

The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

January, 1973

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Greetings

President Gorie Ciaravino

I would like to extend to each and every one of you wishes for a prosperous and joyous New Year! May your desires for 1973 be complemented with God's blessings in all you undertake to accomplish. I am thankful to our God that He has kept us in His Grace to this day.

As the year 1972 comes to a close and 1973 comes in with promises of a better day, it does us good to look back and reflect on what we have done versus what we would liked to have accomplished.

We experienced some wonderful times in the past year, such as our April Conference in the General Church Auditorium. A season of spiritual blessings emanated from the gathering and spread to all Branches and Missions throughout the Church. All who were in attendance were undoubtedly moved to rededicate their lives and efforts in the work of God. Witnessing the experience of God speaking to us as a Church caused an attitude of unity that I have never remembered in our Priesthood gatherings. While we enjoyed this blessing for a short period of time, it causes me to ponder the situation. Are we willing to be dedicated to the Lord every moment of our lives? Have we placed the Lord and the Church above everything — our social involvement, family involvement and other outside interests?

The need to serve God in righteousness is greater today than in any other era of time. The permissive attitude of men and women today has made the teachings of Christ of no value. The commandments of our Lord are referred to as a make-believe life that cannot be applied today. The Saints of God have often been put to the test within the society of their day. We are no exception; we are tried as to whether we will conform to the present world or shall we set the example?

As we were united in the April Conference, so should we be in all things; every day of our lives. The need to pray and fast has been stressed over and over again, and I would like to take this occasion to encourage each of you — as a District, Branch, Mission, or individually — to give yourselves to fasting and prayer, that we may draw closer to our God.

It is written in *Psalms 34:17*— "The righteous cry and the Lord heareth and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

In conclusion, my prayer is that we will unite behind the cause of our Church to bring salvation to the dying sons of men that they might have an opportunity as you and I. May God bless you throughout the year and give you and your loved ones a blessed year.

The New Year

By Rev. Philip Doddridge

Great God, we sing that mighty hand
By which supported still we stand;
The opening year Thy mercy shows;
That mercy crowns it till it close.

By day, by night, at home, abroad,
Still are we guarded by our God;
By His incessant bounty fed,
By His unerring counsel led.

With grateful hearts the past we own;
The future, all to us unknown,
We to Thy guardian care commit,
And peaceful leave before Thy feet.

In scenes exalted or depressed,
Thou art our Joy, and Thou our Rest;
Thy goodness all our hopes shall raise,
Adored through all our changing days.

FATHER AND SON

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The article FATHER AND SON was not continued as indicated in the October issue of the GOSPEL NEWS since different opinions were expressed that could eventually lead to a controversy. I feel the continuance of this article would not serve the best interest of the church.

OUR CHURCH

Our branch was incorporated in 1922,
When the Gospel was told to only a few.

As the years kept rolling by,
The members began to multiply;

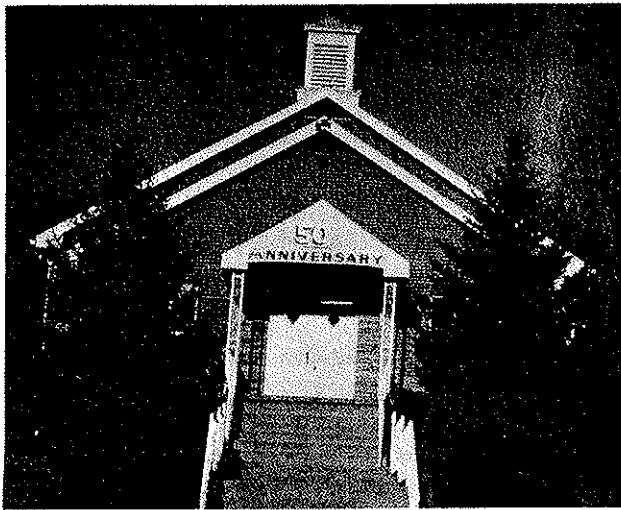
Young ones, middle-aged and the old—
Many wonderful experiences and blessings were told.

The Brothers and Sisters related their testimony
To others who were seeking spiritual bounty.

Their faithfulness, works and wonders
Kept growing with great splendor.

Today the Saints of all ages are reaping
What God has to offer in His keeping.

—Sister Dora Rossi



Aliquippa Building.

Aliquippa Branch Observes Golden Anniversary

by Brother Joseph Ross

The Aliquippa Branch commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the establishing of The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania on the first weekend of December, 1972. The little group became established as a Mission in 1922 and formally organized as a Mission under the jurisdiction of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch. (See the January 1966 issue of *The Gospel News*.)

A 50th Anniversary dinner was held on Friday, December 1 at a local dining establishment at 6:15 P.M. A formal invitation had been sent to all Branch members and their families, all families that had and were affiliated with our Branch over the years, President Gorie and his wife Sister Antoinette Ciaravino and Fred and Sister Domenica Tamburrino from Detroit, Michigan. Sister Tamburrino has the longest length of time as a member of The Church, being baptized in Aliquippa in 1921. She is currently a member of Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 3.

After the Anniversary Dinner, the entire group met in the Aliquippa Church at 8:00 P.M. where Presiding Elder Paul Palmieri gave a detailed resume of the history of The Church in Aliquippa which included the number of weddings, blessings and baptisms performed during the past fifty years. Acknowledgements were given to the

founding Brothers and Sisters of the Branch, both living and deceased. Following this brief service, all gathered in the Church basement for a piece of Anniversary cake with coffee.

A huge board was displayed having the following: photographs of members both present and deceased; pictures of different events, groups and individuals related to our Branch spanning the past fifty years; and a list of all converts that were baptized and confirmed in Aliquippa, including those that officiated.

On Sunday, December 3, a group of three hundred people gathered in our Church building to attend the 50th Anniversary services. To honor the occasion, the Aliquippa members were presented white carnations as they entered the building (boutonnieres for the men and corsages for the women.) Invitations had been previously sent to all ten Branches in the Pennsylvania District. We are glad to report all ten Branches were well represented, including surprise visitors from the Ohio and Florida Districts of The Church which helped to make the event a memorable success. Twenty-six Elders were present, including General Church President Gorie Ciaravino and his Second Counsellor Joseph Bittinger, and Apostle Russell Cadman.

A surprise presentation of a commemorative engraved desk pen set and holder was given to Aliquippa Elders Anthony Palmieri, John Ross and Thomas Ross by Elders Anthony Ross and Paul Palmieri in gratitude from themselves and the Branch to our elder Brothers that had ministered, taught and directed us during our growth in The Gospel.



Brother and Sister Ciaravino

Brother Gorie Ciaravino was our guest speaker. He read a verse from one of the *Psalms* and enlarged upon the theme of rendering thanks and praise to God.

Together with other Brothers who followed him, he congratulated our Branch and acknowledged the labors and efforts of the Saints over the past fifty years.

At the conclusion of the services, the entire congregation was invited to a buffet luncheon prepared by the host Branch, including a piece of anniversary cake. All present were invited to sign their names in a guest book provided on this momentous day in the history of the Aliquippa Branch. In addition, each person received a souvenir commemorating the event; a folded card containing a pencil line drawing of our Church building on the front and a brief history on the inside fold.

Needless to say, we thank all those that attended and all our members that worked so hard to make our 50th

Anniversary a success. Last but definitely not least, we thank God and His Son Jesus Christ for The Gospel in the Aliquippa area which has enriched our lives both naturally and more so spiritually.

A Treatise On Scripture

By Russell Cadman

In writing to our people through the medium of the *Gospel News*, I wish to bring forth some Scriptures in this article that pertain to us as the people of God in the latter-days or in the days of the Gentiles; understanding that we are Gentiles adopted into the house of Israel, yet Gentiles by nationality or birth.

I would like to start with the *Fifth Chapter of Jacob* as written in the *Book of Mormon*. Jacob brings out in this chapter the words of the prophet Zenos, who no doubt was a prophet in Israel prior to Lehi's coming to this land, which was a land choice unto God above all other lands, "after the waters had receded from off the earth in the great flood in the days of Noah." Part of this chapter is written as a parable yet much of it is *not a parable*. A parable, according to the *Bible* dictionary, is a method of speech in which moral or religious truth is illustrated from the analogy of common experience. *Webster's Dictionary* states it is a story in which people, things, and happenings have another meaning as in a fable or parable.

Parable, The Tame Olive-Tree

The prophet Zenos brought forth the word of the Lord as he prophesied to the house of Israel, likening the house of Israel to a tame olive-tree and the Gentiles as a wild olive-tree.

The house of Israel, or tame olive-tree, had been nourished by the Lord through the many years of time until it grew and waxed old and began to decay or sin entered into the tame olive-tree to such an extent that it caused great concern to the Lord and He said, "I will prune it and dig about it and nourish it." This no doubt was accomplished by the Lord sending forth prophets into Israel through the various ages of time which brought forth some young and tender branches or righteous people in the family of God, yet the main top began to perish. The master of the vineyard, to save the tree, told his servant to pluck branches from a wild olive-tree (Gentiles) and bring them unto him and they would pluck off those main branches that are beginning to wither away (sin entering in) and cast them into the fire (casting them off from the people of God).

The Wild Olive-Tree

We see, by the words of the prophet, the pruning of Israel at various times by wars, famines, captivity, etc. and the Lord said, "I will take away many of the young and tender branches (righteous of Israel) and graft them withersoever I will." The Lord would also graft in the branches of the wild olive-tree in the stead thereof. The branches of the wild olive-tree began to be grafted in during the days of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Paul said in *Romans 11th Ch. 17th verse*, "and if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive-tree, were grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive-tree;" Peter in baptizing the household of Cornelius shows plainly those of every nation that feareth God and worketh righteousness are accepted of Him.

The thirteenth and fourteenth verses of *Jacob, Chapter 5* show that the Lord of the vineyard hid the natural branches of the tame olive-tree that He broke off in the nethermost parts of the vineyard. We find as we read on that the Lord planted these branches (people) in four different parts of the vineyard (earth). Two of them were in very poor spots of ground and the last in a good spot of ground. This last planting in the land that was choice above all other lands, South America, Central America, and eventually this northern continent. The other three plantings, as we know of them, were in a land in the north and the isles of the sea. Those brought to this choice land when Lehi and Nephi came six hundred years before Christ.

Laboring In The Vineyard

After a long time passed away, the lord of the vineyard said to His servant, "Come, let us go down into the vineyard, that we may labor in the vineyard." (Speaking of the lord and His servant going down into the vineyard to labor is a parable and not an actuality), but the Lord considering the condition of His people, and laboring among them by the preaching and prophesying of the holy prophets from time to time.

They beheld the tame olive-tree where the wild branches had been grafted in, also the four plantings He had made, and found all doing very well, bringing much good fruit forth unto the Lord except the last or the ones brought to this blessed land. He found a division here, a part bringing forth tame (good fruit) and a part wild fruit (wicked) or the Nephite and Lamanite nations arising, yet the Lord was merciful to them and nourished them along with all His people.

In the thirtieth verse the Lord and His servant visited the vineyard for the second time and as they came to the original tame olive-tree, where the wild branches had been grafted in, all sorts of fruit did cumber the tree and none of it was good. Now this shows the falling away of the Gospel in the original Church of Christ as spoken of by the prophets and apostles. No doubt this points to the Reformation and the rise of so many different churches. Joseph Smith was told to join none of them for their creeds were an abomination in God's sight. Yet the roots (word of God in the Bible) were kept alive by the branches of the wild olive-tree that were grafted in but had at this time become wild again because of wickedness. We notice here the wild branches have grown (in numbers) and have overrun the roots and brought forth much evil fruit.

Obeying God's Commandments

I wish at this time to speak to our people of the necessity of obeying the commandments of God in all things, especially when this world is changing so rapidly and becoming so wicked; that we do not become as the world or wild branches, but be transformed from this world into the children of light; and also not to change The Church so much that we may overcome our roots, changing "the faith that was once delivered to the Saints."

The Lord and His servant found the four branches that had been planted in various parts of the vineyard had all become corrupt, even on this land the evil part had overcome the good. The Lord said, "and now all the trees of the vineyard are good for nothing save it to be hewn down and cast into the fire."

After Christ had taught the seed of Joseph on this

(Continued on next page)

A TREATISE ON SCRIPTURE

(Continued from page 3)

land, they eventually were all baptized into the kingdom of God and no iniquity was found among them and there never was a happier people among all the people who had been created. But in the two hundred and first year since Christ's birth there were among them those who were lifted up in pride, at this time "they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them." And they divided into classes and began to build up churches to get gain and to deny the true Church of Christ.

A Great Division

In the two hundred and thirty-first year there was a great division among the people and there arose a people who were called Nephites, they were the true believers in Christ, and those who rejected the Gospel were called Lamanites. When more than four hundred and twenty years had passed away Moroni bids us all farewell. Thus ended the righteous from the fourth planting except the three disciples who were not to die. We understand by about the year five hundred and sixty the original tame olive-tree had become "corrupt," as stated by Jacob.

The Lord of the vineyard laments very much this sad state of the vineyard and asks, "What could I have done more for my vineyard?" The servant said, "Is it not the loftiness of thy vineyard, the branches taking strength unto themselves, has this not caused the trees of thy vineyard to become corrupt?" May I ask, has this not caused the downfall of the people of God in all ages of time and it makes me wonder about our day.

Plan Is Devised

The Lord then is ready to destroy the trees of His vineyard but the servant prevailed upon Him to spare it a little longer and a plan is devised to cause His trees to be restored to their original state by grafting back into the original tree those branches that had been broken off and planted in various parts of the vineyard, and plucking off those wild branches that are most bitter and cast them into the fire.

In the sixty-first verse we find the command to call servants that the Lord and these servants may labor for the last time in the vineyard. The sixty-third verse shows the Restoration of the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were last to be called into the original Church of Christ in the days of Paul and now are the first to be called in this last time to prune the vineyard; while Israel is to be the last. Israel will be called as a nation of people when the first three verses of the *Fifth Chapter of Micah* are fulfilled. Please read them.

Pride And Loftiness

The Church in the hands of the Gentiles in this last period has had a very difficult time to say the least. The pride and loftiness of the Gentiles has been beyond belief, not willing to be content with the plain Gospel of Jesus and establishing The Church as told in the word of God, as instructed by the angel Moroni, and by the plain revelation of God that agrees with the written word. They became exceedingly lofty and said, "There are many Gods, we ourselves may become Gods and have a world of our own, plurality of wives, high priests, baptism for the dead;" — where is the end? Until God has said in *Isaiah 66 Ch. verses 1, 2*, "Where is the house ye built unto me? and where is the place of my rest? But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a con-

trite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Thus we find the calling of William Bickerton and the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ, after the ancient pattern, plain, by the direct revelation of God and that revelation agrees with the written word of God found in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*.

Forgiving One Another

by Dominic Moraco

Matthew 18:23: "Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, who would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, who owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had nothing with which to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant, therefore, fell down, and worshiped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, who owed him an hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what thou owest. And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all." And he would not, but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after he had called him, said unto him, "O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou besoughtest me! Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?" And his lord was angry, and delivered him to the inquisitors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye, from your hearts, forgive not every one his brother his trespasses." *Matthew 18:35*.

This parable is among the clearest ever set forth by the Saviour and should be easily understood by all. To more fully appreciate the meaning of this parable, we should recall the fact that on the day of our baptism God washed away all our sin and guilt, however serious. He accepted us in our humility and contriteness of heart. His forgiveness was complete and we knew all our guilt was swept away in the blood of Christ. Trespasses and sins which we thought He would never forgive were washed away and we were made to rejoice. Therefore, if God, in His compassion, forgave our sins, ought we not to be ready and willing to forgive one another?

In the course of human events it is entirely possible for us to trespass or offend one another. When this occurs, we should recall the teachings of Christ who instructed us to be ever ready and willing to forgive one another from the heart. The person who is reluctant to forgive his brother's trespasses is not a true follower of Christ. Therefore, to the true followers of Christ, it should be easy to forgive because the Saviour set the example for all of us. He forgave Peter who denied Him. He forgave Thomas who doubted Him. And finally, on the cross He asked His Father to forgive those responsible for His death. In conclusion, as followers of Christ, we should avoid offense; and inasmuch as is possible, live peaceably with all men. But if offenses occur, we should be willing to forgive even as Christ forgave us.

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

THE NEW YEAR

With the passing of the year 1972 and the ushering in of the New Year 1973 we are reminded that time hurries on as a resistless, unremitting stream. The following verse and commentary fittingly and forcibly stir our thoughts and alert us anew of the swift passage of time:

Time was, is past; thou canst not it recall:
Time is, thou hast; employ the portion small;
Time future, is not; and may never be:
Time present, is the only time for thee.

Lost wealth may be restored by industry,—
The wreck of health regained by temperance,—
Forgotten knowledge restored by study,—
Alienated friendship smoothed into forgetfulness,—
Even forfeited reputation won by penitence and virtue.

But who ever looked upon his vanished hours,—
Recalled his slighted years,—
Stamped them with wisdom,—
Or effaced from Heaven's record
The fearful blot of wasted time?

—Lydia H. Sigourney

LOOKING BACK

The turning back of the year is a most natural time for looking back and summing up. We are amazed at the swift flow of events around us as well as the happenings in our own everyday living.

Without doubt in reviewing the past year of 1972 we can recall many ups and downs. We have memories of failures and mistakes, while on the other hand, there are also memories of success and reward in some degree, large or small, for time and effort expended in the pursuit of various goals and activities.

This is true, both in our temporal as well as our spiritual affairs. In evaluating our spiritual pursuits and activities, we must concede that after all we might have done, it is still not enough. This is excellently illustrated by Nephi, "... ; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do." (*Book of Mormon, II Nephi 25:23*)

In his wonderful farewell address to his people, King Benjamin also taught the same great truth, "I say unto you that if ye should serve Him who has created you from the beginning, and is preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another—I say, if ye should serve Him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants." (*Book of Mormon, Mosiah 2:21*)

Our Lord Jesus Christ also pointed up this fact in a commentary on one of His parables, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: We have done that which was our duty to do." (*Luke 17:10*)

INSTRUCTION AND ADMONITION

We are indebted to these wonderful teachers and men of God, Nephi and King Benjamin, as well as our Lord Jesus Christ for instruction and admonition on such an essential and important truth.

(Continued on next page)

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT—continued

In reviewing our failures and mistakes may they serve to alert us to continued vigilance and to watch and pray. May we also look up to God, humbly and repentantly, seeking His pardoning grace for our shortcomings.

As we enter the New Year, may we look forward with cheerful hearts and hopeful anticipation. May we resolve to do better during the year 1973 than we have done in the year 1972 that has so swiftly rolled away.

May God, the Author of time, intensify our faith and grant us vision, courage and strength to make profitable use of the time allotted us in order to better serve Him and to do that which is our duty to do.

*M. B. A. Highlights***G. M. B. A. Conference
of November 1972**

by James D. Gibson
G.M.B.A. Editor

On November 11, 1972 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg the GMBA Conference was held. The morning meeting began at 9:45 A.M. Brother August D'Orazi, GMBA President, Brother Paul Palmieri, Vice President, and Brother Joseph Milantoni, Chaplain presided over the day's events. Two meetings were held; the evening included a program presented by the Ohio Area MBA and also musical selections by the other Areas present.

Brother August began the morning session with a few remarks to all attending, urging everyone to participate and seek serene and productive sessions. Roll call of officers revealed that most were present, with the exception of some organizers. A motion was passed to waive the reading of the past GMBA minutes of May 1972.

Unfinished Business

The first item was a report by Brother Joseph Milantoni that no progress was made concerning the Lesson Plans Project. The By-Law Committee reported that the additions to the By-Laws were ready and can now be obtained from the GMBA Librarian, Brother Joseph Draskovich.

The Michigan-Ontario Area had submitted a proposal that the program (camp events and line-up) of future GMBA Campouts be sent to locals first for review. This was rejected, as some locals are definitely not up to date on this idea and this can cause unnecessary delay.

Also rejected was a proposal for absenteeism balancing from the California Area.

The California group requested help on the Chinle Indian Project. The GMBA suggests that individuals help on their own.

The Campout Committee requests that all future campout registration forms have a space to list any medical experience an individual may have and also to list any ordained office an individual may hold. This information could be used preparing the camp's program. A motion was passed to purchase two dozen white towels for baptisms.

Lay Missionary Programs: The San Carols work was temporarily discontinued due to a change over of personnel. A letter was read from Brother Tony Brutz, the Presiding Missionary concerning his desire to assist in this program. He feels much good can again come from those interested in the program. Brother Joseph Milantoni spoke of a need for assistance in the Muncey Indian Project. The Michigan-Ontario group responsible for the project will set up a systematic approach to this work. They will request all those interested to participate, if possible. Sister Lydia Link of Bronx, New York has printed and distributed (via delegates to GMBA) a very good flier advertising this need. One should be posted in every local of the MBA. (NOTE: Local Presidents and Secretaries—All pertinent information is contained therein.)

Officers' Reports: Librarian, Brother Draskovich reported on literature on hand. He obtained 230 copies of the older edition and the new additions of the By-Laws can be inserted into the older edition. He also has some green MBA folders on hand and the price is \$1.50 each. All literature may be purchased by contacting him at this address: Joseph Draskovich, 527 Fairfield Drive, Greensburg, Pa. 15601.

The GMBA Editor, Brother James Gibson, reported on the publishing of the *MBA Bulletin* and submitting articles to the *MBA Highlights of the Gospel News*. It was noted that most areas have their own newsletter and a copy of each is sent to him. Specific thanks was again extended to all who assist in this operation.

Financial Secretary, Brother James Link, reported on the receipts of monies during the past six months. He also pointed out that the MBA organization has donated a total of \$39,918.98 over a period of seven years to the General Church. Brother Gorie Ciaravino, General Church President, thanked the organization on behalf of The Church. A total of \$3,549.58 was collected the past six months. A goal of \$200 per local had been set and locals met this goal.

Treasurer, Brother Mark Landrey reported that his report corresponded with that of the Financial Secretary, and that he also sends a monthly financial report to some of the GMBA Officers.

Auditors, Brothers Jon Genaro and Donald Ross, reported finding all books in good order.

At this time Brother Paul Palmieri commented on the San Diego local's inquiry concerning whether any music had been recorded or taped in the past by the General Church; also, if this could possibly be done in the future. The Special Affairs Committee of The Church was con-

sulted on this matter, and their recommendation was negative on this matter. The GMBA Conference voted to concur on this decision.

The four organizers present gave similar reports on their Areas' activities. All stated that they found good interest and desires. The four reporting were Brothers Jack Rosemeier, Northern Pennsylvania; Robert Nicklow, Southern Pennsylvania; Vince Gibson, Ohio; and Domenick Rose, Atlantic Coast.

Area Presidents: Brother Don Ross, Atlantic Coast reported hosting the GMBA Campout, holding an outing in May, starting an Area history report, holding a fruitful meeting with the young people, chartering a bus to this conference, and possibly chartering a bus trip to the Mormon pageant in Hill Cumorah next summer.

Brother Jon Genaro reported holding successful canned-good drives for the Indian people in the area (net results of the drives were ten tons of canned goods, 700 pounds of clothing and \$200 cash collection. Brother Bill Hufnagle was commended on his persistence in starting the canned good drive among the Indians there. The Ohio Area MBA also made a trip on Labor Day to the Muncey Reservation in Canada and had two baptisms while there.

Brother Robert Nicklow from Pennsylvania reported that the Area held joint meetings within the Area, two Area evening meetings, an Area Campout, purchased three motor bikes for Church use in Nigeria, held the annual Area, made a visit to the Muncey Reservation, held a business meeting at the "King Ranch," and are planning to purchase six sewing machines for White River Indian use.

Brother Alex Gentile reported for The Michigan-Ontario Area. They collected books to be used by The Church in Nigeria, have an Area Missionary Program (visiting people in homes, school, friends, elderly and etc.), are updating the Area phone directory, held an Area picnic, and a fast and prayer meeting with the young group.

Florida, reported by letter: Programs were held by various locals, picnics were held at surrounding parks, a weekend campout, a trip to the Space Center, and a newsletter publication has been started.

At this time the conference took time for lunch and the GMBA Activities Committee met during the intermission.

As the afternoon session began, Brother Milantoni made mention of those in need of prayer due to illness.

Sister Rose Lovalvo from Modesto, California gave a report on that Area's activities as follows: The work at the Chinle Reservation has been very successful; they held an Area campout in September; they plan to hold a retreat for the young people; presently they are collecting clothes for needy children and the Ladies Circle is planning to buy \$500 worth of blankets for use in Tia Juana and for the Indians.

The delegates from the MBA locals gave their reports at this time. They all reported the different types of meetings held and projects used to raise money for various needs.

Brother D'Orazio reported that the GMBA Activities Committee meeting of August recommended that the White River local come under the California Area MBA jurisdiction. He reported also that all Areas holding a camp-

out submit a brochure and other information to the GMBA committee.

A motion was passed to hold a GMBA Campout in 1973. The response from the locals on this matter was favorable, as per the GMBA request. Brother August then reviewed the past GMBA campouts, the year and the location. Brother Joseph Ross of the campsite procurement committee reported on sites visited for possible use. A motion was passed that the 1973 campout be held at a campsite at Dunkirk, New York during July 21 to July 29.

Brother Donald Ross of New Jersey next reported on the past '72 Campout at New Hope, Pennsylvania. Brother Don was camp director and stated he wished to thank all who assisted in any way to make the camp a success.

New Business

The election of officers showed few changes, with the exception of Sister Karen Milantoni being elected as Assistant Secretary. She replaced Sister Alice Link who is attending college at this time. Also, a few changes were made in the office of organizers.

The conference voted to create the office of Historian. The new office will also exist at the Area level. Brother Mark Landrey was elected to fulfill this office. All information of locals and areas will be submitted to him to record.

A motion was passed to hold the May 1973 conference at New Jersey. This will allow for a more extended means of association in various areas, as was done in the past and proved to be a success.

A proposal from the Glassport local that any six month term of office in the MBA be changed to a one year term. This is within the keeping of the General Church pattern. The proposal will be reviewed first by the By-Law Committee.

A letter from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles was read stating that they are willing to support the young people of The Church inasmuch as the young people desire to work for The Lord.

It was a good conference with much being accomplished. Please try to make plans to attend the May meeting in New Jersey.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Brother John and Sister Grace Buffa celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. They were married October 25, 1947 in The Church of Jesus Christ at the Edison, New Jersey Branch. They are the parents of two children, John and Ronald. Brother John and Sister Grace were married by Brother William H. Cadman, with Brother Rocco Ensana assisting him.

There is a little experience which applies to this wonderful marriage. When Brother John first met his mother-in-law to be, Sister Esther Sgro, she heard a heavenly voice saying that this man was to be the husband of her daughter. Brother John was not told of this wonderful experience until a year later after his marriage to Sister Grace.

Brother John and Sister Grace are now living in Michigan and worship with the Brothers and Sisters at the Warren - Sterling Heights Branch. May God continually bless them.



Brother and Sister Perdue

The Gospel In Mexico

This article relates a brief history of the lives of Brother and Sister Perdue and their experiences in establishing The Church in Mexico.

When my husband first came to The Church, Sister Mary Lovalvo had a dream of him standing with his arms stretched out to the Mexican people, his feet were planted in The Church. This was either in 1947 or 1948. When she told this to me I laughed, because to me, it seemed impossible because of his quiet nature. A few years later, my husband had a dream in which he saw himself in a room. A door opened and back of the door stood a beautiful woman, tall and stately in her native costume (Indian). A voice spoke to him saying, "Give this woman her baby." We thought this experience was for The Church to go to the Indian people, so we related it to The Church, never thinking it could have been meant for us.

Years of Affliction

For many years I had been afflicted, having had several operations and having spent much time being bedridden. After these operations, etc., I went down in 1949 for a siege which lasted approximately five years, the doctors being unable to do anything for me. In 1951 after having gone to the hospital and having some of the greatest specialists examine me, the only hope given me was an operation on the brain which had only a 50-50 chance. I asked the doctor if that was all he had to offer me. He replied, "Well, what have you to lose, you are no good this way." I told him I wanted to go home and think it over. I had been operated on so much, I felt I did not want to go through this.

After lying around helpless at home a few weeks, I decided to have my husband and daughter take me to Church and get anointed. I was anointed and a Brother had a vision as follows: He saw me frowning as if I had terrible pain, enveloped with a vapor of smoke around my head. The vapor lifted and I was smiling, this gave me hope. I felt that some day this terrible affliction would be removed. For the next two years, I was able to sit up a little, but could not do much as my strength was limited and I suffered much pain.

In 1953 I became worse. I again went to The Church to be anointed. As the Elder was praying, "Lord, touch her with Thy finger and heal her," another Brother had the following vision: He saw the heavens open and the stars in the sky with a hand reaching from the heavens,

touching me with a finger; but still I was not healed. This was followed by many months of suffering.

Wonderful Experience

On October 22, 1954, at about 4:30 a.m. I had been lying awake because of pain. The previous day I had begged the Lord to either take me home or heal me. I did not want to go on any more like this. All of a sudden I felt myself moving. This seemed very strange to me. My spirit left my body and I was traveling through space. I came to a place where there was a small oval-shaped door. It was very small, I realized I would not be able to go through it and I knew that through that door was heaven. I pleaded with the Lord to let me go through. The door became large enough to allow me to pass through and as I ascended the steps, my elbows touched the walls. The Lord did show me some wonderful things and at the end, I stood before Jesus. He looked beautiful! His hair was a golden color and parted in the middle in a sort of a page boy style. As I recognized Him to be Jesus, I cried out, "You are Jesus, you are the Lord." I fell prostrate at His feet begging Him with all my might to touch my body and heal me. I cried, "You are the only one who can heal me." He asked me, "Are you sure you want to be healed?" I said, "Yes, Lord, please heal me." He asked me again, "Are you sure you want to be healed?" I again answered, "Yes Lord." He then told me what I would have to do to get healed. When I came to myself I tried to make myself believe that it was not of God.

Great Load Lifted

My soul was tortured for two days and nights fighting it because I felt it was difficult to do what the Lord had commanded. Then again I realized life would not be worthwhile being bedridden by not obeying. I decided I would do anything to get well. This happened on a Saturday and by the following Monday, I told my husband that I was going to obey what the Lord told me to do, for I could not fight it any longer and I knew it was from God. As soon as I told him this, it seemed as if a great load lifted from me.

The following Wednesday night I went to Church and related a part of my experience. Sister Lowther spoke in tongues and a Brother had the interpretation which was as follows: "Attention — these words are all true. It has come from God." By obeying what the Lord told me to do that I might gain my health, we found ourselves working among the Mexican people in Los Nietos, California, three weeks later.

God Leading Us

Some time after we had started this work, Sister Mary Lovalvo, who had the dream of my husband with his arms outstretched to the Mexican people, came to me and asked me whether I realized we were going into the Mexican work at the time I told this experience. I told her I did not have the faintest idea of that, asking her if she knew. She told me she knew, because at the time I was telling the experience, her dream came to her about my husband. When she told me this, I felt as if an electric current had shocked me and I started to cry. I knew at that moment more than ever that we were doing what God wanted us to do and that He had been leading us. I asked Sister Lowther some time after we had been in the work if she had any thought at the time she spoke in tongues. She said, "Yes, I felt there was a work for you to do and that it would take time."

Minister Needed

In September of 1959, Brother and Sister Luna visited

Mexico. There they met a man who was trying to keep a group together as their minister had left them. He asked them if they knew any minister who could speak Spanish to help take over this little group as he was not a minister. They told him that in our Church there was a Spanish speaking minister. He begged them to help him by talking to Brother Perdue. Brother and Sister Luna knew how we felt about Mexico. We had said many times that we did not care about going there, therefore, they hesitated to say anything to us. About two or three weeks after this meeting, this man wrote to the Lunas again begging for Brother Perdue to come. This time they decided to tell us about it and when we heard this letter read, I felt like a great surge of electricity go through me and I knew then this was the will of God in our lives. When I told my husband how I felt, he too felt we should go.

We had worked in the Los Nietos Mission for more than five years and during all these years my husband and I prayed to the Lord to give us at least one year full time in the field and that my husband would be released from any natural work. During these more than five years, Brother Perdue would work swing shifts in the factory eight hours daily getting home late at night. After studying for a while he would get a few hours sleep and early every morning we would go out and visit as many families as possible. We also went out all day Saturday and held meetings on Sunday. We had quite a nice group there.

Weekends To Mexico

After having heard the letter sent to Brother and Sister Luna, we decided we had to leave the Los Nietos Mission in the care of two of our Elders while we would go weekends to Mexico to see if anything could be done. We finally met the man who wrote the letter. His name was Franco (a converted drunkard) and he lived in the worst part of Tijuana, Mexico. We held some meetings in this area as well as with the group he wanted us to meet. As soon as we started going to the latter group mentioned, the minister who had been with this group decided to come back so we decided to stay away as we did not want to infringe on anyone. We heard again that he left, so again we decided to go back.

We met a woman through this Franco who lived in his neighborhood and she wanted to be a minister. She would go with us to Libertad where we held meetings. One day she told us she had a lot in another section of Tijuana and wanted us to see it. She told us we could build a church on the lot. We went to see it although we did not trust her motives. This brought us to the area where we now have The Church. This place is called Colonia Obrera. We liked this mountain area the first time we say it so we decided to get acquainted with the people by visiting the few houses that were there. Every weekend they waited for us and we were happy to be there. We would hold meetings outside with the few that lived there. In the meantime, we would go to the Libertad area and hold meetings in the afternoon, until such time that we could leave there because we did not feel happy building on another man's foundation.

Wonderful Spirit

One Sunday as we were going to Colonia Obrera, this woman named Paula, told Brother Perdue that she had a dream that we were to have The Church here. We did not pay much attention to this, we figured that if the Lord wanted His Church here, He would make the way. Another Sunday morning some Brothers and Sisters prayed with us in these bare mountains as it was drizzling. While my

husband was praying I felt a wonderful spirit. I turned to my companion after he finished praying and told him I felt that the Lord was going to put His Church here on this mountain.

While holding these outside meetings in Colonia Obrera, along came Brother Toribio (who later became a minister) and Brother Barajas to listen. The Lord touched their hearts and they kept coming each Sunday bringing their families. Brother Barajas asked if we had a place to build a church to which we replied, "No." He said, "I am in charge of distributing these lots. I have a choice lot which I would like to give to The Church." He wept and said that once the Lord saved him from a firing squad and he wanted to do something for Him. We were glad to get this lot with a hope for the future. We put ourselves into the hands of the Lord knowing we would do nothing on our own. When the weather got too cold we tried to crowd into the house of a married couple (our first baptisms). It was just a cardboard shack but it protected us from the wind. A Brother from the United States offered to help make a larger house on the lot given to us so that this couple could live in it and we could also hold services there. Something had to be put on this lot to protect it from squatters. It was just a shell of a house but it was larger and cheaply made without a floor. When it rained it would leak and we would always have a stream down the middle of the room. (Continued in next issue)

Pennsylvania and Ohio M. B. A. Areas Meet

Seventy people from the Pennsylvania Area M. B. A. met with the Ohio Area at the Cleveland Branch on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10. There were also ten visitors from Detroit. Most of us traveled by chartered bus, stopping along the way at the Kirtland Temple in Kirtland, Ohio. After an informative and interesting tour, we met at Cleveland for lunch followed by a seminar, discussing subjects such as Joseph Smith, the beginning of our Church and how we, as individuals, should and can stay righteous in the sight of God. We directed questions to a panel consisting of Brothers Joe Calabrese, George Johnson, and Rocco Biscotti. Their knowledge of the discussed subjects were a great help to all of us.

We dismissed for a supper prepared by the Ohio Area members, and then met for the evening service. Two men from the Cleveland American Indian Center, one a Chippewa and one a Mohawk, presented a film entitled, "The Forgotten American", causing all present to vividly realize the plight of the American Indian. The discussion that followed was accompanied by God's Spirit and brought many items to light. We all felt God's presence when one of the visitors, at the close of the meeting, expressed a definite interest in The Church of Jesus Christ, even to the point of someday, if given the opportunity, becoming a part of it. This was an inspirational climax to a day well spent.

On Sunday, Brother George Johnson from Pennsylvania was inspired to speak on the very important subject of the Love of God. He was followed by Elders from both Pennsylvania and Ohio, elaborating on the subject. The meeting was concluded with a very active, Spirit-filled testimony meeting.

I speak for the Pennsylvania Area, saying it was a worthwhile weekend spent in fellowship with our Brothers, Sisters and friends.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

SING, SING, SING

Dear Girls and Boys,

Do you know why the cricket sings? The Apache Indians have an old tale they tell about it. When the harvest was good the cricket made the most noise. This was because he was happy. He kept trouble away and when he was respected the harvests were plentiful. So it is easy to understand why the cricket sings when he is happy. People are somewhat like crickets. When they are happy they too sing. When things don't go well can we sing? In *Proverbs* we read, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

There is a story in the *New Testament* about two men who sang in spite of their troubles. These two men were Paul and Silas. They were in the city of Philippi where they met a young girl possessed with an evil spirit which enabled her to tell things that would happen in the future. Men made great profit by letting her pretend to forecast the future for foolish people.

As soon as the girl saw Paul, she followed him for days crying out words that her masters had taught her to say. Finally Paul cast out the evil spirit in her. Now she could no longer foretell the future. This angered those who had made money by her fortune telling. In their anger they accused Paul and Silas of doing evil things, of being trouble makers.

The rulers of the city commanded that Paul and Silas be stripped and lashed with a whip and then put into prison. Their feet were locked in stocks. Stocks are heavy pieces of wood, locked, with two holes in the middle just large enough to encircle the ankle, but not large enough to pull the foot out. The jailer was warned not to let these men escape.

At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God. The prisoners heard them. How could anyone sing in prison? Suddenly there was an earthquake that shook the whole prison. The foundations shook! All the doors flew open! The stocks which held their feet so tightly were loosed. The jailer was so frightened he drew his sword to kill himself. He supposed all the prisoners had escaped. Paul cried with a loud voice, "Don't do thyself any harm. We are all here." The jailer brought a light and came trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas. They preached to the jailer and other prisoners, telling them about Jesus. The jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And as a result the jailer and his family were baptized into the Church.

There are still crickets, good harvests, sunshine and open doors. And there are still Saints who sing in spite of discouragements.

Sincerely,
Sister Mabel

Brief News Of Interest

Youngstown, Ohio
Nov. 23, 1972

On Sunday, Nov. 19, 1972, the saints of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch rejoiced to welcome back their Presiding Elder, Brother A. A. Corrado, after a month's illness. We felt a blessing as he entered the building, and greeted many brothers and sisters with the love of God.

He spoke words of encouragement to the saints, to be more faithful, stating "All things are possible with God". He also read the *23rd Psalm*, and related one of many beautiful experiences he had while in the hospital. We were blessed in hearing our Brother's inspiring words, even though he was not fully recovered.

We thank God for answering our prayers, and allowing Brother Corrado to return, and take up his duties as our Presiding Elder.

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I want to thank you for your prayers that were offered for me when I was in dire need. I also want to thank you for the cards, letters and phone calls which showed your love and concern for me. Continue praying for me that I may receive my full strength to fulfill my calling.

May God's richest blessings be upon you.

Brother A. Anthony Corrado

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION

It is my desire, through the means of *The Gospel News*, to thank all of the Brothers and Sisters and friends throughout the various areas of The Church for their prayers and for the many get well cards that I have received.

May the good Lord bless and repay you fourfold. I am still recovering from my recent illness and hope to return to work in the near future. Please keep remembering me in your prayers, for we know that God can do all things.

Brother Paul D'Amico
Lockport, New York

A NOTE OF THANKS TO ALL

I wish to take the opportunity at this time to thank all who remembered me with get well cards and most of all with your prayers. I have recently been discharged from the hospital and although far from being healed, I thank God for the recovery that I have made thus far. May I request all to continue remembering me in your prayers that The Lord might heal me completely and we will give God all the honor and the glory. Again I say, Thank You!

Brother Salvatore Azzinaro,
Lockport, New York