

The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA., USA.

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When Shall These Things Be?

By Brother George Kovacic

After Jesus prophesied of the destruction of the temple, He was approached privately by His disciples and was asked the following:

"Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3).

The last two of these three questions have haunted the followers of Jesus since He began His ministry almost 2,000 years ago. The answer to the first question would be seen in only a few years from that time when the Roman Army besieged Jerusalem in 70 A. D. The temple was literally torn down as Jesus had described it would be by the army of General Titus. We could not imagine today the horror the inhabitants of that great city must have felt to see the center of Judaism destroyed. This crushed the pride of the Jewish nation and ended for many centuries their ability to worship there.

We are now left with two questions unanswered. The first, "When will Jesus return to Jerusalem?" The second, "When shall the end of the world come?" The most obvious reason for questions concerning these two events still being unanswered is that they have not happened. We

would have to admit that the disciples have not been the only ones to wonder about these two events. Certainly, believers over the past hundreds of years have pondered over these same questions. During the time of the Apostle Paul it was a subject of discussion as he noted to the Thessalonians.

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first . . ."

The indicator that Paul uses here is the "falling away" or what we commonly refer to as the Apostasy. We know that event has occurred and we are now living in the "brightn'g" skies of Restoration" We can therefore assume that we are drawing closer to the time of the fulfillment of the above events.

Jesus warned His disciples that many would come in His name and numerous people would be deceived. Various times, throughout history, men and women with little hope have

followed people who have claimed authority from Christ. Ultimately, these impostors' works proved differently. This is happening even today as we write these words. People who have made this claim have most often led their followers to destruction. Is that the way Christ would come back again? It states the following in the Book of Acts:

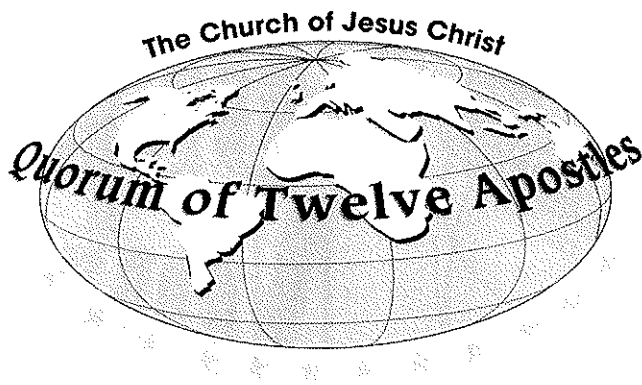
"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he [Jesus] went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so **come in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).

This indicates that as Jesus ascended into heaven so shall He return; viewed by many so their testimony will be the same as those who walked with Him in His earthly ministry. Even more so, it will be like those in the Land Bountiful who witnessed His descent after the terrible destruction here upon the Americas when He was crucified in Jerusalem.

Jesus Himself describes His return in the following way:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:27).

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A History of the Printing of The Book of Mormon

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

It is my intent to summarize the development of the Book of Mormon from its earliest manuscript through the printing of the different editions, working toward the version we use in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Let me begin by directing you to the Book of Mormon published by our Church some time after the year 1923. Please refer to the page entitled, "The Publishing of This Work," across



Apostle Robert A. Watson

from the page with the testimony of the witnesses. You will find there the following information: The committee of Thurman Furnier, Charles Ashton and W. H. Cadman did not have access to the original manuscript nor the Palmyra edition of the Book of

Mormon, the first one published in 1830. They used the following as a basis for the publication of our Book of Mormon.

1. The Nephite Record, published in 1899.
2. Book of Mormon, published in 1920.
3. Book of Mormon, published in 1923.
4. Book of Mormon, published by J. O. Wright & Company of New York. This book by J. O. Wright was a reprint of the third American edition and was published around the year 1858. The committee, as mentioned above, was governed mostly by the 1923 edition. They found slight variations in the different editions which they used, mostly due to the setting of the type. I will now review the history of the original manuscript and also the first edition of the Book of Mormon, namely the Palmyra edition. (Please keep in mind that our Church's committee did not have access to either of these works.)

When the Book of Mormon was being translated, there were two manuscripts in existence, one that was kept by Joseph Smith and the other by Oliver Cowdery. When arrangements were being made for printing, Joseph Smith went to Harmony, Pennsylvania; but before he went, he left the following directions:

First, that Oliver Cowdery should transcribe the whole manuscript.

Second, that he should take but one copy at a time to the office of the printer, so that if one copy should be lost or destroyed, there would be one copy remaining.

Third, that in going to and from the printer, he should always have a guard attending him for the purpose of protecting the manuscript.

Fourth, a guard should constantly be kept on watch night and day at the house, to protect the manuscript from malicious persons who might seek to destroy it.

All these things were apparently strictly adhered to.

The manuscript that was written and copied from the original by Oliver Cowdery is the only complete manuscript in existence today. (It was purchased by the Reorganized Church on April 18, 1903 for \$2,450.) The history of this manuscript is as follows: It was the one used by E. P. Grandin, the publisher who printed the Book of Mormon. Joseph Smith translated the records and the manuscript he used was copied by Oliver Cowdery and was given to Grandin for printing.

Joseph Smith retained the original copy, which he placed in the cornerstone of the Nauvoo house in October 1841. When the cornerstone was opened forty years later, it had deteriorated so badly that many of the pages were undecipherable. The few that were, were divided between Joseph Fielding Smith of the Mormon Church and Joseph Smith of the Reorganized Church, and possibly a few others.

Meanwhile, the copy of the original manuscript was in the possession of Oliver Cowdery up until a few months prior to his death in March of 1850. At that time Cowdery gave the manuscript to his brother-in-law, David Whitmer, who was one of the three witnesses who were shown the plates by the power of God. When Whitmer died in January 1888, this manuscript was given to one of his grandsons, namely, George Schweck. It was from him that the manuscript was purchased by the Reorganized Church.

But back to the printing of the

original Book of Mormon. When the translation from the plates was nearly finished, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris solicited Egbert B. Grandin, manager and principal owner of the *Wayne Sentinel*, a newspaper which was printed in Palmyra, New York.

Mr. Grandin first declined the job of printing, thinking it was a poor proposition. Joseph Smith then went to Thurlow Weed, printer of the *Rochester Telegraph*, who after examining the manuscript also refused to print it. When Smith went back to Grandin a second time, he agreed to print the book at a fee of \$3,000 for 5,000 copies.

Martin Harris mortgaged his farm to Grandin, and on August 25, 1829, a contract was drawn up. Harris agreed to pay Grandin the \$3,000 in a period of eighteen months after the printing began.

Hyrum Smith took approximately twenty-four pages at a time to John H. Gilbert, who was Grandin's typesetter. He hid the twenty-four pages under his vest, with his vest and coat tightly buttoned. The manuscript was taken back at night. During the process of printing, one called Equire Cole stole some of the proof sheets and began printing them in serial form in the *Palmyra Reflector* on January 2, 11, 13 and 22 of 1830. He titled the series, "Joseph Smith's Golden Bible."

When Hyrum Smith and Oliver tried to persuade Cole to stop, he refused. Joseph Smith then came from Harmony, Pennsylvania and threatened Cole with arrest for violation of copyright law. Cole then stopped, which angered the people of Palmyra. They held a mass meeting and pledged themselves not to purchase a copy of the Book of Mormon when it was published, and also to use their influence in preventing others from buying it.

This anticipated boycott caused Grandin to stop printing the book. However, following meetings with Joseph Smith, he received cash and on March 26, 1830, there appeared in the *Wayne Sentinel*, along with the title page of the Book of Mormon, the following advertisement: "The above

work, containing 600 pages of large duodecimo (a size of paper) is now for sale, wholesale and retail, at the Palmyra Book Store by Howard and Grandin."

Referring back to the paper that was published by Mr. Cole, it was called the *Dogberry Paper on Winter Hill*. He promised his subscribers that he would publish one form of Joseph Smith's Golden Bible each week, thus giving them the principal part of the Book of Mormon without them having to purchase it from Joseph Smith. The *Dogberry Paper* was printed at Grandin's place, where the Book of Mormon was being printed. It appears that Cole did his printing during the night and on Sundays when the press wasn't being used by Grandin.

Mr. John Gilbert, typesetter for Grandin, in his memorandum states that Hyrum Smith brought the first installment of twenty-four pages and that the handwriting of the manuscript he used was the handwriting of Oliver Cowdery. He also stated that every chapter was one solid paragraph, without any punctuation marks from beginning to end. (This was refuted, however, by B. H. Roberts in his history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, wherein he states that this was only partly true and that the printer's manuscript was well capitalized.) Mr. Gilbert claimed that he did much of the punctuating of the manuscript, and that the work commenced in August of 1829 and was finished in March of 1830, a period of seven months. He also said that Oliver Cowdery looked over the manuscript when most of the proofs were read, and that Martin Harris and Hyrum Smith also reviewed that manuscript. Mr. Grandin felt that these men were the best qualified to identify any discrepancies between the manuscript and the Palmyra edition, especially Oliver Cowdery, who wrote the manuscript. Mr. Gilbert also claimed that Joseph Smith only visited the printer on one occasion, and that was only for fifteen or twenty minutes.

During the winter in which the Book of Mormon was being printed, some doubt manifested itself whether Martin Harris was going to be able to

sell his farm to pay for the printing of the book. David Whitmer said that it was suggested to Hyrum Smith that the brothers should travel to Toronto, Canada for the purpose of selling the copyright for a considerable sum of money—that is, to sell the rights to publish the book in Canada, not to dispose of the copyright altogether. Joseph Smith inquired of the Lord, and he received a revelation that some of the brothers should indeed go to Canada to sell the copyright. Oliver Cowdery and Hiram Page went, but they failed in their purpose. This caused doubts among the brothers, and they went to Joseph Smith for an answer. It was at this time that he received instruction of the Lord, that some revelations are from God, some are from men, and some come from the devil.

The first copies of the Palmyra edition of the Book of Mormon were taken to parts of the USA, Canada, England, and elsewhere.

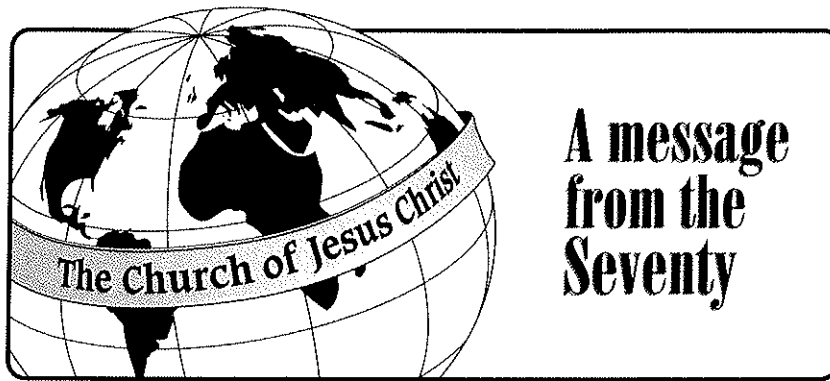
As the book went through its first and second printings, Joseph Smith examined the pages for errors in spelling and grammar, and upon completion of the project, a third edition was printed. This was in the year 1840, and it is from this edition that the current printing of the Book of Mormon is taken.

The subdividing into chapters and verses was done by Orson Pratt in the year 1879 in England. The third edition originally carried the phrase, "Third edition, carefully revised by the translators." This phrase has been omitted from subsequent printings. Also, page format and chapter and verse adaptations have been made as recently as the year 1920.

B. H. Roberts also states that the Book of Mormon has gone through many editions; how many is impossible to say. It can be followed through ten to twelve editions in the United States and England, and some editions are not traceable because of the use of electrotyped (copied) plates and various missions using them.

The Book of Mormon has also

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Evangelist Services in Atlantic Coast Region

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

A series of Evangelistic services were held in the Atlantic Coast Region the weekend of October 23-25, 1998. The theme was "Spiritual Help for the 21st Century."

Evangelists Leonard Loalvo, Chairman of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, Anthony Picciuto and James Huttenberger from the Pacific Region; Leonard Anthony Loalvo and Louis Vitto from the Great Lakes Region, and Elder Ron Genaro from the Ohio-Midwest Region participated during the weekend.

FRIDAY EVENING

The first meeting was held Friday evening in the Hopelawn, New Jersey church building, which was filled to capacity and where a good spirit was prevalent to begin the edifying period of time together. Brother Joseph Perri, the Atlantic Coast Region Evangelist Chairman, welcomed and introduced the visiting brothers and turned the meeting over to the visitors, all of whom shared some feelings and expressed their happiness for being in the Atlantic Coast Region.

Congregational singing, encouraging words that were spoken, particularly to the young people on the need to serve God during these troubled times, and testimonies of the saints occupied the time of the wonderful first session.

IN METUCHEN ON SATURDAY

On Saturday morning, the visiting

brothers met with the Ministers, Teachers and Deacons of the Atlantic Coast to discuss the topics for the seminars which were presented that afternoon at the Elks Pavillion in Metuchen and for which branch/mission and regional follow-up was suggested.

At the seminars, the adult group was led by Brother Leonard Anthony Loalvo, assisted by Brother Genaro. The subject was "Developing Values and Relationships That Will Strengthen and Preserve Families."

The young people's seminar was entitled, "Seeking Direction from God and the Need to Have Him in Our Lives." Brother Huttenberger was the leader, assisted by Brothers Anthony Picciuto and James Sgro.

Sisters Lori Schmitt and Lydia Zaino conducted a class for the children, showing a Bible story on video and teaching them two songs which they sang for the brothers and sisters at the evening service.

SATURDAY EVENING

Brother Leonard Anthony Loalvo was the first speaker at the night meeting. He took for his text the words of Jesus in St. Matthew 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

He expressed the importance in taking Jesus at His word by going to Him for all our needs in life. He stressed how important it is to have Jesus Christ to rely upon in preserving our marriages and families, but, most importantly, to find the avenue to obtain eternal life and rest for our souls. Brother Leonard spoke briefly of the near death automobile accident in which he was involved and how imperative it was for him and his family to have the Lord for his survival, lengthy rehabilitation, and healing of his body. He also cited the comfort the Saviour brought to his wife and children during the traumatic and difficult period.

Brother Genaro and Vitto followed, speaking on the subject and acknowledging the need for Jesus in our lives. Musical selections were sung by Brothers Bruce Picciuto and Patrick and Jason Monaghan, visiting from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region, as did Brother Tom Goode, accompanied by Brothers Patrick and Jason. A group of brothers and sisters from the Freehold, New Jersey Branch sang a selection also.

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday morning service brought the entire Atlantic Coast Region church membership to the Elks Pavillion. The congregational singing, as in most other meetings, was led by Brother Vitto. The Atlantic Coast Choir sang two selections, and the trio of brothers from the Penn-Mid Atlantic Region also presented a song.

Brother Anthony Picciuto was the first speaker. He took for his text several accounts from the Book of Mormon, starting with Helaman 5:6, where Helaman spoke to his sons, Lehi and Nephi, who were given the names of their first parents who came from the land of Jerusalem, telling them they should remember them because the works of their predecessors had been good. He stressed how important it is to have a good name that would be remembered after departure from this life. Brother Tony also referred to the faithfulness of Moroni, as recorded in

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Donald Ross
201 Royalbrooke Drive
Venetia, PA 15367

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Jeffrey Giannetti
713 Bryson Way
Southlake, TX 76092

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro
Alex Gentile
Leonard A. Loyalvo

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Mandy Genaro
1501 Difford Drive
Niles, OH 44446

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

REGIONAL EDITORS

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

GREAT LAKES
David Loyalvo
12431 Kent Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

OHIO-MIDWEST
John Ford
1924 16th Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

PACIFIC
Annette Azzinaro
910 St. Andrews St.
Ontario, CA 91761-6832

PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Lucretia 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

Editorial Viewpoint

A New Year is here! Time does not stand still. Our watches and clocks may stop on occasion because of electrical or battery failure, but time rolls on. Imagine we are in the year 1999, the last year of the 20th century. We are only twelve months away from a new century!

Apostle Isaac Smith reminded us of the words of Moroni during the November GMBA Conference. In Mormon 8:22 it states, "For the eternal purposes of the Lord shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled."

The plan of God marches on. Every prophecy will become a reality. Every word that Jesus Christ uttered dealing with the future will come to pass. The cause of Christ will continue on with or without us. It is imperative that we be part of that cause and march. Our spiritual survival depends on our participation. Our salvation is dependent on our involvement.

The time has come that we take a stand for Jesus Christ. The time has arrived that we stand up for The Church of Jesus Christ. The time is now that we stand up for the Book of Mormon and the Bible. The time is now that we stand up for the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The time is now that people everywhere know that the Book of Mormon is another scripture of Jesus Christ.

It is incumbent upon us to tell people that the true way and true doctrine of Jesus Christ is on earth. We must tell people that the doctrine of Jesus Christ has been restored in His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. It is important that we tell people that there is a true way to serve God. It is a tremendous responsibility we have to tell people everywhere there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. Please note there is only one of each. This is emphasized by the question posed by the Apostle Paul to the disciples at Ephesus. He asked, "Unto what then were ye baptized?" Their response was, "Unto John's baptism." The Apostle Paul went on to explain that John the Baptist preached that they should believe on him that would come after him, that is on Christ Jesus. As a result of this question and subsequent conversation, the disciples were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. You will find this episode and dialogue in the nineteenth chapter of Acts, the first seven verses. This is a magnificent example of taking a stand for Jesus Christ. We must be like the Apostle Paul. We must take a stand for Jesus Christ.

We have to articulate the message that Jesus Christ came to give His life that men and women everywhere might receive soul salvation provided they believe in Him. We have to tell people that Jesus Christ did die and He did resurrect. His blood was shed for all. It covers all. His atonement is eternal and infinite. He gave His life that people everywhere might live. People have to hear that Jesus Christ requires them to have faith, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. The human family has to hear they must refrain from the very appearance of evil. They have to hear and learn to refrain from sin. They must be told the consequences of living a life without Jesus Christ. People have to hear there is a first and second resurrection and the meaning of each of these resurrections.

Mankind must hear the promises of the Lord. Why? Because they will come to pass and be fulfilled. Because they are important for all people.

The Lord made a number of promises. Remember, His purposes (plural) are eternal. People have to hear that a Choice Seer is coming. They have to hear and know his role, his message and his responsibility. People have to hear that the Native American will be restored to the presence of Jesus Christ and restored to their place within the House of Israel. Mankind has to hear that the Gentiles will be nursing fathers and mothers to His people. People have to hear that the House of Israel will be restored to its rightful place. People have to hear that through the Seed of Abraham, all nations shall be blessed. People have to hear that an entirely new city, a metropolis, a New Jerusalem will be built upon the land of America. People have to hear there

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The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Did you know that the Book of Mormon and Bible teach us that God does not prejudice us? He is not prejudiced for or against us if we are black, white, Jew, Gentile, fat, thin, male, female, young, old, rich, important or unimportant (Read II Nephi 26:33).

God really and truly sees our hearts and gives us many chances to start over. In the Bible, Moses went through years of very different kinds of life. For forty years, he lived as a Prince in Egypt doing everything rich, privileged people do. The story tells us ships sailed up and down the Nile River carrying rich people enjoying feasts while musicians played beautiful music. Chariot races were attended and fabulous pyramids filled with treasures were built for the Pharaoh by poor slaves.

Many of these slaves were Hebrew people who served God but also did many ungodly things. They cried out as they suffered and God heard them. He knew they needed a leader, a Priesthood, Elders and Ten Commandments. God was preparing Moses to lead His people from slavery and idolatry to freedom and religion.

Moses killed a soldier beating a Hebrew slave and had to run away from Egypt because the law was to kill him. He lived forty years in the desert, far from palace life, until it was safe to return. During these forty years, he married his first wife, a daughter of a priest, Jethro. He learned of God and followed God's plan to go with his older brother Aaron and return to Egypt. God called him to lead the people free. The Hebrew slaves witnessed the horrible plagues sent by



God on the Pharaoh and his followers. They saw God's mighty hand in parting the Red Sea so they could walk across. But they were used to their old ways, their old food and meats. They constantly complained and rebelled.

Moses grew discouraged (Numbers 11:10-30). He went to God and said, "I am not able to bear all these people [complaining and with problems] alone . . . it is too heavy for me . . .", so the Lord told him to call seventy of the Elders and good leaders together.

God said, "I will come down and talk with you . . . I will take of the Spirit which is on you and will put it upon them: And they shall bear the burden of the people with you."

And God did. "And when the Spirit rested upon them [the seventy Elders], they prophesied and did not cease."

But two of the chosen Elders had not gone up to the tabernacle (Church) but stayed in the camp. One was Eldad, and the other Medad; and they prophesied in the camp to the people. Joshua went and told Moses and said, "Forbid them!"

And Moses answered, "Enviest thou for my sake? [Are you jealous or worried for me because someone else can prophesy?] I wish that God would put His Spirit on all people and all the Lord's people were prophets."

So now the burden was shared. Moses and the Elders went among the people and began to prophesy. But more trouble occurred. Moses remarried. He had not been raised as a poor slave. He was from a different world, one of education, knowledge and power. He chose for his second wife a

woman from Ethiopia. This is a country in Africa.

His sister Miriam and brother Aaron were displeased and spoke against Moses. God came down in a cloud and angrily said, "I speak mouth to mouth with Moses. Why aren't you afraid to criticize him?" And for one week, He struck Miriam down with the terrible disease of leprosy. Her skin was dead and white as snow. All of the Hebrew nation could see God's displeasure with Miriam and Aaron for judging their brother.

God is a fair God. He judged Miriam's heart, as He judged the heart of Moses, and as He judges ours. Be careful of what you say about those who serve God. Remember, God knows all of our thoughts. Repent when you're wrong and start over. Love one another. He cares for you.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

GOD	HIS
CARES	SPIRIT
ABOUT	WITH
YOU	THE
HE	SEVENTY
SHARED	ELDERS

I	D	E	R	A	H	S
I	S	R	E	D	L	E
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P	I	R	Y	D	I	N
S	A	B	O	U	T	T
C	V	G	U	C	H	Y

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
To All Our Readers

O how sweet to walk in this conference way.
Don't miss The Church of Jesus Christ World Missionary Conference on
June 26-July 2, 1999 at Olivet Nazarene University.
You'll have peace complete with your Lord so near! (We know, it didn't rhyme)

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP! WHAT A JOY DIVINE!

240 LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

A. J. Showalter

Rev. E. A. Hoffman

1. What a fel - low-ship, what a joy Di-vine, Lean-ing on the
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, Lean-ing on the
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Lean-ing on the

Ev - er - last - ing Arms! What a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 Ev - er - last - ing Arms! O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 Ev - er - last - ing Arms! I have peace com-plete with my Lord so near,

REFRAINS

Lean - ing on the Ev - er - last - ing Arms! Lean - ing,
 Lean-ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, Safe and se-cure from all a-larms; Lean - ing,
 Lean-ing on Je - sus, Lean-ing on Je - sus,



Being a Witness for Jesus Ordinations in Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Connie Rossi

"Being a Witness for Jesus" was the theme for the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission on Sunday, July 26, 1998 as Brothers Cletis Hill and Johnnie Gray were ordained Teachers. An added blessing came from the many visitors we had to witness this joyous event including visiting Elders Paul Ciotti and Bill Colangelo from Pennsylvania; Jonathan Molinatto and Joe Catone from North Carolina and other brothers and sisters from New Jersey and North Carolina.

Brother Harold Littlejohn introduced the two candidates at the beginning of the service and talked of the seriousness of the calling on these brothers' lives and encouraged each one of us to love and support them. Brother Harold then called the hymn, *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*.

Brother Paul Ciotti opened the meeting and spoke about the calling of Moses and the commission God put on his life. It took him forty years tending sheep in the desert to humble him and to prepare him for the calling of one of God's greatest prophets. Each one of us has a calling on our lives, as well, as saints of the Most High God. There is no other calling. We are all "witnesses" for God and we need to share our testimony with others.

After the other visiting Elders spoke, our two brothers gave their testimonies about being called into the office of Teacher. Brother Darrell Rossi then washed the feet of Brother Cletis Hill and Brother Harold Littlejohn washed the feet of Brother Johnnie Gray after which we all sang, *O God, Give Strength*.

Brother Paul Ciotti was then inspired by the Lord to lay hands on Brother Cletis and ordained him into

the office of Teacher followed by Brother Bill Colangelo laying hands on Brother Johnnie and ordaining him likewise. What a humbling and joyous occasion it was to witness the ordinations of our brothers as they both embraced each other and the other brothers and broke down and cried. Truly the sweet Spirit of the Lord was on our brothers and with each one of us throughout the day.

After receiving Communion, we ended the meeting with all the children singing, *Ready*. We then retreated to the back of the church where we enjoyed more good fellowship with each other and a delicious dinner prepared by the sisters of the Church.

Please continue to pray for our brothers as they take on the duties of Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. And no matter what position you may hold in the Church, each and everyone of us are all called to be "Witnesses for Jesus." God bless you all.

Blessings at the Pacific Region Spiritual Conference

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

On May 2, 1998, brothers, sisters and friends gathered together in Anaheim, California for a day of blessings. The President of the Pacific Region, Brother Paul Liberto, had arranged a series of workshops entitled, "Spiritual Horizons for the 21st Century." This was a new idea for our Region Conference, and we anticipated a great time together. There were six workshops for adults and one for children which were designed to enrich our spiritual lives, and we were given our choices of workshops to attend.

The seminars were conducted by various brothers and sisters, and some of the subjects included an open discussion for young people entitled, "Does anyone care what we think?" There was a workshop on spiritual goal setting and one on family finance. The workshops were a great success, and many of our members commented

that they would like to see more of this type of conference in the future with topics of vital importance to us in our continual striving to better serve God.

On Sunday, May 3, 1998, we listened to Brother Randy Ciccati of the Anaheim Branch who felt inspired to speak to us on the subject of our spiritual standards in life. Brother Randy exhorted us to keep our standards high, and on the straight and narrow road. He reminded us that we, as God's children, should be a people who stand for something in our lives, and that if we don't stand for something, we will fall for anything.

Before the anointing of the sick, the Elders knelt in prayer together. During this prayer, Brother Edmund Buccellato felt hands upon his head, and felt called to anoint and pray for Brother John Azzinaro, Sr. for healing of cancer that is upon his body. Since then, we have learned that Brother John's cancer is in remission and he has no more pain! Praise God! Our prayer is that Brother Paul Gray also will receive a healing. Many more anointings and testimonies followed. It was a beautiful weekend filled with God's blessings and it will be long remembered as a gathering for learning, studying, and praise for the glory of God.

News From Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta, Georgia Branch has rejoiced greatly in recent months, as we have witnessed two baptisms, two renewals, enjoyed many visiting saints, and hosted the Southeast Region Conference.

Sunday, July 19, 1998, was surely reminiscent of Alma at the waters of Mormon, when the Atlanta Branch witnessed the baptism of Sister Betty Wragg. The site, located in a heavily wooded area on the property of Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie Kunkel, was shrouded in serenity. Sister Betty was baptized by her son, Brother Malcolm Paxon. Also in attendance at this most sacred event were sixteen members and friends from the Mid-Georgia Mission (located in the Macon area) who came to participate in a joint

feet washing service with us. Sister Betty was confirmed during the service by Brother Ron Carradi of the Mid-Georgia Mission.

On August 15-16, 1998, we hosted the Southeast Region Conference for the first time in the history of the Atlanta Branch. We had visitors from New Brunswick, New Jersey; Cincinnati, Ohio; New Orleans, Louisiana; Spartanburg, South Carolina; Saline, Michigan; and Dallas, Texas. Apostle Isaac Smith and Apostle Paul Benyola and his wife, Sister Dottie, were also in attendance. Brother Harold Littlejohn of Spartanburg was the opening speaker. He used several portions of scripture, exhorting us about how to "live good in a bad world." He was followed by Brother Horace Huggins of the Quincy, Florida Branch and Brother Paul Benyola, who both shared their conversions into the Gospel. Also during the Sunday service, Alyssa Christine Morle, infant daughter of Brother Ron and Sister Kim Morle, was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Tom Jones.

We rejoiced on Sunday, August 23, 1998, as Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie Kunkel were renewed into fellowship in The Church of Jesus Christ. Visiting Apostle, Russell Cadman, spoke from John, chapter 14, encouraging us to believe in Jesus Christ, to appreciate His sacrifice on Calvary, and to also be thankful for the knowledge of the Restoration of the Gospel in the Latter Days. Our brother briefly shared many personal experiences of how God had blessed his life and provided for his needs through his years of service in the Church.

As the congregation sang, *It Is Well With My Soul*, Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie Kunkel came forward and were surrounded by the Ministry. Sister Bonnie was reinstated by Brother Malcolm Paxon, and Brother Bill was reinstated by Apostle Russell Cadman. Many inspired testimonies and hymns of praise were enjoyed by all in attendance. Brother Bill and Sister Bonnie expressed their great joy at being renewed into fellowship, and also to have all of their children present

to share in this special occasion.

On Monday evening, August 24, our MBA met in the home of Brother Sam and Sister Theresa Kunkel. Brother Russell Cadman was our guest speaker. We read various passages from Ether, Jacob, and II Nephi, and discussed the role of the Gentiles in the Latter Days and the future events yet to unfold.

The following Sunday, August 30, 1998, the Atlanta Branch was thrilled to witness yet another baptism. Sister Melanie Flores was baptized by Brother Ken Staley and confirmed by Brother Malcolm Paxon. Sister Melanie was blessed to have in attendance her great aunt, Sister Pearl Nester, from the Simi Valley, California Branch. Also present to witness this blessed ordinance were several members of Melanie's family, along with friends of the Kunkel family visiting from Pennsylvania. Many of these individuals, visiting the Church for the first time, expressed how much they enjoyed the day's events.

Our sincere desire is that the Atlanta Branch will grow and thrive spiritually. Please remember us in prayer, that God will continue to call others into His fold in this part of the vineyard.

Plumbrook Branch Sterling Heights, MI

By Sister Diana Stigleman

There is no greater joy than witnessing a soul answering the call to become a soldier for Christ. On July 26, 1998, Brother David Ausilio walked into the waters of life. His journey had been long, and for quite some time now, laden with much illness and pain.

The fact that Brother David could even make it into the water comes just short of a miracle. He was baptized by Brother Dan Parravano while being assisted by Brother Paul Whitton.

After returning to our church building on Plumbrook, one of our visiting brothers, Gerald Benyola, offered a joy-filled opening prayer.

Then God chose Brother Gary Coppa to lay hands on Brother David for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

This established another remarkable event. You see, Brother Gary had just undergone throat surgery and was told to refrain from using his voice. Our brother's prayer began quietly; almost a whisper. Suddenly, Brother Gary's voice filled the room as he requested that God bestow upon Brother David the "gift of the Holy Ghost."

Following several anointings and sacrament being passed, all of the sisters who had attended the Ladies' Circle gathering in South Carolina were asked to sing for us. Then Sister Kathy Peshl described the spiritual, stress free, quiet, forgiving environment each of the sisters acknowledged experiencing on their trip. They all agreed coming home was a bit of a letdown.

Another visiting brother, Dan Parravano, was entrusted with the morning service. Brother Dan's first words expressed what all of our hearts felt. He had "looked forward, for a

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Announcement

For January, 1999, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.00%
2 years	5.10%
3 years	5.15%
4 years	5.20%
5 years	5.25%

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:

202 Waterworks Rd.
Clarion, PA 16214
814-227-2421

Plumbrook Branch

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long time," in seeing his natural brother-in-law, David, become his brother in Christ.

Much of Brother Dan's sermon spoke to those who had not yet answered the call of baptism. He said, "God holds the door open for each of us."

As he read to us from Psalms 103, Brother Dan reminded us all what "wonderful benefits" that come with serving the Lord. He commented on how many times we have felt God's kindness and mercy in our lives even though "we don't deserve it." Then he reminded us, just as King David had done, we should bless the Lord for His love.

After Brother Dan's sermon, we were blessed with Sister Judy Coppa's beautiful voice. She was asked to sing, *Mary Did You Know?* The final line of the hymn states, "He is the Great I Am." Indeed He is!

Our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

Shall We Gather at the River

By Sister Peggy M. Stroko

Sunday, September 6, 1998, saints, family, and friends lined the river bank of the Youghiogheny River at Dawson, Pennsylvania. The sun shined brightly as Brother Joe Ross took Linda Lowther by the hand and led her into the water. Silence came over the crowd as Brother Joe raised his right hand and said, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." He then immersed Linda. Another one of God's children had their sins washed away. She is a new creature in Christ.

At the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch, Sister Linda took her seat in front of the building. The Ministry encircled her, kneeling as Brother Lawrence King offered prayer, asking God to choose one for the laying on of

hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Richard Lowther, Linda's husband, was overcome as he placed his hands upon her head, thanking God that now they can be a family, worshiping in the House of God. He asked God to grant unto her what she stands in need of and to give her the fruits of the Spirit.

I Surrender All was sung as everyone welcomed Sister Linda Lowther into the fold by embracing her, one by one.

Brother Fred Olexa spoke, telling us if we have patience and faith, everything will come. He said, "The Holy Ghost is an indwelling spirit that never leaves us. It is there to strengthen us, to help us understand life and to be a light unto us as we walk through this life." He read from III Nephi, 27th chapter, verses 20 and 21. Addressing Sister Linda he said, "You have repented, been baptized, filled with the Holy Ghost, and now you must endure to the end."

The service continued with Brother Joe Ross speaking. He said, "Finish the race, so you can enter the Paradise of God. Be strong in the Gospel. Raise your level of righteousness."

Sister Linda Lowther expressed herself in testimony. Saddened by the recent passing of our beloved Sister Loretta Lowther (Linda's mother-in-law), she said that God had opened her eyes that past six weeks as she cared for Sister Loretta, day and night. Sister Linda stated that she wasn't afraid when they brought Sister Loretta home from the hospital because God was with her. Sister Linda said, "He gave me strength and stood by me and now it is time for me to stand by Him."

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Carr, Jesse
Ark Senior Services, Inc.
105 Sandra Drive, Room 207
Delmont, PA 15626
724-468-9934

Giannetti, Joseph and Tina
972-335-6692

Heath, Marguerite
22824 Tuscany
P.O. Box 437
Eastpointe, MI 48021
810-778-5176

Perkins, Larry, Kathleen, Andrew,
& Kimberly
424 Wedington Ct.
Rochester, MI 48307
248-650-3536

Wood, Shannon
502 39th St.
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
561-840-6573

When Shall These Things Be?

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These words verify that Jesus' return will not go unnoticed but shall be extremely dramatic.

When we read the response that Jesus gave to His disciples' questions in the 24th chapter of Matthew, we find one very important point that He is trying to establish. In verse 13, He states:

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Whether Jesus returns today or one thousand years from now, the most important thing we can do, till He or the end comes, is to be faithful to the covenant we made with our Heavenly Father at the waters' edge. Jesus states in III Nephi 15:9:

"Behold, I am the law, and the light. Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live; for unto him that endureth to the end will I give eternal life."

In life we learn that it is not only how we begin something but it is whether we finish it or not. We are judged daily by what we accomplish; by what we finish. Endurance is a factor in our lives as saints that we cannot ignore. Let us continue on that straight and narrow path that leads to everlasting life. Let us not be swayed by any wind of doctrine but remain firm in the faith delivered to the saints in these last days.