

The Gospel News

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IT IS WRITTEN

By V. J. LOVALVO

QUESTION: Will you please explain the PRIESTHOOD and its function?

ANSWER: The word Priesthood refers to those men who are ordained to specifically administer in the ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, viz., baptism, laying on of hands for reception of the Holy Ghost, laying on of hands for healing and strength, administering the Lord's Supper, preaching and exhorting, blessing of children, blessing of oil, and counselling, etc. The Priesthood is comprised of Apostles, Evangelists, and Elders. These offices have different administrations but the same Priesthood authority. (I am referring specifically to the order of the Priesthood in The Church of Jesus Christ, of which I am a member.)

Aaron, the brother of Moses was called as a High Priest to administer to the House of Israel. He was of the Tribe of Levi, and hence, from that tribe came all the High Priests and helpers. From that time on, this was referred to as the "Levitical Priesthood". This Levitical Priesthood came to an end with the advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ, because all their performances and ordinances were a type and shadow of the coming of Christ and His dispensation.

Please note that Christ did not call anyone by the name of Priest or High Priest, but rather He called only two offices, Apostles and Evangelists. He did not want to confuse His Church or dispensation by putting a name on His disciples (Priest) which had been disgraced by the leaders (High Priests) of the House of Israel. On this land of America, He called Twelve men who became known as the Twelve Disciples. They, in turn, called others as Priests and Teachers. They used the word Priest, in my opinion, because they did not have the same conditions existing among them as was in Jerusalem with the High Priests. Hence, the name Priest was not offensive to those on this land.

Paul, the Apostle, says that the Levitical Priesthood was not perfect, because they administered to the law of outward performances. Because of this, another, Christ, brought the High Priesthood that was and is from eternity to all eternity (Alma, Chapter 13). So, says Paul, "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical Priesthood, (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" (Hebrews 7:11)

Paul describes very well that the Levitical Priesthood was not to be an everlasting one as it had its imperfections. Therefore, a change had to come. With the coming of Christ came also that change. It is written: "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that Our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident; for after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, who is made, not after the law of carnal commandments, but after the power of an endless life. For He testifieth, 'Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.'" (Hebrews 7:12-16)

Why would God make such an oath concerning His Son, that He was "A priest forever after the order of Melchisedec? And not anyone else? Let us seek the scriptures for an answer. The Bible gives the impression that Melchisedec, the man, was without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life. (Hebrews 7:3) However, it has to be a typographical error, or an error of translation, for no man was or is without beginning of days or end of years. Now turn to the Book of Mormon whose translation came to us by the gift and power of God in these latter days, and read what it has to say concerning this wonderful man, Melchisedec.

"But Melchizedek (that's how it is spelled in the Book of Mormon) having exercised mighty faith, and received the office of the High Priesthood according to the holy order of God, did preach repentance unto his people. And behold, they did repent; and Melchizedek

did establish peace in the land in his days; therefore he was called the Prince of Peace, for he was the king of Salem; and he did reign UNDER HIS FATHER. Now, there were many before him, and also there were many afterwards, but none were greater; therefore, of him they have more particularly made mention." (Alma 13:18-19) Please note that Melchizedek reigned under his father; therefore, he had a father and a mother. But, what he had was the High Priesthood of the Son of God, so the book says:

"...and I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests, after His Holy Order, which was after the order of His Son, to teach these things unto the people." (Alma 13:1) Alma keeps referring to this high calling as a High Priesthood rather than just Priesthood. Throughout the 13th chapter, it is always referred to as High Priesthood and nothing else. Why is it called a High Priesthood? Simply because it originated with Jesus Christ, the One who is called a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. The word High Priesthood should not be confused with the word Priesthood, as there is a difference. Priesthood is an order or a class in which men are ordained to perform the ordinances attendant upon it. High Priesthood, according to Alma, is that power and authority which comes from Jesus Christ. For example, as it is recorded in the 12th chapter of Revelation, God did not withdraw a body of men (priesthood), but the authority, the Rod of Iron with which He was to rule the nations; in other words, God caught up to Himself the High Priesthood which was after the Order of His Son. Consequently, men might be ordained into an order, or class (priesthood), but not have within them the High Priesthood, which is the power and authority which comes from the Lord.

Consider this for a moment: When the Gospel and its power were no longer on the earth, there were many men ordained as priests and Ministers, but without the power and authority of that High Priesthood spoken of by Alma. In other words, groups of men ordained to perform certain spiritual functions can be termed a Priesthood, but not necessarily have the authority and power attendant to that office. God took away the **woman** to a place prepared for her (Rev. 12th Chap.) in the wilderness for 1260 years. He did not take the physical church away, but the spirit of the church, and the church without the Spirit of God is a dead one. So, likewise, a Priesthood (a group of ordained men) without the High Priesthood (authority and power of God) is lifeless. Even as Peter once said that the letter per se killeth, it is the spirit that quickens it.

The Saints should be very grateful to the Lord that there is the Book of Mormon available to them which clarifies so much of the Word of God. It opens the mind to so many beautiful things not understood heretofore, especially in the understanding of the words Priesthood and/or High Priesthood.

Paul, the Apostle, in writing how much greater was the Priesthood of Jesus Christ than that of the Tribe of Levi says, "And verily, they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out

of the loins of Abraham; But He whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without contradiction, the less is blessed of the better." (Hebrews 7:5-7) There is no doubt that Christ was the One and Only High Priest, who came to earth to save, to redeem, to heal, and to reconcile man to God. The Bible speaks eloquently of Him: "Seeing that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb. 4:14-16)

The excellency of the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ is told beautifully in the Scriptures: "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." (Heb. 8:1-2) Then Paul goes on to describe the difference between the priests on earth and Jesus' priesthood: "For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices; wherefore, it is of necessity that this Man (meaning Jesus) have somewhat also to offer. For if He were on earth, He should **not** be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law...But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if the first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." (Heb. 8:3-7)

The scriptures say that Christ, the Great High Priest, was not made after the "law of carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life." Also: "And inasmuch as **not without an oath** He was made priest: (For those priests were made without an oath; but This with an oath by Him that said unto Him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec;) By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: but this Man, because He continueth ever, hath an **unchangeable** Priesthood." (Heb. 7:20-24)

The difference then, between the Levitical Priesthood and that of the Son of God was that men could not bring others to a reconciliation with God, while Christ was able to bring about Salvation for the human family. Also, men in their priesthood did not continue because of their mortality and death; while Jesus lives forever and ever; and the order of His High Priesthood given to His Apostles and Evangelists (and later to the Elders by The Church) in Jerusalem; and upon this land to the Nephites, and also in the latter days, is an everlasting one.

Again Paul speaking of the excellency of Christ says, "Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled,

separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's; for this He did once, when He offered up Himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated forevermore." (Heb. 7:25-28)

The Order of the Son of God (High Priesthood) was from the beginning of the world, and shall be forever. Alma says: "This High Priesthood being after the order of His Son, which order was from the foundation of the world; or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity..." (Alma 13:7)

According to Alma, righteous men did not take upon them just a Priesthood, but rather the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Alma says: "And this is the manner after which they were ordained; being prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceeding great faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with and according to, a preparatory redemption for such...Now they were ordained after this manner: being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the High Priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and High Priesthood, is without beginning or end. Thus they become High Priests forever, after the order of the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, who is without beginning of days or end of years, who is full of grace, equity, and truth. And thus it is, Amen. Now, as I said concerning the holy order of this High Priesthood, there were many who were ordained and became high priests of God; and it was on account of their exceeding faith and repentance, and their righteousness before God, they choosing to repent and work righteousness rather than to perish; Therefore they were called after this holy order, and were sanctified, and their garments were washed white through the blood of the Lamb. Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceeding great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God." (Alma 13:3-12)

It is a remarkable thing that, those who aspired to, and took upon them this High Priesthood of the Son of God had to meet certain requirements. They had to be righteous, have exceeding great faith, and have done good works. It is also amazing that He knew these men from the beginning of the world, or from the very foundation of it; not because of pre-existence, but by the FOREKNOWLEDGE of God.

Now, in these latter days, the same criteria is given for the men who desire to take upon themselves this High Priesthood of Jesus Christ. It is a goal that is not unattainable, but rather can be achieved. However, it is also an awesome responsibility that one takes upon himself, because the mark of his calling must be left

with those who come under the influence of his priesthood. He must be ready to do whatever is required under the burden of this criterion. Yet, if the weight of this High Priesthood is a burden, it must of necessity be as Jesus once said, "...My burden is light." He who takes upon him this **high** calling must realize that much is expected of him. He must be righteous, have great faith, be kind, compassionate, humble, a praying man, gentle, meek yet firm, desirous to preach, teach, exhort, counsel, and especially seek to reach out for that Fatherhood that is spoken by the Apostle Paul. He must always "show himself approved of God...rightly dividing the word of God."

It is a wonderful thing to be a member of the priesthood, but it is more than wonderful to know that one possesses the High Priesthood of the Son of God. In summary:

1. The High Priesthood emanates from the Son of God.
2. The High Priesthood has been from the foundation of the world.
3. It is without beginning of days or end of years.
4. It is an everlasting High Priesthood.
5. It is superior to the Levitical Priesthood.
6. It can only be taken up by righteous and faithful men, filled with good works.
7. Those who take upon themselves the High Priesthood are known of God from the beginning of the world through His foreknowledge; not because these men or their spirits pre-existed, but through the power of God's foreknowledge.

It is fitting that the hymn, "Ye Who Are Called To Labor" be written here as it exemplifies the duties of the man who has taken upon himself the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

YE WHO ARE CALLED TO LABOR

*Ye who are called to labor and minister for God,
Blest with the Royal Priesthood and called by His word,
To preach among the Nations the news of Gospel grace,
And published on the mountains, salvation, truth, and
peace.*

*O let no vain ambition or worldly glory stain,
Your minds, so pure and holy, but 'quit yourselves like men;
While lifting up your voices, like trumpets long and loud,
Say to the trembling Nations, "Prepare to meet your God."*

*Then cease from all light speeches, light-mindedness and
pride;*

*Pray always without ceasing, and in the truth abide:
The Comforter will teach you, His richest blessings send,
Your Saviour will be with you always until the end.*

*And while you roam as pilgrims, and strangers on the earth,
O, do not be discouraged, with songs of joy go forth,
Rejoice in tribulation, for your reward is sure,
Remember that your Savior like sorrows did endure.*

*Rich blessings do await you, and God will give you faith,
You shall be crowned with glory, and triumph over death;
And soon you'll come to Zion, bearing your many sheaves,
No more to taste of sorrow, but glorious crowns receive.*

The Ball or Director

The Ball or Director was given to Lehi when the time had come that they should go into the wilderness. It was of curious workmanship having two spindles in it. Its purpose was to show them the way to go. It was just a small thing; something they sometimes forgot about, something they could very easily ignore and put on the side. Nevertheless, when trouble came, they were in despair and began to complain. They looked into the ball and when they did, they trembled exceedingly for the spindles worked according to their faith. There was also written a new writing in the ball. We don't know what the first writing was, but the second let them know that according to their faith and diligence the pointers would work.

From the time of Lehi until now, nothing has changed as far as the Spirit of God is concerned and neither has man. We ignore, put on the side and would rather not have God around when we want to do our own thing. We must be reminded to return to God to show us the way to go in a dark and corrupt world. There is only one way that we can go to find happiness and peace.

James states, "But whosoever looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." The perfect law of liberty is the word of God. As Lehi was given the ball or director of curious workmanship that was prepared for them, we have been given the Bible and Book of Mormon of curious workmanship to lead us through a dark and dreary world.

May we find peace of mind and happiness in the perfect law of liberty. Has it ever dawned on you, the Bible is one of the oldest pieces of literature handed down to us in such accuracy? Or have you ever realized that the Book of Mormon was hid for thirteen hundred years to be given to you in its unadulterated form? This is not a phenomenon, this is a fact. These two books are a miracle. Therefore, if you come unto the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart in repentance you can find eternal life.

How To Find Happiness Throughout The Year

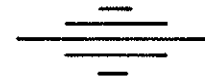
Everybody, everywhere seeks happiness, it's true,
But finding it and keeping it seems difficult to do,
Difficult because we think that happiness is found
Only in the places where wealth and fame abound--
And so we go on searching in "palaces of pleasure"
Seeking recognition and monetary treasure,
Unaware that happiness is just a "state of mind"
Within the reach of everyone who takes time to be kind.
For in making OTHERS HAPPY we will be happy, too,
For the happiness you give away returns to
"shine on you."

Helen Steiner Rice

Crown or Calvary

by Mary Whitehawk

I stood alone at the bar of God,
In the hush of the twilight dim,
And faced the question that pierced my heart
What will you do with Him?
Crowned or crucified? What shall it be?
No other choice was offered to me.
I looked on the face so marred with tears
That were shed in His agony,
The look in His kind eyes broke my heart,
'Twas full of love for me.
The crown or the cross, it seemed to say,
For or against me -- choose thou today.
I knelt in tears at the feet of Christ,
In the hush of the twilight dim
And all that I was or hoped or sought,
Surrendered unto Him.
Crowned, not crucified -- my heart shall know
No King but Christ who loveth me so.



To Our Readers

This is to inform you that as of January 1, 1980, The Gospel News will be printed by Brother Alex Gentile at the General Church Print House in Detroit, Michigan. The mailing of our monthly publication will continue to be handled by our Circulation Staff located in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Our sincere thanks go to Brother Ken Lombardo of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch who designed the new letterhead that appears on the front page of this issue.

The Gospel News Staff would also like to express their deep appreciation to Mr. Sandor Chomos of Bethlen Press, Inc. who has printed our paper for the past seven years.

Our prayer is that God might continue to bless our endeavors in the publishing of the Gospel News.

The Editor

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***THE YEAR 1979 IN REVIEW**

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How swiftly another year has rolled away and the new year is ushered in!

*God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust 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.*

These soul-stirring lines of the poet are surely most edifying to our souls and praiseworthy to our Heavenly Father as we **ring out the old(1979) and ring in the new(1980).**

In reviewing the year 1979 that has circled away so quickly, we are moved with amazement at the swift flow of events all around us, as well as the happenings in our own everyday living.

The Church continued to pursue its missionary efforts at home and abroad. Brothers John Ross and Michael Hildenbrand left home in mid-January on a missionary journey to Nigeria and Ghana. After a forty-five day tour, bringing cheer and revival to the Branches and Missions, they returned home safely.

Happily, Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, along with their sons Nephi, Jr. and Jared, returned home safely on July 26 after a fruitful two-year tour of activity among our Saints in Nigeria and Ghana.

Following the April Conference, Brother Mario Milano departed for Italy. His six month stay was devoted to visiting and encouraging the Saints throughout the Italian peninsula. Thank God for his safe return also.

Brother Raymond and Sister Mary Cosetti also journeyed to Italy on their second tour of missionary duty. Their travels and labors brought joy and revival to the Saints of Italy. After some three months of activity, they returned home safely.

Brother Michael Hildenbrand and Joseph Perry left home for Nigeria following the October Conference. Their month and a half stay was busily occupied in visiting and ministering to the Saints in Nigeria and Ghana. On their flight home, they stopped briefly in The Netherlands for a visit with Mr. Jan Schutt. Thanks be to God for their safe arrival home.

Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio and sons are scheduled to leave for Nigeria on December 27, 1979, for another extended tour of duty. God be with them!

In addition to an active missionary year, the Church has been busy welcoming many new converts in all locations. We rejoice also in the many reports of blessings, healings and experiences.

Also, the Church welcomed a new Apostle, Brother Robert A. Watson. He was ordained to the office on April Conference Sunday. We pray God's blessings upon Brother Watson in all the activities and responsibilities of an Apostle.

We praise God for the outgoing year, and we trust Him for the New Year.

The Children's Corner

by MABEL BICKERTON

The Liahona

Dear Girls and Boys,

The first story I want to tell you from the Book of Mormon is about the Liahona. It is a very fascinating one. You can read about it in I Nephi, Chapter sixteen.

In the city of Jerusalem there had been many prophets of God sent to warn the people of their wickedness. Some were stoned and killed. There was a good man sent among the people. His name was Lehi. He told the people to repent and serve God. The people did not want to hear this and continued in their wicked ways.

One day as Lehi was praying, asking the Lord to spare the people, a pillar of fire came down from the heavens and dwelt upon a rock before him. The Lord said the people and the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed. Lehi trembled with fear. He was overcome by the Spirit. He hurried home and lay down upon his bed. While there, he was shown a vision by the Lord.

After this beautiful experience, Lehi went again among the people. They made fun of him and tried to kill him. The Lord loved Lehi and told him to take his family and go into the wilderness. He would lead them to a Land of Promise, America. Lehi obeyed the Lord and left Jerusalem at once. They left behind all their property, gold, silver and precious things. They took tents and some provisions with them.

The Lord blessed this family, Lehi, Sariah, and four sons, along with some friends, on this long journey. One night the Lord spoke to Lehi and told them to leave the Valley of Lemuel. In the morning when he arose, he went to the tent door and there to his surprise, he saw on the ground a round ball. It was made of fine brass and of curious workmanship. Inside were two spindles or pointers, one of which pointed in the direction they should travel. This ball was called the Liahona. It would be similar to a compass.

There were other things written upon the Liahona besides directions to travel. There was a new writing, plain to be read, which helped them understand the ways of the Lord. Sometimes it made them tremble with fear. It only worked according to their faith in God. If they forgot God, the spindle did not work.

Lehi gathered the people together and they began their long journey again. They took down their tents, gathered seeds and hunted game. The young men made bows and arrows. The pointers on the ball

showed Lehi's son, Nephi, where to go into the mountain to find wild beasts. The Lord made the meat sweet to their taste so they didn't need fire. After a long, long journey across many waters, they arrived in the Promised Land.

Sincerely,

Sister Mabel

MBA HIGHLIGHTS . . .

Fredonia Local News

Beside enjoying many activities as Members of the MBA such as GMBA and Area Campouts, Spiritual Meetings, Conferences and Seminars, the Fredonia Local would like to share several special times and blessings we have had in the last several months.

First of all, we are happy to welcome Sister Hilda Sgattone into our local. She and her husband Phillip, previously from Glassport are now residents of Fredonia, Pa.

On Sunday evening, October 14, 1979, the Fredonia MBA traveled to Erie to meet with them in a combined service. Although both groups are small in number a nice assemblage was gathered in unison at the Erie Building that evening. Brother Russell Cadman held a question and answer period. Many questions concerning the peaceful reign and today's conditions were asked and answered. A very good spirit was felt and all enjoyed this wonderful fellowship with the Saints. The words of the poet are truly correct; "It Is Good To Be A Saint Of Latter Days."

Saturday, August 11, sixteen from our Branch attended an all day Sunday School picnic at the Vanderbilt Branch. The rain did not dampen our spirits or the good time we all enjoyed. Because of the inclement weather two meals were eaten in the church basement, along with the supervised games for the young people. All stayed over night and were in Sunday School and Church the next day. We enjoyed the morning meeting that was opened by Brother Russell Cadman and the words that Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and Milford Eutsey spoke. It is always a joy to witness a baptism. We had the opportunity to do this when a young woman was baptized during the lunch hour. She was confirmed in the afternoon meeting which was opened by Brother Arthur Gehly.

Sunday evening, July 1, we were pleasantly surprised when five members from Erie attended our MBA Service. We studied and discussed the third chapter of Daniel which deals with Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the deliverance of the Hebrew Children from the fiery furnace.

Sister Eleanor Sproul
Fredonia MBA Editor

November GMBA Conference

“WE’VE DONE FINE IN ’79!”

Ryan G. Ross, GMBA Editor

On Saturday morning, November 10, 1979, GMBA President, Bro. Don Ross, opened the conference and welcomed those representatives from each of the seven districts of the Church. After the roll call of officers was taken and Bro. James Hufnagle was elected Auditor pro-tem, we proceeded into the unfinished business. We have printed 2,000 copies of the updated MBA Constitution and By-Laws to be sold for \$1.25 each. Brother Gary Carlini reported on the 1979 version of GMBA Campout held at Massanetta Springs from June 9 through June 16. It was a complete success both spiritually and financially, and we certainly thank Brother Gary and his committee members for a job well done! Most of all we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the dreams, visions, testimonies and SEVENTEEN baptisms. Another noteworthy effort by Brothers Gary Ciccati and Ken Lombardo produced a profit of \$465.00 from their sale of commemorative patches of past campouts.

Campout 1980 will also be held at Massanetta Springs (Harrisonburg, Virginia) June 7 through June 14. Not to think too far ahead, we must not forget about the great western migration in 1981 to sunny California. Plans are currently underway to locate and procure a suitable camp for a long-awaited gathering on the Pacific Coast.

Representing a hard-working group of Saints, Sister Arlene Whitton reported that the Campsite Development Committee continue to investigate the possibilities of someday owning and operating a campsite of our own. Bro. Alex Gentile reported that lesson plans for the books of *Enos*, *Jarom*, *Omni*, and *The Words of Mormon* are being typeset as well as *The Book of Mormon Concordance*. The Primary Lesson Plans will be printed pending the completion of various illustrations. Although this work done by our Brother, and those who assist him, is not as glamorous as other activities, let us be aware that many long and tedious hours of work must be done to complete this literature. May God continue to bless and strengthen Bro. Alex and his co-workers in their endeavors. Currently the lesson plans for the book of *III Nephi* have been completed and are ready to be proofread by Jerry Valenti, Jr. who also reported completion of his proofreading the lesson plan for the *Book of Mosiah*.

Officers' reports were either presented or submitted to the secretaries at hand and were all in order. Details of these reports will be presented in the forthcoming GMBA minutes. Be sure to listen carefully when these are read by your local MBA secretary.

On Saturday evening, the Michigan-Ontario Area Choir honored us by presenting a program of beautiful hymns, both traditional and contemporary. Their effort

was well received by the congregation as the radiance and joy written in their expressions that only results from the pure love of God. The choir's feelings of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord was projected to each of us in the audience. Likewise, the Sunday service, that featured a near-capacity throng, was also a blessing. The service included singing and preaching by Brothers Ike Smith, Sr., James Moore, Jr., and First Counsellor, Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo. The Lord's presence was truly felt by those in attendance.

In conclusion, it has been a good year and a good decade for the GMBA. Over the past ten years, the GMBA has contributed over \$120,000 to the General Church, not to ignore a new generation of Saints who met the Lord at the campouts during the 70's. May we be thankful to the Lord for rewarding the hard work of our GMBA officers who have served during this past decade; and be prayerful that, as we approach the 1980's the Lord may continue to bless the Missionary Benevolent Association of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Branch and Mission News

A FEAST TO REMEMBER

The Brothers, Sisters and friends of the Michigan-Ontario Area enjoyed a weekend of fellowship and recreation this past September. We all gathered on Saturday for a corn roast at the homes of our Brothers and Sisters in Saline, Michigan. Carloads of families began arriving at 2 PM and continued in a steady flow throughout the day. There were plenty of activities to choose from. Despite the heat, many chose to play football and volleyball. Some preferred a pleasant walk along the country lanes, while others spent their time in relaxed conversation with Brothers and Sisters from throughout the District. The afternoon passed quickly and before we knew it, the corn was ready for eating. Everyone feasted on the fresh roasted ears of corn smothered in butter. Delicious! Afterwards, everyone settled down to an evening of socializing. Hayrides were given for all ages. It was amazing how upon returning, many resembled a scarecrow!

As evening approached, all found themselves gathered around the campfire to sing hymns and talk, until the time came to gather our things and return home. Everyone left looking forward to another day of blessings and fellowship in the Lord's house the next day.

Our Sunday morning meeting began with community singing as Brothers and Sisters met at Branch No. 2. Brother Dominic Thomas offered prayer. Brother Don Ross, visiting from the Edison, New Jersey Branch, then pronounced the blessing upon Brother Bill and Sister Janet Buffa's baby, Peter Andrew.

Our opening speaker, Brother Peter Scolaro, used II Nephi 28:19-25 and the 91st Psalm for his text. The Psalm reads "...He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in him will I trust." He brought out the fact that each of us needs to invest in a policy for insurance, when we may not (hopefully) even need to use it. But

with God, we have insurance and it is a sure thing. We have an opportunity and choice to take advantage of knowing God. If we make this covenant with God, we can say we stand in the "shadow of the Almighty".

Brother Don Ross spoke next. He was quite firm in his words that, "Once we commit ourselves to God, He cannot deny us. We find peace, joy, love, patience and long suffering in this Church. The Church is life and life more abundantly". After Brother Don read the 23rd Psalm, he asked, "Why do we attend The Church of Jesus Christ? We rely on God for everything, but what are we doing for the Lord?" He came as a sacrifice, as a lamb. What are we doing to repay that debt?

We then sang, *A Shelter in the Time of Storm*. Brother Leonard Lovalvo expressed his feelings about his own baptism. Because of the beautiful feeling he had, Brother Leonard asked Brother Frank Morle to offer prayer for those not yet baptized.

Following sacrament our meeting was brought to a close. It was truly a morning spent enjoying the Spirit of God as it came down and filled the House of the Lord.

The area gathered once again that evening at Branch No. 2 for an area spiritual meeting. It was standing room only as Brother Gary Carlini, Area MBA President, welcomed the large congregation and Brother Don Ross, GMBA President, our guest speaker. The young people sang, *He's Everything To Me* and the meeting was turned over to Brother Don.

Our Brother chose to read from the 23rd Psalm and related it to the hymn that the young people had sung. David wrote, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." The Lord satisfies our every need-natural as well as spiritual. We in the Church rely on God for everything. He is our shepherd and He has led us to the true Gospel. Brother Ross went on to relate the great comfort and peace the Lord has given him. Through His love, we can **fear no evil**. Through His love, we have a chance for eternal life. He died that we might have life. But what are we doing for the Lord and His Church? Brother Don stressed our responsibility to be actively involved in the work of The Church, whether it is in visiting the sick, fasting and praying, supporting our missions or simply giving support by attending the weekly meetings. We have to be willing to share what we have found in the Gospel. As long as we follow the lead of the shepherd, we can **fear no evil**. We have the assurance that the Lord will be with us, and with that assurance we can do anything.

Brother Gary followed by thanking everyone for their support and attendance. He especially was grateful to Brother Don for being our guest speaker. We truly enjoyed his words and welcome him to visit again soon. Everyone parted filled with the peace and joy always felt in fellowship with the Saints of The Lord.

Sister Roseanne Scolaro
Sister Leona Buffa

NILES IS BLESSED WITH VISITORS

On Sunday, September 16, 1979, we were privileged to have Brother Jim Moore and his family from Imperial, Pennsylvania with us. Brother Jim used Alma 34:1, for his text. He spoke concerning how hard-hearted the people were in that day and how we, the people of God, must be a humble people so the Lord might work with us.

On Sunday, October 14, we enjoyed having Brother Tony and Sister Elsie Ensana from Ft. Pierce, Florida with us. Brother Tony used for his text Matthew 25:31-40. He spoke many good words on obedience. He said if we are obedient we are pleasing before God.

On Tuesday evening, October 23, we had a special meeting because we were privileged to have Brother Mark Randy from California with us. Brother Mark spoke on Colossians 2:6. He gave us many enlightening words on how we must take Christ into our life and live Christ, and we must be rooted and grounded in the Gospel.

On Sunday, October 28, we had Brother Ron and Sister Cathy Genaro and their family from New Orleans, Louisiana with us. Brother Wayne Martorana was ordained into the priesthood on this day. Brother Ron used for his text Hebrews 5:1-4. He spoke concerning how we of the Church have been called of God and ordained into the office of the Church. Brother Jim Moore of Imperial, Pennsylvania spoke on the responsibility of the priesthood. He said the Lord loves a broken heart and contrite spirit and it's worth it all to carry the banner of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Many visitors were in attendance from Pennsylvania, Louisiana and nearby branches in Ohio. For the ordination service, Brother Wayne's feet were washed by his uncle, Brother Joseph Genaro, after which Brother Russell Martorana ordained his son to the office of Elder. It was a beautiful meeting.

On Sunday, November 4, we had Brother Mario and Sister Erma Milano and Brother Elmer and Sister Betty Santilli and family with us. Brother Mario told of his visit to Italy. Brother Elmer continued, speaking on how people will know that we are Christ's disciples by the love we show to one another. He also spoke of the many places in the Bible proclaiming the coming forth of The Book of Mormon.

Branch Editor
Sister Wanda Pandone

BAPTISMS AT ALIQUIPPA BRANCH

The blessings began Conference Sunday, October 21, 1979 when Pam Ross, daughter of Bro. John Ross, Jr. and Sis. Connie, asked for her baptism. Many were anointed and prayed on for strength. Pam was one of them. Before the conference dismissed, she expressed her desire to be baptized. What a wonderful blessing this was and what a wonderful spirit was felt in our midst. She was later baptized by Bro. John Ross, Sr. and confirmed by Bro. Anthony Ross.

On Tuesday, October 23, 1979 Carey Beth D'Antonio, daughter of Bro. Anthony D'Antonio and the late Deborah D'Antonio was baptized by Bro. John Ross, and confirmed by Bro. Joe Ross. We held a service at the church building that evening. Our new sister bore her testimony thanking God that she is numbered among the Saints. Bro. Anthony Palmieri spoke reminding us that the Lord works with his people in mysterious ways. The Lord blessed Joseph of old and we are the seed of His promise. We have much to be thankful for as we endeavor to do God's will. May the Lord continue to bless the young people everywhere, so that they may enjoy this wonderful Gospel restored.

NEWS FROM LORAIN, OHIO BRANCH

On Wednesday, October 24, 1979 we had Brother Joe and Sister Virginia Lovalvo visiting us from Modesto, California. Brother Joe Lovalvo was telling us of his experiences in seeing the New Jerusalem and Jesus praying for the blessing of the nations of the world that they might know He was the God of Israel.

As we were singing *What Was Witnessed in the Heavens*, Brother Frank Altomare arose and said: *My brethren, fear not! I heard the voice of Jesus say "I will take care of my ministry in the days that are before us. Those days of sorrow and grief, but remember, as God delivered the House of Israel, He will deliver us in these last days of trials and tribulations. Be not afraid!" Thus saith the Lord. "I will cease the storms from my brethren. My eyes are upon this Church and I tell you my Brothers and Sisters, I will speak as His spirit will take me. God is just! God is righteous! Whatever God will do, it shall be done according to His will and not our will this evening. Only trust and obey, thus saith the Lord, soon I will clean the sins away from this world, then my people shall come in, Oh House of Israel, who are the apple of my eye."*

Brother Lovalvo offered a prayer for the ministry as they knelt before the congregation, and Brother Frank Altomare said he remembered what the Lord had said, *The day is going to come when the priesthood will be persecuted so severely that they will kneel as they are now, only our face will be on the ground and we will cry unto God that He will give us the strength that we may do His wonderful work. That is very near. We will be persecuted even as His Twelve Apostles and the Seventies and the Elders. But fear not because God is greater than the devil and He shall deliver us from bondage as He did in the days of old.* My Brothers and Sisters, I feel the Spirit of God so great upon me. Pray for our priesthood because we're only flesh and blood. We need all the prayers that we can get in these last days.

Brother Altomare then put his arms around Brother Frank Calabrese and spoke words of encouragement. Brother Altomare then began to plead for those not baptized and the Word of the Lord came forth saying: *The time is far spent. Thus saith the Lord. The time is gone and God is going to destroy.*

As the meeting proceeded, Brother Joe Calabrese said that the Spirit of God has not stopped since Conference. As he said, "I think that this is only the beginning", Brother Paul Ciotti spoke the Word of the Lord as follows: *Thus saith the Lord, "My People! My People! Hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. This*

night the things that you have received is but a portion of the blessings that I have in store for my people. Mine Apostles I have called forth in these the last days to oversee My Church. I will tell thee this night, my people, I will give unto mine Apostles direction. They will hear my voice and I will lead my sheep unto victory. I will bless them with revelations from on high and I, the Good Shepherd, will visit them. I will tell them the things that I have for my people. But you, my people, must be obedient unto the words that they deliver unto you. I am! I am! I am! That I Am!" saith the Lord. "I will bless my people. The world will marvel. The world will marvel of the wonder of this people because I am God!"

At the end of our service, Brother Eugene Presutto's companion, Helen, felt to have hands laid upon her. Brother Frank Calabrese truly prayed for her under the Spirit of God. At the close of the prayer, Helen stated she wanted to be baptized. She was baptized the following Sunday, October 28, 1979, by Brother Joe Calabrese and was confirmed into the Church by Brother Frank Calabrese. Thank God from whom all blessings flow!

On Tuesday, October 23 and Wednesday, October 24, we had Brother Joe and Sister Virginia Lovalvo along with Brother Tony and Sister Ann Lovalvo visit with us.

Brother Joe said that God is going to choose the ones that will serve Him from among us, and that He would turn and overturn. Brother Frank Altomare then arose and brought forth the word of the Lord saying: *Amen! Thus saith the Lord. The Day is going to come when the Gentiles will reject my Gospel. I shall turn to the House of Israel and I shall bless them with great blessings. The sun will shine on them day and night. Awaken my people! Oh ye Gentiles! Ye Gentiles, now is the time! I am coming and I will destroy. Buildings shall go down. Thus saith the Lord. Soon shall it come to light. I am speaking unto you!*

As the congregation was singing *Never Alone*, Brother Frank Altomare spoke under the Spirit saying: "I see an angel of God at this moment and he's saying unto us, *Oh my people! My people! Continue to pray. Fast and pray. This nation, this nation you live in, there is going to be great sorrow before the Lamanites will come in. I'm sent from God and I'm telling you these words. Pray! Pray that you have patience and God may give you strength in these last days.*"

Sister Rose Palacios related a dream she had confirming our service and words of the Lord coming forth. It is as follows: On October 24, I dreamed that Brother Joe Lovalvo was in our home along with Brother Frank Calabrese. Brother Joe told Brother Frank, "Ask Sister Rose if she had anything about last night's meeting". As he said that, a man walked in the living room and said, *I was there.* Another man walked in and said, *I was there.* Two more men came in and they also said, *I was there.* When they were all in the room, all four of them said, *We were among you last night.*

Sister Iva Davis
Assistant Editor

MONONGAHELA BRANCH VISITS ERIE MISSION

On Sunday, October 28, we were richly blessed as 44 Brothers and Sisters from the Monongahela Branch and also a Brother and Sister from Youngstown visited with us.

The morning meeting was opened with singing, and a prayer was offered by Brother Del Lockwood for the safe arrival of our visitors. Brother George Johnson opened the service and spoke of God, Christ, and man. Brother Meredith Griffith followed and spoke about Unity Through Christ. After singing *Take the Name of Jesus With You*, Brother John Griffith told of many experiences and being prepared to receive the gifts of God.

Brother Dominic Bucci spoke of his early years in Monongahela and then sang a hymn with his family. Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. noted that we are being ushered into a new era of time. Brother John Majoros sang a solo and shared his testimony.

The service was concluded with many humble testimonies and we then sang *God Be With You* and Brother Harold Burge closed in prayer. Lunch was served and fellowship was enjoyed by all. The spirit of God was truly felt throughout the day and we thank God for this.

On November 4, we had the joy of having Brother Richard Santilli and his wife, Sister Annabel, from Youngstown, visit with us. For his message, he used I Kings, Chapter 18. This scripture tells about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Singing and testimonies were shared for a day filled with an abundance of blessings given to all by the Grace of God.

God bless you all is our prayer.

Sister Bernice Burge
Erie Mission Editor

DEACONESS ORDAINED AT STERLING HEIGHTS

Sister Rose Gerry was ordained a Deaconess on Sunday, October 28, 1979 by Brother Lou Vitto. Sister Rose's feet were washed by Sister Nicoletta Lombardo. Sister Gerry was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on September 29, 1940.

Some time ago, a dream was had in which Sister Gerry was seen setting the table. More recently, as Sister Rose was seen caring for Brother DiFalco while Sister DiFalco attended her grandson's funeral, the inspiration was given, "This is truly the work of a deaconess".

May God richly bless our Sister in her new office.

NEWS FROM WINDSOR

Sunday morning, November 18, dawned sunny and clear. Each member of the Windsor Branch gathered there, full of expectation, as we had been promised a visit from our Brother Apostle, Rocco Biscotti. We were pleasantly surprised to see on the

rostrum Apostles Gorie Ciaravino and Nick Pietrangelo as well.

Brother Rocco spoke on the 12th Chapter of Romans; that as Brothers and Sisters in Christ we have a duty, and we owe to our Saviour the best that each one of us can give. As each one of us is a different person, so the best that each one can give is different.

As God has called us, we must draw ourselves away from the world and all its distractions. Especially our hearts and minds must be opened to the Spirit of God that we might be able to spot and stay away from those things presented to us by the evil one that are all dressed up and look pleasant and proper for us to do.

Brother Biscotti related to us many experiences of the way the Lord has dealt with him since he met the Gospel. He also asked our forgiveness, for it had been so long since he had met with us and many of the Brothers and Sisters that he had known here have gone on to their reward.

As he finished speaking to us, he spoke of how disturbed he had been by the number of sick and afflicted among the Brothers and Sisters who had come forward at the General Conference to be anointed. He took this care for us to the Lord and received the answer to read the 12th Chapter of Helaman in which the Lord states that unless He chastens His people with many afflictions, unless He visits them with death and terror and all manner of pestilence, they will not remember Him.

Brother Gorie and Brother Nick each then spoke elaborating on the main theme chosen by Brother Rocco. Brother Nick related an experience which showed how unchangeable God is and how we are as a people. It was also a verification of Brother Rocco's experience. It occurred about twenty years ago when Brother Nick was Presiding Elder at Branch No. 1 in Detroit. He said that within a matter of two weeks, seven members of that Branch had passed away and he went to the Lord in prayer to ask why this was so. He was told then, just as Brother Biscotti had been told, to read the 12th Chapter of Helaman. How wonderful are the workings of the Lord.

There was so much more in the words of our Brother Apostles that I couldn't relate it all. I would like to leave you with the thought that they left with us. We are the Lord's people. Must it always be that we only remember and serve the Lord in spirit and truth when things are not going well in our natural lives or can there be prosperity and proper service to Him who blesses us with all things?

Sister Melissa Matthew
Windsor Branch Editor

ALIQUIPPA AND YOUNGSTOWN HOLD JOINT MEETING

On November 4, 1979 the Youngstown Branch met with Aliquippa.

The Youngstown quartet sang three beautiful