



The GOSPEL NEWS

The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.

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God of Our Life

God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true Promised Land; Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our Daily Bread,
Our heart's true Home when all our years have sped.

Hugh T. Kerr

THE HOLY LAND TOUR

(continued)

Haifa is the only city having a subway. It is a clean, modern city with beautiful apartment houses everywhere. They are like the condominium type in the U.S. Everyone buys their apartment; no one rents the apartments. They are built on stilts or pillars. This keeps them cool. Spring is the ideal time to visit Israel. The mountains and hill-sides are covered with many kinds of trees. Before a person can cut down a tree, he must promise to plant 50 trees. Bordering the large gardens are rows of trees planted for protection. Many kinds of citrus trees are in abundance here. Large plastic bags were covering the bunches of bananas to protect them from early frost. All along the highways were trucks with crates of oranges and grapefruit. The fields had rows and rows of plastic tent-like coverings to protect and hasten their growth. In the many markets, we saw unusually large carrots, artichokes, radishes, cabbage, cauliflower, etc. All this abundance and perfect products reminds one of the scripture, "the desert shall blossom as a rose." (Isaiah 35:1). Israel's exports to Europe include 1,000 tons of fruits and vegetables, seven hundred billion eggs and many types of cheese. Prosperity abounds on the land.

Thursday, March 15

We docked after lunch and in the late afternoon we left the boat, went through customs. The guide was a Jew, born in Johannesburg, S. Africa, educated in an English school. He spoke English fluently. He was a scholar of history and as we stopped at places of interest, he read from the Old and New Testament.

We drove to the top of Mt. Carmel. Here is the site of many strange gods, shrines and caves. This is the place Elijah chose for the great contest with the prophets of Baal. (I Kings 18:19, 39) The Jews, Christians and Moslems all accepted Elijah as a prophet.

The Orthodox Jews built a synagogue, claiming this is where Elijah had his experience with God. Tradition states that barren women came here to pray to Elijah for children.

As we drove by a school earlier, we were told some interesting things about the children and their education in Israel. The school term is ten months. The teachers receive \$300 to \$350 per month. They stress close family life and various excursions during the school term. They are very proud that they have no juvenile delinquency or drug problems. Boys and girls have military training; boys serve 3 years and girls 2 years, beginning at 18 years of age.

Friday, March 16

As we greeted each other this morning, we used the Israeli greeting of "Shalom" which means, "peace, hello".

As we continued through the countryside, our guide Gerry told us the meaning of the word TELL. It is an ancient mound or hill made by human hands, was once a village, then destroyed. During the past a new town was built on these ruins. As many as ten towns were rebuilt over and over because the basic requirements for a village were here; soil, water and lines of communications.

We visited the ancient city of Megiddo, a Tell. From here one can see the Valley of Jezreel, also known as Esdraelon where many Biblical battles were fought.

Barak and Gideon were victorious here, but Saul and Josiah suffered defeat. This valley was once fertile but later fell into decline. Today the Israelis have planted vineyards and fields of wheat, corn, barley, alfalfa and clover. Megiddo is mentioned often in the Old Testament. First in *Joshua* 12, the King of Megiddo is mentioned. In *Judges* 5:19 in the Song of Deborah, we read of the waters of Megiddo. King Solomon rebuilt and fortified Megiddo, it being a great trunk road from Egypt to Mesopotamia and Syria. Solomon had a special levy to finance the construction here. It was one of his "cities for chariots" and is said to have housed 8,000 horses in the stables. We saw the ruins. (I Kings 9:15) From a spring outside, Solomon very cleverly dug a tunnel and used a shaft to bring water into the fort.

From Megiddo we continued to Caesarea, an important, attractive, ancient site. This was the chief Roman city in the Palestine region for some 500 years, named in honor of Caesar Augustus. The Roman hippodrome here is capable of accommodating 20,000 people and each year musical productions are produced here. Parts of an old synagogue were uncovered about 1965.

Here Cornelius a centurion, had his prayers answered relative to Peter's vision on the housetop of Joppa. Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius and he and all his household were baptized. (Acts 10:1, 33) We visited this spot and were on the housetop.

It is said Herod Agrippa died here 'being eaten of worms', he failed in his speech to give God the glory. (Acts 12:19, 23)

Our next stop was Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, with a population of 500,000 including Jaffa (Joppa). It is a beautiful, modern city founded in 1909 by an overflow of Jews from Jaffa. Tel Aviv means, "Hill of Spring".

Joppa is one of the oldest cities in the world. It has a recorded history of 3,500 years. It is called Jaffa today. (Jafa) As we drove through Jaffa we noticed a sign, "Flea Market of Jaffa". Down the narrow streets we went until we saw the market. The many shops were open and displayed their wares on the street. One could purchase almost anything here. It was a busy, exciting place.

Joppa was known in Joshua's time as Japho. (*Joshua* 19:46) During Solomon's reign as king, the cedars of Lebanon were floated down from there to Joppa to be used in building the Temple. We recalled the exciting story of Jonah. Joppa was the port from which Jonah sailed and found a ship going to Tarshish (*Jonah* 1:3). This was the home of Dorcas (*Acts* 9:36-42). Peter stayed in Joppa at the home of Simon the tanner which was by the seaside (*Acts* 9:43). How real the scriptures become when one visits these places.

Jaffa is about 25 miles from Ashdod which was our next stop. Ashdod is a Tell. It was here that the Philistines built a temple to their god Dagan. They captured the ark of God and brought it to this city. The next morning the god Dagan was found fallen on its face before the ark. Everyone became ill because they took the ark. (I Samuel 5:1-7) In II Chronicles we read where this was one of the Philistines main strong holds. Today it is being developed to be one of Israel's largest seaports.

Saturday, March 17

Today is the Jewish Sabbath. The streets and highways are quite empty of travel in contrast to yesterday when cars were bumper to bumper. As we drove through

Haifa our guide drew our attention to the water containers on the roofs of the houses. By proper placing of mirrors, in the direct sun's rays, they are able to heat water for their houses. One wonders why this isn't tried in U. S. in our warmer states. The people of Israel conserve all water and use it in great systems of irrigation.

We continued on to Samaria and noticed everywhere the millions of trees planted all over the hills by the Jewish National Fund. To date 80 million trees have been planted in Israel. Many have been planted around the John F. Kennedy Memorial in the Judean Hills.

In Solomon's time Samaria was known as the Northern Kingdom. Here Ahab was persuaded by his wife Jezebel, to build an altar to the god Baal. Ahab also built his ivory place here. (*I Kings* 16:31-33) Part of the old town wall can be seen. A church built by the Crusaders and dedicated to John the Baptist is still here.

After leaving here we drove through the Jordan Valley to Jericho. The fields are fertile with an abundance of orange, grapefruit and banana trees. The vegetables grown here were of the best. As we continued on, we came to a rocky area. It was here Jesus fasted forty days in the wilderness. He was tempted here by Satan. This high mount is called The Mount of Temptation, above Jericho. Clinging to the mountain side near here is an old Greek Orthodox Monastery. It was a luxurious place built about 720 A.D. It has been partially restored.

Jericho is a Tell and doesn't appear to have been a very large city. The walls of the city were made of stone and mud. When Joshua gave the signal to blow the trumpets and shout, the walls came tumbling down. (*Joshua* 6:1-26) It is the lowest city in the world, 1200 feet below sea level. An archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon supervised excavations for 15 years here. They found a city wall and a circular tower dating back to 7,000 B.C. This was up from the old city of Jericho. Opposite all this, across the road is the Spring of Elisha. This is named for Elisha who made the bitter waters of the spring sweet by casting a handful of salt into it. (*II Kings* 2:18-22) People still come here to draw water.

(To be continued)

LET GOD HAVE THE WAY

by Mark Randy

Sometimes we live in doubt,
Not knowing what to do.
Our mind is tossed about,
Uncertain of where to go.
The good we like to hear
Is far from us today.
Because we live with fear,
Often we lose the way.
We dread to face trials
And wish they'd go away.
Our troubles turn to smiles;
Letting God have the way.
Remember, He is near
To comfort us today.
Jesus is the answer,
Every day of the year.

Joyful, Joyful Will The Meeting Be

Tampa, Florida

November 18, 1973

Brother V. James Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Mary, along with other Brothers and Sisters, made the semi-monthly trip to Tampa to bring the Gospel to that part of the vineyard. The day was beautiful and sunny; the trip was wonderful!

Services were held in the fellowship room of the Tampa Federal Bank. The meeting was opened with Hymn 72, "Some Day," followed by prayer and Hymn 187, "Just A Whispered Prayer." After a few brief comments on the blessing of little children for the benefit of our visitors, Brother Lovalvo blessed William Tucker's grandson, Christopher Scott Tucker, the son of Ronald and Peggy Tucker.

Brother Lovalvo used for his text *Matthew* 4:1-11, concerning Satan trying to tempt Jesus while He fasted in the desert. Brother Lovalvo stressed that Satan will also tempt us to follow him if we are not careful to resist him in all things by placing our trust in Jesus. Our Brother then related the parable of the rich man with his barns full . . . and Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham . . . , thus captivating the theme of the day—THE SOUL AND ITS WELFARE. Real living is having God in our heart; while Satan is the prince of this world, God's kingdom is beautiful.

Our visitors were very much impressed by the sermon brought forth, as were all those who were in attendance. We were about fifteen in attendance besides children. As Brother Lovalvo finished his discourse, a young lady arose and declared that she was ready to be baptized. We went to Tampa prepared that something in this order would take place. When Mrs. Turner went home to change clothes, her husband Howard also came in baptismal clothes to be immersed. The Gospel was introduced to the Turners by Billy Tucker as we call him. The baptisms took place at beautiful Davis Island in Tampa.

We then assembled at the home of Billy Tucker where a few words were expressed as to the faith of The Church. The new converts were then confirmed; Sister Minnie Turner was confirmed by Brother Lovalvo and Brother Howard Turner was confirmed by Brother Joseph Tucker, a privilege Brother Joe had not had in many years. The Turners' three children—Charles Dyke, Randall, and Howard Gene were then blessed. Prayers are requested for Charles, as he is afflicted with a bone disease. Sacrament was then administered before the close of the service.

We arrived home quite late, but the effort we put forth to make the trip was well worthwhile. The angels of heaven rejoiced also. We ask an interest in your prayers for the few that are in Tampa, that Satan may not get a foothold there. The work there is slowly progressing, and we pray that it may prosper in God's due time. Brother Lovalvo's remark about the day's outcome was "For a day like this I would make the trip every week." (The Lovalvo home in Port St. Lucie is 180 miles from Tampa.) May God bless all the Saints in The Church of His Beloved Son.

Brother Lou Pandone

LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE

Brother William H. Cadman once said, "If language means what is said, then we must conclude from His Own Words, that, if we do not teach and practice all that He taught, He will not be with us until the end of the world. *His Promise is that He will be with us inasmuch as we teach and observe all things which He taught.* Otherwise, He does not promise to be with us. The responsibility is on His Creatures for not abiding in Him. He does not waver." (*Book of Sermons*) What was it that Jesus taught us? The answer is easy: He taught us, God is Love, (*I John 4:8, 16*).

Brother Gorie Ciaravino said once, "I sometimes wonder whether we realize the real importance of His Resurrection. What does it mean to you and me? How does it affect us?" (*Book of Sermons*) My first thought was; "We love Him because He first loved us." (*I John 4:19* also *II Corinthians 5:14*)

The main or chief test of a Christian is to show this love. (*John 13:35*)

Where did this love start? It started with God. "He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." (*John 3:16*)

Jesus told us that whosoever loves Him will be loved by His Father. (*John 14:21, 23*) We are also told to keep ourselves in the Love of God. (*Jude 21*)

In our life we need to overcome the worldly love and know the Love of God, for it is said, "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of the city of my God." (*Revelations 3:12*)

What is this price for eternity we have to pay; "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and with all thy might." (*Deuteronomy 6:5*)

God wants us to walk in His ways, and to love Him. (*Deut. 10:12*) For this price we pay, "The Lord preserveth all that love Him," (*Psa. 145:20*) and the Lord knows all things, He sees our love. (*John 21:17*)

In *Moroni 7:47* we read, "Charity is the pure love of Christ." To give of ourselves to God is charity and this charity is our love. In *Second Nephi 26:30*, we read, "Men should have charity, which charity is love."

God loves little children (*Moroni 7:17*), we have to give of ourselves to God, to be His children. We have to be born again. (*John 3:1-8*)

MY TESTIMONY

I did not find this church, It found me. I saw more love of God in one Brother I met than I ever saw in any two men. I had to find out where Brother Tom Everett found this love. Brother Tom invited me and my wife to church. In The Church of Jesus Christ we found the love of God. I had been sprinkled, dipped in a tank, and prayed for before I met this church. All of that seemed unimportant. When we were baptized, we knew this was His real and true church. He did not have to love us or save us, but we sure praise God because He did. When we sing songs of love in church, I always think of *Alma 26:13*, "We sing songs of redeeming love." I had a great desire for wealth before I came to the Lord. My desire is not money anymore. I am wealthy beyond belief, be-

cause my treasures are laid up beyond that great blue sky. I praise Him for His love.

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION

I have read in the *Church History* that the Lord gave The Church an experience on November 8, 1861. He said, "When you go to the Indians, tell them that Jesus Christ died to save them."

Now if that does not tell us to go forth and teach what God taught, I do not know what does. Teach love to the Seed of Joseph. Show love to everyone.

Christ is the Head of the Body, *The Church.* (*Faith and Doctrine*)

Since this is The Church of Jesus Christ, it is our duty as Saints to feed people with God's Love. It has been said, "You cannot feed a horse with an eye-dropper, you have to give him a bucketful." Our hearts should knit together in unity and love, like in *Mosiah 18:21*.

What does our church have above all others? It has the true love of God. As a church then, let us not keep a good thing, let us really spread it around.

God gave all the Saints His love and He abides within us by the gift of The Holy Ghost. (*Acts 2:38*) So let us not sit down, Saints. We have the true Gospel, and we have the true love of God. Let us tell more people. Good news travels as fast as good people carry it.

So Brothers and Sisters, "Let us talk about love."

God bless all the Saints.

Brother Phil Van Allsburg

You Should Know . . .

by Joseph Ross

You should know . . .

That John Wycliffe (1330-1384) English ecclesiastical reformer and theologian, a major figure in the Protestant Reformation was credited with first translating the Bible into English.

You should know . . .

Our Church has a resolution that our people dress modestly when attending Sunday School and M.B.A. picnics or church functions of any kind. If possible, picnics should not be held in public parks where there are swimming pools or bathing beaches. Let us prove ourselves true followers of our Lord Jesus Christ in all things.

You should know . . .

The inscription on the Liberty Bell is derived from the Bible, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, to all the inhabitants thereof." *Leviticus 25:10*.

You should know . . .

The qualifications for a Trustee on the Branch, District or General Church level are as follows: Trustees must be over twenty-one years of age and members of The Church in good standing. (Caution: Some states require Trustees, to be property owners. It is not the intent that Trustees be property owners except in those states which require it. They may be property owners in other states but it is not mandatory.)

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EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

Summing Up and Looking Forward

Ring out the old shapes of foul disease,

Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;

Ring out the thousand wars of old,

Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,

The larger heart, the kindlier hand;

Ring out the darkness of the land;

Ring in the Christ that is to be.

These closing lines from Alfred Tennyson's great New Year's poem are most suitable and soul-stirring as we "ring out the old" (1973) and "ring in the new" (1974). You will note the heartfelt wish of the poet Tennyson he so simply and eloquently expressed with pen, prophetic-like with anticipation for a better future.

Time Hurries On

The end of the year is a time for summing up and looking forward. It is also a time when we are forcibly reminded as the writer Blair wrote over two hundred years ago, "Think we, or think we not, time hurries on with a resistless, unremitting stream. Charles Wesley, contemporary with Blair, wrote in one of his great hymns, "Our life is a dream, our time as a stream glides swiftly away, and the fugitive moment refuses to stay."

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines the word time as a limited stretch or space of continued existence, as the interval between two successive events or acts, or the period through which an action, condition, or state continues; also as an indefinite continuous duration regarded as that in which the sequence of events takes place. Some have defined time to be the measure of the motion of heaven.

Time and Eternity

Alma, in unfolding the mysteries of God to his son Corianton, declared, "... all is as one day with God, and time only is measured unto men." (*Book of Mormon, Alma 40:8.*) Then the words of the Apostle Peter who wrote, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." (*II Peter 3:8*) We may say then that time is a part or measure of eternity.

In her beautiful treatise entitled INFINITE in the June, 1973 issue of the *Gospel News*, Sister Terri Bravo offers the following allegory:

Picture a mountain in your mind. Every one thousand years a bird comes and makes one peck on this mountain. When the mountain is completely flattened, this is one day in eternity!

In summing up our successes and failures during the past year, may we renew our gratitude to God for His guidance, strength and support that enabled us to successfully achieve at least some of our goals and to fulfill in whatever degree our duty to God. On the other hand may we seek His pardoning grace for our failures and shortcomings and ask Him for greater strength to enable us to do better in the future.

In looking forward to the New Year may we take fresh courage, trusting in God, and in the verse of Charles Wesley:

Come, let us anew, our journey pursue,

Roll around with the year, roll around with the year,

And never stand still, and never stand still

Till the Master appear.



The Children's Corner

Mabel Bickerton

Pharaohs . . . Rulers of Egypt

Dear Girls and Boys,

I am going to tell you stories about pharaohs, kings and rulers. Pharaoh was a title used to designate the rulers of Egypt. The name is thought to mean, "the sun" or "Great House". Truly, they were great rulers or were from the great houses of kings. Many were heathen kings who worshipped idols. Others were known as "shepherd kings" and others as "oppressors".

The Pharaoh who persecuted the Israelites lived when Moses was born. Pharaoh's daughter saved Moses from the river Nile and raised him as her own son. When Moses grew to be a man, God used him and his brother Aaron to free the Israelites from the Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Do you remember the plagues that were sent on Pharaoh and his people before the Israelites were freed? You can read of them in *Exodus, Chapters 7 to 12*.

There was another Pharaoh who lived in the days of Joseph. Joseph was falsely accused by Pharaoh's officer's wife and cast into prison. While there he met two servants of the King, a butler and a baker. They each had a dream the same night which troubled them. Joseph asked, "Why look ye so sadly today?" They told Joseph about their dreams. They were sad because they could not understand the dreams. As they told their dreams to Joseph, the Lord gave him the understanding. Joseph knew interpretations belonged to God and he told them so. (*Genesis 40:7, 20*). All came to pass as Joseph said it would. Two years later the Pharaoh had two dreams and Joseph was still in prison. The dreams worried Pharaoh and no one could interpret them. The butler remembered Joseph and told the King that Joseph could interpret dreams. Pharaoh called Joseph from the dungeon and told him his dreams. Joseph explained the dreams and this made the king very happy. He made Joseph a ruler to govern the growing of grain and see that it was properly taken care of for the famine which was soon to come. This Pharaoh was a good king. At the end of seven years of famine, he gave the land of Goshen to Joseph's father and brothers because they were shepherds. Joseph brought his father before Pharaoh and Jacob blessed the King. Jacob and his big family lived in Goshen for seventeen years. They were given possessions here and they grew and multiplied exceedingly.

Three Egyptian princesses, daughters of Pharaohs are mentioned in the Bible. One is the daughter who became the mother of Moses. She named him Moses because she said, "I drew him out of the water". The second, a daughter of a Pharaoh, was Bithiah. She was the wife of Mered, an Israelite. Very little is known of her. Another princess, a daughter of a Pharaoh, was the wife of King Solomon.

He brought her out of the city of David to a house that he had built for her. This was at the time the temple, the city wall and his house were being built. Little is known of her.

There is an interesting story about a king, the king of Salem named Melchizedek. He was called the King of Peace and the King of Righteousness. He was the priest of the most High God. He met Abram in the valley Shaveh. He brought bread and wine and blessed Abram saying, "Blessed be Abram of the most High God, possessor of heaven and earth." Abram gave tithes, a tenth of all he possessed to Melchizedek. The Book of Mormon tells us more about King Melchizedek. (*Alma 13:14, 19*). He was not only a king but a high priest. In those days the people were very wicked. Many had gone astray from the truth and no longer worshipped God. God gave Melchizedek great power and he went among the people telling them to repent. He had great faith. The people repented. He was called the Prince of Peace because he established peace among the people. There were many kings before him and many after him but none was as great as he. But of all the Pharaohs, the great kings and mighty rulers there is none as great as The King of Kings, our Saviour.

Next time I will tell about a king who lived here in America.

Sincerely, Sister Mabel

AN EXPERIENCE

At the opening of a Wednesday night meeting in the Metuchen Branch, Brother Richard Lawson, the Presiding Elder, announced that Brother Norbert Schmitt's son Jimmy was in the hospital and would be operated on in the morning. As the congregation knelt in prayer, we petitioned God in Jimmy's behalf, and during this prayer, I had a vision. I saw Jimmy Schmitt lying in a hospital bed, and an angel was standing next to him. The vision ended, and we finished praying. Immediately, I said a little prayer of my own and asked The Lord to confirm this vision. The meeting's subject was on angels!

After the meeting, I was still waiting for "the" confirmation. I spoke to Brother Lawson concerning the vision. "You know," he said, "we've talked about angels like we never did before." He then said that I should tell the Brothers and Sisters. I knew this was "the" confirmation. On Sunday I told the congregation, and we all received a wonderful blessing.

Brother Lawson went to the hospital after the Sunday meeting and told Brother Norbert Schmitt the experience. Brother Schmitt said, "I was a little worried about Jimmy, but after hearing of this experience that Brother Harry had, I am comforted. I know that everything will be alright." I thank The Lord for this wonderful blessing.

Brother Harry Abrams,
Metuchen Branch

● FLASHBACKS ●

by Charles Jumper

JANUARY 1949 — 25 YEARS AGO

Brother Matthew Miller of Detroit, Michigan was the guest speaker for "The Gospel Hour" radio broadcast. Brother Miller used the 12th Chapter of *St. John's Gospel* as his text. The program is sponsored by the Michigan and Canadian Branches and includes spiritual music by the young people of the area.

Brother William Cadman, General Church President, visited several Branches of the Church in Ohio. Brother Cadman spoke at Lorain, Cleveland, Niles, and Youngstown before returning to his home in Mon City, Pennsylvania.

JANUARY 1954 — 20 YEARS AGO

A New Year's eve gathering was held in Mon City for Brothers William Cadman and Joseph Bittinger who are soon to leave on a missionary trip to Nigeria, Africa.

Brothers Joseph Milantoni and Domenic Thomas led a group of young people from Detroit to the Muncey, Ontario Indian reservation to present a program and provide a treat for the Indian children.

Remember when Brothers Anthony Picciuto, Joseph Perry and August D'Orazio, during a tour of duty with the United States Army in Korea, though several hundred miles apart, were able to meet and spend some time together.

JANUARY 1959 — 15 YEARS AGO

Brother Frank Wooley of Youngstown, Ohio spoke at the dedication of our church building at San Demetrio Corone, Italy. Brother Frank was sent to Italy by The Church to relieve Brother Todaro who has returned to the United States.

JANUARY 1964 — 10 YEARS AGO

Brother Bailey from Redstone, Pennsylvania visited the McKees Rocks Branch. Brother Bailey is one of the oldest Evangelists in The Church.

The Lorain, Ohio Branch held their watch service. Brothers Anthony Vadasz of New Jersey, Domenic Thomas from Michigan, and Isaac Smith of Pennsylvania, along with their families attended the service.

JANUARY 1969 — 5 YEARS AGO

The Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch rededicated their church building. The structure which had been extensively damaged by fire has been renovated and restored for use.

Rich Blessings At Lake Worth, Florida Branch

We are happy to report the good news that the Lake Worth Branch has been blessed again. Recently, in two separate meetings, Brother Kenneth and Sister Sandra Hatch along with Brother Vincent Lupo asked to be renewed.

They have been reinstated to membership in The Church and we are happy to welcome them into the fold.

We thank God for His rich blessings upon us.

Like The Nephites

The Nephites in the beginning were the workers and believers of the law. God sent them forth on this land, as conquerors of all who were against them. He blessed them with every blessing possible to man. He gave them wealth both spiritual and natural. Great were the Nephites upon this land, because they loved the Lord. Also, just as great was their fall. God completely wiped them from the face of the earth for their many sins.

If you have read any of the *Book of Mormon* you will find we are not far different from the Nephites. Warnings were given to them constantly. They were warned of all the things that would corrupt their hearts and souls. Yet as people are and always have been, they were deaf to the words that convicted their souls.

A man would rather spend his time condemning his brother than himself. Can, when we reach the bar of God say, "Lord we have committed a few sins, but look what our brother has done". I'm sure the Lord would ask us if we were working to save our souls, or to judge our brother.

God knows our failings and forgives us. But we can not continue to make the same mistake and ask the Lord to forgive us. The Lord expects us to make changes for the good. He didn't say it was going to be easy.

When you really think about it, the main reason we are here on this earth, is to please our God. If we work toward the example Christ set, we not only heal our own souls but we help others. A man who works to set a good example always inspires others to do the same.

Some might say how do I know what wrong I am doing. If you are a member of this church and have to ask that, get down on your knees and pray. If the spirit does not convict your soul of wrong doings, my brother you are not right with God.

I would like to leave you with this one last thought. Shall we be like the Nephites. Or shall we listen to the spirit and the warnings from God. Think of it in this way. Are you ready to meet your Maker?

Sister Diana Thompson

THE POWER OF THE WORD

The gifts of the spirit will come as they may,
But we seek for the blessings of God this day.

For we are Christ's people—the chosen few,
To bear the fruits which did Nephi pursue.

Now where are these gifts of the spirit—possess,
In the power of the word, through all righteousness.

The power of the word t'was mentioned before,
T'is the key to the door for blessings much more.

The word is the truth—it cometh from He,
And now through obedience it dwells within me.

The word is—and always will be,
That rod of iron that brings us to Thee.

So the gifts of the Spirit are free to receive,
Through the power of the word manifested through He.

By Brother John Mancini

DISTRICT NEWS

At the September Conference, The Atlantic Coast District approved a recommendation by The Mission Board. The approval was for a series of meetings convening the first Wednesday of each month. Their purpose is to promote more fellowship.

The meetings are being rotated to afford the Branches and Missions an opportunity of entertaining Saints and friends. Branches and Missions are encouraged to fully support the meetings and many close their buildings to participate. The schedule is as follows:

December 5 — New Brunswick
 January 2 — Edison
 February 6 — Metuchen
 March 6 — Hopelawn
 April 3 — Bronx
 May 1 — Brooklyn
 June 5 — Freehold

Our initial meeting was wonderful. Brother Dominick Rose, Chairman of The Mission Board, felt prompted during the day to ask Brother Nathan Peterkin to open the meeting. Brother Rose arrived a few minutes late; however the meeting was not formerly opened. Brother Peterkin "did" open the meeting. His text was Jonah, the reluctant missionary. Brother Peterkin centered his message on obeying the commands of God. Go when told, anywhere, whatever the cost or consequence! We were told that God wants His Gospel to spread throughout the world. At this point, Brother Salvatore Valenti spoke in the Gift of Tongues. They were interpreted as: "THAT IS WHAT JESUS WANTS, THE GOSPEL TO BE PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." Brother Rocco Ensana followed and confirmed the theme. Brother Ensana confirmed the message by relating many personal experiences during his (47) years as a member of The Church and (45) years in The Priesthood.

We ask that you remember us in prayer. Our desire is the same as yours, to serve the Lord. All are welcome to attend, especially "visitors" from other areas of The Church.

Donald Ross
 District Editor

Beyond this life or grief and pain
 There is a hope that we'll meet again.
 In mansions of eternal bliss
 Where reigns, forever, happiness.
 The streets, they say are paved with gold.
 With gates of pearls, so we are told.
 We'll never need candles, there'll be no night
 For the Lamb of God will be the light.

Tears of sorrow shall fall no more
 Once we reach that Golden Shore.
 For God Himself shall wipe away
 The tears that stain our cheeks today.
 We'll meet with loved ones who've crossed the Bar.
 Who are watching patiently from afar.
 Anxiously waiting, beside Heaven's gate.
 Silently hoping we won't be too late.

Don Green

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

News From Lorain, Ohio

In the month of October there is a day known as "Sweetest Day" when flowers, candy, or cards are given to a loved one. We had our own version of "Sweetest Day" at our Branch. It was God's gift to us as we participated in our Sunday morning service, and The Lord touched the hearts of two young people who arose and asked for their baptism.

It was a beautiful, sunny fall day as we gathered at the lake to witness the baptism of Sister Alice (Hefner) Portnick and Brother David Calabrese. The waves were rough and high as they covered our young converts who were baptized by Brother Joseph Calabrese. Brother David felt good in his confirmation by Brother Alfred Dominico, as he had also been blessed as a child by Brother Alfred. Sister Alice was confirmed by Brother Frank Calabrese.

Sister Inez Caldwell, formerly of the Lorain Branch and now residing in Detroit, asked to be rebaptized in another one of our services. Brother Joseph Milantoni of Detroit, Michigan Branch No. 2 where Sister Inez is now a member, baptized her. May God bless and guide each of the newly baptized as they walk along on "The King's Highway."

Brother James and Sister Jeanette Velardi, formerly from Lorain and now residing in Cape Corral, Florida and Brother Gary Ciccati from San Diego, California also visited the Lorain Branch.

Deacon Ordained At Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch

The Greensburg Saints enjoyed a special blessing on Sunday, September 23. The edifying event of the day was the ordination of Brother Kenneth Mellor as a Deacon.

Brother Mellor's feet were washed by Brother Joseph Draskovich after which Brother Aldo D'Angelo ordained Brother Mellor to the office of Deacon.

May God grant him strength and wisdom to fulfill the duties of his new office.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brother Mellor is convalescing from injuries sustained in a recent traffic accident that also included his son and the son of Sister Blosser. May God grant them His healing grace and a full and complete recovery.

Happenings In West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania Branch

On August 19 we were blessed mightily of God. Brother Paul Palmieri and wife of Aliquippa Branch visited with us. He delivered a very uplifting message. Mr. and Mrs. Chatman Young and daughters of Washington, D. C. also worshipped with us. They gathered frequently with us when they formerly resided in nearby Clairton.

Mr. Young and his wife Hythia asked to be baptized. Brother Harry Robinson performed both baptisms. The laying on of hands for confirmation and reception of the Holy Ghost was administered by Brother English Webb