of the world (Ether 22:16-25). Ether preached to him and his sons and daughters that if they would quit their hateful fighting ways and repent [be sorry], God would save them and their people. If they did not change, then God would not save them and they would all destroy each other with their evil wars. Ether also warned them that the destruction of his nation would be so huge that all would die except King Coriantumr. He would live long enough to see the prophecies fulfilled that another group would be brought to this Promised Land to love and serve God.

(Continued on Page 12)



Dead to sin — Alive through Christ

By Brother Pete Oestreicher

Blessings abounded at the World Operations Center, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, August 8, 2010, as brothers, sisters and friends in the Penn Mid-Atlantic Region [PMAR] met for its Spiritual Conference. For the past few days, the PMAR had the privilege of hosting the Church Finance Committee, as it met to conduct business, make presentations, and offer important and enlightening information. Most people would consider church finances to be boring and mundane, but the brothers and sisters on the Finance Committee were able to make their presentations interesting, enjoyable, and yes, even spiritual. Also, the messages that the brothers on the Finance Committee provided for our meeting, were truly inspired, relevant, and well received.

Brother Anthony Ricci, Region President, welcomed everyone to the Conference, and offered opening remarks. The musical selection *"I Thirst,"* was then beautifully presented by Brothers Jason and Patrick Monaghan, Scott Griffith, and Jim Draskovich.

Apostle Paul Palmieri, President of the Church, welcomed everyone, and referenced III Nephi, chapter 20, in his remarks. Brother Paul discussed the importance of preserving this land of America, and the importance of communion. God has a plan for His children, and if we spend time together and serve Jesus Christ, we will remain on this Promised Land. If we don't, we will be swept away.

God has promised us that if we remain faithful, He will protect us. God is consistent. Communion unites us, and if we take it worthily, we will want for nothing. The Lord has entrusted His Kingdom to The Church of Jesus Christ, and we must keep it pure until He returns.

Communion was passed by Apostles Paul Palmieri, Phil Jackson, and John Griffith, and Brothers John Mark D'Antonio, Jonathan Nath, and Chip Smith. After Communion was passed, Sister Carol Monaghan offered the musical selection *"Lead Me to Calvary,"* #238 in the Saints Hymnal.

Brother Randy Ciccati from St. Cloud, Minnesota and Chairman of the Finance Committee, related an experience that was given when he and his family moved to Minnesota. After they were there one month, he received a call from Brother Timothy Mott, who informed him that a sister in Tijuana had a dream that there was a minister of The Church of Jesus Christ in Minnesota. Brother Randy used Romans 6:9-11, *Dead to sin—Alive through Christ*, as his message. Brother Randy informed us that he could not wait to be baptized, and that we must all do our best to keep Jesus first in our lives. We must make Him alive in our lives, because the Lord wants to be in our lives. The Lord is there to show us the way, and it is our job to follow Him and invite Him in. Brother Randy then referenced Alma 34, and encouraged everyone to "pray over everything." He then related experiences of brothers and sisters who performed tasks through the power of prayer they did not think they were able to achieve.

Brother Scott Griffith of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch, continued the message by letting us know Christ is alive in us today. He thanked everyone for their hospitality, and reminded

us that his firm foundation in The Church of Jesus Christ was developed in the Penn Mid-Atlantic Region. Brother Scott gave us examples of how Christ is alive in us today. He related an experience his grandfather, Brother Lou Pietrangelo, had at work. Through the power of prayer, Brother Lou was able to fix a train that no one else could fix, which turned out to be a minor problem. Brother Scott also mentioned that while Brother Tim Tarbuck, a pilot, was visiting his branch, Brother Scott felt he was in need of prayer. As he was being anointed, a member saw a bolt of lightning go down Brother Tim's left leg, which he now has feeling in, and with physical therapy, Brother Tim may be able to fly again. Brother Scott concluded his message using Romans 6:19, and exhorted everyone to exercise their faith, and stay away from iniquity. The enemy of our soul is after us, confuses us, and uses pride to take us away from the Lord. We must all try a little harder, and become more righteous by attending more meetings, saying extra prayers, etc.

Brother Joe Benyola from the Mount Laurel, New Jersey Branch used the activity of shopping as an analogy to salvation. Women redeem points for material rewards, but we have a better Redeemer who is able to give us spiritual rewards. Every time we serve the Lord or our fellow man, we receive spiritual points towards our salvation. Brother Joe used the story in Luke, about the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, to show that her acts of love were redeemed for a spiritual reward, forgiveness. Brother Joe then had all the young people stand up, and ensured everyone that the Lord loves them. He then had everyone else stand up, and let the young people know that we are the people they can go to for guidance.

(Continued on Page 8)

Dead to Sin—Alive in Christ

Continued from Page 7

Brother Paul Whitton from the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch, gave his testimony. Not being born and raised in the church, he met the church at college through Brother Ishmael D'Amico's grandson. Brother Paul also related how he met his wife, Sister Arline, his subsequent marriage, and baptism. He then related an experience where he was saved from injury in an accident, and failed to thank the Lord. The next day, the audible voice of God told Brother Paul that He had not been thanked for sparing him from injury. Brother Paul also spoke about the love that exists in the Church. He had recently lost his granddaughter in an accident, and at a conference, was embraced by Brother Bob Buffington, Sr., who let him know he was not alone. Brother Paul concluded with Mosiah 2:20-21, render praise to God, and serve Him with your whole soul. Praise God always.

Apostle John Griffith reminded us that children are a continuation of our faith, and that it is the responsibility of parents to lead them in the right direction. Brother Paul Palmieri informed us that the Lord has entrusted His Kingdom to The Church of Jesus Christ, and we must keep it pure until He returns. Many people are concerned about experiences, but this isn't necessary, since we have the true and unadulterated Gospel. The Lord is coming soon, and we must be prepared since we have been called for salvation. Christ has always been ready, and is waiting for us.

Brother Anthony Ricci provided closing remarks using the first chapter of Revelation. Christ is alive and came for redemption. As examples of this, Brother Tony related his mother's testimony, and the fact that his nieces

and nephew, who were not considered "viable" at birth, are now celebrating their second birthday. We have been called to Christ, and must be *Dead to sin—Alive through Christ.*

The closing prayer was offered by Brother Jim Draskovich from the Forest Hills, Florida Branch.

We Are the Family of God

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

On August 27, 2010, Detroit Branch #2 planned a "Campout Style" meeting to bring the summer to a close. An invitation went out to the branches in the area to come and share in this event and the result was a building filled with brothers, sisters, children, and friends.

When Sister Marge D'Amico, MBA President, began planning the meeting, the theme for the night, "*We Are the Family of God*" was clearly manifested by the Lord. This theme was reinforced throughout the evening.

Brother Jim Lambert, MBA Chaplain, opened the meeting. He thanked everyone for joining together and setting aside time to reflect on the great blessing that we have as the family of God.

Brother Larry Champine shared several experiences where very clearly the love of the saints affected his life and brought him to the realization of this family unit. He shared that this love and family acceptance were critical in developing his relationship with God. He spoke about our natural families and the role that they play in

our lives and how we all desire that they too will be part of the family of God.

Brother Larry also spoke about how we should care for one another and show love and support for those who are struggling. He spoke about our commission as the family of God to share the Gospel with those around us.

Following Brother Larry, Sister Roseanne Champine was asked to sing a song that she wrote many years ago titled "*We Are the Family of God.*"

The words of the chorus are:

*"Pray for each other.
Love one another.
Lift up your brother
when he's down.
Come take my hand now.
We'll stand together.
We are the Family of God."*

After Sister Rosanne sang this beautiful song, the congregation joined in and this became our anthem for the evening.

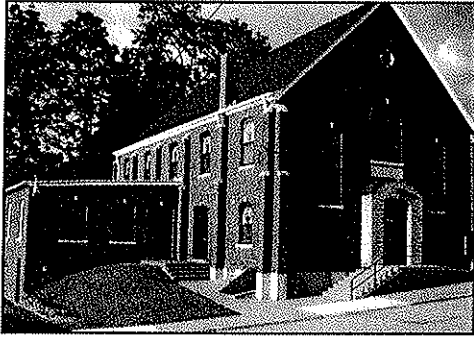
As we had entered the auditorium, we were asked to pick a number and then two random groups were called up to testify about being part of this great family. One by one they expressed sincere gratitude to God for His love and acceptance and for the strength that they gain from the brothers and sisters.

Following the meeting the fellowship continued as we enjoyed refreshments and strengthened our bonds one with another.

It was a wonderful time of reflection and thanksgiving as we brought the summer to a close.

Monongahela Branch 80th Anniversary

By Sister Heather Nicklow



"Sacrifice"

What a blessed weekend of remembrance of our past, an excitement of today, and an anticipation of our future. The weekend was full of laughter, rejoicing, and tears of our gratefulness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The celebration of God's goodness started on Saturday when 140 brothers, sisters and friends who formerly attended our branch gathered for an afternoon of remembering and fellowship. People from all over excitedly listened as past experiences, testimonies, and activities were shared by Brother Richard Scaglione, Sr. He told of the experience of the broken oil bottle that now resides in the display case in the back of the sanctuary. During a Wednesday night meeting a young girl with a tumor was anointed. After the prayer Brother George Johnson spoke of the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and how it is by that power that we can be healed. As he spoke the neck of the oil bottle blew off, hitting the floor in the middle of the aisle before rolling underneath the communion table. The young girl was shortly healed of her tumor.

In February of 1976, we had our first meeting with the Indian Council Board in Pittsburgh. In April, we attended the Center's Board of Direc-

tors meeting and volunteered our services to help the center. In September 1990, the branch started working at the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center's annual Pow Wow. The branch continues to run the food stand every year as well as participating in various other activities, enjoying the fellowship and the friendships made through our work together.

In the conference of January 1948, the branch reported twenty three elders. The first General Church Conference was held in Monongahela between 1900 and 1902 with several being held after this time. They were held in the brick building on Main and Second Streets on the third floor.

Brother Rich also asked the congregation, "Do You Remember when..." white shirts and ties were worn to picnics? When bible school was taught by Mabel Bickerton and there were 85-100 people in attendance? When food baskets were given at Christmas and Thanksgiving? When the Voyagers sang for the branch on Sundays?

To conclude the Saturday meeting Sister Terri Nath presented a slide show of many pictures of the past and present. Many were touched looking at the black and white photos seeing the dedication and sacrifice of those who had given to the branch for many, many years. They worked so hard for future generations, US!

Brother Justin Paxton opened our Sunday service with a message of sacrifice. He told of a memory of one of our dear sisters, Sister Liz Bright. Sister Liz would make boxes of chocolates for all the kids in the branch. She sacrificed some of her time and money to take care of all of them. She showed him [Brother Justin] love. In IChronicles, Solomon had a mighty prayer which illustrated the sacrifices made that Israel would

be able to build a house unto God. Through that prayer God blessed Israel and Solomon that the house would be a "House of Sacrifice." Brother Justin turned the prayer to the congregation that our responsibility is to be a living sacrifice. Jesus Christ saw this day and knew we needed Him. He knew the concept of sacrifice.

Brother Scott Griffith continued stating that in love people give. "Many of you have given to me. You may not realize it." His foundation started in the branch and with family there was a place of security built; a dream of eternal life. Those sacrifices come back to you when trials come. This is what keeps us going. It is that foundation we come back to. "You want security, a home base, choose the Lord." Those who made an effort, they showed the love. We need to make that extra effort to show others that love and make a sacrifice. Make our home base sure and grounded in the Lord.

Apostle Dick Christman continued telling an experience with the foundation of the building. When our brothers and sisters started out, they found that a part of the foundation had a mine under it. They didn't rely on the foundation that was there, they fixed it so it would be solid. He went on to preach that we, as the people of God, need to have a solid foundation. Here the building and people have stood on that solid rock. We thank God that we have been a part of that solid rock.

Apostle John Griffith went on to testify how many lessons were taught to him in this branch. Growing up he remembers two particular sisters who devoted their lives to the church and the kids. They made sacrifices for him. He also told of a time when he was fifteen years old and it was an MBA night meeting, "My dad got

(Continued on Page 11)

The Ministering of Angels

By Brother Don Collison, Sr.

Dear Brothers and Sisters and
Friends in the Lord,

I have a desire to share the word of the Lord and this beautiful revelation given to our late Brother Ken Wright in the beginning of his relationship with the Lord.

Moroni 7:31

"And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him."

Moroni 7:37

"Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased we be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain."

The following is from Brother Ken Wright's testimony:

I had been reading III Nephi, learning about the wonderful things Jesus did on this continent. As I read I felt a love of Jesus growing in me. It became my greatest hope that these things were true. I was told that—

*God is the same today
as He was in times past.
That He actually
revealed things to men
if they go to Him
in sincere prayer.*

I took Him at His word and asked Him in earnest prayer to show me if man really was eternal. Was there really a soul or spiritual body? I cried to Him in prayer and asked Him to show me that these things were not made up by men in their own conceit. Many thoughts of this nature were running through my mind. I told them all to the Lord in prayer. I said, "Dear Lord show me that when I die it isn't the end as many believe." I also asked the Lord to give me a live experience, as I didn't feel I would have much faith in a dream. It had to be something I knew was not the product of my own imagination.

This is the experience God gave to me:

My wife and I had gone to bed. She was sleeping soundly. I was just lying here thinking when suddenly I felt the presence of someone in the room. I saw a man dressed in a white gown with a white hood. As soon as I saw him I arose on my elbows, startled, but immediately a feeling of peace came upon me. I knew he was here in answer to my prayer. I was to be shown something. He put a finger up to his lips and extended the other hand palm downward toward my sleeping wife. This he did as I was rising on my elbows. I took this to mean not to cry out or to disturb her. He then motioned me to get up.

We walked through the brick wall of the house, out to the edge of the road, where the Angel stopped. He motioned me to stand in the middle of the road looking around realizing I was out of my body yet fully conscious of where I was, and what was happening I could see my neighbors houses, my own house, and the Angel standing at the edge of the road. I looked down at myself and noticed that I was dressed in a white gown just like the Angel.

How wonderful! I now knew that my physical body was only a part of me and that I was still me even without it. As I stood on the road I noticed a car was coming towards me. The rain was falling quite heavily, and as the car got closer, I could hear the tires singing on the pavement. Closer still, I could see the windshield wipers, even hear them working, and saw a man's face behind the windshield. In the next second the car had passed through me. What a realization that a moving mass of tin and steel could have no effect on me.

I started looking toward my window feeling that this was wonderful, but, nevertheless, being rather anxious to get back to my body. The Angel seemed to be able to discern my thoughts, for when he saw me looking toward my bedroom window, he motioned to me to go back in. I seemed to glide back across the lawn, through the brick wall, and there was my body in bed, asleep. I simply laid down in it remembering nothing until I awoke in the morning.

When I awoke it all came back immediately to my mind and looking out the window I noticed all the puddles I had seen forming a few short hours ago as I stood in the heavy rain with the Angel. I told my wife that although I didn't want to die and leave her and the children, I felt that it was no longer anything to fear. The Lord surely answered my prayer,

*showing me plainly
that death
is not the end.*

Brother Ken Wright went on to request his baptism, after some years he was then called to the office of a teacher, and in time an elder. He was the Presiding Elder in the Windsor Branch when God called him home in May of 1993.

Great Lakes Q70 Report

Continued from Page 4

The Church was directed through the gift of tongues and interpretation to go to the native people of America with the following message from the Lord :

- *Tell them that Jesus Christ 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 captive into Babylon and how I brought them again into their own land*
- *Tell them that I will again gather them to their own lands for I, the Lord have spoken it.*

We will continue to see the natural fruit grow and thrive if we will continue to labor with all our might and obey the Lord in all things.

Monongahela Branch 80th Anniversary

Continued from Page 9

up in the middle of the meeting and he never got up during meetings. He came to the back where I was and he tapped me on the shoulder and said,

'it is time for you to move forward.'

It was hard to get up and move forward, but I did." Brother John then went on to say it wasn't until he was nineteen at an MBA choir that the spirit fell upon him to be baptized but it was all because the foundation was laid. We bring honor to God by being here [in church]. He went on to say, as we look back at our dreams, some were fulfilled, some were not but there is a foundation that exist and

will always remain there because Jesus Christ had that perfect sacrifice. This is our day in time and we are so thankful it has lasted for us today!

Brother Brian Griffith continued; we have come, come back to the roots of our foundation. The foundation was laid with great sacrifice and this is to be a house of sacrifices. It's not the actual structure of the building but the spirit, the people contained within the walls that allows the glory of God to enter as it did when the Temple of Solomon was consecrated. At that moment, the word of the Lord was given,

*"Behold I lay in Zion
for a foundation a stone,
a tried stone,
a precious corner stone,
a sure foundation:
he that believeth shall
not make haste."*

Brother Rich Scaglione, Sr., concluded the Sunday meeting, "The foundation has been laid. Build your house on it.

*It's time for all of
us to move up!
God has chosen us
and put that spirit
within our hearts."*

While we are proud of our past and recognize the many sacrifices that were made for us to keep the gospel pure, let's move the church forward. It's up to us to help our children. The Lord wants us to be dedicated to bringing it to others.

*May the Lord give
you strength to
move it forward
and do the work!*

Believe

Believe that He will find you.
Believe you're not alone.
Believe that there's a purpose.
Believe that you have grown.

From each and every trial—
To each and every tear,
A realization that God has
always been there—
Now teaches you not to fear.

Anything can happen;
Convince your mind first.
Not everything will get better.
Most times afterwards is the
worst.

However, if you love Him—
Then open up your heart.
Announce it to the world—
Stand up for your beliefs.

Believe He died for you.
Believe it was for free.
Believe He'll never leave you—
Rather hold your hand along
the way.
Believe it takes just a moment.
Believe you'll never be the same.

Remember that pounding within
your chest?
Remember those tears streaming
down your cheeks?
Remember why you answered?
Remember that joyful day?

Did you easily let go?
Or did it all just slip away?

Believe that He found you.
Believe you're not alone.
Believe that there's a purpose.
Believe that you have grown.

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

King Coriantumr and his household were furious and tried to kill the prophet Ether. But Ether got away and hid in a cave while he watched the terrible wars and battles between King Coriantumr and enemy after enemy. The wars were so fierce that entire families were murdered by them. Everyone joined into one group or another. People robbed each other for anything they wanted. No one was safe. No one served God except the prophet Ether. Months and years passed; there was so much evil killing that there were dead bodies left behind and a terrible smell of death in the air. At one point, after he was wounded in battle, King Coriantumr remembered the message God had sent him from Ether. But by then, everyone lived in fear and hate. No one would give up revenge for the love of God. The devil had control of their lives. In one huge battle, over two million people on King Coriantumr's side died. All of the people in the land chose one side or another and gathered into two huge armies for a final fight.

Day after day the people fought and killed. King Coriantumr's family and followers all died fighting. Only

a few hundred were left. Night after night, filled with hatred they staggered to their feet and fought again. Their bones lay scattered on the ground. In his last battle, King Coriantumr cut off the head of the leader of his enemy and discovered he was surrounded by the dead. God's words came true. He was the last of his people.

Coriantumr was a witness of God's promises. He was found by a new people of Zarahemla who were also brought to this Promised Land. He lived with them for nine months and they engraved his story on a large stone (Omni verses 20-22). A great nation forgot God, let the devil rule in their hearts and wiped themselves off the face of the earth with their killing and hatred. They lived in peace and blessings for hundreds of years until they turned away from God's teaching.

We must never turn away from God's laws. We must never let the devil bring out our bad sides that want power or selfish things. We must love and help one another so that God will keep us and lead us and guide us to the last days of our lives.

With love,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

JAREDITES	TURNED
CAME	AWAY
TO	FROM
AMERICAS	GOD
AFTER	GREED
THE	WAR
TOWER	HATRED
OF	DESTROYED
BABEL	A
WHEN	MIGHTY
THEY	NATION

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

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

November, 2010

Volume 66, No.11

Wise Stewardship

"Give [financially], and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

The truth about the promises of God is that they are conditional and are many times preceded by the word "if". Jesus said, **if** we "give" **then** "it shall be given unto you" in "running over" abundance. He also reveals that with whatever "measure" we use to give, it will be given back to us with the same measure; giving with a teaspoon measure will yield back financial blessings in teaspoon measures and if giving is in a shovel measure, then we shall receive back in shovel measures. We will let you decide which is preferable.

At the recent General Church Conference, the ministry voted unanimously to support the practice of "freewill tithing". What is "freewill tithing"? The Church of Jesus Christ has always been an organization that believes that all giving cannot be forced and is based upon individual "freewill". Tithing is the scriptural practice of giving ten percent of your yearly increase to God. Moses was given God's Law commanding Israel to "tithe all the increase" (Deuter-

onomy 14:22,23) and Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20) before the Law. Even Jesus, while visiting the remnant of Joseph in the Americas after His resurrection, quoted Malachi 3:8-11 where he said,

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say: Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house; and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a [financial] blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the fields, saith the Lord of Hosts" (III Nephi 24:8-11).

God challenges us to "prove [test] Him" and see if His words are true, that if we tithe [give 10%], He "will

rebuke [scold, prevent] the devourer" for us and that all our natural efforts shall not be destroyed. We follow God's commands because of obedience, but what an assurance we have that with the obedience comes great results, that "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper. . ." (III Nephi 22:17 and Isaiah 54:17)

Recent generations have struggled with giving to the Lord. Many have set their sights on a higher standard of living borrowing their way to larger homes and newer cars leaving little remaining. This approach put our material wants above God's spiritual teaching and wisdom.

A good question to ask at this point is, "whose house is the house you live in?" or "whose car is the car you drive?" or "whose money is in your pocket?" Many of you might be saying "mine", but in reality, your house is not your house, your car is not your car and your money is not

(Continued on Page 2)

Wise Stewardship

Continued from Page 1

your money. In fact, all that you possess is not yours.

Paul says, “. . . *know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's*” (I Corinthians 6:19,20).

The Apostle Paul was inspired by the Spirit to declare that we were purchased with a “price”, and the price was the blood of Christ and that our spirit [soul] and body belong to God. In fact, all things belong to God and we are just His stewards.

Many of us have apparently been looking at this whole matter completely wrong, believing that all possessions in our care belong to us, so we have spent “our” money for what we wanted and the results have made it difficult, perhaps some resentment when we should give “our” money to God. But the overwhelming truth is that everything we possess belongs to Him.

“For by him [Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:16-18).

The Apostle Paul was again inspired to say that “*all things were created by him [Jesus] and for him [Jesus]*.” If it all belongs to Him, then why do we spend it all on our-

selves first and give God the leftovers? We should be convicted of this truth and “the truth will make us free” and change what we do. If it all belongs to God, then we should be more careful about spending “His” money and not waste it on our desires. We should give God His part of the money first and then use the rest on ourselves while prayerfully looking to God to use it wisely. We have been looking at the money we possess as ours and then struggle to give God 10%. In reality, all the money we possess belongs to God and He is willing to let us keep 90%.

The Lord said, “*And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. . . The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto. . .*” (Deuteronomy 28:1,8).

Many have spent much of their lives, diligently seeking ways to fulfill their dreams of making their fortune, when all we really need to do is obey God's commands and He will “*command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouse.*”

With the latter days upon us and little time remaining, the Lord is bringing many around the world to the Restored Gospel and the financial needs exceed current donations. Why is there such a struggle? Are we just reaping what we have sown?

The Apostle Paul wrote, “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*” (Galatians 6:7).

Where do we start? The ministry needs to teach it, especially to the young who if trained, “. . . in

the way he should go. . . he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6) and then have every member begin with a commitment to God and start a fixed percent with an eventual 10% goal.

We challenge every member of Christ's Church to follow God's Word and believe that the result will be God always meeting our needs and at the same time, provide through us, all the funds necessary to do what Jesus said,

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

Prepare in Righteousness – The Righteous Need Not Fear

By Brother Art Gehly, Jr.

“We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this time as the Peaceful Reign. . .” (Faith & Doctrine, Article 23)

“We believe that the fullness of the Gospel shall soon be taken from the Gentiles because of their iniquity; and they will be punished for their disobedience.” (Faith & Doctrine, Article 19)

“For the time soon cometh that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. Wherefore, he will preserve the righ-

(Continued on Page 3)

Prepare in Righteousness

Continued from Page 2

teous by his power. . . Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved. . . (I Nephi 22:16,17).

"Behold, my brethren, I say unto you, that these things must shortly come; yea, even blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke must come; and it must needs be upon the face of this earth; and it cometh unto men according to the flesh if it so be that they will harden their hearts against the Holy One of Israel. For behold, the righteous shall not perish. . ." (I Nephi 22:18,19).

"And the righteous need not fear, for they are those who shall not be confounded. . ." (I Nephi 22:22).

Brothers and sisters, I count it a privilege to have received the Restored Gospel and to have come to such great knowledge through The Church of Jesus Christ. Who else on this earth are able to "rightly 'divide' the word of truth" and know that Christ will not come for His Bride [the Church] until the words of Isaiah are fulfilled?

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. . ." (Isaiah 2:2,3).

When we look upon our society today, sin abounds. We have reached a point where the prophet Isaiah declares: *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for*

bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isaiah 5:20,21).

Is our country at the point of being "ripe" in iniquity? *"Wo unto them that turn aside the just for a thing of naught and revile against that which is good, and say that is of no worth! For the day shall come that the Lord God will speedily visit the inhabitants of the earth; and in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity they shall perish"* (II Nephi 28:16).

Therefore, I ask, are the wicked on this land about to be swept off? Are they "fully ripe in iniquity"? No man knows the plan of God or when He will visit the inhabitants of the earth with His wrath because of man's iniquity.

What we do know is this: **The righteous need not fear, nor shall they perish!** What a blessing to know that if destruction is to come in our lifetime, we need not fear as long as we are truly righteous.

What a blessing to know that if destruction does not come in our lifetime, we have the privilege and responsibility to teach our children and our grandchildren that destruction will come one day, unless the world repents and accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. However, your children and grandchildren need not fear—as long as they are righteous in the eyes of the Lord.

So what must we do? Prepare in righteousness! Prepare our hearts, our minds, and our souls in righteousness! Cleanse ourselves of all unrighteousness.

We all know that this is "easier said than done". The society in which we live is being dragged into the depths of hell by that awful enemy of the souls of mankind. The words of

Isaiah are being fulfilled where evil is being labeled good. So we must ask ourselves, are we appalled by what we witness daily that is contrary to God and His goodness? Have we reached a level of righteousness that we cannot "look upon sin 'except' with abhorrence"? How careful are we to avoid even the very appearance of sin?

Jesus Christ taught *"That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."* And He continues with a description of their hearts. *"Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity"* (Matthew 5:20 and 23:28).

Brothers and sisters, in all likelihood, only you and God know if there is any hypocrisy or iniquity in your life. Only He can look within and know your true heart and mind. We, as the Saints of the Most High God, those who have made that holy covenant to serve Him every day, must examine ourselves and ask God to help us cleanse all unrighteousness from our hearts and minds.

Each of us **must** prepare ourselves in righteousness—prepare ourselves for a day of destruction of the wicked; an event that may or may not come in our lifetime. If we do see that day, we **will not fear**. If we don't see that day, we will surely stand before the judgment bar of God—let us not fear that day either, for the righteous will hear *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."*

May we examine every aspect of our individual lives, every moment of every day, and ask God to help us reach that "higher spiritual mind" where the enemy to our soul has no influence. May God bless us all as we endeavor to become clean and sanctified before the Lord.

NEED THE PERFECT
GIFT FOR YOUR
FAMILY THIS
CHRISTMAS?

REGISTER FOR
2011 WORLD CONFERENCE
AND GIVE THE BEST GIFT OF THE NEW YEAR!

The
Overlasting
Gospel

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus
Christ

WORLD CONFERENCE • JUNE 25–JULY 1, 2011



Find the 2011 World Conference on FACEBOOK
<http://www.facebook.com/2011WC>

<http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org/2011Conference.cfm>

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
649 North Alberton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovaalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

GREAT LAKES

Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST

Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC

Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST

Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST

Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34,35).

The story of Thanksgiving is not only a story of giving thanks, but it is a story of inclusion. If history is correct, it was a time when the Pilgrims AND the Native Americans met together for a huge feast to thank God for the bountiful harvest they had received. The Pilgrims INCLUDED the Native Americans in their celebration. In the scripture above, we are taught that God is not a respecter of persons. This means that anyone who seeks to serve God in truth and righteousness is INCLUDED in the family of God. It doesn't matter if they are Jew or Gentile, black or white, Spanish speaking or English speaking. It doesn't matter if they are rich or poor, male or female, young or old, large or small. The scripture teaches us that out of one blood, God made all the nations of the earth.

Unfortunately, the world around us is a world of EXCLUSION. Simply put, people organize themselves into groups, businesses, clubs, and even churches with people who are similar to them. This is how pride gets rooted. Then, conflict erupts between these groups, as we have seen throughout time and throughout the world today. One group feels they are better than another group, and would never think of associating with each other.

Fortunately, Jesus has shown us a better way. He has shown us that even the smallest, frail-est, most unassuming person can do extraordinary things for Him. He has showered His gifts upon His people with no particular preference. If we look at God's people throughout the world, we see that every race, ethnic group, gender, and age is represented. If there are "groups" who have not accepted the Lord, it has nothing to do with their skin color, or language, or level of prosperity. If people do not accept the Lord, it is because they don't want to.

In the Book of Mormon, there was a time when the Zoramite people became very prideful, and began to EXCLUDE themselves from the poor who had built their sanctuary. The poor were not allowed in to worship with them. They felt they were prosperous, and the poor were not prosperous, because the favor of God was upon them and not the poor.

"Now when Alma saw this his heart was grieved; for he saw that they were a wicked and a perverse people; yea, he saw that their hearts were set upon gold, and upon silver, and upon all manner of fine goods" (Alma 31:24).

Alma, seeing how prideful the Zoramites had become, was sickened. He later went to the poor to preach the truth of the Gospel to them, and had much success. This is a perfect example of how we cannot judge the righteousness of a person by the prosperity they have achieved, nor can we judge the righteousness of a person by any other means. The homeless person on the street corner, and the top executive of a company, both has the same opportunity to become a son or daughter of Jesus Christ. The Lord doesn't care about our circumstances or our background; He only cares about the sincerity of our heart.

In the Church today, we have to examine our thoughts and actions. Are we INCLUSIVE of others, or do we shy away from people who are different than we are? Do we show the same level of love and attention to anyone who walks through the doors of our branches or missions? Do we feel there are certain people who are more important to God than others? These thoughts can be very destructive to not only us, but to the Church. This Thanksgiving, let's remember the lesson of the Pilgrims and American Indians. Let us remember that God is no respecter of persons. Let us see others with our hearts and not our eyes. Let us INCLUDE anyone who will come and partake of the bountiful spiritual feast God has prepared for every one of us.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Gideon Asks God For His First Sign

(Judges Chapter 6)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever had to make a huge decision and were afraid you were choosing the wrong way? Did you ever think that our God, the Creator who loves you, could help you? Have you ever had a chance to stand up for God when others hated you for it?

Back in the old days of the Bible, the people of Israel had started to forget about God. They married unbelievers and started to follow other superstitious and mean religions. They prayed to statues for answers and even let the priests of Baal kill and sacrifice their precious babies. God was not pleased. He quit helping them and protecting them. Soon, their enemies, called the Midianites, began attacking and robbing their country all the time.

But not everyone had forgotten God. A young man named Gideon was working in his fields. The grain was ripe so he was hiding from the Midianites it to thresh it [pull it off the stalk] and store it to make bread. If they caught him, they would steal the grain. A stranger appeared to him and greeted him. "Hello, you mighty man



of valor [bravery]. The Lord is with you!"

Gideon answered, "If the Lord is with us, then why are so many bad things happening? Where are the miracles He showed us when He brought us out of slavery in Egypt and led us here? Why does He let the Midianites hurt and kill us?"

The stranger, who was actually an angel sent from God, said to Gideon, "Go in the strength that you have and you will save Israel out of the hands of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

Gideon answered back, "How will I save Israel? My family is the weakest of the tribes of Israel, and I am the most unimportant one of all of them!"

The angel answered, "Surely I will be with you and you will smite [attack and kill] all the Midianites like they were one man."

Gideon begged the angel, "Please if I have found favor in your eyes, show me a sign, and don't leave until I return with a present for you."

The angel agreed to wait and Gideon hurried off to prepare food. Gideon killed a small goat, baked a loaf of bread, brought broth and rushed back.

The angel told him to take the meat and bread and lay it on a large rock that was there. Then he told him to pour out the broth also. Gideon did so.

The angel touched the gifts with the end of his walking staff and a fire rose out of the rock and consumed it all. Then he disappeared. When Gideon looked up, he finally realized the stranger was an angel visiting him. He cried out to God, "Alas! [Oh no!] I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face!" He was so afraid.

But then he heard the voice of the Lord answering him. "Peace be unto you. Fear not. You will not die!" Gideon took rocks and built an altar to the Lord God on that holy spot. He was amazed at what had happened.

Later that night, the Lord spoke to him again. "Take your father's young bull and go to the altar of Baal that your father has. Throw down that altar and cut down the grove of trees that surround it. Build an altar unto the Lord thy God on the top of this place and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood that you have cut down."

Gideon knew that the people in the city and in his family would be furious with him if he stood up against their god Baal. So he went in the middle of the night with ten servants and tore down the altar for the ugly statue Baal. He built a new altar on top for God. Then he offered the bull on the new altar with prayers to the one and true living God.

The next morning an angry crowd gathered and threaten to kill Gideon. He asked them, "Why do you stand up for this idol?" He told them, "If Baal is such a powerful God, let him come and fight for himself!" Of course,

(Continued on Page 12)



“God is the Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever”

(Mormon 9:9)

By Sister Cindy Bright

The sisters of the General Ladies’ Uplift Circle arrived, one by one, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Nashville, Tennessee, with anticipation to see the joy on each of our faces. We were gathering for the General Ladies’ Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend, held from April 28 through May 2, 2010.

Our theme for the weekend was, “*God is the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever*”. We were in anticipation of receiving the blessings and what was to come through the workshops and fellowship.

The Penn Mid-Atlantic sisters welcomed everyone with a tote bag filled with souvenirs that had the Ladies’ Circle emblem on them along with a goodie bag of candy and gum.

Wednesday night was spent in fellowship with each other in the café and enjoying seeing who was there, sharing memories with one another and making new memories.

Thursday morning, our first morning, we were so eager to start our day of fellowship and sightseeing. After breakfast, we were blessed with our first devotions given by Sister Lisa Champine. The Lord blessed our sister with the word “peculiar.” Sister Lisa found the word “peculiar” people

seven times in the Bible and taught us in Hebrew “peculiar” means a treasure, special, distinct from all things, a jewel, God’s private property. This is how we started our day, knowing we are God’s private property. We belong to Him. What a way to start our day. Our mission was to choose to accept it and embrace the peculiarity and let the light of Christ shine through.

After our devotions most of the group went to the Belmont Mansion for tea, finger sandwiches and heard some of the history of Tennessee. The group had a wonderful time and then were able to go sightseeing and shopping. We had a list of things to do, places to see and shop, which was very helpful for us.

Thursday night we had our orientation and a presentation was given by the Penn Mid-Atlantic Circle. Our sisters did a wonderful job making us feel welcome. They sang a song which was to the tune of “*Will You Go?*” but they used the words “Tennessee, I will go.” Then all of a sudden Sister Jo Ann Niehl came running in saying “I’m ready to go.” Along with Sister Jo Ann being dressed up, our other sisters from the Penn Mid-Atlantic Circle were dressed with different hats to fit the skit they put on. This was a night to remember. We ended the night with looking forward to what tomorrow would bring.

Friday morning after breakfast and devotions, our workshops began. The organization was phenomenal. We each had a symbol on the back of our name tags. We were either a cupcake, crown, or a music note. Our workshops were held on Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons.

The workshop topics were “*Running the Race*”, given by Sister Mitzi Calabro and Sister Alicia Draskovich. Our sisters gave a great example of running a race by asking volunteers to

come and demonstrate a race. There were two groups of two sisters. One group had weights on them and the other had no weights. The race was a relay race so the sisters with the weights had to pass the weighted book bag over. Of course, the sisters with no weights on won the race. How does our spiritual race differ from other races? In other races, only one is crowned the winner, but in our spiritual race many win the prize. In other races, it is the feet that run, but in the spiritual race it is the heart that runs. So—

- *Get motivated*
- *Get prepared*
- *Set your priorities*
- *Get going*
- *Run with certainty*
- *Run with effort*
- *Run with focus*
- *Run with joy*

“*The Virtue of Consistency*” was facilitated by Sister Doreen Dino and Sister Bonnie Metzler, with the help of Sister Susan Moraco, who was unable to attend.

We had an ice breaker which brought us together finding a list of things that fit another sister in our group. Our sisters, through the inspiration of God and technology, came together with a wonderful lesson on being steadfast, fixed in purpose, firm and not easily moved. The second was being firm. We learned how trials and challenges of everyday life can prevent us from being consistent in our service to God. We sang, “*The Sea So Great Lord, My Boat So Small*”. The Lord knows these things, but we must rely on Him for our strength. We learned how to obtain the virtue of consistency through staying the course (I Thessalonians), studying God’s Word (II Timothy 2:15) and keeping His commandments.

(Continued on Page 8)

God Is The Same. . .

Continued from Page 7

"Working on the Crown" was presented by Sister Dottie Benyola, Sister Debbie McDonnell, and Sister Piernia DiFalco. Our sisters shared scripture with us found in (James 1:2, II Timothy 4:8, Philippians 4:1, and Ephesians 2:8). We were then asked what does it take to earn a crown? Several experiences were shared of the attributes we need in order to earn a crown. We need to fully trust the Lord. God looks at our hearts. The Lord is our supervisor—He gives us our performance review. He knows what we are capable of and He guides us through dreams, visions, and He speaks to us. The Lord might ask us to work outside our comfort zone. We need to step out on faith. Endurance is not an option, it's a must. We have to have a positive attitude toward change. If you can't visualize yourself after the change then you'll never be able to make that change. We must visualize what God wants of us so we can be of use to Him and receive that crown.

"Inspiring Others To Serve" was led by Sister Karen Progar and Sister Lisa Champine. God is constantly abiding (Psalms 125:1-5).

In our workshop, we were asked to write down three names of individuals who were an inspiration to us. They did not have to be from our Ladies' Circle. The sisters then provided an acronym with the letters in "INSPIRE".

During our workshop, Sister Lisa Champine shared with us a saying that her branch has adopted,

*"A church alive
is worth the drive."*

Let us be alive in our circles, giving all honor and glory to God.

Saturday morning we all gathered bright and early to get our day started. It was a little difficult getting up with the weather being so gloomy, but we were safe inside with a roof over our heads, good food prepared for us and sweet fellowship with each other that our blessings outweighed the weather. We began to see the storm they were calling for and we were thankful we had several days prior of beautiful weather.

*God is so good to us
all the time. We can never
thank Him enough for
all the blessings
He pours out on us.*

Our devotions on Saturday morning were given by Sister Cathy Mulla. Our sister shared with us her great desire to go to the place called the Upper Room at a chapel near the hotel. The chapel had a garden behind it where there was a replica of the well where the woman met Jesus. The woman was first surprised that a Jew would even speak to her because she was a Samaritan. Our sister shared scriptures, John 11:1-6, 32, 35, 40-42. We need to put all our faith and trust in the Lord and know trials will come, but we need to remember and recognize the Lord for who He is and give Him the honor and glory.

We finished our workshops on Saturday. We had several hours after our workshops for more fellowship. Many of us stayed inside as shopping was not an option due to the tornado watch that we were under.

On Saturday evening we celebrated our 90th Anniversary. Wow, ninety years have passed since our sisters, under the inspiration of the Lord, started The Ladies' Uplift Circle. Sister Karen Progar read Sister Violet Sarver's poem called, *"Naming the Circle"* and Sister Connie Frankenbery was asked

to share a poem she had written for the 90th Anniversary.

After a delicious dinner, our Sister of Ceremonies, Sister Lorraine De-Mercurio, began our program. Speakers were: Sister Dottie Benyola, Sister Pierna DiFalco, Sister Betty D'Orazio, and Sister Elaine Jordan. Each of our sisters shared how they became a member of The Ladies' Uplift Circle, how many years they have been in the Circle and highlights of their membership. It was a true blessing to hear all the efforts that were done in each of The Ladies' Uplift Circles. We ended our night being filled both spiritually and naturally.

Sunday began with Sister Lisa Champine, General Ladies' Circle Vice President, speaking to us about "The Circle of Tomorrow". Because some of our guest speakers didn't have the opportunity to share their Circle experiences, we were privileged to hear from Sister Mary Perri, Sister Flo Perri and Sister Rose Milantoni.

We were ready to be fed spiritually again. We were delighted to have our elder from Tennessee, Brother Ken Staley, and several of the members of the Tennessee Mission join us for a meeting. We were sorry to hear some of the members were not able to come due to the bad weather, but we were able to still have our meeting, even enjoying communion and a time of testimony. The Lord blessed Brother Ken with the message, *"the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever, I change not"*. Be strong and of good courage. Anticipate what the Lord is going to enable you to do in the future. Our brother spoke in Joshua 1:6, Mormon 9:9,15,21,27 and Malachi 3:6. There is nothing that Jesus cannot do. We need to believe miracles still are available to us today. Remember to pray to Jesus continually and if there is

(Continued on Page 11)



Blessings in Tse Bonito

By Sister Kayla Campbell

"Oh what a wonderful, wonderful day. . ." was the repeated sentiment of the Tse Bonito Branch members and guests on September 25, 2010.

The Tse Bonito MBA organized a "Spiritual Weekend in the Southwest" with the theme *"Don't Stop Believing"*. There is no greater feeling than to be surrounded by the Spirit of God and the wonderful saints of the church.

The day started with the Southwest Area MBA officers leading a wonderful chapel service. Brothers Michael Watson and Mark Cotellesse asked questions such as: "What is an achievement in your life? How did you accomplish this achievement? Did you have to forego anything to succeed?" They explained how sacrifice is behind every success. We, as God's children, must endure the pressures of the world and keep believing until the end, when God shows His power.

After chapel, we dispersed into age-appropriate seminar groups, focusing on the topic. The Spirit of God definitely shined through the seminars, as many were still discussing the topics during lunch.

That afternoon, we had the privilege of witnessing Kaila Calabrese's baptism. After everyone was just about to return to church, Noah Camacho asked for his baptism. Noah is from the Albuquerque Mission and has been attending with his family for a while.

After dinner, we were all anticipating the blessing that God would pour out to us that evening. It started as we witnessed the bestowal of the Holy Spirit on our new Sister Kaila. What a superb way to start a meeting! Following the confirmation, the Tse Bonito Branch and Albuquerque Mission choirs blessed the saints with a wonderful selection of songs, and then the meeting was open for testimony and singing. During the meeting, Nelly Camacho, Noah's daughter, asked for her baptism. She said that she felt the calling at the water but fought it. Once she heard Brother Dan Arcuri's testimony about how he felt someone else was being called at the water's edge, she knew it was her time.

The Tse Bonito Branch MBA would like to thank everyone who participated and helped. What better way to spend a weekend than with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

A Celebration in Spartanburg, South Carolina

By Sister Connie Rossi

"...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. . ." (Matthew 16:18).

This was the theme for the Spartanburg, South Carolina Branch on Sunday, October 25, 2009. A clear, crisp fall morning welcomed the saints as they gathered in the Lord's house to celebrate their sixteenth anniversary in their present church building. The Branch's History Book, which spanned from 1970s to July 2009, was also presented to the congregation as part of the day's commemoration. This was done with the actual history book being scanned and presented as a slide show. The saints from Gastonia, North Carolina,

Brother Art Gehly and Brother John Sigma from Herndon, Virginia, and many other friends and guests were present for this special occasion.

On October 24, 1993 the Spartanburg Mission dedicated their present building; but that is not where it all began. Brother Nathan Peterkin, originally from Bennettesville, South Carolina, resided in Somerset, New Jersey, for thirty-two years before returning to South Carolina in 1978. Brother Nathan had a vision for South Carolina and felt God would use him to establish the Gospel here—only he thought it would be in his hometown of Bennettesville. When things didn't work out in his hometown Brother Nathan remembered the testimony of Sister Josephine Hicks. Sister Josephine was from the Freehold, New Jersey Branch and would stand up in her testimony and say, "There's going to be a Mission in Spartanburg one day." Brother Nathan traveled to Spartanburg to see what may be there for him and felt the blessings of God in this city. In 1977 he purchased a home in Spartanburg and for the next year he and his wife, Sister Carmela, traveled back and forth from New Jersey to Spartanburg until they moved permanently to South Carolina in 1978.

When they first moved to Spartanburg there wasn't a church established in the area. Meetings were first held in Brother Nathan and Sister Carmela's home. A small bungalow in the backyard of their home was later renovated to be the first Mission Building of The Church of Jesus Christ. Many of the saints passing through the area would meet in Brother Nathan and Sister Carmela's home and the Mission Building along with the few saints that were in Gastonia, North Carolina. The saints from Gastonia would visit with Spartanburg often and they would meet on a rotation basis. In fact, the original

(Continued on Page 10)

A Celebration in Spartanburg

Continued from Page 9

Mission encompassing both North and South Carolina was called The Carolina Mission, which was organized on May 16, 1981 under the Atlantic Coast Region.

The time came when the small bungalow was no longer large enough to hold the meetings and plans were made to build a bigger church. The Spartanburg Mission applied to the General Church Priesthood and was presented a Certificate of Membership in good standing on May 3, 1993. Construction then began with the ground breaking in June of 1993. With many fundraisers and a lot of hard work the Lord blessed the Spartanburg Mission with a new building. It was dedicated on October 24, 1993.

Sixteen years later the saints of Spartanburg are still enjoying the many blessings of the Lord. On this sixteenth anniversary at the Spartanburg Branch, Brother George Kovacic from Gastonia opened the meeting in prayer with Brother Art Gehly from Herndon, Virginia, bringing forth the opening message. He spoke on vision—how appropriate for such an occasion; like the vision Brother Nathan had for Spartanburg. Brother Art proceeded to say that our vision is Jesus Christ and we are to take this vision and spread this Gospel—this is our mission. Proverbs 29:18 states, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish. . .”*

Our vision is our ultimate goal. Apart from God we will perish for the glory of God must be our purpose. The Church’s mission must be the salvation of mankind. This is the day and time to take this Gospel to the world. His word is what He has promised and it will come to pass. If we just believe, our vision will become our mission.

Brother Chris DeRoo then spoke on joy and fulfilling life’s desires. *“Adam fell that man might be; and men are, that they might have joy”* (II Nephi 2:25).

We can find joy and purpose in life by observing others and their experiences and how they handle certain circumstances. We must consider our ways—what are we doing for the house of the Lord and for His people? Being complacent could lead to sickness and death.

After receiving the Lord’s Supper, everyone enjoyed a slide show presentation of the Spartanburg Branch’s history starting from the 1970s with Brother Nathan and Sister Carmela Peterkin’s move from New Jersey to Spartanburg. Many old photos were shown along with special artifacts that have been treasured and kept over the years. The memories placed between the pages of these books will always be a part of our branch’s history.

As we reflect back to days gone by and ponder the many blessings of the Lord, may our histories serve as a reminder of the many joys as well as the trials and even sadness we have experienced and know that the Lord has been with us every step of the way.

After the presentation, the meeting was ended but the fellowship continued as everyone enjoyed a delicious luncheon.

The Lord’s work continues here in Spartanburg, South Carolina—a work that began with a prophecy from a sister in New Jersey, a vision of Brother Nathan’s, and a promise from the Lord.

“But behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel, they who have endured the

crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world, and their joy shall be full forever” (II Nephi 9:18).

Let Your Hearts Burn for Jesus

Evangelist Brothers Sam Sgro and Phil Arcuri visited the Maine Branch during the weekend of July 24 and 25, 2010.

A Saturday fellowship was enjoyed as we gathered for a BBQ and an evening meeting. Brother Phil shared his testimony of how God took a turn in his life and opened up his time to fully concentrate and work for Him. He enlightened us on his missionary travels and the great joy and fulfillment it has brought in his life.

On Sunday, the priesthood opened up our hearts by taking us on a walk with Jesus and asking; “do our hearts burn for Jesus?” In Luke 24, when Christ was crucified and risen; He appeared to two men, one being Cleopas as they were walking and talking together on the way to Emmaus. While they communed together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them questioning them of their reason of being sad. They explained all that had transpired to Jesus of Nazareth. The Chief Priests condemned him to death, whom they trusted who should have redeemed Israel. The sepulcher was found empty.

Then Jesus said, *“O fools and slow of heart, ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into*

(Continued on Page 11)

God Is The Same. . .

Continued from Page 8

a shadow of doubt, pray and ask God to help your unbelief.

During our time in Tennessee, we were truly blessed from above. Sister Gelsa Staley had serious back pain. She asked if the sisters could please pray for her and not too long after, she was feeling much better. Then Sister Tammy Valenti developed a sty in her eye. Our sister also asked to be remembered in prayer. The Lord not only helped her with the discomfort of the sty, but also protected her when she slipped and fell outside of the hotel. Praise God!

After our meeting, many of us quickly changed and headed for the airport to travel home. We knew the weather was bad, but we were in hopes of being able to go back to our homes. We heard that five miles from where we were, a hotel was evacuated in the early morning hours, so again we praise God for His blessings as we were not in any discomfort. We still had electricity, which many places were without.

When we arrived at the airport, we learned of many flight cancellations. Many of us were not able to go home on Sunday. Another blessing we received was the hotel allowed us to stay at the same discount price we received for our stay during our Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend. Again, the Lord came to our rescue.

*Truly God is
the same yesterday,
today and forever.*

There is much more to read about the Fellowship Weekend. For a complete report go to:

www.generalladiescircle.org

Let Your Hearts Burn. . .

Continued from Page 10

His glory." And Christ expounded unto them the scripture of the things concerning Himself. And Jesus abided with them through the evening and sat at meat with them. And their eyes were opened and they knew Him. Jesus vanished out of their sight.

*"And they said one
to another, Did not
our heart burn
within us, while he
talked with us by
the way, and while
he opened to us
the scriptures?"*

(Luke 24:32).

Our thoughts were opened up to our own walk with Jesus and we were asked; "Do we seek Him, to feel His presence, to walk closer to Him?" This is the reason why Christ came into the world; *"For this cause I came into this world that I may lay down my life for my friends."*

With joy we were told to experience the Love of God and reflect on the day of our baptism when we met the Lord. Didn't our hearts burn knowing He gave His life for our sake? God grants us the things we ask if we love and serve Him.

The two men that experienced their hearts burning couldn't wait to go to Jerusalem to tell others that Christ arose.

They spoke of Apostle Paul whom at one time persecuted the saints. When he was converted, his heart burned and yearned to tell others. Our heart should burn to tell of the Gospel. "Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ?"

There should be nothing in our life worth losing our soul over. How do we feel when we turn our life over to Christ? Do our hearts burn to draw closer to Him?

During our communion service, we sang, *"Just As I Am"*. Brother Phil was administering the wine, the blood of Christ. Brother Sam spoke in God's spirit saying:

*"Worthy! Worthy!
Of the Lamb that was slain!
Thus saith the Lord!
'Drink and be filled'."*

We thank God for our beautiful weekend with our brothers in Christ and for their yearning to tell us to take a closer walk with the Lord and to *let our hearts burn.*

Publication Notice

The Gospel News (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly, 12 issues per year at \$18.00 per subscription. It is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ, with headquarters at 525 Sixth Street, Monongahela, PA 15063, and published by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House at 8282 Boettner Road, P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030. The Editor is Carl Huttenberger, Jr., 62 Dogwood Court, Jamesburg, NJ 08831. The Assistant Editor is Donald Ross, 649 North Allerton Court, Moon Township, PA 15108-3291. 2075 copies are printed, 1816 subscriptions are paid, and a total of 1816 are mailed monthly.

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

nothing happened. They could see their false religion had no power. A statue cannot fight against God. The angry men left and everyone started calling Gideon, Jerubbaal which in their language means something like, "let Baal argue for himself".

Gideon stood up for what was right. He had made the first step in praying and answering to God. Even though he was afraid to stand up for what he knew was right, God helped him. God was starting to train and teach Gideon to listen and follow.

Many times when we serve God and trustingly follow His commandments, we will be criticized or made fun of. When we pray for the courage to do what is right we become stronger and stronger inside.

*Gideon overcame
his fears and became
a man God could
use to help others.*

When we stop doing things that are wrong, even sneaky things like being selfish, gossiping, stealing or cheating, we become a friend of Jesus and a person he can use and show miracles to. We can become people that God can use to help others. And that is exciting and wonderful.

With love,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

*God gives Gideon
courage to do
what is right.*

#####

WORD SEARCH

AN	ALTARS
ANGEL	STAND
OF	UP
THE	FOR
LORD	THE
APPEARED	ONE
UNTO	TRUE
GIDEON	GOD
DESTROY	FEAR
FALSE	NOT
GODS	

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

*"Giving thanks always for all
things unto God and the Fa-
ther in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ;"*

(Ephesians 5:20)

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

December, 2010

Volume 66, No.12

The Bookends of History: *Anaheim Closes, Irvine is Dedicated*

This article is lovingly dedicated to two cherished longtime members of the Anaheim/Irvine Branch:
Sister Elizabeth Simpson, who passed on to her heavenly home on January 18, 2010,
and Brother Rudy Meo, who gained his eternal rest on June 7, 2010.
Both were tireless workers for the Lord and the branch, and are deeply missed in our midst.
"Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalms 116:15).

If the walls of the Anaheim Branch building could talk, imagine the experiences, blessings, ordinations, confirmations, sermons, ordinances, testimonies and healings they would recount in their 50 year history, as well as the saints who passed through these portals. Such are the precious memories the saints will carry in their hearts in making the transition from Anaheim to Irvine. Gathering together for the last time in Anaheim took place on Sunday, July 5, 2009. It was a day of looking back with fond remembrance and gratitude for God's goodness, yet tinged with sadness to close this chapter while looking ahead with anticipation and excitement to the new church home in Irvine and what God has in store for the next 50 years.

The Last 50 Years— The Anaheim Branch

It is impossible to look forward without looking back on the remarkable history of the Anaheim Branch, marveling at how God's hand moved in bringing it to fruition in the face of daunting obstacles. Embodying a slice of history themselves, Brother Rudy and his wife, Sister Harriett, are the only two remaining charter members of Bell [later transferring to Anaheim] who were present at the very first meetings held in November 1944. Brother Rudy [who, as noted previously, passed on to his reward on June 7, 2010] conveyed that the Bell Branch had grown quite large by 1953, numbering about 110 members. An exodus of saints moved to a town

called Anaheim in 1953 and 1954, which at that time, was considered "the ends of the earth," there being no freeway. Those who moved first were George and Barbara Heaps, then Stanley and Annette Labanauskas, Joseph and Sadie Nicosia, George and Mary Spata, Elizabeth Simpson and family, Anna Alms and family and Bertha Mae Trujillo and family, then Jim and Margaret Heaps along with Clarence and Anna Kirkpatrick.

During those early years the saints encountered heavy opposition from property owners in the area and went back and forth to the Planning Commission and City Council trying to overcome various obstacles. At the

(Continued on Page 2)

Anaheim Closes. . .

Continued from Page 1

final Council meeting, a large group from the opposition attended. In comparison, the brothers representing the Church were few. The night before this meeting, Brother George Spata had a dream in which he saw the small church group in the Council chambers. A man appeared to him and instructed him to tell the group to “remain quiet, as he would speak for them.”

This man, dressed in work clothes, requested permission to speak. Nobody remembers exactly what he said, but he spoke in favor of having a church here. As stated in the Church History Volume 2, the members of the Church did not know this man, and never was he seen again after that meeting. Whoever he was, God must have sent him to champion the cause of the saints. After this gentleman spoke, the City Council voted three to two to grant the Church the permit. God does move in his own mysterious way!

The Next 50 Years— The Irvine Branch

While the next 50 years are a blank slate still to be written, Brother Jim Huttenberger emphatically declared that God’s power and His spirit will be no different than in the past 50 because He is the same God yesterday, today and forever. As in the past, future blessings can and will be anticipated.

Citing prohibitively high repair costs, shifting demographics and stagnant or declining attendance in Anaheim, the ministers of the branch faced some tough questions—what will happen to our young people, our children and grandchildren? Brother Jim said, “Let’s not think 2009. Let’s think 2029. Let’s have a vision as the people of God.” Brother Rudy and

Brother Otto, both of whom are over 80 and have held the fort for many years, gave their full support, stating, “Now it’s your time.” Brother Jim again thanked God for the dedication and support of these brothers, who were willing to pass the mantle and make a change at a time when it might be easier not to change.

The branch spent a year fasting and praying for the Lord’s direction in selling the building and finding a new church home. As Brother Jim relayed, “When the building finally sold and they said, ‘you need to be out of the building in three weeks,’ we were taken aback. That was quick. And as shepherds of the flock, we didn’t want the flock to scatter. We also didn’t want the flock not to have a home, but I know that this congregation has taught me, and I have learned, Brother David [referring to our brother’s earlier message], to walk by faith, not by sight.”

Seemingly out of the blue, and within only a few days of Anaheim sale, the Lord provided a facility geographically central to all members in the city of Irvine, an area conducive to future member growth. “Like the prophets of old, with every passing year, there is a greater burning desire in our hearts as the ministers of the Gospel to bring souls to Christ,” said Brother Jim. The property also seems well suited to the needs of the branch with a large sanctuary that seats 300, a wonderful youth room upstairs, a variety of classrooms, childcare room, deaconess room, kitchen and dining room area. Best of all, the price was such that the congregation was able to purchase the facility in full with no mortgage.

Brother Jim commented that relocation has been occurring throughout the Church and the time was ripe for such a change in Anaheim. He reiterated thanks to the congregation, espe-

cially those who had “born the heat of the day,” for being open to this kind of change. He asked for prayer that God would continue to direct, guide and lead this congregation, that it might be a light to the Irvine community as it has been a light to the Anaheim community these many years. Brother Jim expressed the desire to keep the Gospel pure, in fact, from generation to generation, from this location to the next, and to bring in those who are seeking Jesus.

The theme of unity was thread throughout the weekend of the Pacific Coast Region Conference, March 6 and 7, 2010, which comprised the dedication of the new Irvine church building.

Saturday night, visitors were given a tour of the new Irvine Branch and in a special commemorative service, Brother Jim Huttenberger presented a history of the Anaheim and Santa Ana Branches, and a slide show of the membership laboring to prepare the new building.

“We reached an impasse in the Anaheim area and decided it was time for a change,” said Brother Jim. “As we sought and found a new facility, we had a great desire to see our branch grow. We hope and pray a fresh start in Irvine will engender interest in the Gospel.”

Brother Jim extended thanks to the members and friends of Irvine, as well as the General Church Trustees for their swift cooperation helping the branch relocate.

Sunday morning, the building at 18 Goddard, Irvine, California, was consecrated as The Church of Jesus Christ and dedicated to the Lord, who inspired and empowered the members of Irvine in preparation for this

(Continued on Page 3)

Anaheim Closes. . .

Continued from Page 2

exciting day. The rostrum overflowed with visiting apostles, evangelists and elders from near and far and the same could be said for the congregation. Echoing a sentiment shared by all, Brother Stacey Light, President of the Pacific Region, exuded, "It's a joy to be here today and it is with joy that we dedicate this house of the Lord." As David said in Psalms 122, *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."* Brother Stacey acknowledged the visiting ministry, including those from the Quorum of Twelve: Apostles Dick Christman, Paul Liberto, Tom M. Liberto, Paul Palmieri and Peter Scolaro.

Following two selections from the San Diego Youth Choir—"How Can I Keep from Singing" and "Stand Up for the Restoration," opening prayer was proffered by Brother Dick Lawson, who petitioned the Lord to "help us to be the people you want us to be and to abide with us." Sister Christina Paxon's selection, *"On Holy Ground,"* was apropos leading into the consecration and dedication of this House of God.

Before offering the dedication prayer, Apostle Dick Christman thanked God for His great gift of love to us—Jesus Christ. He hoped that this new building would house all kindred, tongues and people and believed that God had this very location in mind for His house from the time He reserved this land as the promised land. Brother Dick said, "We feel triumphant, we feel joyful and we expect to hear good news from this part of the vineyard. We pray that the young people will take this Gospel forward and that this building will be used for His purpose." As Brother Dick rendered the dedication prayer, he expressed that "we can dedicate, but we cannot consecrate" as that is for the Lord to

do. He asked the Lord's blessing upon this building, people and congregation that it would be a place of safety, refuge, knowledge, renewal of spirit and dedication with the Gospel going forth from this very spot.

An interlude of song—"Lord, Use Me"—was performed by Sisters Carolyn and Erin Light. Apostle Peter Scolaro opened the service by reiterating the two themes presented Saturday night: reinvention and unity. Brother Jim Huttenberger had discussed the intense energy it took to prepare this building and that it required unity, which can be a powerful force for good. However, citing the Tower of Babel as a purpose that did not please God, Brother Peter pointed out that this was a case where God confounded the languages to dispel that unity. Lehi and other prophets foretold that if we are united for God's purpose, there is no need to fear destruction. The Gentiles established this land on the principles of God and it cannot be held by others as long as it is a land that serves the Lord. In the present day, it is now in need of reinvention.

Brother Peter related Acts 2:1, 2 to the theme of unity: *"When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."* Brother Peter then explained the many possible ways the Lord can work with a people who are united. "Three thousand souls were added to the church that day," he said. "Because they had 'singleness of heart,' God worked a great miracle among them. Just imagine what unity can do for us in the latter days." We read in the scriptures about the Church like it's a different church, but this is our church. Just as in the day of Pentecost, the Lord wants us to be able to draw in thousands through the love that brought about salvation, the

power of unity, and by believing with singleness of heart, mind and soul in Jesus Christ.

Brother Peter also brought forth Acts 4:32 *"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common."* If you love Jesus Christ with all of your mind and strength, you can be a part of that oneness. Take your weakness out, along with your lack of compassion and put the spirit in. Start reinventing and continue to serve God in this building as it lends itself to righteous fellowship. "I challenge you to be that church of Solomon's porch," exhorted Brother Peter. "I fail to balance, but I have to lean and fall into God's arms so He can help me do what I cannot do."

When the Apostle Paul said, "I die daily," he was basically saying "I am reinvented" or "I repent," which means to turn around one's heart. This is something we must do daily. In summarizing, Brother Peter exhorted us to have the courage to reinvent ourselves spiritually and to have the wisdom to go before the Lord to start anew daily. After all, He died for us and atoned for us, so our mistakes are paid for. It is the job of the Church to teach, not to punish and every heart that repents will be forgiven by God. If you have not yet covenanted with the Lord, what are you waiting for? You have the opportunity to reinvent yourself spiritually by taking on the name of Christ and thereby partake in this glorious unity.

The next speaker, Apostle Paul Liberto, referenced 2 Chronicles, Chapters 2 and 3, in which Solomon adorned the house of the Lord, just as done here in Irvine today. He also offered a dedication prayer unto the

(Continued on Page 12)



Finding a Place

By Apostle John R. Griffith

"And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should destroy it; but I found none."

(Ezekiel 22:30)

A nation's guilt is created by the wrongdoings of its citizens. The time comes when God's judgment befalls all and unfortunately a man burdened with personal sin is not in a position to plead his case before the Lord. In a time of wickedness as it was in Ezekiel's day, impending judgment calls for any and all who love their God to unite together to promote His standards, His truth and His righteousness. In this passage, our merciful Lord can find none who are spiritually capable and willing to step forward for the cause of salvation.

As history repeats itself, so is our day a time when the basic core of our belief system is challenged. As compared to twenty years ago, there are statistically more church attendees counted in the United States of America. Yet the support of the standards of God, His word, and His version of morality has become unpopular. It is a day to "live and let live". Standards are set by the individual's comfort level. But where is this cavalier attitude taking us? Instead of being encouraged to find a higher spiritual road, society's members are enticing each other into wrongdoing. Mankind has always felt there is safety in numbers, but many are falling into various forms of sin and distancing themselves from God. The judgment of God is pending. We can readily see our society heading toward spiritual difficulty. How can mankind be helped and redirected?

One of our favorite Church hymns proclaims, "*Oh God, our Church a beacon light still stands through all the storm and night, to be our guide on life's wild sea, bringing us safely back to thee.*" Our Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, has been created and established by Jesus Christ, the Son of God and it took its start at the Day of Pentecost. Its charter is the Gospel as taught by Christ. And its goal is to bring souls to eternal salvation as designed by our

God. The "Church" is comprised of believing individuals who have devoted themselves to the cause of Christ, first seeking and establishing personal salvation, and then introducing the Gospel message of salvation to others.

Today, our Church must be seen and heard. Our society's citizens need to consider the Gospel message. Recognize your talent by taking a stand for Christ. Our lives must reflect the lines and precepts of Christ's message. These "truths" will quicken the Holy Spirit within your lives and your testimony of His love and its effect on your life will be felt. Individually, whether a teenager or adult, you must be prepared with the preparation of the Gospel, dedicated to moving forward for Christ's purpose, courageous in your approach and presentation of the Gospel and sincere and consistent in working for Him.

- *Stand in the gap and take a stand for morality.*
- *Stand in the gap for God's Truth.*
- *Stand in the gap and be counted worthy.*
- *Stand in the gap and be a witness of His redemptive power.*
- *Stand in the gap and pray to be used of Him.*

If you have a sincere desire, He will show you your place in His Kingdom. At any age, there is something you can do. God is with you. Don't be embarrassed of His love for you. Pray that you may bring others to Christ through your life example, not lost in a crowd. The Church of Jesus Christ needs you. ***Through Him, all things are possible.***

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carl Huttenberger, Jr.
62 Dogwood Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
649 North Allerton Ct.
Moon Township, PA 15108-3291

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Jameson Staley
734 Pantera Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37178

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Theresa A. Bravo
29 Northfield Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
2410 Birchwood Court
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

GREAT LAKES

Carolynn O'Connor
8007 Schneider Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158

MIDWEST

Joshua Gehly
424 W. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801

PACIFIC

Anthony R. Cardinale
2857 E. Alden Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
84 Lazy Livin Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630

SOUTHEAST

Bonnie Kunkel
8990 Tatum Road
Palmetto, GA 30268-2455

SOUTHWEST

Michelle Watson
3039 S. Eugene
Mesa, AZ 85212

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets" (III Nephi 1:12).

Yes, while in mighty prayer, Jesus spoke these words to Nephi at a point when his heart was "exceedingly sorrowful" because of the unbelief and wickedness of his people. Jesus was about to be born in Bethlehem, and the prophets upon this land of what we now call America, told the people that a sign would be given here, to signal the birth of Jesus. There would be a night with no darkness, and a new star would appear. Night after night the believers would watch the sun go down and darkness cover the land. They knew the time had not arrived yet. This went on for a very long time and I'm sure that many believers became discouraged or disillusioned because years had gone by, and the night with no darkness never came. The day they had dreamed of, hoped for, and longed for, was beginning to seem like a lie. The unbelievers laughed and scoffed at the believers and finally said that they would put to death anyone who believed in this "lie." This is the point when Nephi went into mighty prayer, and Jesus told him to "be of good cheer" because the time was at hand. Sure enough, that very day, the sun went down, and there was no darkness. Can you imagine the feeling of the believers when this happened? Imagine how immediately all doubt was washed away, and victory was theirs. Everything they had hoped for, was unfolding before their very eyes! I'm sure they looked at the unbelievers and said, "I told you so!"

Sometimes in life, we long for something to come to pass. Maybe it is the healing of an affliction. Maybe it is that our loved ones might repent and come out of the dark world, and into the Church. Maybe it is that a relationship of ours might be healed. Maybe we long to overcome an addiction, habit, or temptation. Maybe we long to get ourselves out of a financial mess, or get a better job. Or maybe we just long to be happy. Sometimes servants of God are too embarrassed to admit they are unhappy or depressed, and therefore go through life "longing" for the day when they can be released from their depression. We may even reach a point when we think it is all a "lie." Isn't it interesting how the sign of Jesus birth was given just when the situation became hopeless? The believers were about to be put to death, and that is when the sign came!

Maybe in life, the true test of our faith is "holding on," and waiting for deliverance, even to the point of near hopelessness. How much do we really trust God? How much do we really "believe" in Him? Do we give up, halfway through a situation, or do we keep going until we cross the finish line?

Brothers, sisters and friends, we serve a living God. We are not "victims," we are "victors!" We are not "conquered," we are "more than conquerors!" We are not "defeated," but we are "determined" to realize that it is always darkest right before the dawn. Knowing this will give us the spiritual stamina to wait for the sign to be given in any situation we face. We all know the feeling we have when a prayer is answered. Our faith soars! God is not unfaithful to answer our prayers, or to see us through, but sometimes, it might not happen until the situation seems hopeless. But then when it does, oh, how He takes us to new heights of faith! We can look the devil in the eye and say, "I told you so!"

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

A New Star

(Helaman Chapters 14-16)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever wondered what was happening around the world when Christ, the King, was born?

We know what was happening in Jerusalem because of the Bible records. We are told that not only were certain Jews waiting for the birth of this child, but that the Lord had also directed three wise men from some country far in the east to the stable where Jesus was born. No doubt they were men who studied the ancient prophecies and things of the Lord, but they found the babe, Jesus by following a new star.

They were not the only people in the world who saw and wondered about this star. Five years before Christ, a preacher far away in the land of the Americas was warning the people to repent of their ungodly ways and prepare because the Son of God, Jesus Christ, would soon be born. This powerful preacher was named Samuel.

Samuel was a Lamanite. Years before, the Lamanite people refused to believe in the coming of Christ and tried to destroy their relatives, the Nephites, who did try to serve God. Now things had changed. There were



more good people among the Lamanite nation than the Nephites.

An angel of God told Samuel to return to the great city of Zarahemla and continue to preach, even though the people had thrust him out. He stood on a high wall and told the people to repent of their evil ways. A few people believed him and were sorry for the bad things they had done. Others in the crowd started to shoot arrows and throw stones at him, but God protected Samuel from them and this caused a few more people to believe in the power of God. Those who believed went to a man named Nephi and asked to be baptized, yet the bad people far outnumbered the good.

Samuel told the people to look for these signs: "There shall be great lights in heaven, so bright that the night before Jesus comes there will be no darkness. It will look like it is the day, yet the sun will rise the next morning, and that will be the day that Jesus will be born." Samuel also told them that then ". . .there shall a new star arise. . ." (Helaman 14:5).

After he delivered this message, the soldiers tried to climb up and capture Samuel, but he jumped down and returned to his own people to prophesy and preach.

Nephi continued to work with those that believed Samuel's words. Time passed with those believers eagerly awaiting the signs from God. Nephi worked miracles among them,

baptizing, preaching, and showing signs and miracles. Angels appeared unto them that Christ would soon be born.

Four years passed in this manner, while Satan began to stir up the hearts of those unbelievers against the people of God. Some people began to say that the time was past for the prophet Samuel's words to be fulfilled.

These evil people began to rejoice and tell the servants of God that their faith and belief had been for nothing. All across the land there was a great uproar, and the people who believed began to be very sorrowful that maybe something had happened and those things hoped for would not come to pass.

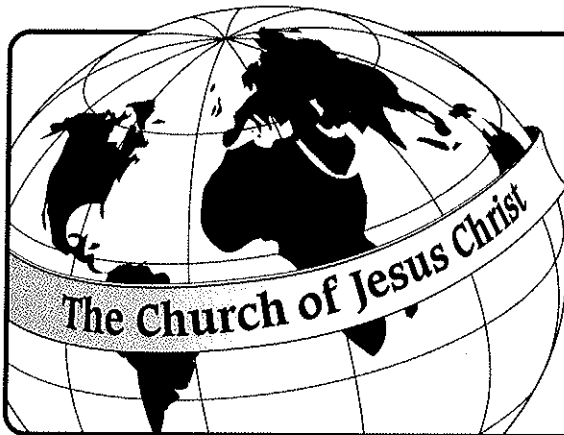
The trouble increased until those wicked people had actually set a date to murder all those who believed unless the signs came to pass.

The people cried out to God. Nephi bowed himself down upon the earth and cried mightily unto the Lord for the lives of those who believed in Him. The voice of the Lord came to him, "Lift up your head and be of good cheer: for the time is at hand and tomorrow I will come into the world. I will fulfill all that which I have caused the holy prophets to speak of."

That night at sunset, there was not darkness when night came. The people began to be astonished across the land. Many who had not believed the prophets fell to the earth as if they were dead; others began to fear because of their sin and unbelief.

There was no darkness that night, and the next morning the sun rose. The people in the Americas knew that this was the day the Lord should be born. (It was night in Bethlehem).

(Continued on Page 12)



A message from the Seventy

Missionary Trip to Italy

June 18 - 28, 2010

By Brother Anthony Micale

We thank God we all arrived safely in Sardinia, Italy. No matter how many times we come here to do God's work, we feel the excitement of bringing the Gospel to all who would hear. We feel great joy in speaking the words that the Lord puts in our mouths to uplift the saints and we hope to touch the heart of a soul. The blessing we receive for missionary work is difficult to describe. We also find great joy in seeing the saints still faithful and looking forward to our visits. Each time we come, we depend on the Lord to direct our words and deeds. The work here has its challenges, just like all over the world. When we read the scriptures we find that the saints have always faced the enemy of our souls and his followers. But we know the Lord was faithful to His word and saw them through. In the end there was great success.

In Italy we hope that with much labor the Lord will give us much success. The first stop on our journey has always been Sister Immacolata's house. Sister Immacolata is not in good health and we praise God for keeping her with us. She is an important member of the Church in Italy. Sister Lydia was anxious to see the new kitchen and put it to good use. The Church is in excellent condition and the apartment is very comfortable.

After a good and much-needed rest we visited the saints in preparation for the Sunday service.

On Sunday, before the service, a little girl from the neighborhood wanted her father to bring her into the Church. It was a good opportunity for us to invite them to stay. We opened the meeting in prayer and song, and both father and child listened outside to our singing and praising God. Brother Alex Gentile read Alma 37:32-37. This was a fitting topic since it was Father's Day. In this scripture Alma teaches his son Helaman the importance of keeping the record, being faithful and preaching repentance. He says never to be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly of heart. We must remember to cry unto the Lord for all His support and to seek His counsel. By doing these things the Lord will watch over us and direct our lives. These are wonderful words of a father to his son.

I continued, reciting Matthew 11:28-30, reminding us that serving the Lord is easy and the burden is light. Brother Nino followed with scripture on the importance of taking part in the bread of life. There were fifteen members and visitors in attendance, not counting a new addition—Sister Chiara's beautiful seven month-old

baby girl, Matilda. Three of the fifteen attending the service were visitors. These included Sister Fernanda's sister Roscia, Sister Stefania's friend Paulo, and Sister Giovanna's husband Franco. The meeting was full of God's Spirit with wonderful preaching, singing and testimony. The Italian Saints asked us to sing a hymn, and we chose "*It's My Desire*." Brother Alex closed the service in prayer with all of us holding hands. Sister Giovanna told us that while Brother Alex was speaking she saw a bright light surrounding him.

Sunday evening we were invited to Sister Immacolata's house for dinner and fellowship, which we enjoyed very much. This evening we had four generations of Sister Immacolata's family with us: Sister Immacolata, Sister Marinella, her daughter and granddaughters, Sister Chiara and Lucia and great-granddaughter, Matilda.

We visited much with the saints and studied with Brother Nino. On Wednesday, Brother Ninobrought us fish he had just caught. Brother Alex and I really appreciate the wonderful meals that Sister Lydia prepared for us. Sister Lydia and Brother Alex went shopping for the World Conference next year. They did a wonderful job purchasing beautiful merchandise from Italy. We spent the afternoon organizing and pricing all the items and later in the afternoon we visited Sister Giovanna and her husband Franco, who has not yet joined the Church. We are prayerful that the Lord will call him into the Gospel.

We held a Wednesday night meeting with thirteen in attendance. Brother Alex asked Brother Pietro to read the scripture and explain it, and he did a wonderful job. Brother Alex then preached on the subject of the blessing of children, who do not need repentance. We explained how

(Continued on Page 8)

Missionary Trip to Italy

Continued from Page 7

we perform this service in the states, since this was probably the first blessing in the Church in Sardinia. Sister Chiara decided to have her baby blessed during our visit on Saturday night, so she met with Brother Alex to plan the service. We expected quite a few visitors, family and friends, and looked forward to the opportunity to introduce the Church to them. Brother Rosario met with us Friday to discuss matters of the Church. We also spent time talking to Sister Lucia, answering questions she had about the Gospel. Final planning was completed with Sister Chiara and Brother Rosario on the agenda for the blessing of Matilda on Saturday night.

One of the many blessings we received this week was to watch the Lord work once more to care for Sister Immacolata. Her back hurt her so badly she could hardly walk for several days. We visited her and saw her outside walking with Sister Marinella. This was really a surprise, and we thanked God for answering our prayers for her once again.

Saturday evening we held the planned service for the blessing of Sister Chiara's baby, Matilda. The service started at 9:30 p.m. since many people had to work late. Forty-one persons were in attendance. Many of Sister Chiara's and her husband Nicola's family and friends had a chance to visit the Church for the first time. This was a wonderful opportunity to show the Church in a good way to so many people. Brother Alex opened the service in prayer and we sang the song "Mothers in Salem." Sister Lucia translated the song to Italian for the family. Brother Rosario read scripture from Mark on how the Lord called the children to Him and blessed them. He followed this scripture with

words from the Book of Mormon [Moroni 8th chapter], on how we should bless the children in Church. He made a strong point of explaining the reason why children do not need baptism. The Church was half full of people from other faiths. Brother Rosario then took the baby in his arms and blessed her. He spoke a beautiful, emotional prayer for the child, and God's Spirit was evident. All in attendance could feel the love and beauty in the blessing of this child.



Brother Rosario Blessing Baby Matilda

We then sang "There Will Be Showers of Blessings" and Brother Nino closed in prayer. Afterward, we all joined together for refreshments and enjoyed meeting and talking with each other. It is interesting to note that the Church is not secret in the surrounding area, including the city of Dorgali. As we shop and tell people who we are it is clear that they know of the Church in Cala Gonone.

Ten days passed so quickly, and we thank God for His direction and guidance during this trip. Sunday we held our service at 9:30 a.m. It was a beautiful morning. Twenty people attended, including four visitors and sixteen members. We sang a few Italian songs and Brother Rosario opened in prayer. Brother Nino opened the preaching service with the story of the Apostle Paul and his dedication to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Rosario followed on the same subject and emphasized the need for repentance and baptism in order to be accepted by the Lord. Brother Alex asked me to sing the "Latter Day Theme," a song in Italian from The Songs of Zion that we had been learning. This was the first time I had ever sung any solo in church, let alone in Italian. I want to thank Brother Alex for his help and encouragement. The Italian Saints really appreciate it whenever someone makes an effort to sing or speak in Italian.

I followed by speaking, again in Italian, encouraging the saints to labor for the Lord and continuing to be faithful to His Word. Brother Alex followed with closing remarks. Brother Rosario and Sister Stephania asked for prayer. Then the saints asked Brother Alex, Sister Lydia and myself to sing the hymn, "We are Sheltered in the Arms of God." Sister Fernanda said that as we were singing she could feel the arms of the Lord around her, and was sure all felt the same. Sister Stephania told us of a spiritual dream she had the night before. The dream was about expectations for the future in Italy. Brother Rosario closed in prayer. We thank God for all He does for us when we are on missionary work.



Branch and Mission News

“Oh Jesus, I Have Promised”

A spirit of peace and renewal was felt as we gathered to commune with the Lord in Dedham, Massachusetts at the Holiday Inn on November 13, 2010.

A small group of saints gather on a monthly basis along with visiting elders and families from New Jersey and Maine to conduct services.

Our meeting opened in singing “*O Jesus I have Promised.*” Brothers Sam Sgro, Phil Arcuri and Richard Onorato, Jr., encircled Sister Rhonda Rooney for reinstatement. Brother Richard, Jr., offered a prayer reinstating her by the authority of Jesus Christ and for God’s blessings upon her and her family. Sister Rhonda had joy upon her heart and was very thankful.

Brother Richard spoke of the importance of being right with the Lord and keeping our hearts pure. We made a promise to do our part and God wants us to follow Him. He encouraged us to concern ourselves with our day to day service to the Lord and to hold upon Christ Jesus.

Brother Sam continued in saying, “God is ever so good to us.” He is always near. He provoked our minds by stating, “You think you have problems?” Then we took a look at the life of Job an upright, perfect man who feared God and eschewed evil. Satan came to God to seek permission to touch his servant Job to prove his devotion to God. God allowed it but he was not allowed to touch his

soul. His friends ridiculed him; he was sorely afflicted, lost his children, his herds and his possessions. Job suffered greatly but never denied God. God restored all he had lost ten fold. God took care of Him and He will take care of us if we prove true to our calling. We have a hedge of protection round about us.

Brother Sam spoke of a life experience when he was a young man in the service. He had a small apartment, a wife and a new-born baby. He had no money and his child needed milk. He prayerfully looked unto the Lord. He went to the store located in his apartment building. The store owner whom was Jewish asked him what he was looking for and Brother Sam told him of his situation. The store owner opened a drawer up and showed him all the grocery receipts that were lent out to military people that were never paid back. He then gave Brother Sam the milk and a whole bag of groceries. Brother Sam was so thankful and he made sure he paid his debt to the store owner when he could. God provided! He will help us.

Job said to his friends; “why do ye persecute me as God and are not satisfied with my flesh?” For I know that my redeemer liveth. After my skin and worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. The day will come that every knee will bow before him and acknowledge our redeemer.

Brother Phil followed saying, “We serve the same God that Job served!” Our hope is to prove faithful that someday we would see God face to face. “Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? *Prove faithful— It will be worth it all!*”

Brother Phil related an experience where a sister waited all her life to request her baptism. She attended meetings and heard the testimonies of all that God can do. She got up and

expressed to the congregation “I want to feel the blessings of God.” She requested to be baptized. After her baptism she passed away a few weeks later.

We don’t know about tomorrow. Brother Richard, Jr., reaffirmed the message: “What can separate us?” God needs to be first! We need to comprehend that if you put God first above your spouse, family, job and all things, then God can elevate these things even more.

*Have confidence in
Christ, trust Him
and have that same
devotion as Job did;
to know our
Redeemer Lives!*

Remember the saints in Dedham, Massachusetts. They have come thus far by God’s grace. May God elevate their strength to continue to follow Him.

GOOD NEWS!

*“And the angel said
unto them, Fear not:
for, behold, I bring
you good tidings
of great joy, which
shall be to all people.
For unto you is born
this day in the city
of David a Saviour,
which is Christ
the Lord.”*

(Luke 2:10, 11)

FACES (Part 1)

By Brother Don Ross

It was time to pass the royal mantle of leadership to another. Why? The man was old and weary. He fought the enemies of righteousness with the Sword of Laban and brought peace to the land. Mormon wrote that he was a man who ruled justly. His name—King Benjamin.

His ruling days over, he was prompted by the Spirit of God to address the Nephite people, a people for whom he had labored with his own hands. King Benjamin's obedient son, Mosiah, assembled the people at the temple. The congregation was too numerous, so he erected a tower and preached to them from it. Not everyone could hear, therefore, he directed his words be written and circulated and kept for posterity. King Benjamin's oration is the only formal speech recorded in the Book of Mormon.

The words of King Benjamin were inspired. His teachings, outlined in his remarkable speech, are worth of emulation by all. The words are simple, sincere, warm and dignified. They are forceful and persuasive.

King Benjamin taught three themes. They were:

1. "When ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God."
2. That an angel appeared to him with "tidings of great joy," which he instructed to share with the people. The message concerned Jesus Christ, His coming to earth, His ultimate death, resurrection, and the effects of the Infinite Atonement.
3. He gave a testimony of the Saviour, along with counsel to be obe-

dient, to believe in God, His power, greatness, goodness, and wisdom. Though unsolicited, practical advice was given to parents to care for their children, to instruct them to "walk in the ways of truth and soberness," and to love and serve one another.

King Benjamin reminded the people to remember the poor and the beggar; for all are beggars and poor before the Lord. He told them to be diligent, and to continue in faith. The sermon was so forceful that the people fell down in awe and humility, and cried for God's mercy. They sought forgiveness through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ who was not even born! King Benjamin told the congregation to make a covenant with Christ and remain true to that covenant. A roll was made of those who "listened" and "there was not one soul...but who had entered into the covenant and taken upon them the name of Christ."

At the conclusion of his sermon, King Benjamin consecrated his son, Mosiah, to be king and ruler over the people and appointed priests to teach the people, "to stir them up in remembrance of the oath which they had made..."

This holy man of God, King Benjamin, lived three more years, revered and loved by his people. Thank God for this marvelous testimony and example.

FACES (Part 2)

Except for Jesus Christ, no greater personality walked the Americas than this prophet. He was true as steel, never wavering, full of integrity, faith and zeal. For example, he stated "the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them..." He was born of "goodly parents," and "taught somewhat in the

learning" of his father. Also, he was the first writer in the Book of Mormon. His name—Nephi.

Nephi was a prophet of the first rank of the Lord. As all prophets, his trials were large, but he exhibited and maintained a zealous devotion to serve God. Nephi predicted events to come. He was a true revelator, interpreting dreams and making plain the teachings of the Gospel. In approximately 600 B.C., Nephi saw in a vision that many parts of the Gospel "which are plain and precious" were altered or removed from the Jewish scripture—The Bible. Nephi knew the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. He saw the baptism of Christ. A significant result of this experience, Nephi taught and preached the necessity of baptism.

A natural leader whose heart overflowed with compassion for his family and friends, Nephi humbly sought and secured God's direction in everything. Nephi spent his entire life preaching repentance. And yet, he was a skilled craftsman. By divine guidance, he built a ship to carry his father's people to the Western Hemisphere. He fashioned tools and weapons, taught the women how to make wool and taught men how to build and farm.

Nephi was true to his heritage—courageous when confronted by danger—patient and loving with those who rejected his counsel—tireless in his opposition to evil. Many times he stood alone, while those he loved most abused, reviled and persecuted him. On several occasions he pleaded with his brothers to repent and humble themselves before God. Sometimes he was successful.

In his youth he was visited by the Lord who told him that because of his devotion and faithfulness, he would "be made a ruler and a teacher over

(Continued on Page 12)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

RESOLVE

TO ATTEND THE

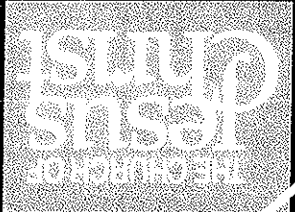
2011 WORLD CONFERENCE

IN JUNE!

5 MONTHS LEFT

TO REGISTER (DEADLINE MAY 31)

*The Overcoming
Gospel*



WORLD CONFERENCE • JUNE 25 – JULY 1, 2011



Find the 2011 World Conference on FACEBOOK
<http://www.facebook.com/2011WC>

<http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org/2011Conference.cfm>

Anaheim Closes. . .

Continued from Page 3

Lord. When he completed it, the glory of the Lord had filled the house and the fire of the Lord came down and consumed it. In looking toward the future, Brother Paul repeated three times, “. . . *for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever*” (Psalms 136:1). Let us remember this when enduring trials and let us never forget this wonderful day.

We thank God for providing a new home for the saints in Irvine and are confident that as they move forward in unity of spirit, that the impact they will have on the community will be directed by the Lord and guaranteed to succeed.

Faces (Part 2)

Continued from Page 10

thy brethren.” Nephi was asked by his followers to be their king because of their love for him. He accepted but did so with great reluctance.

Nephi’s character is a study of charity. He stated that he had charity for the Jew and Gentile. Full of charity, he exclaimed, “I pray the Father in the name of Christ that many of us, if not all, may be saved in His kingdom at that great and last day.” His faith was so great that he was confident that he would meet many spotless souls at the throne of God.

Due to his unwavering faith, Nephi’s father Lehi told him, “. . . and thou shalt be favored of the Lord, because thou hast not murmured.” Was Nephi favored of the Lord? The only answer is yes. He saw the Lord; he saw the Apostle John; he heard the voices of the Father and the Son. What a man of faith.

The Children’s Corner

Continued from Page 6

WORD SEARCH

SAMUEL	BE
A	BORN
LAMANITE	SIGN
PROPHET	IS
TOLD	A
NEPHITES	NEW
JESUS	STAR
SAVIOR	SHINING
OF	ALL
WORLD	NIGHT
WOULD	NO
SOON	DARKNESS

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

*“Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace, good will
toward men.*

(Luke 2:14)

ADDRESS CHANGE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____