

The Gospel News

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

January, 1993

Volume 49, No. 1

A New Year's Message

We would like to wish all of our friends, all over the world, wherever this paper may reach—A Very Happy and Contented New Year.

As you noticed, I did not say “prosperous,” because the Bible teaches us to be content with the food and raiment, wages or whatever things you may have. Prosperity never brought much contentment. It always seems to drive us on and on for more and more. Oh, it's nice to have money and the things that it can buy, but there are some things far more important than those things.

Jesus said, “What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?” There were rich men in the Bible who had many possessions—Abraham, David, and Solomon, to mention the outstanding ones—but the only time any of them were content was when they were close to God and on their knees before their Maker, submitting themselves to the will of the Father.

Another thing we wish for you is Liberty: To live, to serve, to worship and to be happy. Now I am not speaking of freedom—although we wish that everyone, everywhere were free—but I am talking of Liberty within one's self, between yourself and God.

The word of God states, “Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty.” It is a wonderful thing to have Liberty with the Lord. It is a blessing in our personal lives and in our relationships toward one another to have the spirit of Liberty: The ability to express our concerns, our hurts, and even our opinions without any fear of being put down or rejected by someone.

Some might use this kind of Liberty to do wrong, but when they come to their senses, it's important for us as saints of the Most High God to always be there to help them find the way back. When they come back recognizing that they have misused the Liberty that God gave them and we accept them in spite of it, they become much stronger in the Faith.

Liberty in the Lord is a beautiful thing to have. Paul says, “Stand fast, therefore, in the Liberty wherewith Christ has made us free.” And again, he says, “For brethren, you have been called unto Liberty, only use not Liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve ye one another.” It is not good for any man or woman, whether minister or lay person, to try to take away our spiritual

(Continued on Page 9)

Work with Seed of Joseph progressing in Lake Worth, FL

By James Bond

Since our first Thursday night bilingual meeting took place, we have seen a great interest from our Spanish friends in learning more about their heritage and Christ's Church. We have had a total of five meetings on Thursday nights and our first meeting on a Sunday afternoon, which was on October 25, 1992.

At our second Thursday meeting, after several selections of Spanish hymns, Brother Michael Radd opened the meeting by reading the 3rd chapter of the Gospel of John, concerning Nicodemus.

Brother Oscar Lopez translated and bore an inspiring testimony. We also enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments with our friends.

Our next Thursday meeting was well attended, with a total of 44 enjoying the blessings of God. We all again enjoyed singing praises in Spanish and afterwards, Brother Eugene Perri Jr. opened by reading From Isaiah 1st chapter about making a choice to serve the Lord and how the prophet gave the formula.

(Continued on Page 10)

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Let us start the year nineteen ninety-three (1993) by considering some "Facts of Life."

Here is one fact of life I know, and this one I will gladly share; no one truly cares how much you know until they know how much you care.

In the 1920's, the first branch in Detroit, later know as Branch 1, was finished and several new converts had been added to that Church on the corner of Devine and Hall. Among these new converts were a couple who had moved to Detroit from Rochester, New York. Frank Rosati and his wife had moved because Detroit had job openings while Rochester had unemployment.

But their stay in Detroit was of short duration. Shortly after moving, Mrs. Rosati became ill. Both met with wonderful, caring saints who took them into their homes and to church. Both husband and wife were baptized, but their happy existence lasted only a short time, since the new Sister Rosati was worsening in health.

Many prayers did not help much; she died, and our new Brother Frank decided to return to his relatives in Rochester. The wonderful, caring members of the Church felt that their love and prayers had not availed much. "We shall never see him any more," they said of Brother Frank.

Brothers Ishmael D'Amico and Joseph Dulisse had moved to Detroit from Glassport, Penn-

sylvania. They were two dedicated ministers of God; however, they felt just like the rest of the congregation, that this was the end of Brother Rosati.

The saints of Detroit did not realize what their caring prayers and love had meant to the Rosati family. Carrying that affliction, and even death, could not erase them from the memories of Brother Frank. He related to his relatives of the kind of loving and caring, and what it had meant to him during the time of his wife's tragic affliction and death. It had made a lasting mark on his life.

To the surprise of Bro. D'Amico, the small congregation in Detroit received a letter from Frank Rosati. In part he wrote, "I have given my testimony to my relatives in Rochester. Some of them want to be baptized. Brother Ishmael, please come."

What a great surprise! How beautiful must have been that joyful news. I am not sure if there were three or five who wanted to join this wonderful, caring, and loving Church of Jesus Christ. Truly, "no one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."

Our God has a way to deal with each of us. Brother Thurman Furnier had moved to Detroit from Pennsylvania with his family. That set Bro. D'Amico free to go to Rochester, NY. My sister, Virginia, and my father's family were baptized in the early 1930's when Bro. D'Amico's family was still living in the Frammolino's upper apartment and Bro. Ishmael was living in Rochester.

A similar experience happened in Detroit with the Cerami family. They had come to Detroit from Colorado, looking for work. They were formerly members of the Pentecostal Church, but upon hearing the love and care and doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ, they too were baptized.

Shortly after losing their job, however, they moved back to Colorado. They also carried with them a new, living testimony to their former church and minister. This pastor, a man by the name of Costa, called on Ishmael D'Amico to come to Colorado, and when he did, the minister and the entire con-

gregation became members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Costa offered a prayer at our wedding on July 10, 1937. He was visiting Detroit at the time. He seemed a fine man, well-versed in the word of God.

The love and hospitality of the Church at that time could be compared to the New Testament Church.

I thought of these two families, who truly made their mark in the history of the power of love and caring. They may not get into the history books of man, but in the Book of Life they are symbols of glory. Brother Costa told us, "The Cerami family were members of our Church, but when they returned to us, they were like the living stones that Peter wrote of in his first letter, 'You also as living stones, are built upon a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God by Jesus Christ' " (I Peter 2:5).

Loving and caring cannot be overdone. Try it.

A Testimony of Praise

My mother joined the Church in March of 1920. I was nine years old when my family was introduced to the Gospel. My aunt, Maryann DiNinno, came from her house in Glassport, PA to bring the news of The Church of Jesus Christ. When she arrived at our door, my mother cried because they hadn't seen each other in a very long time. I had prepared dinner and the family was seated at the table when my aunt informed us that she did not begin dinner until a prayer was said. She had a beautiful voice and offered a beautiful prayer. My father was so impressed that he asked her where she had learned it. My aunt replied that she had learned to pray at the Church. The Church had been a wonderful influence on her life and her attitude—she recommended that my father join.

Elders from the Church came to visit and my father was even more interested. The elders told my father to kneel down and ask the

(Continued on Page 10)

Our Women Today

Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Circle Conference

By Linda Reynolds

September 19, 1992 was the first time the Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was ever held in the Lindsay, CA Branch. The Lindsay sisters went to a lot of effort to make the weekend very pleasant for all of us.

On Saturday the day began with a continental breakfast served by the brothers of the Lindsay Branch. The brothers in the Pacific Coast Area have been very supportive and helpful to us, and we are all very appreciative of everything they do for us.

We sang one of our beloved *Songs of Zion, Don't Let Anyone Take Your Crown*. Sis. Lucy DeCaro welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the effort to come to the conference, and Sis. Norma Kennedy opened with prayer.

Sis. Bennie Jones from the Riverside Mission gave the devotional on "The Working of God in Our Lives." She read some scripture and explained the importance of keeping God in our lives.

Along with our business and report giving we also discussed to whom we would like to send cards of encouragement. There are many who need prayer for illnesses and some need to be encouraged and to know that we love them.

We had the disbursements of funds, taking all the money that is turned in from locals' fundraisers. We discussed and voted on whom we would like to support financially.

After the morning business, we went to a beautiful nearby park and had a wonderful buffet luncheon. Once again the brothers handled everything for us. Everything was set up and waiting for us when we got there.

In the afternoon we finished up a few items of business and sang some more songs. Sis. Linda Reynolds from the Simi Valley Branch did a seminar on "The

Miracle of Forgiveness." Sis. Cindy Hood was asked to open the Seminar in prayer so that the Lord would open our minds and to be with the sisters who were participating in the Seminar. Sis. Linda asked Sis. Jeanne Frammolino from Modesto, Sis. Valerie Dulisse from Modesto, and Sis. Lydia Cavallaro from Lindsay to relay a personal experience in their lives relating to forgiveness.

In the evening we returned to the church for an Ice Cream Social.

On Sunday we were truly blessed with every word that was spoken and every song that was sung. Bro. Chuck Curry from Tse Bonito, New Mexico, continued on with the theme of Forgiveness, and Bro. Stacy Light from San Diego also spoke on the same subject.

Bro. V. James Loyalvo from Lindsay spoke to us and relayed an experience that he and his brother, Bro. Joe Loyalvo, had had regarding the Ladies' Circle when they were newly ordained into the ministry. It was a wonderful experience and we in the Ladies' Circle were encouraged by his words.

There were many that day who asked to have the elders lay hands upon them. There are many needs in our District, and we ask all to please remember us in your prayers.

Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Meeting

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle meeting was held on November 7, 1992 at Imperial, PA. Sister Jan Cornell, the chairperson, was happy to see all who attended and she commented that she had the opportunity to visit all of the Area circles this past summer. The Glassport circle took charge of the devotions by reading the Scriptures and singing songs on "Communing with God."

All of the officers were present and the reports from Aliquippa, Fredonia, Glassport, Greensburg, Imperial, McKees Rocks, Monongahela, and Vanderbilt were read. There will be a retreat and

Mother-Daughter Banquet some time in 1993. The projects for the coming year are to sell 1993 calendars and flower postcards. The officers that were elected were Linda Ottavian, chairperson; Jan Cornell, secretary; Karen Progar, treasurer; and Dora Rossi as auditor. Carol Monaghan was elected the card sender. Money was sent to the Homestead Mission, Florida and to the Pennsylvania Area Mission Fund.

A delicious potluck lunch was served by the Imperial Circle. All those that attended the meeting went home uplifted and determined to keep busy in the coming year in helping wherever there is a need.

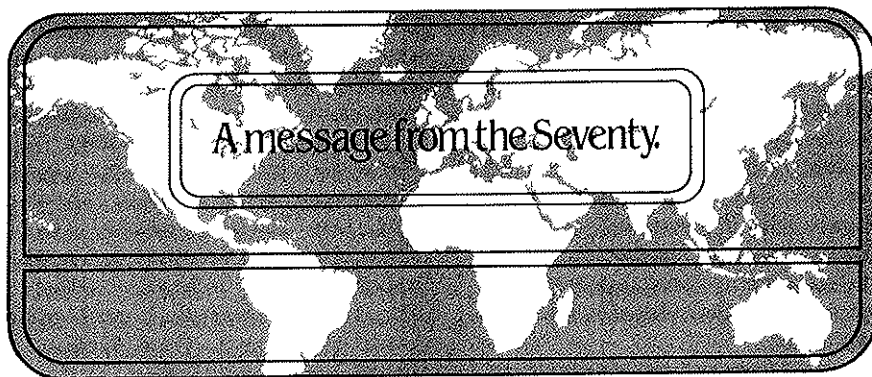
Layettes appreciated

Greetings from the Lakeside, Arizona Ladies' Uplift Circle. We would like to relate to you the gratitude we feel for all those that continue to support our layette program. We have been donating layettes to newborns on the White Mountain Apache Reservation for some 22 years. This project has given us much joy and opportunity to share our love and present information about the Church at the same time. Occasionally we are able to renew acquaintances when delivering layettes to families celebrating another birth.

Some of the many items that we have used over the years include diapers (cloth or disposable), undershirts, receiving blankets, quilts, sweater sets, socks, powder, baby oil, bottles, nipples, crib sets, pajamas, and various other items used in caring for a newborn. Also much appreciated are the monetary donations sent.

Sister Shirley Hemmings has been heading this project for several years with much love and dedication. Her address is Rte. #1, Box 835, Mountain View Drive, Lakeside, AZ 85929. Again, thank you very much for your support, without it our efforts would face conclusion. God bless you for your caring is our prayer.

Sister Bonnie Smith
President



Two More Baptisms in Guatemala

By Frank Ciotti, Chairman, Guatemala AMOC

The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala sends the saints in the United States love and deepest appreciation for all the support you have provided. Brother Luis Marroquin, Presiding Elder, and his wife, Sister Darlene, dispatched a special greeting of love and expressed the strength they receive from your prayers and love. Our missionaries to Guatemala have labored very diligently to bring the Restored Gospel to their people.

The Lord truly blessed us on our trip to Guatemala in late November. Among the highlights during our time there were the baptisms of Gustavo Lima Marroquin and his wife, Matilda Isabel (Mati).

They had attended on occasions since 1985; however, a great change occurred in their lives when Brother Ken Staley from Tampa, Florida prayed for them this August. There was a great outpouring of the power of God, and since that time, they have been faithful in coming to all the services and functions of the Church.

In October, Sister Mati was touched by the Spirit of God, and she asked for her baptism. She requested to wait until our arrival to be baptized. On November 16, God gave her a dream in which she was dressed in white ready for her baptism. Her husband appeared unto her also dressed in white, and he asked, "Did you think I'd let you go into the waters by yourself?" On Sunday morning, November 22, her dream was fulfilled. Brother Gustavo spoke the words of her dream and made his decision to serve the Lord.

EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

Everyone gathered early Sunday morning to leave for the baptismal site, located about an hour from the city at a lake called Laguna de los Pinos, where the first baptisms in Guatemala had taken place in 1988. Then a messenger of God was physically seen by Sister Darlene Marroquin, Traci Ciotti Russell (our daughter), the Church's attorney in Guatemala, and her friend. This was an outstanding miracle!

The presence of God was felt strongly. We prayed that the messenger of God would be with them as he was in 1988, and Brother Nuyo Ramirez had a vision of the messenger embracing Brother Gustavo and Sister Mati. When the candidates entered the water, Brother Nuyo saw a vision that the waters became blood and another sister saw a cloud of fire and drops of blood falling into the water. Truly, our new brother and sister were washed in the blood of Christ.

At the church service, as the elders knelt in prayer prior to the laying-on-of-hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, Brother Nuyo saw in a vision that a messenger of God entered the building and said his name was Gabriel and that he was sent from God. The messenger approached Sister Mati with a silver sword, very brilliant, and told her to take hold with all her strength. The messenger then gave Brother Gustavo a pair of marvelous sandals and told him he would have to walk great distances. Truly, the power of

God was felt in the laying-on-of-hands. Our new brother and sister both testified of their desire to work for God and how their lives have been changed.

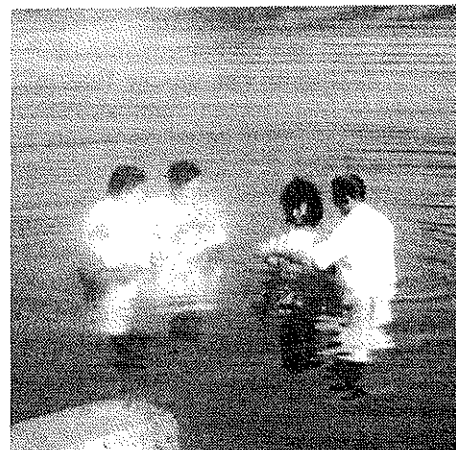
WENT TO MORALES

During this trip, we made a two-day visit to Morales, the Lake Isabel area. God had given Sister Darlene a dream in which she saw three rainbow bridges go from Guatemala City to different areas of Guatemala. She was given to understand the destination of two of them, one of which was the Lake Isabel area.

The brothers had visited there twice before, and during one of the trips, God healed a baby only 15 days old under the anointing of Brother Isidro Dominguez. The doctors had given up on the infant and said there was nothing they could do for him. The baby had to be fed with an eye dropper. After the prayer, the child began to take nourishment from his mother.

That night, God also gave Brother Nuyo a dream in which he saw the baby healed. The next day, when the brothers returned, the child's health had improved, and Brother Isidro had the privilege of blessing the baby. This time, we had the opportunity to see the infant, now about 10 months old. Beautiful and healthy, his mother said he has been well since the prayer.

(Continued on Page 10)



Two are added to the fold in Guatemala.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). One of the great mysteries of God is that no matter how intelligent we may think we are, or how close we believe we are to the Lord's thinking, we are continually amazed by the marvelous ways in which He carries out His will.

As men and women, we sometimes make plans according to the way we *think* the Lord would do things, and then energetically pursue these plans as if the Lord Himself told us to carry out the project. Regardless of how good our intentions might be, we will frustrate our own lives and the lives of others unless the Lord is the true Author of our plans.

As we meet as branches and missions at the beginning of the year to take care of business, we sometimes see our "plans" conflicting. Especially when supporting and carrying out one plan makes it impossible to implement another, we may be tempted to resort to political means to resolve the conflict, rather than putting aside our personal desires and examining whether our pathway is in alignment with God's plan.

In The Church of Jesus Christ, more is lost than gained in a political victory. While the use of shrewd, underhanded tactics may succeed in turning the vote our way, it also has a lasting effect on our relationship with the family of God, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Worldly strategies—regardless of how successful they may appear unto men—undermine the fragile unity of the Church, which is a spiritual force rather than a natural one. When we allow the Lord to lead us—individually and collectively—His Spirit is manifested, and His peace unites our hearts and minds. When all are intent on doing the Lord's will, there is no cause for heated debate.

How do we get to this point? Each of us must open ourselves to the will of God. We must constantly go to Him in prayer and in His Word and ask, "Lord, what would *You* have us to do?" If our desire is truly to be used of God in whatever capacity He sees fit, we will be guided and directed in the right way to go. As willing, submissive servants of God, we will put our own desires aside, and gladly take up the work He has set before us.

All these things have been said before; indeed, we've probably heard it preached to us, or talked about it ourselves in a Sunday School, MBA or Ladies' Circle class. Yet there are times when what *we* want as individuals becomes more important in our minds than what *God* wants. If this is our weakness, we can depend on God's grace to strengthen us. In the meantime, let's put into practice at least once a year—in our business meetings—the love and mutual submission toward one another that we read, pray, sing, and testify of throughout the rest of the year.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you know that there is a new, dangerous drug out there called ecstasy? Ecstasy means extreme happiness, and it is a false name for a dangerous problem.

Kids are told, "Oh, this won't hurt! It's not a *real* drug, it's a synthetic drug." (One made by chemists—as if that makes any difference.) Liars selling it to make money tell kids, "Just try it. You'll see beautiful colors. You'll really enjoy the music. You'll feel so happy and make new friends."

And some confused kids are buying this drug and hoping it will make them happy or find new feelings of fitting in and being accepted.

But what this drug is really doing is causing some kids to lose their minds. It is causing other kids to forget their families and true friends, and trust dangerous people who really only want their money or body. This all is just another sneaky way that the old devil is working today in people's lives.

You must remember that the devil always tries something new if he thinks he can trick us. He'll take the same old bad ending—like getting sick and lost from drugs or drinking—but give it a new beginning. That's like the ecstasy drug and dance parties where kids are told they'll see beautiful lights. And liars tell them it's harmless.

Now that's the same way the old devil tried to trick our Lord Jesus. It was like this: Jesus knew He had come to earth to teach us about loving and trusting God. Jesus was given all power to raise the dead, to save the dying, to calm the storms.

But Jesus was going to go on the cross and let evil people painfully crucify His body. He let them torture and mock Him; He suffered until He died. Then He came back joyfully to teach us more about heaven, God, and love.

To get ready for this terrible sacrifice, Jesus went alone to the mountains to fast and pray to God. And of course the old devil had to go too, to try and trick Jesus. He tried three times.

Knowing Jesus was starving, He said, "If you're the son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Jesus replied, "It is written that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

Then the devil took Him to a high mountain and in a moment of time showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "All this power, and the glory of them I will give to you. If you will worship me, it will be yours."

Jesus said to the devil, "Get behind me, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

Then the devil brought Jesus to Jerusalem to the holy temple and set Him high upon a tower. He challenged Jesus, saying, "If you are the son of God, throw yourself down from here. For it is written (in the scriptures) that 'He (God) shall give His angels charge over thee to keep thee. And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time you could even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

But Jesus never let His pride or temper get in the way. He answered Satan, "It is said, thou

shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

And when the devil saw the temptation did not work, he left.

Don't forget, the devil knew Jesus was going to teach people a new power—the power of love and forgiveness. And that is the power we have today. So ask Jesus to help you when that old devil makes someone try to hurt you or do hateful things to you. Ask Jesus to help you see past the glittering beauty of all the kingdoms of the world.

(Continued on Page 10)

WORD SEARCH

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Branch and Mission News

Born Again

By Samuel French

John 3:3 & 7 read, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." On Sunday, August 16, 1992, Marjorie McLaughlin was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Muncey, Ontario. She had asked for her baptism earlier in the week, on Tuesday, August 11.

She was taken into the waters of regeneration by Bro. Peter H. Capone and received the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Bro. Rodney Dyer, thereby becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We of the Muncey Mission are overjoyed, as were those who traveled here from different branches of the Church to see one of the Seed of Joseph come into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Much of Sister Marjorie's family attended, and our prayers are with them, that God will watch over them and bless them.

We are very thankful that the Lord's Spirit moved upon our sister to make that commitment to join the family of God. Our prayers are for Sis. Marjorie, that the Lord will richly bless and keep her in her daily walk with Christ.

May God richly bless one and all.

Ordinations and Blessings in Warren

By Lorrie Ciarrochi-Prokup

On Sunday, September 14, the Warren, Ohio Branch welcomed many visitors to join in the blessing of Brothers Ron Giovannone and Dan Prokup being ordained deacons. Brothers and sisters from Michigan, Pennsylvania and surrounding Ohio branches joined us in this blessed day.

Sis. Karen Progar, from Aliquippa, began our meeting by sing-

ing *Good Morning, God*. Bro. Richard Thomas of Detroit, Branch #1 opened the meeting, speaking on I Timothy 1:8, of the importance of deacons in our Church. He exhorted on how being called to labor is a holy office. We all have had a divine calling and have been chosen by God to be His servants; we are vessels.

We are like the clay in a potter's hand, to be molded and used, without excuses. The Lord gives us many things and anoints us with gifts. With these gifts we are to work together and labor as one body.

Bro. Richard explained how brothers are not ordained to be "janitors," but their ordination is made so that they can serve the brothers and sisters. When they are in the service of their brothers and sisters, they are in the service of God. They can set the feeling for the service by the way they greet us. Deacons have a special zeal; they welcome us with a smile and open arms. They have the peace and the love of God in them.

Deacons, along with all the saints, have a tremendous work and they need tools for this work. The tools are many—prayer, that when we call on God, we are not strangers to Him and that we are able to move His hand; and sacrifice, yielding our hearts unto God, so that others "see something different" in us, the need to enrich the lives of others. We have tools because we have the Spirit of God demonstrated by the reality of faith in our lives.

Bro. Richard concluded by telling us how we need to prepare for Zion. Pray for the young saints, that God might be with them, that they might help bring forth the mountain of the Lord.

Sis. Marty Jumper, of Aliquippa, then sang *I Am Thine O Lord*.

Bro. Jerry Giovannone followed by reiterating how the apostles found seven servants who were worthy to be ordained deacons. How Stephen was so filled with the Spirit of God, he asked the Lord to

forgive those who slew him.

Being a deacon is an office of honor because God places that office. Deacons give courage and strength, they serve the leaders, teachers, and saints, but most of all they serve God.

The congregation sang *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*, as preparation was made for the washing of feet. Bro. Ron's feet were washed by his uncle, Bro. Frank Giovannone and he was then ordained by his father, Bro. Jerry. Bro. Dan's feet were washed by Bro. Richard Santilli and he was ordained by his father-in-law, Bro. Bob Ciarrochi.

During our testimony meeting, Sis. Kathy Vinsick told of a healing that she received. She has had six surgeries for the same problem and was to have a seventh. She went to the physician's office for the reading of her CT Scan. Upon reading the scan, her doctor told her that there was no hope for her condition. She was anointed the following Sunday. She later had a dream. In her dream she saw a doctor that was to do her surgery. He was dressed in white and he smiled at her. She later returned to her physician and he decided to look at her CT Scan again. Her doctor told her that it was negative and he wouldn't even think of doing surgery. Sis. Kathy expressed her thankfulness to God.

During the closing remarks, Bro. Bob Ciarrochi told of an experience. This was the first time that Bro. Dan's parents had ever been in one of our meetings and we felt that it was good for everyone to be aware of the blessings God so mercifully bestows upon us.

Bro. Dan's father had gone to the bank to cash his monthly check. Upon leaving the bank he dropped the envelope that contained a large sum of money. He did not know this until he got home and was unable to find the envelope. Meanwhile, Sis. Ina Miller, of the Warren Branch, was getting out of her car at the same bank and saw that someone had dropped this money and there were people trying to take it. Sis. Ina told everyone in the parking lot to drop the money because it didn't belong to them

(Continued on Page 8)