

The Gospel News

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

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An Address of Welcome

Presented by the Christian People of the City of Calabar, Nigeria

To Brothers W. H. Cadman and Joseph Bittinger by the members of The Church of Jesus Christ on the occasion of their first Missionary visit to Calabar, Nigeria on the 15th September, 1954: Brothers, we feel very happy to receive you into our midst on this your first Missionary visit to Calabar. We thank God that He has made it possible for you to come among us in order that you may do the Great Commission of the Great Master Jesus Christ who said in St. Matthew's Gospel "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and in earth, Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I command you." And again in the Gospel according to St. Mark, Jesus also said "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation"—to every creature.

Pondering over these words, we wonder at their sublimity and spaciousness. There is no limitation and no marking of frontiers. All authority . . . All the world . . . The whole creation . . . All the nations. There is something cosmical about it, the spaciousness of this world is not to be measured in terms of geography and ethnology alone. All the world means more than the continents and the islands of the seas. All the world includes all the multiple of man's activities, his commerce, his sciences, his arts and literature, his social relations, his national and international politics. Nothing human is alien to it. Everything human is within the scope and sweep of the Christ's world.

This great Commission forms the objective of Missionary bodies all over the world. And is also the fundamental requirement of the Native African Community. Yours is to give us not your tradition but the Gospel of Christ.

The Church in Nigeria is to be rooted in Christian heritage while it should at the same time be rooted in the soil of the country.

Knowing your objective and the needs of the Nigerian Church we hope you will do all you can to bring to fruition the commission contained in the above words. Your objective includes training of our youths in many fields to prepare us for the better days to come. If this is so, you will surely succeed in your Missionary work here and we will surely give you wholehearted support.

While here with us, we wish you good health and happy stay and we commend your lives to the kind care of the Almighty God.

We are very sincerely yours, A. U. Enoch, for and on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ, Calabar.

P. S. This article is signed by eleven other brothers of the Church in Calabar. It was read in the meeting which they held to welcome us two brethren into their midst. We feel that this article is a Masterpiece in composition on behalf of our Nigerian brethren towards us.

Sincerely,
W. H. Cadman and
Joseph Bittinger

The foregoing article is a reprint that appeared in the 1954 Gospel News, November Issue, Page 5.

COMMENTARY

In reference to this letter/article of welcome presented to us by the people of Calabar. We were very thankful and appreciative of the respect and hospitality shown to us.

Twenty-eight years have now passed since this article was written. I am happy that by the grace of God, the Restored Gospel has been preached and The Church of Jesus Christ has been firmly established in Nigeria, with Headquarters at Atai Otoro, Abak, with branches and missions from Lagos to Calabar.

Other activities in which the Parent Church has been engaged are the promotion and building of a Technical Secondary School at Atai Otoro. This institution is presently being operated by the Government as are most schools in Nigeria. The number of students enrolled is quite large and there has been a constant request to the Parent Church for teachers that are needed to teach in the school. Only Brother Nephi DeMercurio and family have come forth to offer their lives and service to teach in the school. God willing, they will finish their tour of duty in June, 1983, and they will have given nearly six years of faithful and dedicated missionary service to the work of God in the school, as well as being the Parent Church Representative

(Continued on Page 3)

MBA Highlights

GMBA Conference November, 1982

By Ryan G. Ross

GMBA Conference, held on November 13, 1982 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA, proved to be one of transition, as many new officers were elected to fill vacancies in the ranks. Brother Don Ross, who has served as GMBA President for the past five years, stepped down to give an opportunity to others to take the responsibility of this office. Brother Don was given a standing vote of thanks by the congregation for a "job well done". Similarly, Brothers Frank Morle (Vice President for five years) and Richard Scaglione (Chaplain for six years) stepped down from their offices to give others a chance. But, before these brothers left office, a lot of business was taken care of!

The meeting opened with song and prayer. After minutes of the May GMBA Conference were read and accepted, several reports were given. The Lay Missionary Program (turned over to the General Church after a GMBA study was concluded) was reported by Brother Richard Scaglione to be in the process of being restarted. The American Indian Committee has been assigned to redevelop the application form for potential lay missionaries to work at the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. The role of the MBA will be to encourage young people to participate in work, not only at San Carlos, but as programs similar to this one begin in other districts as well.

A status report on the *Book of Mormon Concordance* informed us that an estimated completion date is June, 1983. Another piece of literature, *The Jaredite Record*, by Sister Elaine Jordan, is complete. It is a lesson booklet for preschoolers and will soon be available for purchase. The paperback *Book of Mormon* purchase price has risen \$1.00 a copy to \$2.50 due to increased printing costs. They are well worth having in your personal library to hand out to friends interested in the Church!

A major topic discussed was the World Missionary Conference. The

General Church officers will organize this event, which will feature missionaries for the Church from all over the world. In lieu of this gathering, which is of a great expense of money, preparation and organization, the GMBA Conference voted to accept the Church's request to support this event and to cancel the annual GMBA Campout for 1983. Further details will be provided by the General Church.

On the financial side of our business meeting, total receipts from January 1 to June 30, 1982 were \$7,041.56 to bring a total balance in the treasury to \$34,118.84. Donations from this total were made by the conference body as follows:

\$10,000	to the General Church World Missionary Conference
\$ 1,000	per year for insurance for GMBA activities
\$ 2,000	to the <i>Book of Mormon Concordance</i> Fund
\$ 2,725	to purchase 1,000 storybooks and 1,000 activity books of <i>The Jaredite Record</i>

In addition, monies (to be approved by the GMBA officers) were set aside to purchase a new piano for the General Church Auditorium and a reel-to-reel tape recorder to be used in recording conference meetings.

There are many new officers elected to work for the GMBA. The officers are as follows:

President	-John Griffith*
Vice President	-Charles Jumper, Jr.*
Chaplain	-Mark Kovacic*
Secretary	-Karen Progar*
Ass't. Secretary	-Denise Fleming*
Fin. Secretary	-James Link
Treasurer	-Kenneth Staley*
Librarian	-Frank Morle*
Auditors	-David DeLuca
	-Jerry Valenti, Jr.
Editor	-Ryan Ross
Ass't. Editor	-Roseann Scolaro*
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	-Atlantic Coast
	Domenick Rose
	Anthony Vadasz
	-California
	Jim Huttenberger
	Jim Dulisse
	Nick Liberto
	-Florida
	Dennis Moraco
	-Michigan-Ontario
	Gary Carlini
	Larry Henderson

-Midwest
Alex Robinson
-Ohio
Ralph Cartino
Bill Prentice
Stacey Light
-Pennsylvania
Jonathan Olexa
Ryan Ross*

* Newly elected

May God bless the newly elected officers and those who have served previously for their efforts in supporting the GMBA!

The Sunday service was well attended. Brother Fred Olexa, Pennsylvania District President, greeted the congregation. The meeting was opened by newly elected GMBA Chaplain, Elder Mark Kovacic. Several speakers followed in between congregational hymns and soloists. The blessings of God were felt by all. We departed with good fellowship as brothers and sisters said "Farewell" for the next few months.

In summary, it was enjoyable to be in the service of the Lord and the GMBA during this conference weekend.

Florida Area MBA News

By Nancy DiFede, Area MBA Editor

The Florida Area MBA has been busy fulfilling its schedule of events for this year, and we are very thankful for the enthusiasm and support of the Area MBA in our District.

The first activity this year was a Seminar Day—Singspiration which was held on September 18, 1982. Our Seminar was entitled "Defending the Authenticity of the Book of Mormon". We were broken down into classes for different age groups and the Adult Group (13 to 90) received booklets prepared by the teachers, Brother John D'Orazio and Gene Perri, which documented the truth of the *Book of Mormon* using the *Bible*, *Book of Mormon*, *The Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth*, *Questions and Answers*, *Book of Sermons*, writings of Brother Furnier and information provided by the teachers. The Seminar was informative and a blessing to those who participated. Many questions were answered, and thus will allow us to tell others more about the *Book of Mormon*.

We concluded with a supper prepared by all sisters in each local MBA and fed 110 brothers and sisters and friends. The day was concluded with a Singspiration which was prepared by Brother Rocco and Sister Terri Benyola, and featuring selections from each local, Campout theme songs from past years, Lake Worth Men's Trio, and the Florida Area Choir. We returned to our branches and missions spiritually revived and satisfied.

We are preparing for a trip to the West Coast of Florida to Cape Coral on November 13 for the weekend to meet with our brothers and sisters there, enjoy another Singspiration to be prepared by Brother Joe and Sister Suzanne Catone, and a Sunday Spiritual Gathering. Also on our agenda are two trips to the local nursing homes to sing for them and visit with them. We will be singing Christmas Carols there on December 11 and will sing for them again on January 29.

Our Campout this year will be held at the Gold Coast Christian Camp, March 5 and 6, and our Camp Director, Brother Jerry DiFede, is enthusiastic about a good turnout and many blessings at our Florida Campout.

We will hold another Seminar Day—Singspiration on April 23, and finally, we have planned a picnic in Lake Worth with our friends from the Brighton Indian Reservation. We look forward to many good times spiritually in the next few months as we attempt to spread the good news of the Gospel.

Niles MBA Seminar

On September 18, 1982, the Niles Branch MBA local sponsored a seminar and social at our Branch. We invited Brother Russell Cadman of Fredonia, Pennsylvania to teach us about God's latter-day plans and promises. We also invited several Area branches to attend, and we were happy to welcome visitors from Fredonia, Erie, Imperial, Youngstown, and Lorain.

We began our meeting with a season of singing, glorifying God for His goodness to His people. Brother Wayne Martorana opened in prayer asking God to bless our teacher. Brother Russell began his discourse by encouraging that we ask questions about the topic or any other Church-related concern. He then read from the twenty-third article of the Church's Faith and Doctrine. It reads,

"We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are still in the flesh. We refer to this period of time as 'The Peaceful Reign', which shall precede the 'Millennium', or 'Thousand Years' with Christ."

Our brother continued by describing the differences between these two periods of time. The Peaceful Reign (Zion) shall occur while man is yet in a fleshly or mortal state. Food and shelter will still be necessary for survival: "And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them." (Isaiah 65:21) We shall continue to marry and bear children. Our lives will be extended until our days are "as the days of a tree". (Isaiah 65:20)

In contrast, man shall exist in an immortal state during the Millennium. No longer will food and shelter be necessary for life and Satan shall no longer have power over the souls of men. Instead the saints of God shall reign with Christ a thousand years. And then shall come a new heaven and a new earth as seen by John in Revelations 21.

Our brother next turned his attention to some of the prophecies of Daniel. We turned to Daniel 2 and read several passages concerning the stone kingdom which shall cover the earth in the last days. This stone kingdom is The Church of Jesus Christ which shall grow by the power and glory of God to destroy all wickedness. God promises us that this kingdom shall not be destroyed and it shall consume other kingdoms established by man.

Finally, Brother Russell read from I Nephi where it is prophesied that God will do a marvelous work among the Gentiles. We know this work to be the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our brother told us that God has begun to fulfill the latter-day prophecies and shall continue to do so until the end of time. Our brother (and we as a Church) looks for God to begin to work more greatly among His people, for God has promised such. But first we must become a more righteous people before God, and we must follow and obey His voice in all matters. Then, and only then, will we see the fulfillment of the latter-day prophecies.

As he had spoken for a couple of hours, Brother Russell asked Brother Bob Buffington of Imperial, Pennsylvania to say a few words while Brother Russell rested for a few

minutes. Brother Bob spoke of the beautiful vision that God has provided this Church and how important it is to keep this vision alive. (Proverbs 29:18)

As Brother Bob finished speaking, Brother Russell concluded the seminar with a few additional comments. He said that Zion is the next great spiritual event that the Church looks forward to. The ancient inhabitants of this land led Christ-like lives hundreds of years before the Lord was born; so great was their faith. Likewise it should be the same in our case. We should live our lives with the spirit of Zion in our hearts and a prayer on our lips that God might allow us to one day view the Promised Land.

Brother Bob Buffington closed our seminar in prayer, and the saints then gathered in the kitchen for a light dinner. We all thanked Brother Russell for coming to feed us spiritually, for truly our souls were fed this day. Many of our visitors stayed for Sunday services, and again we feasted upon God's blessings. Surely we give thanks unto God for His goodness unto us in all things and for the love He places in our hearts for the brothers and sisters. May God continue to add His blessings to this Church.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Ecclesiastes 3

AN ADDRESS continued . . .

to the Nigerian Church, doing missionary work among the branches and missions as his limited time will permit.

There is still a very definite and vital need for qualified teachers. We as members of the Foreign Missions Committee, have felt very disappointed that more people have not volunteered and offered themselves for this missionary service that has the potential of being the most interesting, the most rewarding experience that anyone can obtain in their life.

You don't have to be in the ministry to teach in the school, and you can still be of much help to the Church and to the people, temporally and spiritually. For information contact Brother John Ross.

Brother Joseph Bittinger
Chairman, Foreign Missions
Committee

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have received more letters and cards than we can possibly answer individually so I hope this letter can be read in the branches that all can hear.

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and concern shown to us in the death of our beloved son, Mark. Words fail to express our appreciation to all our dear people. As the many cards and letters poured in, I could sense a worry, possibly a little fear for us of how we would come thru this and whether I would sing anymore. I wanted to say something to let everyone know that we're O.K., but I didn't know how to put it into words. Then on November 8, God gave me the most beautiful song, and I realized the next day that He had answered all the letters and cards in one song. People say, God is wise, but I say He's so smart; He knows how to do everything just right. This is the song He gave me:

THE FLOWERS STILL BLOOM

*The morning breaks upon the distant mountain,
The sunshine drives the shadows all away;
And hope springs up—unto my soul a fountain,
As I rejoice to see the rising day!*

*There's sunshine on my path and on the mountain,
The heavens open wide from time to time;
And joy's alive and well and stands beside me,
And songs of praise still fill this heart of mine!*

*For God is good, my Father, how He loves me,
And Jesus died to take my sins away;
The flowers still bloom and the birds still sing above me,
There's so much to be thankful for today!*

I was always anxious to get up in the morning to see what God was going to do that day. The song is saying to our people we **still** love to get up in the morning. The sun **still** shines and we **still** have joy. We may have an hour or a few minutes of sorrow during the day, but we never have a whole day of sorrow. There's always some joy! We **still** have much to be thankful for and we're **still** going to sing *The Songs of Zion* and

praise God! The song says, "for God is good, my Father how He loves me and Jesus died to take my sins away." Sometimes in the Church we get the idea that God "owes" us because we're serving Him. I never felt like that. I always felt that God gave His Son and after that He didn't owe us a thing. Any blessings or "extras" He feels to give are only by grace. I think in the song God expressed exactly how we feel and gave the words that I couldn't find myself. I told my children, "God's been good to us; we've had very little sorrow and so much joy in our lives, and I don't want to hear any complaints now that we have a little sorrow." We have three other children, and they felt like their world dropped out from under them when Mark was taken; but they never questioned God.

Before I close, I would like to enclose a copy of Mark's note to his father, as we have had so many requests for it. Mark worked the evening shift, and when he got home he wrote the note and left it on the kitchen table for Bob to find when he got up for work in the morning:

Dad,

There is a kid I work with, his name is Tom. He is the one that hit the pole in the front yard. Tonight we got on the subject of religion. We had a long talk as many times before. I "found words" and things about our Church that really meant something against the argument of religions. Tom really believes in God. He also finds that what our Church believes in has meaning, "unlike" the church he was raised in. He said he would pray (not just joking but seriously, on his part) to God. I told him if he prayed with a sincere heart God would show him something for direction, (toward our Church). Tom believes in what (more than a little) I had to say. He does have a sincere heart. The point I'm trying to get to is: pray for him before you go to work because God will hear you! I told Tom: "Even if you don't believe fully, pray that you would like to believe." Tom is really interested in God. He used to read. I told him the King James version is the true version. Please ask God to help him find the truth, and I will keep encouraging him to pray. I know God will listen to you. I will pray also.

Love,
Mark

To all the children of the saints, may I say Mark's time ran out. He can't

serve God now but you can. He was only 18. At his funeral, Sister Bertha Bilsky sang, *Weighed in the Balance*:

*You'll think it's not real when it's over,
Oh, you'll think it was dreamt in the night;
For life ran away and you lost it somewhere,
All the vain things have vanished from sight.
We'll be weighed in the balance some morning.
And the scales of the Lord never lie;
For mercy can never rob justice you know,
When you're weighed in the balance on high.*

At the funeral home, I told all Mark's friends, "the party's over kids, there's nothing left to celebrate. It's time to serve God." Read the words to *The Standard of Liberty* all you young people. God wants good strong young soldiers. "Stand for your country and stand for your family but surely and foremost son stand for the Lord." If Mark could come back and say anything, I know it would be, "Don't wait, kids, serve God while there's time."

God bless you all,
Sister Arlene and Brother Bob
Buffington

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, cards and phone calls at a time of great need in my life.

Thank God, I am getting along well and hope to be going back to work soon. God is so good!

God bless you all,
Brother Anthony Brutz

New Year's Hymn

*Dear Lord, we thank Thee for all of your blessings,
That you have given to us this year;
We want to thank you for help in our trials,
For your assistance in conquering our fear.*

*But most of all, Lord, we thank Thee for giving
Your only Son, that we all can be free;
For our true gospel, brothers and sisters,
Who altogether make your family.*

Ann Smith

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***Summing Up and Looking Forward**

*Ring out the old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

These closing lines from Alfred Tennyson's great New Year's poem are most suitable and soul-stirring as we "ring out the old" (1982) and "ring in the new" (1983). You will note the heartfelt wish of the poet, Tennyson, he so simply and eloquently expressed with pen, prophetic-like with anticipation for a better future.

TIME HURRIES ON

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

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

TIME AND ETERNITY

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

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

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

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Kenneth L. Staley
301 Pine Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**ASSISTANT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Thomas Ross
260 Division St. Ext.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Ross

**ASSISTANT
MANAGING EDITOR**
Richard Scaglione

**EDITORIALISTS AND
CONSULTANTS**
Paul Palmieri
John Ross
John Manes

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

TYPISTS
Janet Gibson
Sharon Staley

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Janet Buffa

GMBA EDITOR
Ryan G. Ross
305 Pine Dr.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

**GENERAL CIRCLE
EDITOR**
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, Pa. 15005

DISTRICT EDITORS

ARIZONA
Dick Ackman
8403 E. Piccadilly Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

ATLANTIC COAST
Joseph Perri
3 Elizabeth Ct.
Edison, N.J. 08817

CALIFORNIA
Kenneth R. Jones
4682 El Rancho Verde Dr.
LaPalma, Calif. 90620

FLORIDA
Elsie M. Ensana
1921 S. E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Fl. 33452

OHIO
Joel Calabrese
4280 Knickerbocker
Sheffield Lake, Ohio 44054

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Louis Pietrangelo
5522 Bluehill
Detroit, Michigan 48224

PENNSYLVANIA
Malcolm Paxon
5304 Adobe Drive
Baldwin, PA 15236

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BUSINESS OFFICE
8423 Boettner Rd.
Bridgewater, MI 48115
313 429-5080

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Jaredite Nation Grows

Dear Girls and Boys,

The Promised Land was a land of rich blessings, but God had clearly stated that only people who loved and served him could live there. If the people chose to do un-Godly things, God would wait until they had reached the peak of their evil, and then destroy them off the face of the Promised Land.

This was the case after the death of good King Shule. Shule's son, Omer, became the next king. King Omer had many sons and daughters. His son, Jared, grew up to be a very jealous and sneaky man. Jared wanted to be the ruling king.

He had a way with words and soon half of his father's kingdom were following him. But Jared was not happy until he had made war with the rest of his father's people and captured King Omer.

Jared kept his father, King Omer, captive for many years, and while Omer was captive, he had two other sons named Esrom and Coriantumr. These boys were furious with their older brother, King Jared, and they raised their own army to overthrow him. Jared was captured and was about to be killed when he used his famous way with words and persuaded them not to kill him, promising them he would return the kingdom to his father, King Omer.

Afterwards, Jared was full of regrets and sorrow; he had his heart set on being the one and only powerful ruler. Now, Jared had a daughter who was extremely beautiful to look at, but not beautiful inside. She saw how sad her father was and came up with a plan to murder her grandfather, King Omer, so her father could rule instead.

She told her father, "Call Akish, the



friend of Omer, to come see you. I am beautiful. I will dance before him so that he will want me and ask you to let him marry me. You will tell him it will be so, if only he brings you the head of King Omer."

Akish agreed to do the evil deed. He gathered his relatives to form a secret group whose intent was to gain power and harm others. They began to lay plans to murder King Omer. But, the Lord had other plans.

In a dream, God warned King Omer to depart from the land. With the rest of his family, King Omer traveled many, many days, far from the land he had ruled, to the land that was east of the Hill Cumorah. On the seashore east of there, they pitched their tents and lived in peace.

The wicked Jared, who had lied and murdered to gain his kingdom, was sitting on his throne when the followers of Akish murdered him. Akish was the new evil king, a king who was constantly afraid that someone would try and take his kingdom from him! When Akish became jealous of his own son, he put him in prison where he starved to death.

This so angered his son, Nimrah, that Nimrah gathered a number of men and fled the land to go tell Omer what was happening and to live with him, away from the land where Akish ruled in hate and fear.

Akish's remaining sons soon also turned against their father. They offered people money to fight with them, and a war began that was to last for years. Bloody battles covered the face of the land until nearly all of the people except thirty were dead. Gone were the evil dreamers and doers.

This was the first time since the

Tower of Babel that God had swept the Promised Land clean of those who did wrong. King Omer returned to rule in peace, and again, the righteous were living in the Land of Promise, as God had so declared.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

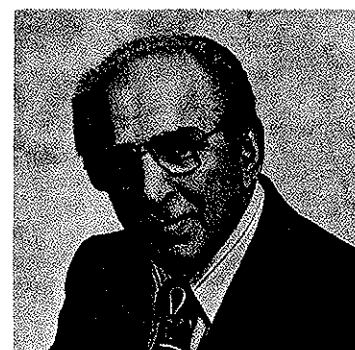
WORD SEARCH (Taken from Ether 8 and 9)

Find the following words:

Jared	home	Omer
daughter	wicked	dream
she	Akish	murderer
kingdom	dead	sad
God	war	east
promised	army	shore

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

"It Is Written"



By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

"Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion." (Isaiah 52:8)

This is a piece of scripture that brings delight to the student of prophecy because it shows a future of bright

glory; a future when differences of opinions and definitions will no longer exist. For the prophet declares definitely that the watchmen shall "see eye to eye", meaning, of course, that there shall be a unique and wondrous understanding of not only the ways of the Lord but of the Holy Scriptures as well. At that time, there shall be a perfect understanding of the Word of God. There shall no longer be misunderstandings which have had in the past, and present, a very unsalutary effect upon the Church as a whole and upon individuals as well. Misunderstandings and misinterpretation of the Word of God most certainly brought about the Apostasy in the early Church. As long as the Holy Spirit was recognized as the guiding force of the Church, there were no problems. But when the leaders began to rely on their own intelligence and their own individual interpretation of the Scriptures, the Rock upon which the Church was built was substituted with sand, and "great was the fall thereof". Baptism was changed; from immersion in the open waters to "sprinkling" and soon afterwards to "sprinkling" and/or "pouring". The Lord's Supper was changed from the breaking of bread and drinking of wine to a "wafer" or other means but the original as Christ instituted it. All this because they did not "see eye to eye".

In the early days of the Restoration of the Gospel (just a very few years), the blessings were manifold, but soon there arose differences of opinions between the leaders which caused some of the "Three Witnesses" to leave the Church. However, although they had their differences, none of the Witnesses ever denied their testimony of seeing the Angel and the Plates, etc.

The Prophet Isaiah, looking well into the future, saw the time when the men of God would no longer have differences of opinions nor misunderstandings concerning the Work of God or His laws. He pinpoints that time as being "when the Lord shall bring again Zion". In other words, when Zion (or the Peaceful Reign) is established the Watchmen (the Priesthood) shall have a perfect understanding of His ways and His laws. There shall be no one that will say, at that time, "My interpretation of the Scriptures is correct, and yours is wrong" because the Holy Spirit will reveal to one and all the very same things. And because they will see "eye to eye", they will lift up their voices and will sing (praise God) together (with mutual understanding) the praises of the Lord. I praise God that there is a

day coming when the Church will no longer be harrassed by the forces of evil; when Satan will have no power over the people of God because of the righteousness that will prevail in their hearts! And as the prophet declared, "Therefore My people shall know My name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am He that doth speak: behold it is I". (Isaiah 52:6) The prophet continues to say that, at that time the Lord will make bare (reveal Himself) His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

God has always used holy men to bring about His purposes and works. He shall use His Ministry to reveal His ways and will to the nations by the power of His Spirit. He shall show signs and wonders through the men He has called into the Priesthood; healings, miracles, raising of the dead, prophesying and many other innumerable ways, through the glorious power of His Holy Spirit. All this because the Watchmen see "eye to eye". And the nations will say of His Watchmen (priesthood), "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good (preaching the Gospel), that publisheth salvation: that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth". (Isaiah 52:7)

All the above the prophet saw as a future blessing to the Church. However, the Church can attain to similar blessings now; in our generation, if we will set our goals on the high standards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can reach the heights of "seeing eye to eye" now, by doing exactly what the Apostle Paul propounded: "to go on unto perfection". That is, to strive to reach the goal of "seeing eye to eye". It can be done. All things are possible to them that believe. And I believe that we can achieve this beautiful goal today, in our generation by praying constantly to God, in unison, for the unity of mind and spirit, to receive in "our day" the glory which the prophet Isaiah saw would happen in the future. I pray that the Lord will shower all of us with the glory that Isaiah saw. For truly he prophesied that: ". . . the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee". Jeremiah once prophesied: "And I will give you Pastors according to Mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding". (Jer. 3:15) So, as the Pastors feed the flock with understanding and knowledge which comes from God, the Church will get closer and closer to that era of

perfection which shall be enjoyed in the Peaceful Reign (or Zion); where we shall "see eye to eye". Thus IT IS WRITTEN . . .

Branch and Mission News Lake Worth, FL

By Marilyn Carradi

On Sunday, September 5, 1982, there was a wonderful spirit of God felt as we started our Sunday School class. Brother Gene Perri taught our lesson and there was much participation.

After Sunday School, we all enjoyed such a special blessing as we witnessed the blessing of the grandson of Danny and Rose Naples, Anthony Joseph. As Brother Mike Radd held this child and blessed him, I saw a beautiful white glow that encircled Brother Mike, one on one side of the father and one next to the mother.

After this blessing, Sister Lisa Naples sang *Because He Lives*, and while she was singing, her whole body was encased in that beautiful white glowing light and four rays of light, two gold and two white came down upon her from God, and I saw her in the Spirit, which means that I saw her whole body transformed in a spiritual form looking like an angel and simply radiant. While Brother Mike DiFede played the piano, all around him were spiritual beings and that beautiful white light was behind him. We all were truly blessed by this.

During our afternoon testimony service, Sister Betty Perri told us of her beautiful experience the week before. She said that last Sunday while Brother John D'Orazio was passing out sacrament to her, all of a sudden she saw his hands while holding the wine glass, turn to gold and this gold was so bright that her eyes felt like they were on fire. What a beautiful blessing for us to hear. We thank God that He is living with us every day and always moving His hand among us. We love Him so very, very much.

Tampa, FL

By Howard Noble

On Sunday, August 1, 1982, the

Lord's Day, a most beautiful day, you could feel the Spirit of God with us. The message from the Lord through our elders and teachers was so inspiring. The songs were beautiful, and after the message brought to us by our elders, we had testimony. Everyone testified, and it was so beautiful.

Four of our members asked to be anointed. Praise God for his healing hand. During the laying on of hands and prayer, I could hear someone stirring in their seat behind me. I wondered who it could be, because I had not seen or heard anyone come in after prayer had started. I was puzzled as to who it could be behind me. I continued to pray along with the elders and did not turn around to look at the time because I have always felt that the Lord comes first and that I should give him all my attention. When the elders had completed the laying on of hands, I turned around and looked behind me to see who it was, and I saw no one there in any of the seats, but I was wrong as a heavenly personage appeared to me, and I was caught up in the Spirit and could hardly talk.

I told the members of my experience and that God was with us when Sister Diane Manfredi said that she had heard the same thing. Praise God! God is so wonderful that we can have an abundance of joy and blessings. Brother Lyn Swanger was anointed because of chest pains and was healed immediately. We were all blessed of God and his presence was felt by all.

Muncey Mission Past and Present

By Brother Sam French

Fifty years ago in the fall of 1932, three brothers from Detroit and surrounding areas visited a small log cabin upon the Muncey Indian Reserve. It was here that the Restored Gospel was first heard and accepted by Chief George Nicholas and his wife, Julia, who were later to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ. They welcomed the brothers into their home; this love and hospitality will always be remembered by the saints of God here in Muncey. It was here that something good was to transpire and begin something that would change the lives of many wonderful men and women.

The Muncey Mission building was

built and dedicated on April 28, 1940, and from that time many wonderful events have taken place and God has called and added to the Church many brothers and sisters by the light of the Gospel.

Although God has called many of the older brothers and sisters to their reward, the Lord has filled the void with many younger brothers and sisters, and older ones alike, to continue to strive and serve the Lord in spirit and in truth. Many times God's Holy Spirit has been manifested in our midst, and many times the brothers and sisters who travel from Detroit and various parts of the United States have been blessed and most edified. These brothers and sisters who traveled many miles over the years, truly must have the love of Christ for the Seed of Joseph.

Over the years God has called various brothers and sisters by His Holy Spirit into offices of the Church. Sister Maness, who resides in Sarnia, has been a deaconess for many years, and Brother Maness was a deacon, but has now gone on to his reward. Sister Elizabeth Grosbeck serves as a deaconess, and brother Alfred Burch serves as a deacon.

The building in Muncey has had many improvements over the years. An apartment has been added on to the main church building and recently the roof and ceiling have been renovated to add to the comfort of the saints.

In 1975 we were most blessed to have Sister Judy and Brother Rodney Dyer move to Muncey. Brother Rodney is now an elder, being called and ordained on April 27, 1980 by the Spirit of God. Truly God has richly blessed us here many times over, and He has continued to call many wonderful people from the reserve and also many visitors who come from time to time.

On February 8, 1981, God called Sister Faye Albert into the office of a deaconess, Brother Clayton Lunham as a deacon, and Brother Sam French as a teacher. Remember us in much prayer that God would give us strength to fulfill our duties here.

I have just written a few events which took place over the years until the present time. My prayer is that we would give God all of the glory, and that the Muncey Mission would shine like a beacon light to the whole reserve and also the world, that we who are the saints of God would be planted firmly in the rock, Christ Jesus.

San Diego, CA

By Violet Thomas

The San Diego Branch has been blessed with two baptisms recently:

Sister Rhonda Ross was baptized at the California Area Campout on August 8, 1982 by Brother Thomas Liberto and was confirmed by Brother Paul Liberto.

Brother Darron Surdock was baptized by his father, Brother Ken Surdock, on September 19, 1982 and was confirmed by Brother Thomas Liberto.

Our prayer is for God's continued guidance and direction for our new young brother and sister in Christ.

Erie, PA

The Erie Branch is happy to report that it has received five new brothers and sisters into the fold recently.

Baptized on July 11, 1982 were the following:

Clair Morey, baptized and confirmed by Brother Mark Kovacic;

Ethyl Morey, baptized and confirmed by Brother Del Lockwood;

Fred Dias, baptized and confirmed by Brother Del Lockwood; and

Mary Jo Jones, baptized and confirmed by Brother Mark Kovacic.

Sister Ruth C. Gehly was baptized on October 10, 1982 by Brother Mark Kovacic and confirmed by Apostle Russell Cadman.

May God bless all the new converts is our prayer.

Two young children were also blessed on October 10, 1982 by Brother Harold Burge: Christopher James Burge and Stephanie Lynn Burge, children of James M. and Sharon Hain Burge.

Clairton, PA

By Diane Robinson, Branch Editor

During the past several months the Lord has showered us with many blessings and His Spirit has brought us to a

closer unity with Him. We thank God for the visiting brothers and sisters who have shared fellowship with us and have supported our Presiding Elder, Brother Joseph Austin, during his recent illness. We are thankful that God has delivered him back in our midst so that he might persevere in the service of God.

This past summer, we were blessed with the fellowship of Brothers Willie Brown, James Howard, and Wilbert McNeil from New Jersey. They encouraged and admonished us on the topic of "Love".

On October 3, 1982, the Lord added to our fold with the baptism of Brother Moyland Turner.

November 20 and 21 were set aside for the Pennsylvania District Evangelist meetings. The Word of God was richly imparted to all by many of the area evangelists. Brother Russell Cadman spoke concerning the resurrection and glory of God and being born again. (John 23) Brother Joseph Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio, cited times when the Lord was pleased with Jesus Christ and compared this to both the Church of former days and of these latter days. "Will we hear that voice again," he asked? Many truths and experiences were spoken of, seasoned by the Spirit of God. Brother John Manes offered a summation. Brother Paul Palmieri offered the closing prayer.

Sunday resumed as Brother Idris Martin opened on the baptism of Jesus Christ. Brother Bob Buffington continued using Luke 7. He spoke of many things concerning baptism, being a builder and not a destroyer, and blessings promised when a church is founded on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Brother John Manes encouraged all to surrender to the Lord and to become lights in our communities. Brother Joseph Calabrese spoke concerning the restoration of the Gospel.

Following the preaching service, we shared sacrament and testimonies. Truly we feasted at the banquet table. Praise God for the Spirit of God, our brothers and sisters and for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise, Branch Editor

On September 5, 1982, Bell Branch had an all Spanish Sunday night

meeting. This meeting fulfilled the desire of Brother Harry Marshall. He has for many months been holding meetings in various homes of Bell Branch Spanish members. Brother Harry's desire is to spread the Gospel among the Spanish community and bring many to the knowledge of The Church of Jesus Christ.

One week previous to our Sunday night meeting, some of the Spanish sisters went throughout the neighborhood of our Branch and passed out leaflets advertising the meeting. Many neighbors gave favorable answers to attend the meeting.

Our meeting was well attended by all of our Spanish brothers and sisters from Bell Branch. Many came from our Santa Ana Mission to support us. Everyone was very eager and enthusiastic about this meeting. Surely, God would bless us tonight, because of our desire to praise His name.

Brother Tom Jones, our Presiding Elder, turned the meeting over to Brother Luis Pacheco, who had been invited to take charge of the meeting. Brother Luis quickly turned the meeting into congregational singing (all in Spanish). Our brothers and sisters sang with great joy and gusto and without music.

Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Luis. Various groups sang hymns after which the Santa Ana group also sang. It was very inspiring to hear our brothers and sisters. Brother Luis and his wife, Sister Julia, sang a hymn called *Mas Alla Del Sol* (Beyond the Sun), accompanied by the guitar. Sister Toribio and Sister Mora sang a duet.

Brother Luis then preached in the Spanish language taking his text from Isaiah 52.

Brother Ramon Zamora was invited to come to the rostrum. He bore his testimony giving God the honor and glory. Brother Ramon is a teacher of Bell Branch.

Sister Toribio, her daughter, Sister Maria from Santa Ana, Sister Mora of Tijuana and Sister Irene Hinjos of Bell sang a beautiful hymn. Then Sister Irene Hinjos sang a solo.

Brother Harry Marshall then spoke to us. He tried a few phrases in the Spanish language, but had to revert to the English language. He read from John 1.

Our meeting ended at this point, and Brother Luis turned the meeting back to our Presiding Elder, Brother Tom Jones. We thanked our brothers and sisters for supporting us, and we are looking forward to our next meeting in about a month.

We want to thank God for the great enthusiasm shown in support of this meeting. We know that Brother Harry Marshall is happy because a dream has come true.

Sterling, MI

Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

*One by one He is bringing them in,
As another soul is saved from sin.
We have known for a very, very long
time,
That she would surrender her heart
to Him.*

Sunday, October 3, our service began on a sad note as Brother Louis Vitto told us of a tragic death and of the illness of several dear persons. Brother Lou offered prayer as we all knelt and prayed for the special needs of these brothers and sisters.

Brother Sam DiFalco opened the service, reading from Acts 12:5-12. The power of prayer was his theme for the day. Jesus is the ultimate in our life, and prayer is one of the most important words. We need God as our Comforter in times of trouble, and we must trust Him and have faith, that whatever we ask of Him, if it is good, He will grant it to us. We know God can heal; we have seen it happen many times. Many of us can remember our parents praying for us, and He answered their prayers. Brother Sam told us of how his brother, Pat, was in a serious accident some time ago and was anointed by Brother Nick Pietrangelo and was healed through the power of prayer.

Brother Vitto stated that when we speak of the power of God, we must remember that He is the Almighty, the Creator. He endows His power on the Priesthood of this Church. We depend upon our Heavenly Father. Without Him, we can do nothing. Let us work for Him, and He will work through us.

As the Lord's Supper was being served, Sister Diane Hawkins played *I Asked the Lord*, and Rosemary Szufnar read the words to herself as Sister Diane played. As the beauty of the words came