

The Gospel News

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

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Two Golden Anniversaries

By Frances J. Capone

The dates of December 29, 1936, and August 1, 1937, are closely related, for they represent two important milestones in our lives, Brother Peter Capone and mine. Significant dates then and even more significant today, they constitute our fiftieth wedding anniversary and our fiftieth baptismal anniversary in the Church.

A couple of weeks after our marriage we heard about the Church through Brother Rocco Meo (now deceased), who spent endless hours introducing the Gospel to two people who bombarded him with questions that kept us going until the wee hours of the morning.

These discussions soon led to a visit to Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan. At that time the branch was located at McDougall and Gratiot, where services were held in a rented upper room. Climbing the long stairway must have been difficult for the older members who faithfully trekked those stairs several times a week.

When I questioned Brother Rocco Meo about his statement that The Church of Jesus Christ was the one and only true church, he told me to ask God in sincere prayer. What an amazing answer! "What? The Lord tell me?" I asked in disbelief. He assured me that I would get a reply from the Lord.

I was blessed with several revealing experiences, but the most outstanding one was one that I received the night before our baptism—a dream which remains forever etched in my memory.

I dreamed that I was walking in a vast forest and that I was surrounded by tall, huge trees. I realized that I was lost and knew not where to turn. Apprehension filled my heart. While I walked in utter bewilderment and confusion, I saw a clearing, and I headed in that direction. Before me appeared a long line of closed doors. I knew that behind one of those doors I would find security and refuge. Which door must I choose? While I was thus musing, one door slowly opened, and a tall man dressed in a white robe beckoned to me. I looked into his eyes, dark, beautiful, compassionate. Instant recognition came to me, for He was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All my fears vanished as I followed Him through the open door. Safe at last. Looking about me I noted that many people were lying in beds. These people were sick and this was a hospital. He knew what I was thinking, for He turned to me and said, "Yes, this is a hospital, and I am the chief physician."

After that dream my course was clear—that The Church of Jesus Christ was the true church of God and that I must be baptized. The next morning Pete and I called for our baptisms. We were baptized by Brother Patsy DiBattista. I was confirmed by Brother Silverio Criscuolo and Pete was confirmed by Brother Giuseppe Usai.

We have a son David, who was ordained a deacon, and a daughter, who is a deaconess; son-in-law Steve Saffron and three grandchildren: Stephen, Joanna, and Erin Joy. We all reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Brother Pete is an evangelist, and has

served faithfully throughout the years. At various times he was presiding elder at Branch 3 and Branch 4 in Detroit, Michigan and also of the Phoenix Branch.

We thank God for having given us the privilege of belonging to the family of The Church of Jesus Christ. Throughout the years we have been blessed with warm and lasting fellowship with our brothers and sisters, many of whom have gone on to that beautiful shore.

The first testimony that I gave in 1937 was based on Hymn #8 in the Saints Hymnal. Part of the last verse says: "Whether many or few, all my

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Sis. Frances and Bro. Pete Capone of Phoenix, Arizona

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

LEST WE FORGET

I must live today; I cannot live tomorrow! When tomorrow comes, I shall live it! I shall embrace the miracle of life . . . I will celebrate each moment with the opportunity to help others and to reflect on our Lord that made this splendor possible!

The miracle of intuition is often underrated. It is one of the greatest gifts!

In the late 1930's, Frank and Leata Ford and I went to Grand River Reservation, better known as the Six Nations Reserve, in Ontario, Canada. This trip was one of several days' stay. We would visit several families daily, sharing our joy in Jesus Christ. At this time we had a small number of faithful.

We felt we needed to tell others of Jesus, and were told of a family who might be interested to hear. Upon learning of their name and address, we proceeded to find them. As we were nearing the house, Frank said, "Marco, wait!" Frank moved slowly as he looked into the house through a window. Then he shouted, "Come open this door!" There was a young man sitting facing the door, but he did not move. Frank knocked at the window pane a second and third time, and said, "Unless you open this door, I'll break the glass and come through the window!" The man stood up, and with the assistance of a cane he hobbled toward the door and opened it.

We found that what Joby Hill had planned was to commit suicide, and whosoever would open the door would kill him, as he had a 12-gauge shotgun facing him with a string rigged to the

trigger of a gun and to the front doorknob.

Of course, Frank and I were unaware of this until he looked through the window. But what prompted Frank to peek through the window before going to the front door? Frank said to me afterwards that an intuition seemed to warn him not to open the door.

Some years prior to this, Joby was walking on a road near Buffalo, New York one rainy night. As visibility was poor, a driver struck Joby, breaking his leg. The driver did not stop. Joby lay helpless, bleeding, for hours before someone helped him to a hospital. His leg was amputated.

As time went by Joby was unable to support himself financially, and he moved back to the Indian Reservation and lived in the home of a relative. There he became despondent and sought to end his life.

We took Joby with us to the home of Bro. Hugh Beaver and his wife, and then on to Windsor, Ontario. When the saints heard about Joby's life, they were moved with compassion and an artificial limb was provided for Joby through their generosity.

Joby surrendered his life to the Lord, and Brother Ford found a job for him. Joby became a blessing to all who knew him.

Strange but true, instead of a liability he became a blessing. But the question still prevails, what motivated Brother Frank Ford to say, "Wait, Marco, don't go to that door"?

Was it intuition, imagination, or the Spirit of God? What do you think? Whatever it was, God loved Joby!

Have you ever felt a hesitation or a sudden halt? It could be an inexplicable warning, or a call to action. It pays to listen to that inward small voice.

"I will send the Comforter. He will lead you and show you things to come," said Jesus. Do you believe this? It can become a very real part of our lives.

May the Lord richly bless you.

NOTE: The correct telephone number for Bro. V. James and Sis. Mary Loyalvo is: (209) 431-2960.

Covering One Another's Nakedness

*By David Nolfi
Glassport, PA*

Noah, obedient to all that God had commanded him, took the profession of an husbandman (farmer) after the ark landed, and planted a vineyard (Genesis 9:20-27). In the process of time he drank of the wine and was drunken, and lay uncovered in his tent.

Ham, one of Noah's three sons, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brethren outside. Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon their shoulders, and went backward into the tent, covering their father without seeing his nakedness.

Certainly there is a valuable lesson for all in this account of Noah and his sons. This nakedness can be likened to the sins of our weakness which, by their temptation, beset our souls from time to time. Like Ham, there are many individuals today who, when they see the nakedness of others, would expose it by scolding, mocking, and ridiculing; making jest of others' faults. With a tongue determined to shame the person or persons involved, they of Ham's nature set on fire the course of hell by talebearing to all they might come in contact with concerning the deeds that the person, such as Noah, had committed.

Who are they in the role of Shem and Japheth, that would cover the nakedness of others? Even they themselves would not look upon Noah, but went in backwards. Those of the nature of Shem and Japheth are compassionate, merciful, and thoughtful of others, and it seems they are few.

There are not many who would see or hear of the nakedness of others and do what they can to cover the shame of it. Why not? Because the nature of the flesh is devilish; it takes pleasure in exposing the shame of others. The reward for this act, just as Ham was cursed by his father Noah, is that we likewise will suffer the anger of our Heavenly Father.

What of the reward of Shem and Japheth? Those who are able to look upon others taken in a fault with mer-

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It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovatvo

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF JOHN

In the prologue to his gospel, John introduces Christ's pre-existence as God, not a second personage, but as the only one. The pre-existence of Christ is alluded to very clearly in the Johannine Gospel by the Lord's own words, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). Amazingly, it reflects the Old Testament usage in the revelation to Moses, "I AM THAT I AM" (Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 32:39). In His last prayer Jesus indicated His pre-existence, "Father, glorify thou me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made" (17:5; 6:62).

"I AM" CHRISTOLOGY

In the Gospel of John the imagery used by Christ in the "I AM" theme describes implicitly and explicitly the revelation of His true being and self-disclosure. The striking images and metaphors used make the mission of Christ stand out clearly and vividly.

The Christ of the Johannine Gospel uses the Greek form of "I am" (*ego eimi*) to indicate relevant titles to Himself in a metaphorical and symbolic sense. I am the bread of life (6:35); I am the good shepherd (10:11); I am the light of the world (8:12); I am the resurrection (11:25); I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6); and, I am the true vine (15:1). The construction *ego eimi* appears in three different ways in the Gospel of John, as follows:

- a) Without a predicate; 8:24, 6:28, 8:58, 13:9
- b) With an implied predicate; 6:20, 18:5

- c) With an explicit predicate; 6:35, 6:51, 8:12, 8:18, 8:23, 9:5, 10:7, 10:9, 10:11, 10:14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1, 15:5 (Robert Kyser).

Kyser also translates the Greek "I am" construction more literally:

8:24—If you do not believe that "I am," you will die in your sins.

8:28—When you have lifted up the Son of Man, you will know that "I am."

13:9—I tell you this now, before the event, that when it happens, you may believe that "I am."

6:20—He called out, "I am"; do not be afraid.

18:5—Jesus said, "I am."

8:18—"I am" the one who testifies concerning myself.

8:23—"I am" from above, Your home is in this world, "I am" not from this world.

It does appear that in the Johannine Gospel the Old Testament parallel of the I AM saying is used. In my opinion, Jesus is attempting to emphasize the fact that He is the I AM who revealed Himself to Moses (Exodus 3:14). It is possible that John intends to stir up the reader to recognize that the sacred name for God, Jehovah (or Yahweh in Hebrew) means, literally, I am. In the Old Testament it is written, "And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them (Exodus 6:2 & 3).

A writer by the name of F. F. Bruce says that the complete phrase in Exodus 3:14 is translated as *Ego eimi ho on*, which means, "I am the one who is." In Isaiah 41:4 and 43:10-13, "I am he" is translated in Hebrew as *ani hu*. It signifies that Jehovah alone is God! In reading the above scriptures, no one is left in doubt as to the majesty of God, and His rightful use of *ani hu*, I am He!

The Hebrew phrase *ani hu* or its Greek equivalent is no doubt the basis from which the absolute "I am" sayings in the Johannine Gospel are used. One of them is found in 4:26: "I who speak to you *am he*." This was told to the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob after she had stated her belief that when the Messiah came, everything would be explained.

A certain Raymond E. Brown writes about three types of "I am" statements by illustrations of contrast:

"I am the bread of life" in a context in which the crowd is suggesting that the manna which was given to Israel in the desert was the bread of heaven.

"I am the light of the world" in contrast to the festive lights burning brightly in the court of the women during the Feast of the Tabernacles.

"I am the door" and "I am the Good Shepherd" in contrast to the role assumed by the Pharisees.

Each of these roles reveal the role of Jesus. Not only does the predicate describe who Jesus is but it describes His relationship to mankind. Jesus, as the source of eternal life for all people, is portrayed in the usage of vine, life, and resurrection. Christ as the door is the means through which mankind can find that life.

Continued in next month's issue.

An Experience

By Josephine Noble

On September 2, 1987 a tornado struck the trailer park where we live. It was 4:30 p.m. and I was alone, sitting on my patio under the awning.

Suddenly a bolt of lightning came without warning from the hazy sky above and hit a tree a few yards from our trailer, setting the tree afire.

I became frightened and went into the trailer. In fifteen minutes' time, it grew very dark and windy and started to rain. It was raining heavily, and the wind was blowing strong enough to rock the trailer back and forth.

I immediately got on my knees and prayed, asking God not to let any damage or harm come my way. While I was praying it felt like my trailer was lifted up and put back down; my television and other furniture all fell to the

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A message from the Seventy.

Missionary Work Continues as Year Begins

By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor

Missionary work in various parts of the world is being pursued as the new year begins. Trips are being made overseas, while efforts are also being increased domestically.

This month, Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Paul Palmieri will be going to India, as reported in the November, 1987 *Gospel News*. Also, Brothers Joseph Perri and Joseph Ross are traveling in the continent of Africa.

The work has commenced in Guatemala, where Brothers Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin, along with their families, moved to in November. In the United States, follow-up activities in Independence, Missouri and among the Indian missions are being planned.

The efforts in India, Guatemala, and Independence, along with the ongoing Church programs in North America, have been reported in the past. At this time we will outline the African trip, which should be well under way as this is being read.

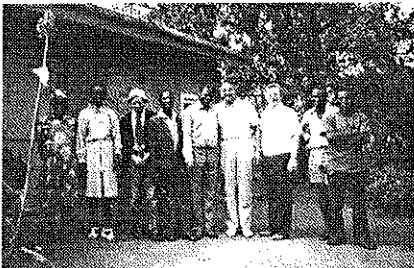
FOURTH TRIP

This is the fourth trip to Africa for newly-ordained Evangelist Joseph Perri. His first trip there was in 1979, when he went with Elder Mike Hildenbrand for five weeks to temporarily replace Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio, who served in Nigeria for six years and who was visiting home in the United States for a brief period. While in Africa Brothers Perri and Hildenbrand spent time in the nation of Ghana, where they were greatly impressed by the sincerity of the hearts of the people who wanted to hear about Christ.

In 1985 Brother Perri, accompanied by his wife Sister Mary, traveled to Africa, visiting in Nigeria for four weeks, in Ghana for one week, and in Kenya for ten days.

During this time, Brother Paul Carr, who is still the resident missionary in Nigeria today, established the Church in Kenya along with Brother Perri. They left their wives in Nairobi and ventured west, into the interior, for 250 miles to find Elizaphan Osaka and his wife, Nina, who had inquired about the Church through the late Evangelist John Ross, who was in charge of the African work for the General Church. As Brothers Carr and Perri have stated, "Only the Lord could have directed us in such a way for us to find them."

Even getting into the area was difficult, and their search seemed hopeless. Then, almost miraculously, a man unknown to them mentioned that he knew the Osakas, and he led them into the bush country where they were greeted by a 6 x 12-inch sign which read, "E. OSAKA, GOD IS LOVE." At the Osaka's home, the two brothers found a small group of people praying,



Missionaries Carr and Perri (third and fourth from right) with the group they encountered in Kenya in 1985. Bro. Osaka is in the center.

as they had been for four years, for a missionary from The Church of Jesus Christ to visit them.

The Osakas were baptized. At the invitation of the Church in America, they came to the October, 1985 General Church Conference where Brother Osaka was ordained an elder and Sister Osaka was ordained a deaconess in the Church.

In 1986, Brother Perri went once again to Kenya with Evangelist Joseph Calabrese. They stayed there almost three weeks in connection with having The Church of Jesus Christ registered with that country's government.

FIRST FOR BROTHER ROSS

The trip is the first one Brother Joseph Ross is making overseas for the Church, and he asked at the October, 1987 General Church Conference that he, along with Brother Perri, be remembered in prayer. As present coordinator of the African work, Brother Ross is very cognizant of missionary activities there and now he has the opportunity to go personally into the field. He has expressed much gratitude to the Lord for this privilege, as he was recently healed of a serious affliction.

The present journey is planned to last a minimum of nine weeks. It will start in Nigeria, where the brothers will visit among the 52 stations (branches) of the Church. Brother Paul Carr, who, along with his wife Sister Thressa and two of their children, is in his sixth year of service there, has planned their itinerary.

Nigeria was the first African country to have The Church of Jesus Christ established in it, an event which took place more than 30 years ago. Brother E. A. U. Arthur, paramount ruler of five million people, is the president of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, and is an evangelist in the Church.

Besides worshipping with the brothers, sisters, and friends at the church locations in Nigeria, Brothers Perri and Ross will visit the orphanage, which was begun about three years ago, the 850-student secondary school, which the Church established many years ago and which has been completely renovated, and the International Medical Assistance (IMA) Clinic, an independent organization begun by three sisters of the Church in America (Tina Sechrist, Shari Ciotti, and Mary Ann

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As The Church of Jesus Christ begins another year, we look forward, as always, to the great things the Lord has in store for us. Having been given the Restored Gospel, we understand that we must do more than simply win individual souls for Christ. As the servants of God, we have been commissioned with the great work of bringing about the restoration of the House of Israel.

The Lord has blessed us, through the Book of Mormon, with the fullness of His Gospel. This great blessing has not only afforded us the divine priesthood authority, without which we could not have the Spirit of God bestowed upon us, but it has also clarified for us many biblical prophecies concerning a condition of peace and godliness upon the earth while men are still in the flesh.

In order for us to bring about this Peaceful Reign, however, the scriptures teach us that we have a tremendous work to do among the Seed of Joseph and among all people. It is important, then, that as we endeavor to bring souls into The Church of Jesus Christ, we should work just as diligently to *teach* our members the full meaning of the Gospel, pointing out to them that their baptism is only the beginning, a first step, toward their salvation. With the knowledge we have been given, we know that our soul's salvation is only reached by committing ourselves to a righteous, sacrificial life of service to God and obedience to the teachings of Christ.

As much as our flesh would be satisfied just to see our buildings filled with worshippers on a Sunday morning, it is to recruiting and training true soldiers of the cross that we must devote our energies. If we can work to achieve a steady rate of spiritual growth among our existing members, if each of us can grow spiritually to a point where the Lord can use us as instruments in His hand, the increase in our *quality* will naturally bring about the increase in quantity that we yearn for.

Because God has bestowed a greater portion of the Truth to His Church in these latter days, each of us must be reconciled to the fact that every member of The Church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned to labor for Zion. It is only through doing what we know to be right, to the best of our ability, that the Lord will exercise His mercy and grace upon us as we stand alone before Him at the last day. If we do not know what specific work He wants us to do as an individual, we have only to ask Him; He will answer.

Let us try, in 1988, to become a church of vital, hard-working members, each laboring diligently for the reign of peace on the face of the earth. Let us make the best use of what we have to offer to the Lord, recognizing that it is God who has given us all that we have, and it is to Him that we owe all things. Above all, let us each work to put aside the natural man and allow the Spirit of God to dwell within us, leading and guiding us, and showing us things to come.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

A Great Mystery

Dear Girls and Boys,

Many thousands of years ago only a very few people on the earth knew God and how to serve Him. There weren't any books, most people could not even read, and darkness was in people's minds concerning spiritual thoughts, those good, happy thoughts about Jesus.

Most people thought that if they prayed to a special statue or held on to a "lucky" stone or feather, they would be safe and have power. When the Children of Israel were living among the Egyptians, they began to forget about God and began praying to statues; they forgot that all things that are good come from God and began to call their blessings "luck" because they didn't know better.

The Children of Israel grew up and had their own children, who grew up and so on. Pretty soon there were thousands and hundreds of thousands of God's chosen people, those Children of Israel, living among the Egyptians and praying to the Egyptian statues. They had forgotten God.

God sent a man named Moses to remind the Children of Israel of the true ways to pray and serve the Lord. God had heard His people cry for help.

Moses loved the Lord; it hurt him to see his people treated like slaves and raised to believe in Egyptian statues. He wanted to see his people freed and serving the One true God. The Lord worked with Moses to guide the thousands of His people to a free land. It took many miracles before the slaves were allowed to leave Egypt.

Moses' first plan was to lead his people straight through the desert to the land God had promised them. But once the people were away from Egypt, they began to forget what it was like to be



God loves you and saved you from slavery, but have cried and complained saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

And God sent thousands and hundreds of thousands of quails into the camp, and the people ate their meat until they were sick. And Moses shared the burden of leading these complaining, spoiled people with the seventy elders who also carried the Spirit of God.

Little by little, God was changing His people to understand His ways and trust Him, and Moses, too, learned and grew. The nation that had grown up as slaves amidst luxury were learning to be a strong and faithful people who served the One true God.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

a slave and have someone whipping them and always telling them where to go and what to do.

They began rebelling against everything their leader, Moses, said for them to do. God was sending them a special food, called manna, every evening when the dew fell. The people never had to worry about food, but they began to complain that they wanted meat, and other foods they had in Egypt. They cried and moaned, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

Moses and God were angry to hear the people again, forgetting all the good they had and all the blessings God had given them while they cried for something they didn't even need.

Moses said to God, "Haven't I pleased You, Lord? Is that why I have the burden of all these people? Now all these people cry and say that they have to have meat. Where could I find meat to feed these six hundred thousand people? I am not able to bear the problems of these people alone, because it is too heavy for me. If You deal this way with me, kill me, I beg You, if I've found favor in Your sight, so I don't have to be this wretched."

The Lord answered Moses, "Gather seventy wise men of Israel, and I will come down and talk to you, and I'll take the spirit which is upon you and put it on them also, and you will not have to bear the burden of these people (and this work) alone."

The Lord also knew what to do about the complainers who cried for meat. He told Moses, "Tell the people God has heard their cries for meat. I will send meat, not for one day or two days or five days, or even ten or twenty days, but even for a whole month will I send meat until you will be full of it, and sick of it: because you have not been glad that

Reasons for Life

I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me
That maybe we are stationed where
God wants us to be;
That the little place I'm filling is
the reason for my birth,
And just to do the work I do, He
sent me down to earth.
If God had wanted otherwise, I reckon
He'd have made
Me just a little different, of a worse
or better grade;
And, since God knows and understands
all things of land and sea,
I fancy that He placed me here, just
where He wanted me.
Sometimes I get to thinking, as my
labors I review,
That I should like a higher place
with greater things to do;
But I come to the conclusion, when
the envying is stilled,
That the post to which God sent me
is the post He wanted filled.
So, I plod along and struggle in the
hope, when the day is through,
That I'm really necessary to the things
God wants to do;
And there isn't any service I can give,
which I should scorn,
For it may be just the reason God
allowed that I be born.

Author Unknown
Submitted by Cathy Mulla
Detroit Branch 3

Our Women Today

Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Dorothy Shaefer

The Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle met at Aliquippa, PA on November 7, 1987. It was a beautiful day as the sisters traveled to the meeting. There was much anticipation and no one was disappointed from the time the song *Good Morning, God* was sung until the closing prayer was offered.

Sis. Joanne Gibson read the scripture from Psalm 103. There was a short business session, in which we discussed ways in which we could be of more assistance to the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was reported that the Pennsylvania Area Circle had responded to the request of the PA District Mission Board and provided sacrament furnishings for the Elkins, West Virginia Mission. Layette items were brought to this meeting and will be forwarded to the Indian missions as needed. Through the ongoing layette distribution program many have been introduced to the Church who otherwise would never have heard of the Gospel.

The Aliquippa Circle presented a beautiful program of praise and thanksgiving. This theme, portrayed

through the reading of scriptures and historical proclamations and the singing of songs, gave us a feeling of gratitude that we have been allowed to enjoy the blessings of America, the Promised Land. During the program, the presidents of the various Circles in the Area were asked to give their testimonies.

To close a very uplifting service, Sister Madelyn Robinson sang a version of Psalm 103, which had set the theme for the day—"Bless the Lord, O my soul."

Bro. Jim Gibson closed the meeting in prayer, after which we enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner and sweet fellowship with the sisters and a few brothers who also came to the meeting.

Branch and Mission News

Saline, MI

By Virginia Carlini

"There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place." The voices of the young people rang loud and clear at the close of the meeting on Sunday, October 4, 1987. What a wonderful spirit to go home with as the house of the Lord was filled with brothers, sisters, and friends gathered there to praise and honor their God.

Families gathered at the Saline Mission that day to reflect upon their spiritual life and their relationship to God; today, particularly, the family of Sis. Marion Batalucco. History was being made at the Saline Mission as four generations of the Batalucco family were present to see Wilder Scott Christoferson blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is the son of Kimberly (Wood) and Scott Christoferson, currently living in Phoenix, AZ, and the grandson of Sister Roseann and Donald Wood, and the great grandson of Sister Marion and the late Bro. Joseph Batalucco.

We had visiting with us Baldwin Batalucco and his entire family, and Bro. Kerry and Sis. Salina Carlini from Branch 4, which made a total of 33 of the family. Also visiting with us that day was Sis. Michelle Kruggel of the Harrison, MI Mission.

The family went up and sang

Whispering Hope, after which Bro. Jim Cotellesse blessed Wilder. Bro. Jim then introduced the service, speaking of the qualities of Jesus. He read from Mark 10:13, on the blessing of little children, and said how a child is trustworthy. The Lord would have us to be as children—trustworthy, free from pride, unsophisticated, loving. Jesus had these qualities. The Lord had mercy. He healed the sick and fed the hungry with loaves and fishes. Jesus had tenderness. He talked to people individually.

We should read the scriptures, to see the lessons our Creator has given us on how we should live on this earth and endure to the end.

After the congregation sang *Make Me a Blessing*, many beautiful testimonies were given. Bro. Gary Carlini related a dream he had five years ago, in which he saw the entire Batalucco family sitting in church. It was truly a joy for us to see that dream fulfilled on this day.

Bro. Reno Bologna spoke a few words. As the 'patriarch' of our mission, he has watched all the young ones, and even some of the older ones, grow up in the Church. He was our Sunday School teacher and our minister. We pray that God gives all our visitors the privilege to come back into our midst again.

RIDE FOR GLORY

It was back in the spring of 1987 that

the members of the Saline, Michigan Mission, desiring to be "physically as well as top-notch spiritually fit," formed the Team Saline-Mission Bike Club. Bicycles were dusted off, club T-shirts were ordered, and the club's first activity was organized.

On September 5, 1987 the Saline Mission held the first annual Team Saline Bike-A-Thon. It was a beautiful late summer Saturday as riders of all ages gathered at the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Virginia Carlini, which served as the headquarters for the activity. Bikers were given 5 hours to complete as many laps as possible over the 4-mile course. All proceeds from this event were donated to the Saline Mission's building fund.

After opening prayer by Bro. Harold Batalucco, a short photo session took place and the bikers were off. As they

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Members and friends of Saline, MI Mission at their 1st annual Bike-A-Thon.

SALINE continued . . .

rode past the check-out desk, they yelled out their numbers to register the lap, and received a drink of water. Bro. Gary Carlini and Duane Loyalvo tied for the most miles ridden.

Following the day's ride, there was a picnic in the Carlinis' courtyard, and later, a hayride was enjoyed by all.

We would especially like to thank all those who pledged and donated money to the riders. Thanks to the riders for their time and effort, and above all, we thank God for the strength and ability He gives us, that we might collectively work toward our goal of someday building our church in this area.

Lake Worth, FL

By James R. Bond

On Sunday October 18, saints from as far away as New Jersey gathered for a beautiful day as we all witnessed the ordination of Brother Ronald Carradi into the priesthood. We also observed the ordinance of feet washing. The Hollywood, Florida Branch enjoyed this glorious day, along with Bro. Lenny and Sis. Jean Benyola of Hopelawn, NJ, Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Griffith and their family from Tampa, and a group of brothers and sisters from the Miami Mission.

Bro. John Griffith opened the meeting using Ephesians 4:4-16 as his text, speaking on why and how one is called into the ministry. The calling into an ordained office is a revelation from God, and does not come from ourselves or other people.

Bro. John D'Orazio continued, remembering scriptures in the Bible having to do with God's calling individuals to minister unto the people. The scriptures he cited reinforced the order and composition of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Before the ordination took place, Bro. August D'Orazio washed Bro. Ron's feet. After a prayer was offered by Bro. Joe Catone, Sr., Bro. Eugene Perri ordained Bro. Ron with the power and authority to preach the Gospel.

Dreams and experiences were then related which confirmed our brother's calling into the priesthood. We all felt

the Spirit of God as our brothers and sisters testified of God's revelations to them regarding our brother's place in the Church. These experiences are the difference between the Church that Christ set up and the many different denominations and churches of this day and age.

We thank God for allowing us to taste of His blessings, mercies, and goodness in sharing in the ordinances of His Church. We ask for your prayers as our Brother Ron does his work for the Lord and continues to increase in knowledge and wisdom as he feeds the flock.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Johanna Lesperance

On September 23, 1987 our presiding elder, Bro. Peter Scolaro, called a special meeting for all the young members of the branch. He didn't specify what the meeting was about, so everyone was feeling a little apprehensive about what the topic would be.

But when Bro. Peter began to speak that Wednesday night, it was a gentle and loving message about helping one another in the service of the Lord, about doing your part, making an effort instead of making an excuse. He included himself, and wasn't pointing a finger at anyone. It was like a spiritual pep rally.

Our brother mentioned how the older brothers and sisters have the wisdom that comes through years of experience, and how they carry much of the load today as they have over the years. But now is the time for those duties to start changing hands—the names on the list of officers and workers must change—because if they don't, we cannot grow as a Church and as the people of God.

The young members can't go on expecting the older brothers and sisters to always be there to work for the Church, because very soon we, the young, will be the Church. If we are not willing to put forth the effort, the Lord will turn and overturn until He finds a people that will serve Him.

The words our brother brought forth that evening were truly a message for all of us. I hope and pray that this article gives you a taste of the inspiration we felt. It has opened my eyes to the importance of *individual effort* among the saints, so that united we will stand strong for the Lord!

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday, October 18, 1987 visitors, friends, and relatives gathered from Windsor, Meaford, Harrison, Branches 1, 2, and 4, and Sterling Heights to witness the ordination of three of our sisters as deaconesses. This day held special meaning for Sisters Mary Coppa, Ilene Coppa, and Arline Whitton.

Opening prayer was offered by Bro. Joe Furnari. Bro. Rick Elzby from Meaford, Ontario introduced the service by reminding us to look forward to the Spirit of God manifesting itself this morning. He then asked us, "What time and season are we living in today?" The latter reign has come upon the earth and we are living in the *latter day!*

Bro. Rick cited several examples in the scriptures where the power of God is made manifest. It is this power that led Joseph Smith to ask the Lord, "Which church shall I join?"

Today we have to have more insight than those around us in the world. We are living in the type of day where soberness and seriousness are left behind; the same type of days as before the flood, when they made merry with wine and strong drink and food. Today the world "parties" for everything, but *real* joy is that which is found in the restoration—found only in our hearts.

In contrast to many churches which may be built up to get gain, we have set aside different ordained offices in order to pass on the word of God. We each have a responsibility to the Church, and it is this desire, perseverance, and endurance we each have that is the foundation of the Church and holds the Church together.

Bro. Rick mentioned that the past weekend was Thanksgiving in Canada. In honor of this day, the Sunday School children presented a program where they read the experience in the Church History of Sis. Campitelle, where God sent a messenger to bring her family much-needed food. Bro. Rick then asked, "Who can you go to today who would help you? What have you got to hang on to if you don't have the Lord?"

He exhorted us to number ourselves among the righteous—not the wicked. If you want to have something badly enough, you must fight for it; this applies both naturally and spiritually. The