

# The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, USA

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## References on the Peaceful Reign

*By Apostle Alma Cadman*

Takes place *prior* to the **MILLENIUM** (Thousand Years with Christ or First Resurrection).

### *Bible References:*

**Isaiah 2:1-5** "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in His paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O House of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord."

**Isaiah 51:3** "For the Lord

shall comfort Zion: He shall comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody."

**Isaiah 65: 18-25** "But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for behold; I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people; and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days; for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the Lamb shall feed together, and the Lion shall eat straw like the bullock; and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."

**Isaiah 35<sup>th</sup> Chapter** Read all of it.

**Hosea 2:18-20** "And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground; and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgement, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies, I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness; and thou shalt know the Lord."

**Job 5:22-25** "At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh; neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field; and the beasts of the field shalt be at peace with thee. And thou shalt know that

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## A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ Before, During, and After Nauvoo

*By Brother Thomas Ross*

The Church of Jesus Christ firmly believes that the primitive church as established by our Lord, gradually drifted into a complete and general apostasy or falling away. The Church also believes in a restoration of the Gospel back to earth through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, Jr.

Joseph Smith and a few other adherents were organized as a church in the year 1830 in New York State. In this year also, The Book of Mormon was published in book form, after having been translated by the gift and power of God from the ancient record or plates which had been delivered to Joseph Smith by an angel of God. Sometime after this, they gathered at Kirtland, Ohio, and during their stay there, erected a temple. It is still intact and is an historical attraction to many believers in the Restoration as well as other interested and inquiring visitors. Finally, due to persecution, the Church migrated as a body to the State of Missouri.

Persecution seemed to follow them, like the people of God in all ages. Eventually they were forced to flee from the State of Missouri in the year 1839. About 5000 Latter-Day Saints settled in western Illinois and founded a city that Joseph Smith decided to call "Nauvoo," a Hebrew word conveying the idea of "beauty and repose." It is situated on the east bank of the Mississippi River, in Hancock County, about 190 miles up the river from St. Louis and nearly the same distance from Chicago, towards the west.

From the summer of 1839 until his death in June 1844, Joseph Smith urged the gathering of the Saints to Nauvoo as a religious duty. A plan to build a temple was advanced also. The excavation was begun in the fall of 1840, the cornerstones were laid in April 1841, and construction continued more or less steadily until five years later, when the temple was dedicated

in April 1846, two years after the death of Joseph Smith, though the interior was never finished.

The Kirtland temple was a frame structure finished with stucco and smaller, whereas the Nauvoo temple was of masonry, measuring 128 feet long, 88 feet wide and 165 feet from the ground to the top of the tower. The walls were made of solid blocks of cut limestone and from four to six feet thick. Temple stones still to be seen in Nauvoo reveal that the workmanship was indeed excellent.

In the pre-dawn night of October 9, 1848, this great structure, in which enormous toil and sacrifice had been invested, was destroyed in a pillar of fire—it's all wood interior reportedly fired by the torch of an arsonist.

Nauvoo, beginning in 1839 as a sprawling refugee camp, soon became a populous city. In 1845, with a population of 11,036, it was the largest city in Illinois.

During the eighteen thirties and forties, England was a fertile soil for the Restored Gospel. In 1837 the Church sent missionaries there and as a result of their evangelistic labors some 17,000 persons, mostly English, were baptized during the decade 1837-1847. Of these, more than 4000 gathered primarily in Nauvoo.

In 1841, Apostle Parley P. Pratt, as head of the British Mission in England, took the liberty to write a lengthy letter to Queen Victoria of Great Britain. Quoting from Daniel, Isaiah and First Nephi, he warned that all the kingdoms of the world, including that of Her Majesty, could soon fall and that these future events were nigh, even at the door. He declared that if the rulers, clergy and the people of England would hearken and repent, they would have part in the glorious kingdom (of God); but if they would not hearken to the words of the prophets and apostles, they

would be overthrown with the wicked and perish from the earth.

On a number of occasions, Joseph Smith voiced dire predictions of the fate that would befall those who persecuted the Saints. In May 1843, he also told Stephen A. Douglas, who was a guest at his table that if the United States would not redress the wrongs committed upon the Saints that in a few years the government would be overthrown and wasted. He further prophesied that Douglas would one day aspire to the Presidency, "and if ever you turn your hand against me or the Latter-Day Saints, you will feel the hand of the Almighty upon you." Indeed, it is common knowledge that some years later, Abraham Lincoln defeated Stephen A. Douglas for the Presidency of the United States.

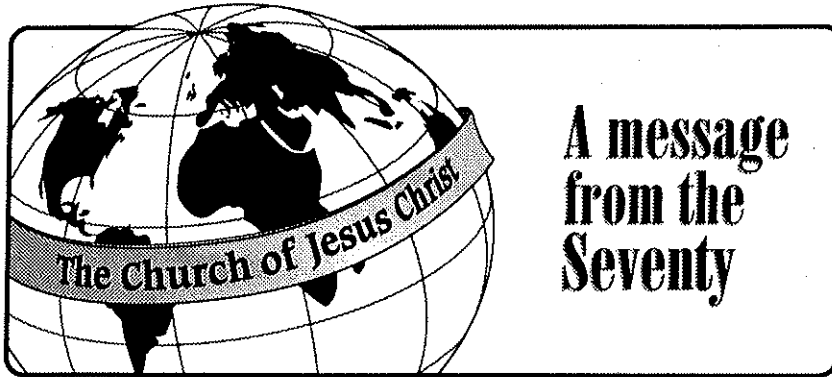
On June 27, 1844, Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were shot to death in nearby Carthage, by a mob of lawless and disguised men. This eventually proved to be the beginning of the end for Nauvoo and also incited confusion among the Saints.

The Church failed to recognize Sidney Rigdon as rightful successor to Joseph Smith and instead the reins of leadership passed into Brigham Young's hands. Due to a rising tide of persecution and depredation, Brigham Young finally announced in September 1845, that the city would be abandoned in the following spring.

During the winter of 1845-1846, preparations were made to move to the West. The evacuation continued all through the spring and summer of 1846 and when autumn came, what had been the most populous city of Illinois was all but deserted. Joseph Smith, the founder of Nauvoo, "The City Beautiful," was left buried in a secret, unmarked grave to prevent desecration of his body.

Meanwhile, Sidney Rigdon had returned to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and continued preaching the Gospel. There were others also who refused to join the bulk of the Saints in the migration to the Great Salt Lake Valley. A number of factions sprang up, while still later, "The Reorganized

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## Philippine Missions Trip

*By Brother Art Gehly, Sr.*

Great is our God and HE is so good!

I write this summary of our trip to the Philippine islands of Mindanao and Bohol as I am sitting in the San Francisco airport waiting to go on the final flight home. Again we have been reminded how blessed we are to be living in the United States.

Brother John Mark and Sister Joyce D'Antonio and Sister Martha and I began our journey from Pittsburgh on September 18th, 2003. We arrived in Davao City, Mindanao on Saturday September 20th, 2003. Brother Rommel and Sister May Desoloc and Brother June and Sister Babeth Desoloc met us at the airport. After settling in at our hotel, we all had dinner together including Brother Malaqui and Sister Delma Galing. It was wonderful to renew our love with these saints of God.

During our visit, we held meetings in Davao City, Tagum and Panabo missions on Mindanao. On Monday and Tuesday (September 22nd and 23rd), we held seminars for the ordained officers and had over 40 in attendance. During this time, we had reports from the elders on their mission status, fasting and prayer service, ordinations and anointings. Brother John Mark gave an excellent seminar on the Priesthood and I gave talks on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Unity. We also continued to instruct them in the organizational structure of the Church.

The Philippine elders requested that three of their current Teachers be ordained Elders. After calling the parent Church in America for permis-

sion to proceed, we held a ministerial board meeting to consider the candidates. Each candidate was questioned thoroughly and was approved to be ordained.

The love of God is very strong within the saints in the Philippines. They all send their love to the saints in the United States. They are very grateful for the Restored Gospel's coming to the Philippines. We experienced great blessings in all the meetings with the saints. On the island of Mindanao there were several children blessed plus the ordination of three Elders, one Teacher, two Deacons and one Deaconess.

On Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>, Brother John Mark and Sister Joyce began their return trip home. I can

only say, it was a great joy and privilege to have them with us. I thank them both for their sacrifice, both natural and spiritual, in making this trip to the Philippines. Sister Martha and I needed and appreciated their help, support and love they gave to us and to the saints in the Philippines. May God grant Brother John and Sister Joyce His greatest blessings. Before we left for the airport, Brother Rommel and Sister May Desoloc came to wish us well and give us small gifts of appreciation. Sister May was very afflicted and was planning to go to the doctor as soon as they left us. We felt the inspiration to anoint our wonderful young sister. They left us and we proceeded to the airport. When we got home, we learned that God instantly healed Sister May and she did not have to go to the doctor. Praise God for His wonderful mercy!

Also on Friday, Sister Martha and I journeyed to the island of Bohol to meet with the saints there. This was a new adventure for us as no U.S. member had been to that island. However, we knew the saints of Bohol had the same love of God in their service to Him. After a short flight from Davao to Cebu, we took a

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Saints in Bohol Saturday seminar meeting.

## Philippine Missions Trip

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fast boat to the capital city of Tagbilaran. Saturday morning, Sister Martha had the beginning of a migraine headache, which normally lasts for three days. She was anointed and God healed her immediately. Praise God!

On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup>, the saints gathered at the Carmen Chocolate Hills Hotel to meet with us. There were 76 members, visitors and children present. In the morning meeting I taught seminars on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Priesthood. The two elders in Bohol told about their efforts on that island. There was much singing as they love to sing. The candidates for Teacher expressed themselves. In the afternoon, I spoke on the seminar of Unity and preached about the Gospel coming to the Philippines. Eight candidates were baptized in the afternoon.

The trip to the site was an experience neither Martha nor I will ever forget; but suffice it to say that God was good to us. Sister Martha and I then came back to the hotel and had another memorable experience because we were the only people staying there that night. Needless to say, we were very thankful to God for again watching over us and protecting us.

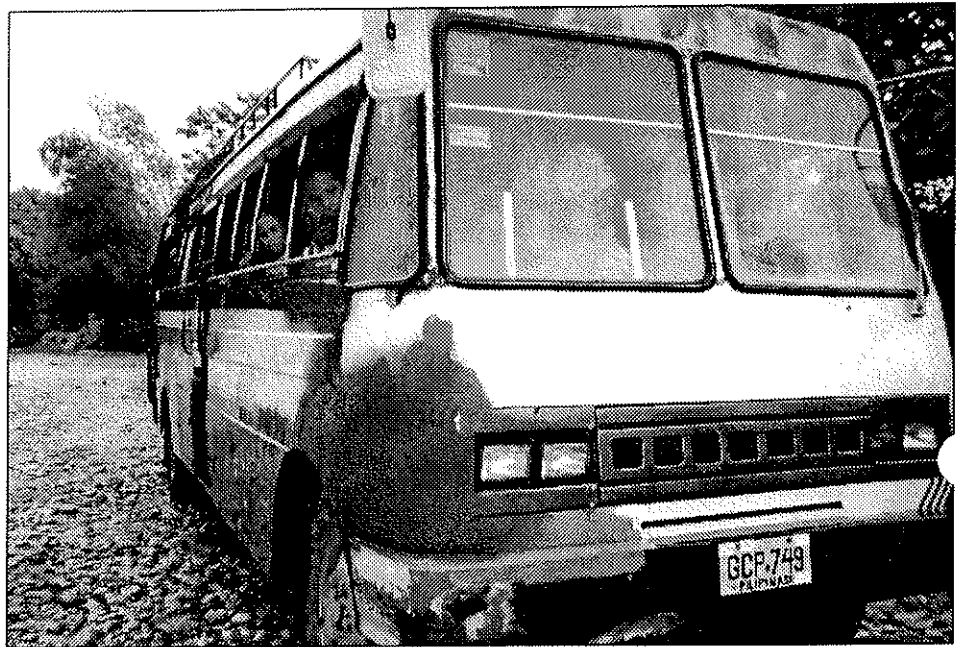
On the island of Bohol, there are two missions that are on opposite sides of the town of Carmen. They are out in the country on narrow dirt roads. Sunday morning we met at the mission at Bugsoc where the saints had built a small church building. On the way there, I was told we needed to have a dedication service for their building. I felt inspired to read about Solomon's dedication of the temple and talk about the dedication God's people need and how God will dwell in their hearts and in their building as they serve Him. God's spirit flowed as we held hands and asked God to bless their very humble building for the meeting of the saints. Also during the meeting, two Teachers, two Deacons, and two Deaconesses were ordained for the work in Bohol. A beautiful spirit was felt by all present. After a quick lunch, Sister Martha and I began the long,

bumpy ride to the airport to begin our journey home. We parted with sadness knowing we would not see the saints in Bohol for a long time but were thankful for the time we were able to spend together. On the island of Bohol, there are currently 69 members.

We want to thank each one of you for your prayers. Not one day passed that we did not feel your love and prayers. Also, we thank you for your financial help for this trip. When

we get together, we help the Philippine saints with their transportation needs as well as provide money for food during and after our meetings. They are so humble and thankful for the Gospel and are very hungry and thirsty for the truth.

In the Philippine region, there are 9 missions on two islands with the current membership of 368. There are 15 Elders, 9 Teachers, 6 Deacons and 18 Deaconesses.



Bus ride to baptism site in Bohol. 76 people are on board.



Saints at Davao City



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The definition of standard is "used as, or conforming to, a standard, rule, model, etc. Generally accepted as reliable or authoritative." Using this definition, what is the *standard* in the world today? What rules or customs are accepted as the standard, or model for all to follow? Can this standard be changed by just one person, who is viewed as reliable or authoritative?

In Alma, Chapter 46, we read about a man named Amalickiah, who used flattering words to cause many people to leave the Church. Helaman and his brethren worked so hard to establish the Church, and took such great care of it, but in practically an instant, it nearly fell apart.

It is true that it takes years to build, but only seconds to tear down. We can even see today, how the World Trade Center buildings, which took many years to build, were destroyed in a matter of minutes. This is true spiritually. It is true in the case of standards that take years to build, but with just a few flattering words from someone who disagrees, can be destroyed in almost an instant. I recently heard there is now an initiative in the United States to ban the use of God's name in any form of media. There are hundreds of thousands who signed a petition in agreement to this!

*"Thus we see how quick the children of men do forget the Lord their God, yea, how quick to do iniquity, and to be led away by the evil one"* (Alma 46:8).

The only "standard" or "model" that we should follow is found in the Word of God. Yet, because there are some who disagree, this standard, that took years to build is being torn down every day, at an extremely rapid pace.

Moroni, the chief commander of the armies of the Nephites, became angry with Amalickiah. He rent his coat and took a piece of it, and wrote, "In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children." He fastened it to the end of a pole, like a flag. He called it "the title of liberty." Moroni went about waving his flag, and proclaimed:

*"Behold, whosoever will maintain this title upon the land, let them come forth in the strength of the Lord, and enter into a covenant that they will maintain their rights, and their religion, that the Lord God may bless them"* (Alma 46:20).

Moroni boldly was trying to re-establish the *standard* among the people. Are we trying to re-establish the *standard* in the world around us today? There are many who are fighting furiously to remove God's standards. Are we fighting back just as furiously to keep God's standards in tact?

It is amazing how one person, who has flattering words, can cause people to reject a standard they have been following all their lives. Many people today who have left the Church, made the decision based on what one person may have told them. They may have spent their whole lives being blessed, and receiving confirmation of their beliefs by the power of God, and with just one conversation with someone who has a convincing spirit, can deny it all.

The year of 2004 is upon us. Our forefathers would not even recognize the world in which we live. Things have changed so dramatically and so rapidly. It is never too late to lift the title of liberty, and boldly proclaim God's standards to the world around us. The song *The Standard of Liberty* says, "Why do you wait, son? The battle is raging, And many young soldiers have long gone to war. There's no need on the sidelines, and not on the backlines, But only the frontlines are pleading for more." As we begin this new year, I leave you with that challenge. If one person can lead so many away from the truth, surely one person can lead them back. Maybe that person is you.

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# The Children's Corner

By Sister Janet Bork



## What Do You Do When Your Heart Is Breaking?

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever prayed and prayed about a big problem and been terribly confused, scared or mad at God when it was still there? Have you worried yourself sick at night before falling asleep? Have you waked up on a perfectly beautiful day and right away felt heavy hearted and sad?

Sometimes life is so hard. Sometimes it feels like no one else has ever had the same pain and shame and fear as you. But they have. And they have left messages to us to tell us how to cry unto God for relief.

I go to learn from King David. As a young boy, he faced his older brothers' anger and doubt. He urged the adult soldiers to stick up for God. They feared Goliath would kill them. Even King Saul feared to fight one-to-one with fierce Goliath. But the boy, David, remembered how many times God had already saved him. He fought the giant and won.

As a young man, he married King Saul's daughter. The King was jealous of David. He threw a spear at him: he sent soldiers in the night to catch him and bring him to death. David had to flee the country. He and his men were cut off from seeing any of their friends or relatives. He lost his young wife. They had to leave their homes and live in the wilderness in tents or caves hiding from the armies of Saul.

David became a warrior and fighter for kings of other countries. Once he was surrounded and trapped

by a group of his enemies. They planned to murder him. Can you picture how you would feel, surrounded by hate and death threats? David was inspired to act like he was out of his mind, mentally ill. He fooled them and they let him go free.

When he became king, his terrible problems did not go away. One time after his country won another battle, he gave credit to the soldiers instead of God. Instead of realizing that God had helped them over and over, he told the head of the armies to count the soldiers there. God was severely angry. He told David to pick the way to be punished. He was given three choices: He could be hunted by his enemies for three months, there could be a famine for seven years, or a great plague or sickness could come down upon the nation. David told God he knew that he had done wrong. He told God to make the choice. The next day, seventy thousand men got sick and died from the plague before God stopped it. David had to live with the knowledge that these deaths were because of his sin.

David also made the mistake of marrying many different women. He had many children from different mothers who hated each other. One step brother attacked and hurt his half sister, Tamara. Her side of the family hated his side. Another son, Absalom, wanted to rule his brothers and the nation. He gathered an army and attacked King David and those with him. When the battle turned against Absalom he tried to ride away quickly. He was a handsome young man with beautiful long hair. As Absalom rode under a tree branch, his hair got caught in the limbs. David's soldiers killed

him as he hung there. David cried and cried over his son's death and loss until his generals told him to stop crying over the son who had turned against him and praise the men who had stopped his murderous son.

Life and the problems went on. David loved to play the harp and sing. He wanted to build a beautiful temple for God's people to worship in. But God told him his hands were too bloody. He may have been king, but he could not have his heart's desire. David accepted that the temple would be built by someone else.

As David became very old, his son Adonijah made a banquet and

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### WORD SEARCH

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## Our Women Today

### Ladies' Circle Fellowship Weekend in California

By Sister Marcia Liberto

How do you describe a perfect weekend? More than eighty sisters who attended the April 4-6, 2003 weekend Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship seminar in Ontario, California can describe the perfect weekend. The theme "The Touch of God" was something they experienced.

On Friday evening we began with a "NO BABY SHOWER." Our sisters were generous in giving baby gifts that were donated to various Church mission fields. In the evening outside the hotel, Sister Bennie Jones and her mother, Sister Gertie Alms, were involved in a terrible auto accident. We thank God that He "touched" them and they were not seriously injured.

On Saturday morning, our Area President, Sister Nancy Hemmings, opened the seminar session. Our seminar leader, Sister Lucy DeCaro, taught us about the many "touches" each of us gives and receives throughout life's journey. She stated that the touch of Jesus is essential to how we live our lives. She asked us to take a few moments to express appreciation for one another. IMPOSSIBLE to take a few moments! The sisters hugged and cried and many beautiful words were spoken. Sister Maria Kuntson, Sister Melissa Bartlett and Sister Andrea DeCaro followed with many wonderful and inspiring thoughts. Although we broke for lunch we didn't break from expressing thankfulness for one another's touch in our lives. We enjoyed an afternoon of rest and relaxation. In the evening we met for a banquet, and Sister Debbie McDonnell led us in a "Fun Night."

On Sunday morning the good feeling of being together continued as

Sister Nancy opened our meeting. She introduced our guest speaker, Sister Sylvia Curry from Phoenix, AZ. Sister Sylvia testified of her many years in the Church. She especially relied on God's touch, throughout the illness and passing of her husband, Brother Chuck. Our visiting elder, Brother Rudy Meo preached on the known and unknown touches of Jesus. His attendance had special meaning because his mother had recently passed away.

Brother Craig Meo, from New Mexico, accompanied his wife to the retreat. He is a newly-ordained teacher who experienced a life-threatening encounter. He spoke of how he felt the Master's touch and was grateful to God for being with him. He asked for our prayers because he is still facing surgery. Many sisters testified of God's touch and His goodness in their lives. After Sacrament we formed a circle of love and were dismissed in prayer. We thank the many sisters who labored to make the seminar weekend a success. We especially thank God for a spirit-filled weekend.

### Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sister Pierina DeFalco

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle visited with the saints at the Muncey Mission in Canada. We arrived in time for a Sunday School lesson on faith taught by Brother Ryan Lesperance.

Brother Gary Coppa opened the morning meeting and spoke on nurturing our spiritual lives. He used his grandmother as an example of someone who nurtured her children and grandchildren by planting seeds of faith in their hearts. As an eight-year-old he remembers hearing his grandmother pray. He asked, "Who are you talking to?" "God." She told him that God answers prayer. He ended his sermon by asking, "Are you communicating with God?"

Brother Mike LaSala followed on the quality of our service to God. At the Sacrament service the room was filled with so much love, Brother Mike could hardly utter a prayer for the wine.

Then Brother Tom Everett opened the meeting for testimony. He asked our Area Ladies' Uplift Circle President, Sister Marge D'Amico, and the Muncey Local Circle President, Sister Mona Ogden to begin the testimony meeting. Many testimonies followed. Sister Rose Milantoni testified on reading through her husband's journal. She told how Brother Joe wrote of Sister Nicholas, a Muncey sister, who would sing in the spirit. He asked the Lord, "I don't want to know what she is saying but what language is she speaking?" The Lord answered, "She speaks the language of the Nephites." Sister Fay Albert, who is now blind, glorified God and spoke of how she felt, surrounded by the sister's love.

In his closing remarks, Brother Tom encouraged us to give our testimonies and to spread the Gospel. He said, "The first two letters of the word Gospel is go!" Let's go!

### Ohio Midwest Region Mother-Daughter Luncheon

By Sister Teresa Pandone

The Ohio Midwest Region Ladies' Uplift Circle hosted a Mother-Daughter Luncheon on Saturday, October 25, 2003 at the Ramada Inn in Kent, Ohio. Our President, Sister Rosalie Mott, welcomed everyone to our luncheon and made some opening remarks. Sister Bonnie Metzler, from the Columbus, Ohio Circle opened our session with prayer. Sixty-three (63) Circle sisters, friends, and family enjoyed a meal and close fellowship together on a beautiful "Indian Summer" day.

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## GMBA Conference

By Sister Christine Maddox –  
GMBA Editor and  
Brother Jameson Staley –  
GMBA Assistant Editor

The weekend of November 8, 2003 brought people from across the country and the world to Greensburg, Pennsylvania. All came with the same purpose in their head and prayer in their heart—to hear and feel God’s power. The Sunday service on November 9th proved to be an amazing example of just this.

GMBA President Brother Jeff Giannetti, Vice President, Brother David Catalano, and Chaplain Brother Larry Champine, the newly elected GMBA officers, prepared for the meeting as Brother Timothy Mott led the congregation in singing. A feeling of excitement and anticipation hung in the air. To begin the morning, Brother Isaac D. Smith, Brother Jameson Staley, Sister Catherine Henderson, and Sister Jen Champine sang a beautiful rendition of *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. The song set the stage for a glorious day of praise and worship.

Brother Jeff expressed the gratitude he felt for Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri’s service as GMBA President and Sister JoAnn Niehl’s work as GMBA Corresponding Secretary. He asked if all who had resigned from an office the day before would please stand. He then requested that all in the room stand as a symbol of appreciation. Following further announcements, May 15 – 16, 2004 was announced as the 100th Anniversary of the GMBA. All are asked to make an effort to attend the scheduled conference that weekend in Pennsylvania to help celebrate and remember the past 100 years of the GMBA.

After Brother Carl Frammalino offered the opening prayer, Sister Roseanne and Brother Larry Champine blessed the congregation

with a song called *Walking With A Hope In Your Heart*. “What a difference it makes when you’re walking with a hope in your heart,” Sister Roseanne sang. Afterward, Apostle Paul Palmieri appropriately introduced the communion portion of the meeting. All sang the *Twenty-Third Psalm* as the ministers prepared the bread. Brother Jerry Valenti, Apostle John Griffith, Apostle Peter Scolaro, Apostle Paul Palmieri, Brother Steven Osaka, Brother Ken Lombardo, Brother Nephi DeMercurio Sr., and Brother Chuck Kogler passed communion. Brother Ken offered a blessing for the bread and Brother Steven petitioned God to bless the wine. When communion had been passed to all brothers and sisters, Brother Jeff related an experience had moments before by someone in the meeting. He said that while Apostle Paul was introducing the communion service, a vision was had of the Lord standing next to Brother Paul. The Lord said, “My face is visible in all of the Saint’s faces.” What an incredible way for God to manifest His power in the meeting.

Brother John Griffith opened the meeting with a story of shrimp that lodge sand on the top of their head to help them maintain their balance. Without the sand, the shrimp would not know if they were right side up or upside down. Brother John called this the “molting process” and used it to explain how shrimp keep their balance in the jerking ocean current. A group of scientists decided to perform an experiment on these fascinating shrimp. They used metal pieces instead of sand and attached an electromagnet to the top of the tank. The shrimp then thought that what was really upside down was right side up, and they began to function upside down. The shrimp had lost their sense of balance.

Brother John compared this story to our lives. He said Satan is constantly attempting to trick us and switch our “sand for metal.” Satan wants us to lose our sense of balance in our walk with the Lord. Brother John read Luke 17:26 which states, “And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of

man”. He recalled how Noah took a stand and kept his balance even though the people around him tried to turn him upside down. We must ask ourselves if we would rather be on the inside of the ship or the outside of the ship when the rains come. Although people will not be accepting, Brother John instructed us all to strive for the Lord’s spirit in all we do and say. He said that even though we don’t have sand on our heads to help us determine which way is right side up, we have something else—something stable, secure, constant, and sure. We have the word of God and we must “hold fast, grab hold, digest, and know” the Word. Brother John asked us to examine our own lives and see if we are walking right side up with the Lord.

Brother John then spoke about the beauty of The Church of Jesus Christ. Although there are hundreds of religions expressing good things, we are the only one actually showing the true power of God. “God gives us the key to the lock. He is the source of all good. [...] You have received the Holy Spirit. You just need to activate it,” Brother John urged. After Brother John finished speaking, the congregation sang *We Have An Anchor*, an especially fitting ending to a spirit-filled exhortation.

Brother Steven Osaka, a visiting minister from Kenya, stood and addressed the congregation. He told of his recent battle with malaria and how God had been solely responsible for taking the disease from his body. Brother Steven reflected on the special spirit inside The Church of Jesus Christ. He said that the unity and personal attention within the Church is a privilege not found in many other churches. The people within the Church are overflowing with talents and each must use their gifts to further the work of the Lord. Brother Steven read from 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 15:1-6. Brother Steven compared the Church to God’s vineyard and God as the master of the vineyard. God has built a protecting hedge around His vineyard. God expects us to bear fruit in His name. If

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