

# The GOSPEL NEWS

*The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa.*

January, 1977

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## A NEW YEAR, A NEW PRESIDENT

The year 1976 has swiftly rolled away, and the year 1977 is ushered in. As we look back we rejoice as we call to mind the joys and blessings that we were privileged to experience both materially and spiritually. On the other hand, we are saddened anew as we recall the sorrows that some of us experienced.

However, we are comforted and strengthened in the knowledge that our Heavenly Father has never forgotten us. Surely, many of us have been supported through numerous situations of disappointment, distress, and even tragedy, whether in our personal lives, or in the lives of our relatives, friends, and others around us. In the loss of loved ones and friends, when grief and heartache seemed more than we could bear, God's sustaining grace and comfort were ever present.

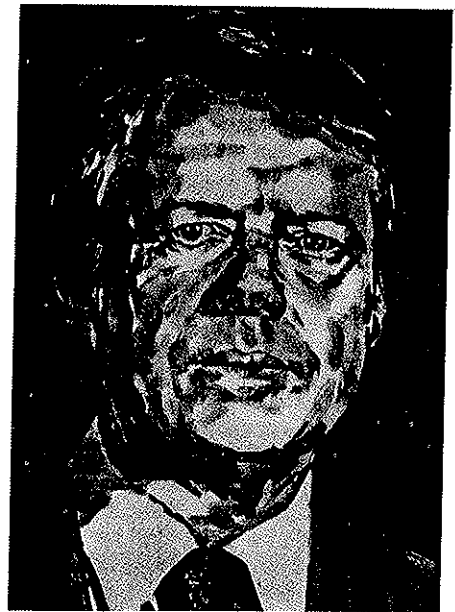
### *New People and New Locations*

As a Church, we can reflect joyfully and with thanksgiving to God that the Restored Gospel continues to spread to new people and new locations. During the past year, the Mission in Mexico City, Mexico has been cheered and strengthened by the continuing support and visits by the American Saints. An added blessing was the erection of a church building there in which the Mexican Saints can meet more comfortably during their services.

Another happy and edifying event of the past year was the establishment of the Church in the country of Ghana, located several hundred miles northwest of Nigeria. As the Church continues to reach new locations, far and near, we are reminded of Nephi's remarkable and prophetic vision of events in the latter days. He beheld that The Church of the Lamb of God, although its numbers were few, yet it was upon all the face of the earth (*1 Nephi 14:12*).

With the dawn of a new year, let us take courage. We have much reason to look forward with new hope and anticipation. Let us continue to put our trust in God. How many wonderful times God has helped us in time of need! We are reminded here of the opening lines of Isaac Watts' grand hymn:

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.



Here in America, as we welcome a new year, we also welcome a new President. President-Elect James E. Carter will be inaugurated on January 20. We want to wish him well, along with a new administration. May the Lord direct him and all those who assist him as they endeavor to fulfill the awesome responsibilities and duties of their offices, both at home and abroad. The Apostle Paul's exhortation is appropriate here:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (*1 Timothy 2:1, 2*).

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS  
EVERYWHERE!

The Gospel News Staff

## DEDICATION SERVICE IN MEXICO CITY

May the peace and joy of our Lord be with you and all the Brothers and Sisters in that part of the vineyard.

As you probably know by now, my brother Joe and I have just returned from a very enjoyable trip to Mexico City. We dedicated the new building there and I can truly say that the Church should be very proud of it. Brother Joseph Cirolla, and Brother Sam Randy have really done a good work and may the Lord really bless them for the great sacrifice and time spent in Mexico by those Brothers.

We arrived in Mexico City on Friday, November 5 and were met at the airport by Brother Joseph Lovalvo and Sister Diane Surdock. It was a blessing to see their faces and we were grateful for the arrangement they made for our stay in Mexico.

Our services on Saturday and Sunday were filled with God's Spirit. We had visitors from California, Arizona, Ohio, Tijuana, Mexico, and Sinaloa, Mexico. It's such a blessing to hear Israel sing, pray and preach. The Brothers and Sisters from Mexico are a humble people. They don't have too much of these earthly goods, but are rich in God's Spirit. They are a dedicated people. It was nothing to see women come to the services and sit on plain benches with no backs to them, holding their little babies, wrapped in shawls for about five hours. The little children were so attentive. The power of God was prevalent as they attested to the healings they received. We anointed about eight people on Saturday and while we were anointing, Brother Joseph Lovalvo saw the Angel of God in our midst. He appeared twice as Brother Joe asked for a confirmation of the first vision. When Brother Joe asked all those who had been healed by the touch of God's hand, they all raised their hands. Brother Eugenio, our missionary there, had been bothered by kidney trouble and had lost 25 pounds in the last three months. After he was anointed he stated that the Lord had touched him and he wasn't bothered anymore with the affliction. I was blessed when I heard the testimony of one of our Elders in Mexico City. He had preached in a church for 35 years and could never love the white man. When he came to The Church of Jesus Christ it was altogether different. He now truly knows of the love of God. Now he has love for all mankind. He is of the Seed of Joseph. He had hate for the white man because of the atrocities and persecutions his people received at the hand of the Spaniards. He said they would not accept the white man's religion. He saw people's eyes pierced out with red hot irons and their fingers and hands cut off section by section.

It's so beautiful to hear them speak of the love they have for the *Book of Mormon* and the Church. These people have fast and prayer every morning at 5:30 A.M., before the men go to work. They are real dedicated Saints.

The dedication service on Sunday was spirit filled. Brother Edward Perdue gave a beautiful dedication prayer. We felt to have Brother Perdue give the prayer because of their true, great dedication to the work in Mexico. They have done a work that the Church should be very proud of. The people are taught in the spirit of the latter day Gospel. Brother Joseph Lovalvo was in-

spired in his talk in the afternoon. He spoke with the spirit of the restoration and also heard the voice of God say, "Tell them I gave them this building and not to forget". It was a day well spent. They have many visitors and much interest in the locality of the Church.

Brother Eugenio is planning a visit to another place called Michocan which is over a hundred miles to the west of Mexico City. There are people there that want to be members of the Church. Truly the harvest is great, but the laborers are few. We could have baptized five people in Mexico City but it is difficult when you have to travel 70 miles to the water. We spent the time visiting and instruction. We told the Elders to take care of it when it was convenient for them. The other Brothers in the ministry work during the week so they have to wait until a weekend to perform the baptisms. We left for home on Thursday, Nov. 11.

We also ordained a young man a Deacon in the Church there. We now have 3 Elders, 1 Deacon, and 1 Deaconess. We have approximately 20 members there.

In conclusion I can say it is a good work. The spirit of restoration is in Mexico. When you work among the covenant people of God there is a blessing hard to describe. When you sing the words "O Israel, O Israel, in all your abidings, Prepare for your Lord, when you hear these glad tidings". and you see the tears streaming down their cheeks, then you really understand the meaning of Restoration.

I've tried to give you a report of our trip to Mexico City so that you could put the article in the *Gospel News*. If there are any questions, don't be afraid to call.

God bless each of the Saints there. Give our best to the family.

With love in Christ,  
Bro. Frank Calabrese

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## A Question Is Asked

The word love has been kicked around, used and mis-used so much that I'm not sure what it really means.

That is without a doubt an honest and accurate statement. Man has connected the word love to everything from a peanut up to his relationship with God. However the word in its purest and truest sense was displayed only once, by one person since time began. Yes you've guessed it, Jesus Christ. No one has ever displayed love in more abundance than Christ. He taught man that love was not just a word but a way of life.

I'll bet you're asking, "How can I obtain that kind of pure love?" It's very simple, by reading and following ALL of the teachings of Christ.

Remember even among those who do not believe that Christ was the salvation of mankind, they do believe that Christ was one of the greatest teachers that ever lived. So if you're going to learn the meaning of love, why not go to the best.

## IT IS WRITTEN

By T. D. Bucci

The great Redeemer having complied with the institution of Baptism, and receiving a most convincing testimony of His Heavenly Father's approbation by the miraculous descent of the Holy Ghost upon Him, He therefore retired into the wilderness, in order to prepare himself by fasting, meditation, prayer and sustaining temptation, for the important work on which He was entering, the salvation of mankind.

Our blessed Saviour, as Moses and Elijah had done before Him, fasted forty days and forty nights, maintaining an incessant communion with His Heavenly Father, thus, being in the extremes of hunger and thirst, Satan, that implacable foe to mankind was permitted to assail Him with the most alluring temptations, in order to defeat Heaven's most gracious designs, and keep mankind under the dreadful dominion of sin and death.

At the expiration of forty days of fasting Jesus bore the sensation of hunger. The tempter came to Him and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread". But He answered and said, "IT IS WRITTEN, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God".

Then the Devil took Him up and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple in the holy city and said to Him, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for IT IS WRITTEN, (the Devil knew what was written) He shall give His angels charge concerning thee, etc. Jesus said unto him, "IT IS WRITTEN, again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God".

Again the Devil took Him up to an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and said unto Him, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me". Then saith Jesus unto him, "Get thee hence, Satan: for IT IS WRITTEN, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve". Then the Devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.

Since my conversion and ordination into the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ I felt an inspiration to write something for the Church, and especially for the Seed of Joseph (American Indians). My first attempt was in 1952. *Apostasy and Restoration* is a booklet which I was so inspired to write, to clarify our position in the restoration movement. Though I did not have the formal education in the literary field, yet I felt the inspiration and the power of the Holy Ghost in writing this booklet.

My second attempt was in 1960. With improved knowledge in the literary field and with greater knowledge in the *Bible* and *The Book of Mormon* I felt an inspiration to write something concerning the Jews and the American Indians. So with this great urge, inspiration, and the power of the Holy Ghost I began reading, studying, searching the proper scriptures in the *Bible* and *The Book of Mormon*. As I would sit at the typewriter, composing, and putting scripture together, I would feel the power of God. Before each typing session I would kneel down and ask the Lord for direction and inspiration. While typing I would often stop and kneel in prayer for inspiration and when I would resume typing the manuscript, I would weep, tears rolling down my cheeks.

How marvelous and amazing was the word of God and the power of the Holy Ghost. The result is a booklet, "Jew And The American Indian". These two booklets are part of our Church literature.

For some years I felt an inspiration to write something concerning the Choice Seer. However, I kept putting it off until one day I received a letter from my grandson Mark Kovacic of Erie, Pa. who was 15 years of age at the time. In this letter was a dream he had in December, 1971. Mark was baptized at the age of 14, at the Youngstown campout. Here is the dream which prompted me to write a book.

\* \* \*

Dear Grandpa:

I'm writing this letter to you because of a dream I had a few days ago. I'll tell you all of it.

It started with our family, and you grandpa, and grandma riding in a car with us, going across something like a desert, but there were a few mountains here and there. I happened to look out the window and saw Christ standing on a rock. He was so bright and shining. All around Him, there was a glowing light beyond anything I had ever seen. I next remember standing at His feet and seeing the nail prints on them. The next part of the dream took place in an all-dirt cellar of a house. I remember Christ standing there and telling you (Grandpa Bucci) to write a book and also remember you sitting on a rock writing a book. This is the dream. A Happy New Year.

Your Grandson,  
Mark Kovacic

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When I received this experience from my grandson I felt it to be from the Lord, and it got me started to do something about a book on the Choice Seer. After researching, prayer, inspiration, many hours of typing, tedious work, and patience, finally a book was published in September, 1975 entitled, *American Indian Moses*. The book is powerful. It holds a timely and profound message for readers of all faiths and a special message to the Jew, and the American Indian.

—o—

## Ordination at Branch No. 3, Detroit

We enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship as Brother Rocco Biscotti of Cleveland, Ohio and Brother Leonard Lovalvo of Modesto, California were visiting with us. Our Brothers gave us a beautiful sermon that was very uplifting for the entire congregation.

They also took part in the ordination of Brother David Andruccioli as a Deacon. Brother David's feet were washed by Brother Joe Furnari and he was ordained by Brother Rocco Biscotti.

Sister Ida Napolitano had Brother Leonard Lovalvo "lay hands" upon her as she took up her duties again as a Deaconess.

We had a wonderful day with our visitors in worshipping God.

Patricia Reynolds  
162 W. Benton St.  
Leavenworth, Washington 98826

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

In attempting to answer your questions I believe I can give you some information that will be of interest to you, your class, and other members of The Re-organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

I assume that your interest has stemmed from the January issue of The Herald in which Mr. Howard has listed, churches, schisms or groups which have had historical connections with "Latter-Day Saints". We were of the opinion that the historian had more up-to-date information on The Church of Jesus Christ headquartered at Monongahela, Pennsylvania. I personally have mailed him more recent information on our group. Perhaps, noting your last question, he has information I do not know. I will attempt to answer your questions in the order they were asked.

- (1) What were the reasons for forming your congregation in 1857 after the death of Joseph the Martyr?

We were not organized in 1857. The Church of Jesus Christ traces its authority to Joseph Smith Jr., followed by Sidney Rigdon, William Bickerton, William Cadman, Alexander Cherry, William H. Cadman, Thurman S. Furnier, Gorie Ciaravino and now Dominic Thomas since April, 1974.

The reason for organizing under William Bickerton are: that he was called of God; that afterward Sidney Rigdon's following came to naught. The year that the Church organized under William Bickerton was 1862 in the month of July.

Between October, 1852 and July, 1862 they met only as humble followers of the Restored Gospel. It was officially organized in July of 1862 without a break in the continuity of Authority by Revelation of God. (We refer you to our "*Brief History of the Church of Jesus Christ*") Our church makes the claim that we have never split or become associated with any other group of the "Restoration" but in fact, exist, as the only remnant with the true authority, both by direct Revelation of God and the democratic process. (We refer you to "*The Divine Continuity*" pamphlet.)

- (2) What are now your basic Tenets of Faith?

We refer you to the *Articles of Faith card* and *Faith and Doctrine* of The Church of Jesus Christ. We use only the Bible (King James Version) and the Book of Mormon as Scripture. We do not use the Doctrine and Covenants because it is not consistent with the two records (Bible and Book of Mormon).

- (3) Why were these changes made, if any?

We have never made any changes in the teachings of Christ or His doctrines. Joseph Smith and others have.

- (4) What are your ideas concerning "Zion"?

We believe "Zion" will be built. Where? Only time will tell the exact location. By whom? Not by the Gentiles but by the seed of Joseph assisted by Gentiles (See

Nephi 21, Our book; your edition Chapter 9:86-106 & 10:1-8 and II Nephi 10th Chapter our book; 7th chapter, your book)

- (5) Do you foresee any reconciliation between the schisms which have divided the original church?

We look for the day when all the honest in heart will gather, including all Restoration believers. The Book of Mormon tells us that there will eventually be only two churches. One the church of the Lamb of God and the other the church of the Devil.

If you have any further questions please feel free to write to me personally.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Calabrese

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### Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all my Brothers, Sisters and Friends throughout The Church for your prayers, thoughtfulness, cards and visits during my recent illnesses.

The prayers, in particular, offered to God, brought me hope and peace when I so desperately needed them.

May God bless and keep you in His safekeeping.

Your Sister in Christ,

Joanne Frammolino

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### To All Photographers

If you have a good, clear, black and white picture of the General Church Auditorium, please send a copy to:

Nick Francione  
16020 Carlisle  
Detroit, Michigan 48205

It is needed to make General Church stationery.

Thank you,  
Editor

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### Coloring Books For Sale

If you want to convey the message of The Restoration to your children, friends, neighbors, give them a coloring book, telling the story of The Gospel Restored and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Just write to the following for as many books as you want. The cost is \$.75 per book.

Joe Ross  
Ross Drive  
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

John Ross, Jr.  
119 W. Saguaro  
Casa Grande, Ariz. 85222

Alex Gentile  
11294 Suffolk Drive  
Southgate, MI 48195

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Let us strive this year to get our lives more in tune with this wonderful Teacher that we may become channels through which His spirit can flow to refresh and bless all who are around us.

We are standing on the threshold of a new year. The open door of this new year sends every soul adventuring into the future, for none of us know what lies ahead. The past is only a memory, and the future is unborn. This year will help determine our destiny. Let us be careful lest we write something that would shame us in time to come. Leaving the old year and entering the new can be likened to moving from one house to another. There are things we leave behind that are not worth taking with us. This is the time to leave behind or bury some things such as imagined ills. If someone has done us an unkind act and it still bothers us, we should bury it; if someone has spoken an unkind word and it is still stinging, we should bury it; if we feel someone hasn't forgiven us and perhaps we find it hard to forgive, we should bury it. Let us bury all the ills of the past and guard against becoming preoccupied with the past lest we fall under the same condemnation as the plow man which Jesus illustrated on one occasion. How much better it is to take only lovely things into the new year.

Our lives are marked for progress, and one way to progress is to open up new fields of thought and new realms of experience. May we turn an ear to the admonition of Paul when he said, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before." Let us press on to the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus. How much better for us, as Paul says in another scripture, to "think of these things" such as whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. If we have virtue and praise we will think on things.

This is the year we should seek to become more faithful; this is the year to become more diligent scholars in the school of Christ; for as He, the teacher, once said, "Learn of Me for I am meek and lowly of heart." Let us strive this year to get our lives more in tune with this wonderful Teacher that we may become channels through which His Spirit can flow to refresh and bless all who are around us. There is also the knowledge that this year will be the last year for some; some day there will be no tomorrow, and James says, "What shall be on the morrow? For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away." Knowing this, should we not enter this new year with thoughtful consideration? Should not sincerity and the characteristics of the Teacher mark our deportment toward all men? Let us withhold nothing from Him who gave His life for us. Let us consecrate to God everything He has entrusted to us. Let us give unto Him a freewill offering that consists of ourselves. Let us determine to do His will and He will make for us a Happy New Year.

I would like to leave with you another thought. I am told that on the navigator's chart of an airliner there is a certain mark which notes the point of no return. Until the plane gets to this point it can always turn around and make it back to the field. I understand that this point is determined by the fuel supply. Just as this is true in the launching of an airliner, I believe there is a point of no return in the lives of all of us. It is not determined by a fuel gauge, but by our acts and behavior in life. As we journey along the road of life most of us are unaware of passing any point of no return, yet every day someone is passing just such a point.

—Continued on page 6



## The Children's Corner

*Mabel Bickerton*

### The Widow of Zarephath

Dear Girls and Boys,

This woman is identified only by the name of the town in which she lived in Phoenicia at Zarephath. For two and one half years there had been a draught in that area. She was a widow with a son. They were hungry and had only a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse. This time of famine had been very discouraging for her.

One day she was gathering sticks near the city gate when a man called to her and said, "Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel that I may drink." As she started to search for water, because the land was dry, he asked her for a morsel of bread. She replied that she had only a handful of meal and a little oil and now she was gathering two sticks that she could dress it for her and her son. Then she said, "We may eat it and die." The man, who was the prophet Elijah, could see she was very discouraged. He said, "Fear not, go and do as you said but make a little cake first and give it to me and then make one for thee and your son." What a test this was for this mother.

She went and did as Elijah said. Elijah said, "The barrel of meal shall not waste neither shall the cruse of oil fail until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth." Elijah, the widow and her son ate many days. A miracle had been performed because she believed God's prophet.

Later the widow was tested again. This time her son was very sick and, "there was no breath left in him". The widow upbraided Elijah and asked "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Or are you come to me to call my sin to remembrance to slay my son?" Elijah said, "Give me your son." He took the boy up to his room and laid him upon his own bed. After stretching himself on the child three times, he cried unto the Lord, "O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again." The Lord heard his prayer and the child was revived.

Elijah took the boy and brought him down to his mother. Elijah said, "See, thy son liveth." The widow said, "Now I know thou art a man of God." Another miracle had been performed.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel



## JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH MYSTERY

*"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish  
to swallow up Jonah." —Jonah 1:17*

My Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Let us reason together. . .

According to the Scriptures (as recorded in the Bible) Jonah was commanded by God to travel to the wicked city of Ninevah where the Hebrew prophet was to preach unto the sinful citizens concerning possible destruction unless the Ninevites repented of their sins.

Jonah, who became afraid and refused to obey the Lord's command, fled Ninevah and went to sea by way of a ship. While aboard the vessel, the Lord caused a great and mighty tempest to rise up from out of the east, thus threatening the ship and its crew with possible annihilation.

Each of the crew prayed unto his own god for safety. But Jonah was not to be found on the deck of the vessel; instead, the captain discovered the prophet sleeping soundly beneath the ship's deck!

Jonah was blamed for the raging storm because of his disobedience to the Lord God. Eventually the prophet was forced overboard into the raging tempest by the seamen, and the storm ceased its threatening winds.

But as Jonah was somewhere in the sea, the Lord God "prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah". After three days and three nights in the stomach of this "great fish" the Hebrew prophet was eventually vomited out of the mouth of the aquatic monster; thus Jonah obeyed the commandment of God and went back to Ninevah and preached repentance unto the Ninevites, and became the first foreign missionary to do so.

The Biblical tale of Jonah has been the target of great controversy among students of the Scriptures as well as scientists alike for some time now because of the doubtfulness concerning Jonah's miraculous plight with the "great fish".

What was this "great fish" which God prepared to swallow up the Hebrew prophet? During the nineteenth century scientists from all over the world pondered deeply over this puzzling mystery with relish. Some of these recognized savants claimed that Jonah was swallowed by a giant Zeuglodont, which was a prehistoric ancestor of the modern day whale. But the Zeuglodonts became extinct at the end of the Tertiary period during the Cenozoic era, long before the first man appeared on the Earth!

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### EDITORIAL — *continued*

I trust, however, that for those of us who have begun this divine journey, this year will find us a little further on the road to our heavenly home. Finally, this is the year for the Church to work, to grow, and to become a branch of the Lord's house most beautiful.

*By George A. Neill*

Reprint from The Gospel News  
of January, 1967

Other scientists were convinced that the "great fish" was, indeed, a true whale that just happened to be passing near the shore line at the time of the seemingly fateful incident.

In Matthew 12:40, we read the following concerning Jonah's historical plight with the "great fish" from the Lord Jesus Himself: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Even the Lord Himself refers to the "great fish" as a whale!

But is a whale capable of swallowing a full grown human and also vomiting him out?

First of all, a whale is not a true fish; it is an aquatic mammal related (as was stated earlier) to the prehistoric Zeuglodonts whose fossilized remains can be witnessed in museums. Probably the reason why the Old Testament story of Jonah refers to the marine monster as a "great fish" is because of its striking appearance and fish-like shape it takes.

There are, of course, dozens of different kinds of whales that inhabit our oceans throughout the world.

The largest of these marine monsters, the Blue Whale (*Sibbaldus musculus* or *Balaenoptera musculus*), attains a length of over one hundred feet or more! Although the mouth of this leviathan is large enough to contain a full grown human being, its throat is too small to swallow one.

The Sperm Whale (*Physeter catodon*) is another story. This monster of the deep attains a length of sixty feet or more; but both its mouth and its throat are equally large enough to devour a full grown human-being if it so desired!

The only other possible marine creature capable of devouring a human would be the Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*), but this is not a true whale; it is, in fact, a fish which attains a length of over fifty feet!

Not long ago (within the last half century), a whaler told the amazing tale of how he once fell overboard while on a whale hunt, and was actually swallowed up whole by an on-coming sperm whale! He lived exactly three days in the whale's stomach and was then vomited out of the leviathan's mouth unharmed!

The tale of Jonah and the "great fish" cannot be denied. It is, indeed, possible for certain species of these monstrous cetaceans to devour a full grown human being and throw the victim back out again unharmed!

May God bless the Saints. Yours in Christ,

Brother Gary S. Foster

### Note of Thanks

I would like to thank The Lord and the Brothers and Sisters for their prayers, phone calls, and cards when I was ill.

I especially want to thank Elder Richard Onorato for coming to anoint me every time I asked him. It is wonderful how God comes to our aid in times of sickness.

May He richly reward you is my prayer.

Brother John Onorato

## OUR WOMEN TODAY . . .

### The Ladies Uplift Circle District Meeting

The Ladies Uplift Circle District Meeting was held at the San Fernando Branch, November 6, 1976.

Sister Joy Krasnasky opened in prayer.

Sister Sarah Vancik and her daughter Sister Paulette Griffith brought a van-bus of Apache Sisters from San Carlos. We had Sister Judy Calabrese and her daughter Kim from Red Lake, Arizona and Sister Grace Brutz from Tucson, Arizona. We also had Sister June Tenijeith from Pine Top with us.

We had a season of prayer for the dedication of our church building in Mexico City, which was being held this same weekend. There were some missing because of this. Lynette Ciccati read our scripture which was from the 6th chapter of *Galatians*.

Our meeting was opened for testimony. Sister Vancik testified how the Lord gave her the job of working on the *Book of Mormon* concordance. She said after they moved to San Carlos her husband came back into The Church. Sister Grace Brutz said she and Brother Anthony need our prayers. He has been out of work for a year, but her hope is still in God. Our Apache Sisters testified how good God is to them. Sister Isadore, who recently had heart surgery, gave God the honor and glory that she was able to be here today. Sister Judy Calabrese testified they gave layettes to Navajo women in the community and through this they were able to talk of the Gospel to them. She thanked the Circle for all they have done for Red Lake. Sister Paulette Griffith brought names and pictures of those at San Carlos that have received layettes. Sister June Tenijeith thanked everyone for what had been done for her. She said their Bible School was very successful. She said the Lord put it on her heart to take Apache children to camp. She said they have already started raising funds for next year's campout. She said they want to help themselves.

Reports were read. Sister Lydia Knowles read thank you letters from all those who have benefited from our help. It really fills our hearts to hear these responses.

Sisters are encouraged to help send layettes to the different missions. Money for layettes goes directly to Sister Paulette.

We are sending \$100 for Christmas needs to Pine Top, San Carlos and Tijuana. Our President, Sister Sylvia Curry spoke with great spirit when she told us that if we do all we can to help the missionary, that not only will we be blessed, but our Elders, our Church and our families will be blessed.

Our next meeting will be held in San Diego in April or May.

Sister Orletta Liberto asked us to please fast and pray for Sister Sharon and Brother Joe Smith. They have just found out they can have no children. Please join us. We know if we are united we can move the hand of God. Isn't it wonderful to be able to pray for each other's needs! Our evening program was entitled, "How Well Is Your Seed Planted?" This is pertaining to your spiritual seed. If it is nourished, it will grow, if not, it will die.

All in all we had a very successful meeting. We want to thank the Brothers who graciously agreed to help serve the meals and take care of the children so our Sisters can fully enjoy the meetings.

Sister Joan McNabb

## Greetings In Christ

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea: though the waters thereof roar and the mountains shake with swelling thereof. *Psalm 46:1-3.*

Is your faith such that you can indeed stand secure and unafraid? If not, why not?

We desired once again to take a tour of some of our Missions. Joseph and Lena Bologna and my wife and I left Modesto on November 13, 1976, and our first visit was to Lindsay where we had feet washing. We found the Saints happy, and the young people outnumbering the older, so it is very promising there. The next meeting was at Yucaipa. They were happy to see us. We had so many very inspiring testimonies. Brother Frank Genaro is indeed the proper pastor for this mission of elderly beloved people. He is a man of patience and understanding.

The next stop was at Phoenix, Arizona. We held one meeting and then proceeded for San Carlos. There we held three meetings which had been prescheduled. We were richly blessed in every meeting, especially on Sunday morning. Sister Nash was reinstated again into The Church. This was a joyous occasion that filled our hearts with praise.

Monday we left for Tucson and held a meeting that night at Brother Richard Christman's home. Again we felt the same sweet spirit of love. Tuesday we left for Pine Top, and found Brother and Sister Joseph Calabrese there — a joyful meeting indeed. Brother Isaac took us visiting some of our Apache Saints, and we held a Wednesday night meeting. The Sisters had a busy schedule in preparing the Thanksgiving dinner for Thursday, which was the following day. There was a good turnout. Some of the young Saints from Fort Defiance came also. Brother David Majoros and Brother Richard Christman of Tucson and family, Brothers Nick, Tom and Paul Liberto and families from San Diego; that afternoon our son Sam came with truck loads of clothings and food from California. Some of the clothing was left over from the loads we took to Guatemala. This made Brother Smith happy and also the poor of this area. Friday, November 26th we left for Fort Defiance. There we were greeted by an enthusiastic, dedicated group of young people who are giving a good measure of service to God and the Navajo people. Saturday morning we were met by snow and cold, but warm at heart, went to the Red Lake Chapter where a Thanksgiving dinner was served. The Chapter Navajos brought some of their food and in spite of the cold, a wonderful love and warmth prevailed.

Sunday morning we met there for the usual service, with some driving difficulties due to the cold and snowy roads. But again, a blessed meeting prevailed in both days. There was some singing in the Navajo language and a fellowship of Christian love was shared. We visited seven Branches and Missions, a blessing in each place for us and everyone. Praise and thanks to God for such a blessing.

Brother Mark Randy

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## Some Experiences

by Brother Dominic Giovannone

I've been hearing for quite some time that God has changed and does not work miracles as He did before. I have learned that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. For this cause, I want to share with others a few of my experiences throughout the years how God has worked with me. My purpose is to write a sketch of my life in the Gospel News. I wish to leave behind me a memoir when I shall have gone the way from which no traveler returns.

In March, 1923, my son, Frank, took sick and was dying and I was called at noon to come home from work. I had an Elder, Domenico DiPiero, working with me. He went home with me and when we arrived there Frank was black and stiff. Brother D. DiPiero prayed and Frank was healed. At the January Conference of 1924, I was ordained an Elder of the Church and right after God began to manifest His power with me. In that same month, I was called by a man that had to go to the hospital to have two operations and he was healed. The same thing happened to another man that I was called to pray for again during the same month and later, Brother Bill Gennaro came to the Church and obeyed the Gospel. He was a very sick man and quite often I was called by him to pray for him. After a long time, his wife said to me that everytime I prayed for Bill he felt better.

In October, 1924, there was a Brother who promised he would be baptized the following Sunday. On Saturday morning while I was working, the Spirit of God told me to go see this Brother. I was supposed to work until noon, but I was forced by the Spirit to go see this Brother at 8 a.m. that morning. I had about seven miles to walk to his home and I rode the street car for six miles making it thirteen miles in all to see him. The devil didn't want me to go but I forced myself to go. He had changed his mind and he told me about a dream that he had the night before. He saw a dead man and I went down and through me he was resurrected. I told him that he was the dead man and God had sent me to help him. The next day he was baptized by me.

In 1927, we moved to West Virginia and my son, Benjamin, (who was about two years old at that time) fell. He had a sharp, pointed stick which went through his right eye. My wife didn't want to call a doctor until I arrived home. This accident happened around 3:30 in the afternoon and I didn't get home until around 7:00 that evening. I anointed my son and he fell asleep and didn't wake up until around 9:00 the next morning. You could not tell which eye had been hurt.

In 1932, three men came to the place where I was working at 4 a.m. One of the men was Brother Paul Adam. His uncle was dying and they wanted me to go and anoint him. We arrived at his home at 11 a.m. that morning and was told that the man had died at 11 p.m. the night before just as the men had left to come and get me. I told everyone that was in the house to kneel down and pray with me. I prayed and then I laid my hands over him and he was resurrected.

In 1935, Brother Paul Adam's mother had a stroke in which she was paralyzed on one complete side of her body. This took place in Stubenville, Ohio. My family and



I went there and I anointed her and prayed for her. She recovered almost immediately and went and joined her son and his family and was baptized in Detroit, Michigan, at Branch Number 2.

In 1945, we went to Richwood, West Virginia, for the first time. One Sister by the name of Elnora Blake was very sick, and her son, age 7, had the bottom of one foot split open from side to side. At the first meeting held in her mother's home, the two of them were healed. Her father came crying in that he was sick. I prayed for him and he was healed. One afternoon, a minister by the name of George Peek took me to pray for a woman that was a member of his church. This woman was dying. After I prayed for her, she was healed.

In 1945, there was a man by the name of Carl Odel. His father came to a Saturday evening meeting and asked me to pray for him. After I prayed, he said that he felt like a 16 year old boy. He was 70 years old.

In 1950, Sister Frame sent for me through a letter. She said she had cancer of the liver. After I prayed for her, she had no more pain in her chest. After that, they took me to the hospital to pray for one of her friends that was dying. After I prayed, she was sent home two or three days later and lived for another ten years.

In 1952, my wife and I went to Richwood, West Virginia, again. When we arrived, there was a woman by the name of Alma who had a daughter about three years of age. She had a stiff neck that was twisted on one side for two or three weeks and could not straighten it up. They asked me to pray for her. After I prayed, she was healed.

Here in Florida, in 1964, there was a Sister's son who broke his arm and had to be operated on the next morning. She came to the home of Brother Frank Rogolino at our Wednesday night meeting and told us what had happened. Brother P. Rogolino and I went to the hospital at 9:30 a.m. that night. The lot fell on me to pray for the boy, age 15, and the next day he was sent home.

There have been many, many more things in the way of blessings that require more and more time but I believe that this should prove that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. May God Bless all those who read this.

Brother Domenico Giovannone

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## Children Blessed

On October 24, 1976, three young children were presented to God to ask His blessings upon them. The three are children of David and Diane Little of Glassport, Pennsylvania. Brother James Campbell blessed Marsha Jane and Brother Nolfi blessed Michelle Jane. The two are twins born on October 1, 1973.

Brother John Ali blessed Vickie Kay who was born on July 6, 1976.

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## BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS:—

### A Special Event at Branch No. 1

On Sunday evening, September 12, 1976 we at Branch No. 1 in Detroit, Michigan were most privileged to welcome Brother Nephi DeMercurio as our guest speaker. He shared with us some interesting highlights of his missionary journey through Africa.

He began by telling us about the two-piece suit he was wearing. It was the Nigerian native dress. Brother Nephi said it was given to him as a parting gift. The handmade outfit is remarkably beautiful. If ever you are given the opportunity, please do see it.

Brother Nephi told us of the work and dedication Brother Ross has put forth in this area of the mission field. Brother Ross has been to the African continent six times.

Brother Nephi then proceeded to tell us about their journey across the ocean, and of how they faced machine guns and the military upon landing.

He went on to speak to us concerning the general living conditions there. Their diet consists mostly of starch with just a little fish and occasionally other meats.

The average wage is \$3.20 a day. Brother Nephi stated that he and Brother Ross paid \$6.50 for one chicken. A refrigerator, one half to three quarters the size of ours, costs \$700. A small gas range costs \$1200.

Brother Nephi told us several experiences and of healings that had taken place. He asserted that because of their sincere childlike faith many healings were possible.

The need for teachers was stressed as he began to tell us about our secondary school in Nigeria. We were also told that all students in Nigeria must study religion, it is mandatory. Brother Nephi stated that they had a great knowledge of the *Bible*.

Each of the missions he and Brother Ross visited, sang their own unique song of welcome. He allowed us to hear one such song that he had taped. Brother Nephi indicated that our members in Africa have accepted the *Book of Mormon* wholeheartedly, in full belief. Also we were informed that before he left, they had baptized 65 new members into The Church.

Several times throughout the evening Brother Nephi repeated the same words, so I will repeat them just once more. Our African Brothers and Sisters in Christ said, "Tell our American Brothers and Sisters not to forget us".

After the meeting, refreshments were served to all who were present. It was a most rewarding as well as enjoyable evening.

Sister Diana Thompson

### Blessings Manifest Themselves at the Muncey Mission, Ontario, Canada

Truly we can say the Lord is in our midst. Sunday, November 21, the Saints in Muncey met with visitors from the USA, Brother Dominic Thomas and family,

Brother Alex Gentile and family, Brother John Gam-micha, Lisa DiRado, David and Jan Steinrock, and drivers Joe Cotellesse and Peter Scolero. During this meeting, the Spirit of the Lord was ever present and manifested itself in many ways. Brother Alex was inspired to speak to us from *Mosiah 4*, which was also the passage Brother Mario Coppa, Presiding Elder of Muncey Mission, had felt to preach on.

Sister Vickie Henderson who has recently moved to London, Ontario told how the Lord had spared her and her companion's lives the week previously as they traveled with Brother Doug, Sister Ethyl Henderson, Brother Ken Henderson, Sister Carolyn Henderson and Sister Karen Elzby, to the GMBA Conference and had a head-on collision with a tow truck on the icy thru-way. Shortly before the impact, Sister Ethyl had suggested to Vickie that maybe she should put on her seat-belt. Although the front end of their car was totaled, they proceeded to Conference a bit shaken, but with joyful hearts in a rental car.

Brother Rodney Dyer spoke of God's goodness to him by sparing his life the week before, when he was on a job out-of-town with his brother-in-law, Vaughn Albert, Chief of the Muncey Reservation, and another man, when a fire began in the small apartment where they were sleeping. They narrowly escaped with their lives as Vaughn dragged his friend, who was unconscious from smoke inhalation, outside and ran back in to wake Rod. They ran through the kitchen-dining room area to the only door, and were just barely outside when the place was rocked by an explosion. During the following week, Rod remembered the prayer he had uttered that night before retiring. He had asked the Lord to protect him through the night and not only him, but all those around him. Truly the Lord hears and answers our every prayer; and although all personal belongings and clothes with them on their trip were destroyed in the fire, they gave glory to the Lord for preserving their lives.

Brother Mario Coppa felt directed by the Spirit to call on Sister Judy Dyer to sing to us the hymn, "My Jesus I Love Thee" during Sacrament. As he felt that this was an unusual request, he asked the Lord to let Sister Judy have a desire to sing if it was His will. Later, in the testimony meeting, she rose and told us that she had had such a strong desire to use her talent at the beginning of the meeting, but was hesitant to ask, and was so happy the Lord had given Brother Mario the desire to call upon her.

Sister Marie Lunham then stood to tell us that earlier this week she had felt to pray and ask the Lord if he would send a few more Brothers and Sisters to fellowship there. How greatly He answered her prayers. Both she and Sister Faye Albert related how the Lord had worked with their bodies in such a way that surgery scheduled by their doctors had been unnecessary after they had been anointed and prayed for.

We closed the meeting with all the Saints rejoicing and holding hands in a wonderful circle of love as Brother Dominic Thomas asked a special blessing for all those gathered there to be able to endure as diligent servants of God. Truly it was another rich day of blessings at the Muncey Mission.

Please continue to remember us there in your prayers that this marvelous work of the Lord will continue on

and that the hundreds of children who have attended our Sunday School there over the many years will one day join us in spreading the Gospel throughout the world, as we know they will.

Sister Jan Steinrock

## News From New Brunswick

Dear Readers,

We have been enjoying the blessings of God in our services.

On August 22, 1976, Brother Joseph Bonaduce was sitting in the afternoon meeting and struggling within himself whether he should testify to God's goodness or not. He then heard a voice say, "I am only showing you my power, but it is not time for you to ask for your baptism." During this time, he saw a bright light encasing the entire ministry.

Later that afternoon after the meeting, Brothers Sam Sgro and Frank Mazzeo felt to have a word of prayer with Brother Joseph, after which he asked to be baptized.

He was baptized by Brother Salvatore Sgro and confirmed by Brother Frank Mazzeo.

Wednesday, November 24, 1976, Brother Anthony Corrado visited with us and gave an inspiring talk from *Jeremiah 29:12 and 13*. He spoke about prayer and our seeking out the Lord and finding him. He stressed that if we pray with a sincere heart the Lord will hear our prayers and answer us.

Brother Frank Mazzeo followed on the same subject, adding that prayer is our silent conversation with God. Prayer is a very important part of our daily life. He added that our prayers are significant whether in our heart or verbal on our knees.

We can conclude by saying that we enjoyed the evening in hearing the wonderful words of life spoken to us.

## A Wonderful Day At Imperial

Brother James and Sister Dorothy Curry, Sister Ruth Akerman and Sister Birdy Furnier visited with us on September 5, 1976. Brother James opened the service by using the *4th chapter, 18th verse of II Corinthians* for his text. "While we look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." Brother James was inspired to bring forth many types and shadows of the natural and of the spiritual life. Righteous men of all ages have looked to that which is not seen, that which is eternal. May God Bless you Brother James with good health to preach this glorious Gospel. We enjoyed the testimonies of our Sisters as well, telling of God's blessings to them and how The Church has been their life. Brother James called Hymn No. 177 "Our Church", "Thru her great halls glad voices ring, as grateful hearts their homage bring; they leave the busy world outside and come where peace and joy abide. Raise a song of joy and gladness; put away all gloom and sadness; Christ the Lord is leading us on and on."

On October 23 and 24, 1976 we were privileged to have Brother Alvin and Sister Viola Swanson with us from Miami, Florida. Saturday night Brother Alvin showed slides of Jerusalem, many of the outstanding places and events with a beautiful narration. We also saw slides of Guatemala, a journey among the Mayan Indians and the pyramids of Yucatan. It was a wonderful evening. Coffee and donuts were served and we also enjoyed the fellowship of the Brothers and Sisters from the McKees Rocks Branch that came to share the evening with us. Brother and Sister Swanson stayed over night to be in our Sunday Service. Our morning service was opened by singing hymn No. 114 "On Mountain Tops, The Mount of God in Latter Days shall rise, above the summit of the hills and draw their wondering eyes. To this the joyful nations round, all tribes and tongues shall flow, up to the mount of God they'll say, and to His house we'll go." Prayer was offered by Brother Jimmy Moore. Brother Alvin took the 2nd chapter of *Joshua* for his text and spoke of how Moses led the children of Israel to the borderline of the land of Canaan and from the mountain was only permitted to view the land and it was time for Joshua to come forth and take God's people into the promised land. Brother Alvin spoke of Brother Ether Furnier's experience, "the Moses era is finished and it's time for the Joshuas to come forth." He spoke concerning the great restoration of the house of Israel and the latter day glory of the Church, the Joshua era. Brother Alvin also expressed his joy of having lived in the Moses era of the Church and having sat under the sound of the older Brothers, Brother Alma Cadman, Brother Charles Ashton and many others who with the eye of faith viewed the peaceful reign and the building of the New Jerusalem. We enjoyed God's blessing thru the day. Sunday evening service Brother Alvin exhorted us on the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon*, and the glory of the restoration. May God bless the Branches throughout The Church is our prayer.

Brother Bob Buffington  
Imperial Branch

## Erie Branch News

In response to the Ohio District evangelists' comment that the Missions and Branches in our District were not pursuing the many possibilities of the 'Visiting Evangelist Schedule', the Erie Mission placed an article in the *Erie Times News* on October 9th, 1976 as follows:

"... After these things the Lord appointed other Seventy also, and sent them . . . into every city and place."

On October 10 and 24, an Evangelist, one of the Seventy, will be at The Church of Jesus Christ. He is a member of that "Royal Priesthood" which is ordained and consecrated by the Lord God Almighty after the Holy Order of His Son Jesus Christ. He will testify of the fact that the Gospel "does in ancient glory shine", and the gifts and blessings have been restored to their fullness as they were found in the days of the Apostles. — The Church of Jesus Christ invites you to this event."

The article did not bring any strangers into our midst, but because of our effort and concern, the first meeting was like showers of blessing which descended upon us from Heaven.

Visiting with us that day were members from both Cleveland Branches and Perry Branch. Evangelist Elmer Santilli spoke on the establishment, apostasy, and restoration of The Church. His talk was surely seasoned by the Spirit of God, for all commented on the simplicity of his sermon.

After lunch, we began the testimony meeting with Brother August Perloni relating experiences from when he first joined The Church. He was followed by the testimonies of almost all who were present, including many non-members.

On October 24, Brother Joe Genaro and his family came and he spoke with a strong spirit, emphasizing the Power of God and that with faith in Him, the manifestation and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be prevalent.

We urge all Missions and Branches to put forth an effort in ALL THINGS concerning the furthering of the Gospel and see if God will not pour out a blessing upon His People.

## Ft. Pierce Branch News

November 6, 1976 will be a day long remembered by the Sisters of the Ft. Pierce Branch. It was on this day they hosted a Dinner and Program to commemorate the twelfth anniversary of their Ladies Circle.

The Dinner was planned by Sister Sally Romano and with the help of Sister Ann Costarella and another everyone seemed to enjoy all the good food.

A prayer by Sister Mary Lovalvo got the program underway. After singing a hymn Sister Ilene Smith our President greeted the assembly. She mentioned that even in the *Bible* women were used by the Lord to carry on His work. Some of us have had the privilege to meet and worship with some of the originals of the General Circle. We can serve God by helping others.

The Sisters of Ft. Pierce then sang to the tune of "It is Wonderful" an original song composed by Sister Ann Costarella with the aid of Brother Charles Smith.

Sister Juanita Rogolino then read a poem she had written expressly for this occasion.

We then had a brief history of the Circle, the work done by the Sisters, from the inception of the Circle up to the present, given by Sister Gladys Moore.

Five little girls, daughters of our Sisters, Melissa and Jennifer Rogolino, Laurie Fisher, Laurie Collison, and Diana Romano then sang a song.

Scripture reading from Proverbs followed by a short character sketch was given by Sister Maryann Bays.

Sister Joyce Rogolino sang a medley of songs with recitation showing how this country was discovered, our country's birthday and ours. This was a very moving piece of work.

A brief resume of The General Circle meeting was given by Sister Elsie Ensana. She also told of how busy the Sisters are all over the country doing their work for the benefit of our Church and the work of our Lord. Sister Carmella Mazzeo added a few words of the General Conference she had attended.

Taking the first letters of the words in The Ladies Circle, Sister Mary Glover wrote a poem and read it.