

# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

January, 1996

Volume 52, No. 1

## General Church Conference October 1995

This past conference was the annual business conference of The Church of Jesus Christ. For those that attended the Sunday service, it was far from a business conference. It was a beautiful spiritual event.

The congregation heard a beautiful sermon by Apostle V. J. Lovalvo. The congregation also witnessed the ordination of Brother Tom Liberto into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. It was a wonderful Sabbath Day.

Apostle V. J. Lovalvo opened the service. Because his eyesight gives him difficulty in reading small text, there was no Scripture, Bible or Book of Mormon, on the pulpit for him to reference or use. He did not need them. The Spirit of God was evident in his sermon. It was a powerful sermon. His theme was "persistence."

He paraphrased Luke 9:62 which states, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Apostle V. J. Lovalvo defined persistence as, "determination to accomplish something; to go after a goal." He said, "in spite of adversity, study the Scriptures, reach out for the goal." There is no accom-

plishment unless you persist, unless you are persistent in reaching out for the goal. Anything you want to accomplish in life requires persistence. Anything you want to accomplish requires a certain amount of sacrifice but a greater amount of persistence is needed to gain the goal.

We were encouraged and instructed to keep knocking, keep persisting "until" God opens the door, until God answers our prayers. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo asked, "How many times has He answered your prayers? How many times has He lightened your cares?" When the people of God concentrate their efforts, something has to happen, something does happen.

The congregation was told, "Don't look back once you are in the service of God." If we look back, we are not worthy of the Kingdom of God. Don't look back! Set your goals high! Apostle V. J. Lovalvo said, "Remember Lot's wife!" The Lord commanded His disciples to go out and preach the Gospel. In effect the Lord told them, "Don't look back!"

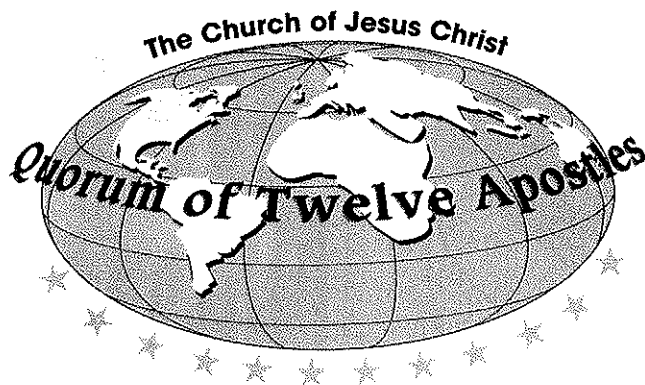
Apostle V. J. Lovalvo described Elisha's persistence in wanting a double portion of the

spirit that was upon Elijah. Be persistent. God will answer your prayers. Try fasting, try prayer. Be persistent. God wants to see how persistent we are to achieve that goal. Be alert. Watch and pray. God's delay in answering our prayers is not a denial! Don't look back, be persistent. Don't turn back. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is here to stay! We must be persistent and not take our hand off of the plough.

Let Jesus come into your heart today. The Ministry was instructed to be persistent. They were reminded that they had the *authority of God*. The Ministry was reminded to be *shepherds to the flock*. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo continued to address the Ministry and concluded by saying, "Be humble and firm. Don't look back. Pray until God answers your prayer. Keep your hand on the plough. This Church will grow. They will come from the North, the South, the East and the West."

The meeting was turned over to Apostle Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. He took charge of the ordination of Brother Tom Liberto into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Apostle Joseph Lovalvo described the office of an Apostle. He told the congregation that the Apostles witnessed His life and resurrection. Apostles were

(Continued on Page 3)



## The Everlasting Covenant to Abraham

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

### PART I

Can you describe "The Everlasting Covenant to Abraham?" What is "The Work Among the Seed of Joseph?" "Who are the Seed of Joseph?" "Why should The Church of Jesus Christ work so diligently with the Native Americans?" Is it a social project created to alleviate economic depression? Or is it an attempt to soothe the pangs of an outraged American conscience



Apostle Robert A. Watson

brought about by observing a people who have suffered through years of stolen lands, broken treaties, and unbearable persecution?

Much discussion has taken place since the Europeans arrived in

the Americas concerning their identity and the appropriate approaches to civilizing and Christianizing the Native Americans. The Church of Jesus Christ also debated this issue since the inception of the Restoration. Priorities and strategies, presumably all based upon the Word of God, have been implemented in various locations, debated formally and around the kitchen table, and written about for over one hundred forty years. Where do we stand today in our understanding of this work and our efforts to fulfill this "Divine Commission."

As of 1970, there were more than 2000 regulations, 389 treaties, 5000 statutes, 2000 federal court decisions and 500 opinions of the United States Attorney General which state, interpret, apply or clarify some aspect of Indian law (Edgar J. Cahn, *Our Brother's Keeper*). The Indian has long fought isolation, loneliness and the constant threat of extinction and termination.

The meaning of termination in the sense of bringing to an end the special status of the Indian and with it a disavowal of his trusteeship and protection arrangement with the United States government. But to the Native American, termination is expressed by Earl Old Person, Chairman of the Blackfoot Tribe, "In our Indian language, the only translation for termination is to wipe out or to kill off. We have no

Indian words for termination (Testimony before Indian Leaders Conference, October, 1966)."

The work of The Church of Jesus Christ among the Native American is not a social program, nor is it merely a modern denominational attempt to reach the Native American people with the message of the Gospel. It is, rather, the outgrowth and the direct result of an awareness and understanding of a covenant executed by God through Abraham a few thousand years ago.

Let me draw your attention to this covenant. God said to Abraham when he was ninety years old, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee" (Genesis 17:1-7). God further spoke to Abraham saying, "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice" (Genesis 22:18)

The covenant concept in the Old Testament comes from the word *berith*. While this word may mean to have a union between two persons, in main, it indicates a relationship between God and man.

The covenant made to Abraham had two very important ingredients—first, that it was to be an everlasting covenant and second, that through it all the nations of the world would be blessed. If it was to be everlasting in nature, it then had to have the capacity to reach far beyond to the days of Abraham. We see the credibility of this as it begins to

weave its message into the fabric of many other wonderful men who succeeded Abraham.

Let us look at Abraham's son, Isaac. God speaking to him said, *"Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed"* (Genesis 26:3-4).

The everlastingness of this covenant is expressed by the Psalmist David when he says, *"O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all the earth. He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant"* (Psalm 105:6-10).

This scripture not only includes Abraham and Isaac under the covenant but Isaac's son, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel and whose sons later became the patriarchs of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. As Jacob now comes under the covenant, how does it reach out and affect the lives of those we know today to be the Native Americans?

Jesus speaking to their ancestors many years ago on this land of America said, *"And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you"* (3 Nephi 20:22).

Also, Jacob in blessing his sons which later became the Twelve Tribes of Israel pronounces a special blessing on his son, Joseph. In this blessing he prophesies that the seed of his son, Joseph, would be "a

*fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall"* (Genesis 49:22).

In the interest of brevity let it be said that Joseph's seed (descendants) did become a very fruitful people in the course of time. When Jerusalem was about to be destroyed around the year 600 B.C., a man by the name of Lehi who was a descendant of Joseph, therefore being under the covenant, was moved upon to leave Jerusalem and journey across the great waters to the land we now know as North and South America.

Many years before the discovery of America, it was thought that the world dropped off at the edge of the ocean, therefore, in essence it was a wall that could not be crossed. Joseph's descendants, however, in the form of Lehi and his family finding themselves by the wall or the great waters were moved upon by God's spirit to cross over the wall and entered into what was to be to them the promised land. *"And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper, and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands"* (1 Nephi 2:20).

(To Be Continued)

---

CONFERENCE continued . . .

and are overseers of The Church of Jesus Christ. They were and are responsible to see that the commandments of Jesus Christ are kept. The Apostles were and are responsible to insure that the Word of God is not altered.

Several experiences were read by Apostle Joseph Loyalvo confirming the calling of Brother Tom Liberto to the office of an Apostle.

Apostle Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ, washed Brother Tom Liberto's feet. Apostle Joseph Loyalvo led the Apostles in prayer

that God would choose one of them to offer the prayer of ordination; that one brother would be inspired to lay hands and anoint Brother Tom Liberto. The Spirit of God directed Apostle Paul Palmieri to step forward and ordain Brother Tom Liberto as an Apostle. It was a beautiful prayer. It was a powerful prayer asking God's anointing, His power and His blessing upon Brother Tom Liberto an an Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Tom Liberto humbly expressed himself and asked for the prayers of all the brothers and sisters that God will direct him, bless him and use him for His honor and glory.

What a day! What a Church! Thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ.

## Note of Thanks

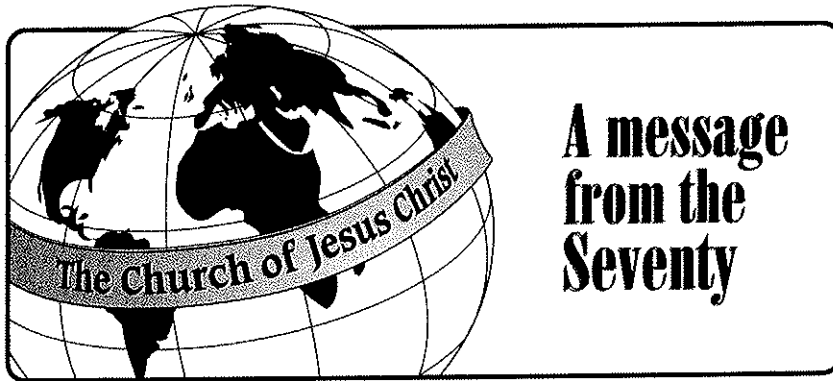
I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your prayers, phone calls and baskets of cards for the recent passing of my husband, Brother Thomas J. Ross. Your kindness, love and generosity will never be forgotten. I love you all very much. Please remember me in your prayers. God bless you all.

Sister Josephine Ross

\* \* \* \* \*

We would like to thank all our brothers, sisters and friends for their love, prayers, cards and calls during our time of need. Sister Shirley's operation was a success. The healing process will take some time. Please continue to remember us when you go before the Lord. We love you all.

Brother Milford and  
Sister Shirley Eutsey



## Domestic Branches, Missions Focused Upon at Conference

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists focused on how it can help The Church of Jesus Christ's branches and missions when it met at its semi-annual conference at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on October 12. This emphasis on the domestic locations was in addition to reviewing the Church's total missionary program and in tracking the developments of the prior six months during the day.

The agenda was concluded after the brothers broke into groups with their own region's Evangelists to analyze how they can best aid and work with their bases and after they reconvened and each sector gave its suggestions. The hope is to develop a uniform program which can be used throughout the Church, as ideas are shared and applied universally.

The basic intent is to combine the many abilities in each region to help to further strengthen and seek to help draw more people into the fold. The priorities are to be placed on working with the local Ministries as they feel would be best for them and to also draw upon their resources in this cooperative approach.

### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Outreach activities are not new. They have been pursued by some branches and missions within their

communities in the past. What has been learned from these efforts and from other similar projects around the Church can thus be implemented to enhance the teamwork approach.

The General Missionary Benevolent Association's "Youth in Action" program was mentioned as being a fairly recent innovation. It has been very successful in working with smaller locations. In operation for two years, the GMBA utilizes the talents and enthusiasm of young people who spend a predetermined period of time at these places. Besides giving their assistance, the participants have learned about missionary work and how to present the Church.

Various regions (formerly called Districts) have also begun their own somewhat similar ventures. In the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region, for example, the "Pennsylvania Youth Summit," as it is known, has four teams totaling about 40 young people who are accompanied by an Elder or Evangelist as they visit the sector's branches and missions and offer preaching, singing, and testimonies.

In the Pacific Region, the domestic committee has drafted volunteers to give mini-seminars on the Restoration and to present musical selections. Other people have also been enlisted to accompany the team to help support smaller branches and missions.

The GMBA and regional visitations have been highly regarded by those who have received them. The participants have also been richly blessed by being with and fellowshiping with some other members of the Church.

In preparing plans, the Quorum is interested in asking the young people to be involved. They can be used in many ways to give the solid team approach and augment other endeavors.

From holding special Evangelistic services to establishing support programs, the movement could be extremely beneficial for all concerned. As the regions explore the possibilities and review the needs, the primary goal to be focused upon is to ultimately bring more souls into the Gospel.

### MISSIONARY REPORTS

Reports were given at the conference by leaders of missionary groups. Brother John Griffith, Chairman of the Missions Operating Committee, gave an overview of the work going on around the world, and he highlighted many efforts being expended in the fields. He also announced that the New Works Committee has been placed within the MOC. It will evaluate and act upon the recommendations on expansion from both the Foreign Missions Operating Committee and the Americas Missions Operating Committee.

Brother Philip Jackson, Chairman of the FMOC, reviewed the trips which had been taken to foreign fields during the past six months. In documenting the events, he said that much information had been accumulated which can be incorporated for further growth as the Lord permits. He said there was a gain of over 300 new members in foreign places during this period.

Brother Richard Christman, Chairman of the AMOC, reported there are many labors among the Native Americans as there have been in the past. He disclosed that there is some interest in the country of

(Continued on Page 11)



## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Donald Ross  
16 Trumbull Court  
Princeton, NJ 08540

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Jeffrey Giannetti  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011

**CONSULTANTS**  
Nephi DeMercurio  
Peter A. Sclaro  
Alex Gentile

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Deanna Nuzzi  
26 Woodland Chase Blvd.  
Niles, OH 44446

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Karen L. Progar  
277 Holt Rd.  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

### DISTRICT EDITORS

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Kenneth Lombardo  
10 Rockview Terrace  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

**MICHIGAN-ONTARIO**  
Lisa Champine  
47025 Hennings Dr.  
Chesterfield, MI 48047

**OHIO**  
Mark Naro  
4425 Broadway  
Lorain, OH 44055

**PACIFIC COAST**  
Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Lucetta Scaglione  
303 Union St.  
Monongahela, PA 15063

**SOUTHEAST**  
James G. Speck  
3710 Player Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**SOUTHWEST**  
Darlene Ignagni  
607 Chaffee Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

"Don't turn back. Don't look back." That is what Apostle V. J. Lovalvo stated in his sermon at the General Church Conference this past October.

A new year is here. We cannot go back, we cannot look back. We must go forward. It is imperative that we go forward, press forward for our spiritual welfare and for the welfare of the Church.

The dictionary describes forward as, "belonging to the front; located in advance." It is not always easy to press forward. Many obstacles are placed in our path to detract us or throw us off course. They can be overcome. They must be overcome. There is no reason we cannot prevail and persevere.

How is it possible? By putting on the whole armour of God, not just part of it. We read in Ephesians 6:14-17, "*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*"

Please notice that the front of the body is completely covered and protected. Why the front? Because when soldiers go to battle, they go forward not backward! Their goal is forward, not backward. Their goal is in front of them, not behind them.

Have you ever tried to walk backward? It is awkward, uncomfortable and unnatural. Have you ever tried to run backward? It is almost impossible.

Our commitment to Jesus Christ is to go forward, not backward. Do you remember the question you were asked at the water's edge the day of your baptism? It was, "Do you promise before God and these witnesses to serve God all the days of your life?" The response was yes! Your response was a commitment to go forward, not backward! Nephi confirms this commitment is to go forward. In II Nephi 31:20, he states, "*Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.*"

Consider the story of David when he met the challenge of Goliath. Saul armed David with his armour. David said to Saul in I Samuel 17:39, "*I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them.*" David was familiar with the whole armour of God and it fit! David had proved the whole armour of God. He had it on when he met Goliath. The whole armour of God made David invincible against a giant and proven warrior. David took his sling and five stones. All he needed was one! That one stone was the stone of the Lord!

Samuel the Lamanite was untouchable. Arrows were shot at him. Stones were thrown at him. In spite of their excellent marksmanship, no stones or arrows hit him or found their intended target. Why? The Book of Mormon in the sixteenth chapter of Helaman tells us the Spirit of the Lord was with him. He had on the whole armour of God!

David and Samuel were used by God for His honor and glory. We can be used by God for His honor and glory. We can be, should be and must be that forward motion for The Church of Jesus Christ. We can and should be a positive influence in The Church of Jesus Christ. We need the Church. The Church needs us. The world needs us. The world needs The Church of Jesus Christ and it needs it now, not later! Look around you. The world is in turmoil. The world is in darkness and sin. We have the key to overcome the world, the condition of the world. We have The Church of Jesus Christ.

(Continued on Page 12)

# The Children's Corner



By Janet Steinrock

## “Peter’s Big Mistake”

(Luke 22:54)

Dear friends,

Have you ever been so scared that you would get into trouble or that someone would hurt you that you lied about who you are? Has there ever been a time when you pretended you didn't know someone that you really did know and love very well because you were embarrassed what people would say about them?

This is called being afraid of what the “world” thinks of us. The “world” means those people who don't love and serve Jesus as we do.

Jesus told us that the “world” would know us by the love we show. His apostle, Peter, said we will be known as a “peculiar” people. Peculiar means different and even strange, a special kind of people.

Peculiar is what people will call us when we forgive others who hurt us. Peculiar is what we are when we return good for evil, and when we pray to God instead of getting revenge or even talking mean.

It's hard sometimes to follow Jesus' example. Our “flesh,” human side of us, wants to fight. We want to win. We want to see bad people get punished. We also want others in the world to like us and to be on our side. We are often weak.

The night before the soldiers arrested Him, Jesus told His disciple Peter that He knew Peter would soon pretend he didn't know Jesus. Peter was shocked. He said, “Lord, I will

lay down my life for you.”

Jesus answered him saying, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truthfully I say unto you that before the rooster crows [with sunrise] you will deny [knowing me] three times.”

And later that night, the traitor, Judas brought the soldiers to take Jesus for trial. Peter followed behind them and waited in a crowd to see what was happening to Jesus. A servant woman recognized him and asked, “Aren't you one of His disciples?”

He said, “I am not.” And he went by the fire outside to be warmed. Another person noticed him and also asked if he was Jesus' disciple. Peter said, “no” and swore.

Then a third person asked him, “Didn't I see you in the garden with Him [Jesus]?” Again Peter said it was not so. Immediately the rooster crowed.

“And Jesus turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me three times. And Peter went out and wept bitterly.”

Jesus had known His friend would do this. Jesus had known Peter's fears would cause him to make a terrible mistake. Jesus loved him anyway. Jesus also forgave him for being human, for making a terrible mistake and for being afraid.

This is the same Jesus we serve today. One that knows our every weakness but loves us anyway. He is a Lord that helps people change.

Later Peter changed. He led the new Church; he brought hundreds and hundreds of souls to know Jesus.

Let Jesus change you. Tell Him your fears, your anxieties. Tell Him when you're scared and angry. He cares for you. He understands.

With care,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

JESUS	TIMES	WHEN
CARES	THE	COCK
FOR	LORD	CROWED
YOU	LOOKED	HE
PETER	AT	HAD
DENIED	HIM	FELT
BEING	HE	SCARED
HIS	WEPT	WAS
DISCIPLE	BITTERLY	FORGIVEN

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

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Giannetti, Jeffrey and Kathy  
418 Royal Colonnade  
Arlington, TX 76011  
Tel. (817) 261-2604

Zaccagnini, Rudy and Neila  
24240 Primose  
Clinton Twp., MI 48036  
Tel. (810) 783-9727



Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## Youth in Action Comes to Homestead, Mission

FOUR SOULS COME TO THE LORD

By Sister Eileen Katsaras

The Lord did not stop His blessings with the presence of the GMBA's Youth in Action, but added four new souls to His fold in Homestead, Florida. On August 12, 1995, the young adults of the Youth in Action Program and saints from other branches of Florida gathered at the Homestead Mission House waiting for the arrival of the two candidates for baptism, Raul Bicelis and Lilliana Penaranda. Eventually we all gathered by the small lake to witness the two baptisms performed by Brother Miguel Bicelis, Brother Raul's cousin. After the baptism, Brother Miguel, feeling the Spirit of God, asked if there was anyone else who wanted to repent and be baptized. At that time, Sister Victoria Lopez's niece, Margarita Vasquez, stepped forward and asked to be baptized. Then, surprising everyone, Brother Miguel's mother, Sister Vistalia stepped forward and asked to be baptized.

The glory of heaven came down as a brother saw three doves fly over the baptisms. Just prior to Sister Vistalia's request, a young brother heard a voice that said, "I call one more." A sister then related an experience she had earlier where she heard the Lord say, "knock and it shall be opened," and then she heard four knocks. All those present felt the Spirit and Power of God during the baptisms and we left the waters rejoicing.

Gathering back at the mission house, a confirmation meeting was held under a large tent. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., who has

been working in the Homestead area with his wife, Sister Viola for seven years, along with Brother Miguel and others from the Miami and Hollywood branches. The four newly-baptized members were brought forward. After prayer, each one was confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost was pronounced upon them. Again, a brother saw the three doves over the new members.

After the confirmations, an elder spoke a few words of encouragement from 1 Peter 5:8, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*" He then said that "the devil doesn't want to bump you or trip you, but devour your soul and he was not happy at the baptismal site." The brother noted that "we have to be ready to battle. We know the promise made to us that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. The devil is in the world, he is not in us, not in the Church, not in heaven, he's only in the world where he can devour souls." He continued by stating that those recently baptized should "know that the power of God is with you, as are the prayers of the saints. And this big family of God is talented in dealing with the devil. We will hold firm to the Rod of Iron, we have a vision of the Peaceful Reign, Zion, the New Jerusalem, we have a vision of Israel coming back to The Church of Jesus Christ, and because of that vision, we will not let anything stop us. Through our righteousness, we will be like dentists, we will put the devil's teeth out!"

The meeting was then turned over to the Area MBA officers. Brother Paul DiNardo related an experience about how God prepared him for this day. He said he had a dream the night before. He was shown the four baptisms and even recognized Sisters Vistalia and Margarita. He then went on to say that, "Sister Vistalia means very much to me and my family, as many years ago, the Lord touched her and used her to bring our son back to

life." He then added that the Lord spoke to him in his dream and said, "Today she is starting a new life."

A group of the GMBA Youth in Action, called the Travelers, sang three songs and then the children from the Homestead Mission sang *Jesus on the Inside, Working on the Outside, Oh What a Change in My Life*. It was so beautiful to see the smiling faces of the Seed of Joseph singing.

Brother Ike Smith, Jr., introduced the GMBA Youth in Action representative, Brother Mario Zacchanini. He said he felt honored to be here and wants to give the honor to the Lord. He then commented that the Youth in Action for the GMBA in Florida has done a fabulous job. He said, "After being here for only six hours, witnessing the baptisms and the Spirit of God at the water, I am so blessed, I could go home right now with enough." He added, "Who said the Lord isn't working with The Church of Jesus Christ; who said the Lord isn't working with the Seed of Joseph; who said the Lord isn't working with the young people of the Church? That's what this program is all about, to train young people to spread the Gospel and to understand how to be missionaries."

Brother Mario then related the theme of the recent campout in Michigan. He said, "When you talk to people at this important time, think what the cause is, think of the effect you can have on their lives, even the effect the Church has had on all of our lives." He concluded with the words, "Take a stand, don't be ashamed of The Church of Jesus Christ." Brother Miguel Bicelis was asked to sing and he invited the four newly-baptized members to sing with him the song, *He's Changed My Life Completely*.

What a blessed weekend! Thank God for the young people and the GMBA! Thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ!



## Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sister Judy Coppa

The Area Ladies' Uplift Circle of Michigan and Ontario held three activities in the months of May, June and July 1995. Each was uniquely enjoyed and spiritually refreshing.

On May 15, 1995, our Area Circle held a Mother and Daughter Banquet. The evening was a night of both natural and spiritual food. Sisters from the Saline and Sterling Heights Circles presented a program that touched the hearts of everyone at the banquet. The cycle of growing from infant to motherhood was presented through the use of short skits, narratives and songs. The program was very heartwarming as it showed a daughter's need for her mother as she passes through the stages of her life. It then ended by illustrating how the mother in later life begins to need her daughter. The words "She still needs me" were repeated to emphasize how each felt blessed by being needed. All the mothers and daughters present were reminded of the beautiful bond that God has created between them. This bond is precious and should always be nurtured with love and respect. The evening afforded many circle sisters the opportunity to introduce our unbaptized friends and family to the love of God we feel in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Mother and Daughter Banquet in May was followed in June by our annual Area Circle Spiritual Meeting. We gathered together at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan and began the evening with community singing. Sister Joann Cotellesse, the Area Circle Vice President, said that after much prayer and thought about this evening, she felt directed to call upon certain

sisters who had gone through or were now going through some very difficult trials in their lives.

Seven sisters shared their experiences and testimonies with us. The first began with Sister Michelle Elzby who was attending college away from her natural family. She told us how she had found much support and love from all the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ. This was followed by Sister Diane Behr's experience. She testified about losing her job. She spoke of being fearful of not finding another. God proved Himself in the matter and Sister Diane's fears were taken away with the gift of new and better employment. Sister Lynne Nieves spoke to us about her situation. She spoke of finding herself out of the Church. She explained to us how the Lord blessed and helped her to find her way back. She praised God for her husband and infant son. We then heard from Sister Joann Cotellesse whose son Mark had been shot in the leg by a neighborhood friend. She related how dangerous the world has become for our children, no matter what age they may be. Our trust in God and our prayers for our children must be constant. Sister Joann thanked God for helping her son and family survive such a traumatic experience.

Sister Judy Coppa was next to relate the recent and ongoing situation with her husband, Brother Gary, having skin cancer. She told of how this was a very trying experience for the whole family, but through all the pain came many wonderful blessings. One of the things she shared was how the doctor decided not to give Brother Gary radiation treatments after having him prepare to do so. Upon hearing the doctor's decision, Brother Gary returned the paperwork, parking passes and medical forms while praising God aloud. The receptionist at the Cancer Center who had originally given him all these items began to exclaim, "Thank You Jesus!" and "Praise God!" As Brother Gary and Sister Judy left the office they could still hear the woman exclaiming loudly, "God Bless You,

Praise God!" Brother Gary and Sister Judy exclaimed, "God has blessed us through all this and we do praise His name." The last sisters to give their testimonies to the goodness and strength of God were Judy Lambert and Carolyn Parravano. Sister Judy has been given words and melodies from the Lord for many beautiful songs. Sister Carolyn has been helping her write these words and melodies into sheet music form. Each expressed their feeling of unworthiness for these gifts but thanked God for what He has given them to share with the people of the Church. They then proceeded to sing one of the songs and all who were present were blessed by such beautiful words.

Several experiences were had throughout the evening. Sister Connie Leopoldo and Sister Linda Snake both saw a white glow around the sisters while they were speaking to us. Sister Connie also saw the personage of Christ standing on the pulpit dressed in white with the area of His heart all in red. She heard the words, "The blood of Jesus." Sister Linda also saw the same vision of Christ. Following the relating of this experience, Sister Salina Carlini told us that upon entering the Church auditorium, she saw the sacrament table with the words, "Do This in Remembrance of Me" carved into its front all in red. She wondered why the words were stained in red and not white like the color of the rest of the table. After the seven sisters finished speaking, Sister Salina saw that the words upon the sacrament table had now returned to their original white color. The Lord truly blessed our Circle meeting with His presence.

With the blessings of God fresh in our hearts and minds, the Area Circle set off to visit the Six Nations Mission on July 23rd. Each sister was presented with a paper corsage as they arrived for the Sunday service. An ensemble of visiting brothers and sisters gave a narrative on the First Americans following with a medley from the *Songs of Zion*. Brother Anthony Scolaro spoke on the history

(Continued on Page 11)





## Baptism in Branch 1 Chesterfield, MI

By Sister Stephanie Rado

It was a beautiful, warm and sunny morning on June 4, 1995, as brothers, sisters, and friends gathered to witness the baptism of Brother Chris Alderson. Brother Richard Thomas baptized Brother Chris in Lake St. Clair, and as Brother Chris walked out of the water, a glorious peace was on his face. As we sang, *I Surrender All*, it sounded simply glorious.

Our morning meeting began with a beautiful duet by Sisters Marilyn Scolaro and Tracy Francione. They sang, *Come to the Water*. Brother Chris was then confirmed by Brother Larry Champine.

Brother Richard Thomas opened our service with John 5:1-8 for his scripture. In this portion of scripture, a certain man lays on his bed by a pool of water for thirty-eight years. He was waiting for the angel to trouble the waters which would cure the infirmities of the first who stepped in. When Jesus came to him, He said, *"Wilt thou be made whole?"* The impotent man answered him, *"Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me."* Jesus said unto him, *"Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."*

Brother Richard was inspired to compare the spiritual obstacle of man and the natural fear of baptism. Sins and transgressions are afflictions, just as the man at the pool of water was afflicted physically. This man waited for the miracle of the angel. When Jesus came, his waiting to be made whole came to an end. He was cleansed of his afflictions. When Jesus knocks on the door of your heart, you can be cleansed of your

afflictions which are sins and transgressions. You can be made whole today. Don't wait like the man at the pool of water.

Brother Peter Scolaro then spoke, going on to say that men love the darkness. As in the scripture of the man who waited by the pool of water, the Jews dismissed the miracle that Jesus had performed. They only saw that the man carried his bed on the Sabbath. They did not see that Jesus overcame darkness, overcame physical and spiritual afflictions.

We thank God for another baptism. We thank God for a wonderful day in His service.

## Baptism in Spartanburg

By Sister Connie Rossi

Another joyous occasion occurred at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on Sunday, September 3, 1995 as our new sister, Sally Looney, rendered obedience to the Gospel and was baptized by Brother Harold Littlejohn. The Lord blessed us with blue skies, singing birds and warm breezes as our sister was led down into the waters of regeneration. Afterwards, we returned to the church where the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon our sister by Brother Darrell Rossi after which we sang the song, *Love Lifted Me*.

Sister Sally recently moved here from California and has encountered many trials and tribulations. But she always had a desire and sincere heart to serve the Lord. She has testified how she continually sought the truth and looked for the true Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord then moved on her behalf and caused her to befriend our Sister Jesse Hall and after only attending two meetings, she knew she had found God's Church and anxiously asked for her baptism.

As the heavens rejoice, we thank God for sending our new sister to our Mission and I ask that we all pray for the Lord to sustain her and keep her in His care always.

## A Wonderful Experience

By Sister Kathy Vinsick

I had not been feeling well for a long time. I did not know what was wrong. I prayed and asked God to help me. Thank God my prayer was answered. He gave me a sign that something was wrong. I made an appointment with my doctor for the next day. I explained the pain I was having and that it was very hard for me to breathe. After examining me, he scheduled tests. The test results showed two very large tumors in my stomach. The doctor said surgery would have to be done very soon.

I was very troubled because my daughter Renee was coming in from New Jersey to have her surgery on June 23 and mine was to be on June 15. I agreed to have it done as soon as possible. The morning of my surgery, my husband Paul and I prayed and asked God to be with me. I had also prayed and asked God to let this surgery be like a dream; that God would spare me the severe post surgery pain that I expected to experience and suffer. My prayer

(Continued on Page 10)

## Announcement

For January, 1996, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.35%
2 years	5.45%
3 years	5.55%
4 years	5.65%
5 years	6.00%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.