

The Gospel News

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

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Building Dedicated in India

By Baer David Livingston

In this article, Dr. Livingston recounts the events leading up to the dedication of the first Church of Jesus Christ Building in Andhra Pradesh, India, on December 6, 1984.

I was invited to speak for several years during the Christmas season by the Hindus at Singarajapalem, twenty kilometers from Tadepalligudem. My endeavors to introduce them to Christianity was very well received, and they continued to invite me year after year.

After I was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 6, 1981, I went on my own, through divine guidance, to Singarajapalem. After continuously visiting and speaking to the group there about the Restored Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ, sixteen people asked for their baptism on January 17, 1983. After they were baptized I laid my hands on them individually and prayed for the gift of the Holy Spirit to descend upon them. As I continued to work there, regularly preaching to them the Gospel Restored, twelve more were convinced, and took baptism on February 5, 1983. I regularly prayed, laying my hands on the sick and anointing them with blessed olive oil; many were healed of their sicknesses, and others improved.

We were conducting the services in the open air, mainly at night since most of the members, who depend on daily wages without which they cannot eat, went out even on Sundays for their wages. We also had more visitors at night, and we did not have the intense

heat of the sun upon us at night as we met in the open air.

As the Church was planted in this Gentile country of ours, our country also began to be blessed. The Parent Church in the United States donated money for the purchase of a plot of ground, and gradually money was sent for the construction of the first church building of The Church of Jesus Christ in India, at Singarajapalem, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh—in answer to my own and others' prayers, with a great burden on our hearts for a church building.

After it was built, we prayerfully arranged to get it dedicated by the mis-

sionaries who came over to India in 1984. We fixed the dedication service to be held on December 6, the same day that the Church had been established in Andhra Pradesh, and just as we had planned, Bro. Joe Calabrese and Bro. Paul Palmieri came and dedicated our church building for us.

Bro. Livingston read from II Chronicles 6th and 7th chapters, where Solomon dedicated the Temple at Jerusalem. Then Bro. Joe Calabrese cut the ribbon, and we entered into the church building, where Bro. Paul Palmieri spoke to us. Bro. Joe Calabrese offered the dedicatory prayer.

Our missionaries made it possible for us to conduct an all-Andhra Conference

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Dedicated December 6, 1984, the Church's first building in India provides welcome relief from the tropical sun.

Greetings in Christ



By Evangelist Mark Randy

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. He delights in his way. Though he may fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.

In response to a plea from the Quorum of Seventy, Brother Dominic Moraca and I spent seventeen days in Oak Grove and nearby Independence, Missouri. Brothers Frank DiDonato and Dr. Adam Costarella also offered to help us spread the Gospel there and were of invaluable assistance to us. We were able to devote ourselves more to the ministry, while our two lay brothers assisted us with their inspiring testimonies.

Upon our arrival we were cordially greeted by Dr. David Clark and his wife, Gweyn. They have shown us great kindness and hospitality.

When I arrived, on October 17, I dreamed of walking about the landscape of what appeared to be Oak Grove, and to my surprise, I saw a fig tree and an almond tree. The almonds were much larger than I had ever seen. In the dream I plucked one and upon breaking the shell, there were two nuts in it. "Almonds in Missouri? How strange," I thought. As I walked further, I saw the manufacturing of pre-fabricated partitions and sections of new homes. The man in charge said there is a need for more new construction. This new idea of pre-fabrication has made it possible for easy rebuilding as well as adding to existing foundations.

I awoke thinking the dream a rather strange one, but its memory seems to persist.

The Clarks shared with us their per-

sonal testimonies, which we enjoyed. In turn, they allowed us to relate our testimonies and many experiences. It was a fruitful visit, as we engaged in a scriptural lesson and a season of prayer.

In the city of Independence we visited the 'temple lot' site, and had an interesting visit with Apostle Sheldon of that organization, after which we offered prayer, and invited him to visit us at any time. He asked for the addresses of some of the General Church officers.

We visited with a Mrs. Catherine Bowers, an elderly woman who received us gladly, and it proved to be a very good visit as we sang her a hymn and had prayer. Our visit at a local nursing home was most rewarding. Brothers Frank and Adam sang a number of hymns.

We are continuing to meet people who ask many questions about our Church, which we always try to answer by using the scriptures as our basis. We also had the pleasure of bearing our testimonies at the Reorganized Church in Oak Grove. Brother Frank sang *Wave the Flags of Zion*, which many said they enjoyed. There were several other individuals we visited, planting seeds and enjoying each one.

Our visit to the Independence area was made easier by the brothers and sisters who preceded us. On October 26, the night before my departure, three visitors came to see us, and we spent some time earlier that day with the Clarks.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Clarks for their kindness, and to Brothers Frank DiDonato and Adam Costarella for their temporal and spiritual assistance. In concluding this visit, we left with a desire to return again. It is our prayer that God will bless this work, that it may bear the fruit which I saw in the dream related above.

Finally, we pray for unity among God's children, to form that one and only Church of the Lamb of God, where every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Every true believer is longing for that day, laying everything at the feet of Christ, as He shall one day lay everything at the feet of God, that God may be all in all (I Corinthians 15:28).

Grace be unto all readers,
Mark Randy

Two Experiences

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was visiting with my daughter and son-in-law one evening. While I was there with my husband, there was a disagreement between my daughter and her husband. Harsh words were exchanged between them, and although I was not involved in the situation, the things that I heard made me feel very bad. When we left, I was still feeling bad.

All the next day, I was wondering if I should telephone my daughter and see if she was all right. But I didn't call her, not wanting to stir up trouble and make matters worse.

That night, my husband and I went into town, and as we were on our way home we were listening to a tape of the *Songs of Zion*. I began to feel better as each song came, and I eventually started to sing along. The Lord was coming to my rescue through these songs, because He saw how broken-hearted I was to see my family arguing.

One song really touched me in particular. It was *He'll Take Care of Me*. As I listened to the song, I felt an arm around my shoulder, and I began to weep openly. I was saying, "Yes, He'll take care of us!" I was able to pray to the Lord in my heart to bless each and every member of my family, saying, "I know, Lord, You'll take care of us!"

Suddenly, I felt so good. The Lord had lifted me out of despair. I prayed, "Lord, give my daughter an experience. Show her that You care. She has gone through so much."

I didn't know that the Lord was going to answer my prayers as quickly as He did, but you can read below what happened.

I thank God for the *Songs of Zion*. They are the words of life. Through them, the Lord lifted me from despair and put His comforting arm around me. He said, "I'll take care of you and your family."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I awoke the other night from a short rest, after putting our little boy to sleep. It was 11:50 p.m.

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In Memory of Apostle A. A. Corrado

*By Robert A. Watson
Secretary of the Quorum of Twelve*

Brother Tony Corrado was born in Bugnara, in the province of L'Aquila, Italy on July 26, 1903. He was the son of Apostle Joseph Corrado, who first met the Church in 1918 through the testimony of Brother John Molinatto, with whom he worked in Charleroi, PA.

After Joseph Corrado's baptism in 1920, he sent word to his wife in Italy, requesting that she come with their son to the United States and experience the joy that he had felt in meeting the Church. That same year, his son Tony arrived in America without his mother for the purpose of convincing his father to return to Italy. Bro. Joseph Corrado stated that he would never leave The Church of Jesus Christ in America unless he was sent to preach the Gospel abroad. This caused tremendous friction between Bro. Joseph Corrado and his son, Tony, until January 7, 1923, when Bro. Tony was moved upon to be baptized into the Church in Glassport, PA. Bro. Caesar Talamonte immersed him that day in the Monongahela River.

On July 15, 1923 Brother Tony was ordained an elder, and on July 17, 1927 he was ordained an evangelist. On November 21, 1923, he married Sister Angeline Damore, and from that union they had two daughters, Sis. Irene Williams and Sis. Amelia (Amy) Cook. On July 20, 1941, Bro. Tony was ordained an apostle by Bro. William H. Cadman. Bro. Tony had had a dream in 1934 where his father, who had just died, passed the mantle of his office (apostle) on to his son. This ordination fulfilled that dream.

Sis. Angeline passed away on November 3, 1948. On April 26, 1952 Bro. Tony married Sis. Mary Guerriere and together they had a daughter, Annette.

Brother Tony had a great desire to return to Italy to see his mother, for the purpose of bringing his testimony to her as well as others who would listen. He went to Italy in June of 1955 and was reunited with his mother, whom he hadn't seen in 35 years. While in Italy, he was informed by his mother that there were two groups of people that

wanted to kill him. He told his mother, "I am serving a true and living God, and He is able to protect me. I know that my work is not yet finished, and they cannot do me any harm." His mother was comforted by these words.

Bro. Tony had an experience in October 1972 that was a message to the Church. He was carried away in the Spirit one night while he was awake and this is what he saw in his own words:

"I saw a glorious but terrifying movement in the sky. It seemed like the clouds were rushing to a restricted place (like a funnel). I heard the voice of God like thunder say, 'I sent Moses.' The earth shook as He spoke. I then looked to the left of where the voice was coming from, and I saw Moses. He was a well-built man dressed in ancient apparel, and as Moses passed by me, he disappeared from my sight. When the Lord said 'I sent Moses,' I had the understanding that God is the same. The Lord then spoke again, saying, 'Oh ye, My people, tarry around Me. I will lead you and guide you. I will also protect you and will tell you what to do.' This same vision was repeated again during the night."

Brother Tony stated in his testimony that the Lord blessed him many times in preaching the Gospel both in English and in Italian. He also devoted much time to prayer. He was never too busy to pray for the sick and the needy, especially those who were confined to a hospital bed. It can well be said of him that he was a man of mighty prayer. Bro. Tony will be sorely missed in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. His presence and influence covered many years of faithful service. He truly has left an indelible mark.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to his family, who can be very proud of the rich heritage their father has left them.

In Memory of Apostle Frank Calabrese

*By Robert A. Watson,
Secretary of the Quorum of Twelve*

Brother Frank Calabrese was born on September 30, 1921, and was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on October 29, 1922. He was baptized into the Church on October 13, 1946 by Brother

Patsy Fyre. He leaves behind him many years of faithful service and was ordained into the following offices: A teacher on April 17, 1955 by Bro. Gorie Ciaravino; an elder on October 16, 1955 by Bro. Rocco Biscotti; an evangelist on April 19, 1959 by Bro. Dominic Moraca, and an apostle on April 19, 1964 by Bro. Sam Kirshner.

At the time of his death, he was the secretary of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and was the resident apostle of the Ohio District. He also was very active in assisting the Pennsylvania and Atlantic Coast Districts, as well as traveling extensively throughout the United States and making trips to Mexico as well, serving as a member of the American Indian Committee.

He married Rosamond Brackett, whom he met while serving in the Army Air Corps, on August 17, 1944. While in the service, he was promoted to first lieutenant and received a decoration and citation for flying fifty missions over the Brenner Pass. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, affectionately called Romy, and his two children, Frank Anthony and Sherry Maria, as well as four grandchildren.

Bro. Frank was very active in the Lorain, Ohio Branch, serving on numerous occasions there as presiding elder and as teacher of both Sunday School and MBA classes.

As the assistant secretary of the Quorum, I enjoyed working with Bro. Frank very much. He worked in many instances under great stress, never complaining about his own physical ailments. I will never forget a recent General Church Conference, when I was privileged to wash Bro. Frank's feet during a footwashing service. As I knelt there I sensed that he was going through great physical trials. I poured out my heart to God on his behalf, as well as for his family.

I also remember my ordination as an apostle, when Bro. Frank humbled himself in washing my feet, because his prayer was very touching. As I reflect upon these two occasions, I am reminded of the goodness of God in how He allows us to share our love for each other in so many different ways.

One could not help but admire the many times Bro. Frank attended Quorum meetings, as well as other meetings, and after a full day's session,

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Ventures Started by Seventy

By Carl J. Frammolino
Quorum Editor

New ventures are being implemented by the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, as reported in the last issue. Among them has been the cooperative undertaking at Independence, Missouri described last month, which is being continued with various evangelists and lay members working in tandem, volunteering their time and efforts. This modern-day pioneer endeavor is directed toward establishing a congregation in this long-time stronghold of Restoration activity.

Currently, the seventies are embarking on what is hoped to be a far-reaching radio and television ministry. Through quorum action at the last October General Church Conference, the first phase of this mass media approach is in place at Tse Bonito, New Mexico, where the local congregation is scheduled to present a half-hour radio broadcast every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. beginning January 4.

The priesthood of the Tse Bonito Branch is, of course, in charge of programming, with required assistance and direction from the Radio and Television Broadcast Committee of the Quorum of Seventy. A theme song, which can be used for the entire Church, has been readied, and guidelines, which will be made available to all branches, are being established to permit uniformity and quick listener and/or viewer familiarity and identification anywhere the Church is on radio or television.

Programs will be adapted for the locality involved, but basically uniformity, as much as is practical, will offer more of our resources, experience, and capabilities to be utilized by all parts of the Church. Previously, broadcasts were aired by individual branches, but now a united approach is being taken to help us use modern methods of communication to a greater advantage.

The Tse Bonito broadcasts will be carried over a 50,000 watt station, KTNN, out of Window Rock, Arizona. It covers Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and parts of California and Mexico, where there are also branches of the Church. The station is 660 on the AM dial, and it reaches most of the United States in the evening hours; hence, a nighttime segment is being considered as well.

The Navajo Nation was awarded this station recently from among a reported 200 applicants, and its transmission is the most powerful permitted by the FCC. This presents a tremendous opportunity for us to evangelize the Gospel of Christ over the southwest United States, as there are very few stations of this size west of the Mississippi.

The seventy and the Tse Bonito Branch are requesting prayers that their sermons, prayers, musical selections, and any additional content of their programs will be blessed, so as to touch the hearts of all individuals who are seeking salvation. Many people are searching for the Truth and the Love of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we hope that they might feel the Spirit of God through these and any future broadcasts which may be aired in other areas of the Church.

There is unlimited potential through the use of such media in today's world. It is one method by which many can be reached who might otherwise never hear about the Restored Gospel. Those interested in supporting this effort are urged to contribute their prayers and fastings to God on its behalf.

VAST TALENT

There is a vast amount of musical talent throughout the Church, and we hope that this great resource will be efficiently used in this outreach effort. On a radio format, singing will undoubtedly be valuable in complementing the actual presentation of the Gospel message by the elders who will be speaking.

The Tse Bonito Branch has many gifted singers, and there are others relatively nearby who can aid in this aspect of the work. As reported in the November 1986 issue of *The Gospel News*, a musical workshop was sponsored by the Tse Bonito Branch in August of last year.

Other skills and talents from around the Church may also be utilized in the overall broadcast program. The General Church Survey pointed out here last month, which was jointly prepared by the Board of Missions and the Finance Committee, may be useful in determining what help may be available in the total organization of the Church.

Incidentally, the "Missionary Outreach Training Workshop," which

was also held by the Tse Bonito Branch in August is worthy of special mention. At this workshop, many relevant topics and seminars were presented in areas that greatly affect mankind today and which must be addressed by those desiring to bring souls to Christ. It was inspiring and uplifting to see the spirit of cooperation among the priesthood and the laity at this workshop, everyone working together and teaching what he or she excelled at, for the benefit of the Church.

NEED MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS

Returning to the Independence project, we plan to maintain a base there for the Church. A permanent missionary from among the priesthood is being sought, along with one for the Dallas, Texas Mission. Any elder who, along with his family, is desirous of serving for a time at either Independence or Dallas should contact one of the following two brothers:

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Gen. Church Development Committee
8817 Farbar Drive
Kirtland, Ohio 44094
(216) 256-1258

Eugene Perri, Secretary
Gen. Church Development Committee
570 North Dover Road
Tequesta, Florida 33469
(305) 746-3616

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your prayers in my behalf during my recent hospital stay. I entered the hospital on October 27 for a routine operation, which was supposed to keep me there for only three or four days. However, after a bizarre chain of very painful events, I finally was able to go home on the 15th day.

I, along with my dear wife and family, want you to know that we deeply appreciate your prayers, cards, and even gifts which did bring me in particular much comfort and support. May God bless each and every one of you, and keep up the good work. Charity is the gift that never goes out of style.

Bro. Reno Bologna

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

By W. H. Cadman

Reprinted from the September, 1955 Gospel News

Shall he that is born of God grow, or shall he not grow? Let us have a few scriptural quotations on the matter of Growth, and then by our own experiences and along with the law and testimony of God's word, let us abide.

Jesus says to Nicodemus in John 3:7, "Ye must be born again." May I ask, are we born merely to die? The results of our physical birth are, that we grow in stature and in knowledge and understanding of our surroundings. If then we are born again, born of the Spirit, and we keep healthy in spirit, we also shall grow and abound in the knowledge of the things pertaining to our spiritual birth, and then as Jesus says in John 14:12, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." He that is born again, surely has grown, if he does greater things than the Master did.

Daniel says: "And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:35). We speak of the little stone, so much, but it grows and becomes a great Kingdom, the Kingdom of Christ.

The Psalmist says: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall **grow** like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. And shall bring forth fruit in his old age, they shall be fat and flourishing" (Psalm 92). In other words, the righteous will grow and abound in the things of God, even as they of old.

In Malachi 4:2, it says, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings: and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked, etc." May I say that the righteous have grown, and wicked have become ashes under their feet? Peter exhorts us to **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul, in speaking to the saints of God, says: "In whom all the building fitly framed together **groweth** unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

May I ask, how can these things be unless the saints of God live righteously, so that they may grow (not stand still) into the wonderful things of God, and I will add, they are born again to that end. In 2nd Thessalonians 1:3, Paul was very thankful because, he says, "the faith of his brethren **groweth** exceedingly, and the charity of everyone toward each other aboundeth." May I add that they were not standing still, they had been born again; consequently they were growing and abounding in the wonderful things of God; and such will be thoughtful of those who may have not yet been born of God, for our Savior has said: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." May God bless the soul that has been born again, that he or she may exert themselves to help some other poor soul to be born into the kingdom of God.

My brethren and sisters, allow no man, great or small, to deceive you with his vain philosophy, lest the thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley (Job 31:40). I will conclude with the exhortation, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." And I will add, that such will grow in the knowledge of the purposes of God.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



That's *our* job—to be the fruitful plants who depend on each other and help each other grow.

Did you know that some plants, like marigolds, have pretty flowers, but underneath their roots are powerful and give off a potion that even scares away certain insects? These plants aren't just pretty—they are warrior plants. Many gardeners plant marigolds to protect their delicate young vegetable plants from bugs that would devour them.

The Garden of God

Dear Girls and Boys,

“When you've given up what I've given up for the Lord, then He will bless you in the same way he has blessed me.”

A well-known apostle in our Church who had beautiful gifts from God once told this to a person who wanted the same kind of power from God. This apostle was Brother Ismael D'Amico, who was led by God's Holy Spirit to travel to a faraway city, Detroit, to preach the Gospel.

When he reached the city, with no idea where to go, an angel appeared on the trolley at the stop where he was to get off. Then a soon-to-be sister in the

Church, who had felt God's Spirit prompting her to go to the trolley line, introduced herself and brought Bro. Ismael home to her family. There he preached the Gospel, and soon many believed and were baptized. Today, hundreds and hundreds of believers still grow from the spiritual garden that Bro. Ismael tended there for the Lord.

In a garden, certain plants grow better when they are planted side by side. Like people, some have shallow roots but showy tops, and fall over when the first storm comes. Some can be staked up and will flourish again. Some have firm roots, and others know how to twine themselves around a taller, stronger plant, like beans do amidst the corn, so they can reach upward to feel the growing power of God.

We are like those plants—some of us are delicate and small, just starting to learn how to grow. We need warrior plants of beauty to surround us and tall high-reaching plants to lean upon and twine ourselves around. Sometimes we are plants who look good on the outside, but whose roots need strengthening. All of us need to be pruned by the Master Gardener, God, when we start to grow weak branches. All of us need to be watered with faith, sustained by hope, and fed by love; and those of us who are willing, as Bro. Ismael D'Amico was, to give up our weak branches, bad habits, and unclean thoughts, will grow to be strong plants of beauty—plants that thrive today and whose fruits last for generations.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Branch and Mission News

Herndon, VA

By Esther Andrews

We were blessed to have visiting with us in August of 1986 Brother Mike and Sister Pat Hildenbrand and their family from Florida.

Bro. Mike began our service by reading from Mark 8:1-9, concerning Christ's feeding the four thousand with seven loaves of bread and a few fishes. He asked us today if we would be willing to follow Christ without food for three days—dedicated only to Him. Our brother commented that we as saints cannot comprehend the blessings of God. Even the blessings that were bestowed upon the prophets of old are ours today to enjoy; all we have to do is live worthy of them.

There is absolutely nothing to compare to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We

cannot comprehend the blessings to come, or the work that we will accomplish as we grow both naturally and spiritually. We are being tried and tested, but before God can say that we're worthy to go to the four corners of the earth, before He can say that we are able to withstand the trials and troubles that will come upon us, we must be tested.

The harder we work in these the latter days, the harder Satan will work. Either we will not fit in with the world, or we will be a part of it. As we endeavor to serve God, the things of the world will no longer appeal to us. There is a dividing line between us and the world which must grow wider as we draw closer to God. We cannot have one foot in the world and one in the Church. If we can't serve God seven days a week, we are wasting our time in Church.

What would we as saints do if we

didn't have God, and our brothers and sisters, to help us through the difficult times that are to come? When we are in the proper spirit, God is right there with us. We must be sincere, however, in our desire to serve Him.

Brother Chat Young followed, also reflecting on the words of St. Mark. He reflected on the things we must do to serve God. He talked about Naaman in II Kings 5, how God used a handmaiden, a slave, and a prophet of God to cure the plague of leprosy that was upon Naaman. God used these 'small' people to perform a great miracle.

We all rejoiced to learn that Bro. Mike Hildenbrand and his family will be relocating back to the Herndon Branch. Bro. Mike has already found a job up here, and they'll be bringing their belongings on their next trip.

We had a wonderful meeting on September 28, 1986. Bro. Mike read from I Samuel 3, concerning the calling of young Samuel by the Lord. God was

displeased with Eli, because he did not try to direct his own children to serve God. Bro. Mike reminded us that it is our duty to look after the children of the saints, and to try to persuade them to serve God, to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our brother cautioned us that the enemy of our souls can fill up our lives, and give us things to make us happy, but he cannot give us peace. If the Lord, however, is happy with us, we will be happy with ourselves. He will give us inner peace and joy.

As humans we tend to be lazy, like 'contented cows.' But we should remember that tomorrow we can always do a little better than today in our service to God. We are most blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ because we have the Spirit of God. The Lord gives us peace, joy, and contentment. We should not feel the need to seek after 'outside' interests. Our number one priority should be furthering the work of this Church. We should be saying, "Here am I, Lord, what would you have me do?" God does not turn from us, we turn from Him. We must better ourselves. We must dedicate ourselves more fully to Christ.

Warren, OH

By Nancy Martino

On September 14, 1986 we arrived at the church building for our services and immediately felt the Spirit of God as we entered the building. There was much joy in seeing all our brothers and sisters home from a busy summer. The Spirit of God prevailed on through our preaching service, at which time we observed a white round-shaped form appearing behind the pulpit on the wall. This faded away and an arm appeared in its place.

We began our testimony meeting, and many brothers and sisters testified that they had seen these things today. Some saw the arm, and some said it looked like a river. During this season of fellowship, Kim Surrena requested prayer for strength. God's Spirit was working, for she then asked for her baptism!

Now we all understood the visions. The round shape was interpreted to be the Glory of God. The arm, signifying "Come unto Me," was the Lord's, and

the river was the means by which we come into the fold of God—baptism. We were overjoyed by the working of God's Spirit, wherein He allowed both members and non-members to see these visions today.

We went to the water's edge, where Sis. Kim was baptized by Bro. Jerry Giovannone. Back at church, our sister was later confirmed by Bro. Bob Ciarrochi. Communion was then served and we all left the building with our cups overflowing.

Imperial, PA

By Eva Moore

It is written, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine."

After our General Conference on October 12, we had a mini-conference in our branch. We must mention the brothers who were with us, so that others would know that our ministry is untiring in its efforts to strengthen the Church and all those who come to hear the Gospel on Sunday evenings.

We had brothers from every part of the vineyard, including Bro. Cleveland Baldwin of Quincy, FL; Ron Genaro of Niles, OH; Paul Ciotti of McKees Rocks, PA; Alma Nolfi of Glassport, PA; Wilburt McNeil of New Brunswick, NJ; Harold Burge of Erie, PA; Norman James of San Carlos, AZ; Dick Christman of Phoenix, AZ; Frank Natoli of Rochester, NY; Malcolm Paxon of Vanderbilt, PA; and Paul Gehly of Greensburg, PA.

We are thankful for all the others who have also helped us through 1986. We had a quiet, peaceful year, which reminds us of the Lord Jesus when He said, "Peace I give unto you."

Rochester, NY

On Saturday, October 25, the brothers and sisters of the Rochester Mission held a very special meal and gathering. It was a time of memories, of joy, of sadness, of remembering the bonds of many years, both long past and recent. It was an evening set aside for Sister Florence Catena, who would be moving shortly to Port St. Lucie,

Florida after being part of Rochester for over 52 years. Many of our Sister Florence's family came to share this time with her, and many friends and brothers and sisters from near and far made it a point not to miss this occasion.

In our eyes, Sis. Florence has led a quiet life, as compared with many, but there are few individuals like her. Her kindness and the love which she has shown towards others is just as alive in her today as it ever was. Her desire to help and serve others has grown stronger with the years.

We've painted a picture with words, of a saint, and is this not the standard by which we should all be measured?

We of the Rochester Mission realize that it's hard to let our Sister Florence leave, but we will never forget her outstretched hand of love, which she extended to many, and with the help of God, will continue to do as she 'comes to the aid of her country' in another part of God's vineyard.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday, November 9, 1986, Brother Scott Anderson was ordained into the office of a deacon. Brother Rick Elzby and his family, from the Meaford Ontario Mission, joined us this day to witness the event.

Our Brother Rick introduced the service with a text from the book of Hebrews, concerning faith. He stressed that God will do what He must in order for His work to be done, and none can deny it.

Brother Rick then read from Matthew 9:37, and indicated that each one of us in the Gospel has been called to labor for the Lord. In reference to the Song of Zion, *One Last Pruning*, Bro. Rick mentioned that we must be a true people and raise the Standard of Liberty. The Church continually needs replacements who will love and serve God with all their hearts.

Bro. Rick compared the natural instincts of the eagle to the spiritual goal of one who serves God. An eagle has a tendency to fly toward the eye of a storm in order to soar higher above it and away from danger. A servant of

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DETROIT, BRANCH 3 continued . . .

God must be able to surpass the immediate obstacles of life to convey God's message to the world.

Though the harvest is plenteous and the laborers are few, each laborer has a specific role. There are some, for example who plant the seeds, and others who water them, some who nurture and fertilize them, some to watch over them, and others who gather the fruit. Likewise, each of the members in The Church of Jesus Christ has an important role to play.

Bro. Rick then related to us the dream of Bro. Tony Loyalvo, where he saw the flag of the United States surpassed by a white flag with gold letters which spelled out, "The Church of Jesus Christ." Bro. Rick pointed out that there are many who try to satisfy their needs with worldly possessions, but they fail to fill the emptiness inside them. They realize that *something* is missing in their lives, and that something is the *truth* of the Gospel.

Our brother reminded us that we are in possession of this great treasure. He then posed the question, What are we going to do with it? We must labor for righteousness and raise the Standard of Liberty higher.

Presiding Elder Gary Coppa then related an experience that his grandfather, Bro. Michael Coppa of San Diego, CA, had concerning harvest time. He concluded with a message to the congregation that *now* is the time of harvest in the Church.

Bro. Gary then read the duties of a deacon. He acknowledged the deacons of the branch and the service they have performed.

Then Bro. Jack Pontillo related his dream pertaining to Scott's calling as a deacon. While the work of the branch was great and help was sorely needed, Brother Scott showed an earnest and sincere desire to do something for the Lord. After the Lord's Supper, Bro. Vic Pastorelli washed Bro. Scott's feet and Bro. Jack Pontillo ordained him a deacon.

Our Brother Scott later expressed himself with thankfulness to God, and spoke about his need and desire to do something for the Lord. Many times he was frustrated with himself because of his lack of understanding. But he later realized that God wants to see our faith

in Him before He leads us on.

The brothers and sisters of Branch 3 truly felt the Spirit of God in our midst this day. We ask an interest in your prayers to bless our branch as we seek to relocate. We are now meeting in a college auditorium. We thank God for allowing us the presence of His Spirit no matter where we are, and His goodness in providing help for our branch.

Muncey, Ontario

By Barb Racz

On Sunday August 31, 1986, Neila Kehego, of the Muncey Indian Reservation, asked for her baptism in the Sunday service.

God's Holy Spirit was admonishing us on this day, as Brother Rodney Dyer spoke about love. There is natural love, and most importantly there is spiritual love, wherein we love God, and obey His commandments. God asks us to be faithful and to keep our commitment to the end of our days.

Jesus promised us that He would fill our hearts with hope and blessings. If we have faith, and obey His word, we will drink of the living waters. We must be full of His Holy Spirit, so that we can send out invitations to the Marriage Feast, and be used to bring our fellow man to the fountains of joy, peace, and love.

Neila, our dear young sister, asked for her baptism during the season of testimony that followed the preaching.

Brother John Buffa, led by the Spirit of God, asked us all to kneel down and offer prayer unto God, that He would be in our midst as the elders anointed five of our brothers and sisters in Christ today.

We felt love, joy, and all the fruits of God's Holy Spirit as we diligently prayed with our brethren. Moroni 6 was fulfilled in our midst this day, Amen.

Sister Neila Kehego was baptized by Bro. Rodney Dyer. The gift of the Holy Ghost was later bestowed upon her by Bro. John Buffa.

After sacrament was administered, we joined hands in a circle as Brother Clayton Lunham offered the closing prayer.

Detroit Branch 1

By Shelby Chambers

On Sunday morning, November 23, 1986, we at Detroit Branch 1 were doing some singing before our service got under way. At about five minutes before eleven, as our Bro. Joe Ignagni was leading the congregation in singing *I Asked the Lord*, Samuel Impastato stood on his feet and told Bro. Peter Scolaro, our presiding elder, that he wanted to be baptized. Sam was born and raised in the Church, and has been attending for 41 years.

Needless to say, when you start out your Sunday morning meeting with that kind of spirit, it's going to be a good day.

Bro. Nick Pietrangelo opened our meeting, speaking of the promises of God, and how He has a place set up for those of us who prove faithful. He also exhorted us, at this Thanksgiving season, to be truly thankful for all the Lord has blessed us with.

It was decided that we would close our meeting early so that we could all meet at the river for the baptism. As we all ventured to Belle Isle, Satan decided to put one last obstacle in Sam's way: The car he was riding in, one of the last to leave the church, had a flat tire on the way to the river! But as we all know, when we have God on our side, nothing can stop us from doing His will. Sam's brother, Bro. John Impastato, was coming to the baptism from farther away and saw the stranded car at the side of the road. Thank God, there was room in his car for all seven passengers, and they finally drove up to the group waiting on the beach.

Brother Richard Thomas led Sam into the waters of baptism as we sang *I Surrender All*, and we now have a new member at Branch 1.

Back at the church building, Bro. Gerald Benyola petitioned the Lord to send His Spirit down, and Bro. Peter Scolaro confirmed our Brother Samuel Impastato into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our new brother testified how for the past few months he had been praying diligently for the Lord to call him into the Church. He knew what he had to do, but wanted the Lord to confirm it. One night he had a couple of dreams, one where he saw himself asking for his bap-