

The Gospel News

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Seizing and Utilizing Opportunities

By Brother David DeLuca

This New Year provides us the opportunity to reflect on our service and to analyze whether we accomplished our designated goals. Hopefully, we achieved the goals of increasing our spiritual development and growth in the Church. This is an ongoing process that will provide numerous blessings from Jesus Christ and the joy of serving our Lord and the Church.

King Solomon states, *“That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else”* (I Kings 8:60). The Lord is our primary focus and we strive to serve Him each and every day of our lives. We seek Him during our times of need, we ask Him for direction and guidance and we praise Him for the unwarranted blessings that we receive in our lives. We can never sufficiently praise the Lord for His mercy and love.

The Lord told Abraham, *“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect”* (Genesis 17:1). The challenge was placed before Abraham to draw closer to

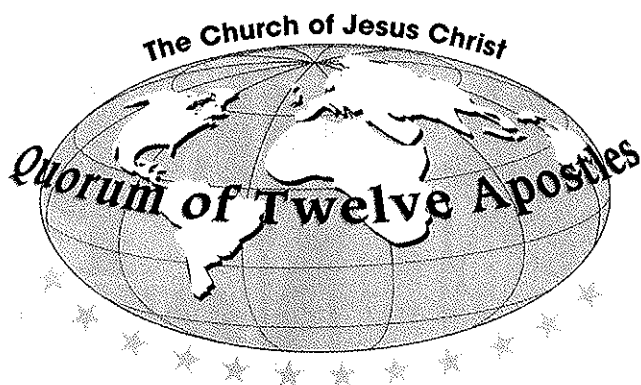
the Lord and seek more of the blessings in his life. Abraham was a spiritual pillar during this period of time. We look at his life and we admire the consistent service to the Lord. He obeyed the Lord and approximately one (1) year later, Sarah gave birth to Isaac. The Lord promised that to Abraham, *“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shall be a blessing”* (Genesis 12:2). He adhered to the commandments of God and his life was filled with the blessings of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Abraham achieved the goal of being a blessing to the people of God, his family and his fellow neighbors.

The members of The Church of Jesus Christ share the common goal of working out our soul’s salvation and bringing souls to Christ. We are an extremely diverse and unique people, sometimes a peculiar people. Praise God!! The Apostle Paul states that, *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many”* (I Corinthians 12:13-14). We

are all important to the Church and to the Lord. All of us can be used by God to help establish His kingdom. It does not matter about our background, gender, color of skin, occupation or age. The Lord died upon the cross for all of mankind. We are different in various physical characteristics and unique personalities; however, we strive to become a united and focused congregation. Alma instructed and baptized the people and he had these words of advice, *“And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another”* (Mosiah 18:21).

We are encouraged and strengthened by the Scriptures in the Bible and The Book of Mormon. Throughout the written word of God, He teaches us to serve Him by serving the brothers and sisters of the Church. King Benjamin provides a wonderful lesson about service. He gave everything to assist and help out the people. He states that, *“And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of*

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Apostle Joseph Calabrese Passes on to His Eternal Reward

Apostle Joseph Calabrese passed away on December 5, 2008 having served the Lord with great determination from the day of his baptism on February 18, 1945 at 27 years of age. For the 63 years that followed, he was a tireless laborer for the Church. In answer to the question that some would pose to him, "When did you become a missionary?" he would always say, "On the



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

day of my baptism!" And indeed, he was passionately involved in the missionary endeavors of the Church, both in the United States and in foreign countries. He made extensive efforts to visit every branch and mission in the United States and

Canada, and in 1981, he and Brother Alvin Swanson organized the Church in India. Since that time Brother Calabrese had made 12 missionary trips to India. He was highly respected and loved by the members of the congregations in India. Truly he was a man of God exhibiting the characteristics of Christ in fulfilling his duties before man and God.

He was born in Monessen, Pennsylvania on January 10, 1918 to Brother Antonio and Sister Theresa Calabrese. The family moved to Lorain, Ohio in 1930 where they came in contact with The Church of Jesus Christ. His parents were baptized and became dedicated members thereafter. He married Sister Victoria Calabrese in 1937 and had been married for 69 years before her passing in 2006. They faced many tough times together, including the death of their infant son, Kenneth, but they persevered.

He is survived by his children, Bonnie Smith and her husband Isaac, Dennis Calabrese and his wife Anne, Cheryl Smith and her husband Harry, Candice Genaro and her husband Peter, Joel Calabrese and his wife Edna, 19 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

In 1945, Brother Joseph became gravely ill with appendicitis. He was not yet baptized, and had resisted becoming a member of the Church, but he called upon the elders of the Church to anoint him. A month later,

once out of the hospital, even though the doctors worried for his condition, he went into the waters of baptism on a cold day, February 18, 1945. His life from that time forward became a vessel of the Lord by which he served God and His church with unfaltering faith, zeal, and dedication expressing his love for Jesus Christ to all that would hear.

In 1955, he was ordained into the ministry of the Church as an Elder, in 1958 as an Evangelist, and in 1989 as an Apostle. His service to the Lord never wavered. His service to the Church, whether as a trustee, Sunday School teacher, GMBA Vice President, Presiding Elder, Ohio Region President, Quorum of Seventy Vice President, Quorum of Twelve President, Foreign Missions Chairman, India Coordinator, General Church Correspondent, Elder, Evangelist, or Apostle was given the same intensity of dedication.

"We're not playing marbles in the backyard anymore," was one of his sayings that will long be remembered regarding the seriousness of serving the Lord. Brother Joseph Calabrese was many things to many people throughout his life and he made an enormous impact on hundreds, if not thousands, of people worldwide. All know of the goodness and Christ-like nature of this beloved man of God. We are blessed and thankful to have had his love, devotion to Jesus Christ, and perseverance in spite of many of life's obstacles, as an example for all of us to follow.

He will be greatly missed by the Quorum of 12 and by all of the brothers, sisters and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Joseph Calabrese has left a legacy for all of us to follow, and part of that legacy is written in publications that he authored: *Divine Continuity*, *Questions and Answers*, and his autobiography, *Missionary Endeavors at Home and Abroad*.

(Additional biographical information may be found in *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ: Volume 2*, pp.600-606 or at www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org.)

Spiritual Gathering in Anaheim

By Sister Vicki VanDeWeghe

With a theme of "Jesus, My Wonderful Friend," the saints gathered on June 29, 2008 from far and wide for fellowship, praise, singing and worship, filling the Anaheim, California Branch to capacity. As part of the Domestic Outreach Program, we were blessed with ministry visiting from the branches of Mount Laurel, New Jersey and Lorain, Ohio, as well as the Nashville, Tennessee mission.

Apostle Paul Benyola spoke of his visit to Kenya and the scripture in John 15:15, "...but I have called you friends..." You can go to the Lord for all your cares of life and He raises you up; we have a problem and He can solve it. Brother Paul continued speaking from Matthew 8:26 where Jesus rebuked the wind and there was great calm. In Matthew 9:18-22, he spoke of Jesus coming to the aid of a certain ruler whose daughter was pronounced dead and wanted Him to lay His hands on her to resurrect her. On the way to the ruler's home, a woman with an issue of blood for twelve years came behind Him and touched His garment. Jesus turned around and when He saw her He said, "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole." And the woman was made whole from that hour. Brother Paul spoke of a boy who was recently in the hospital and all the Church was praying for him. His mother had a vision where she saw all the prayers and the boy was healed. The devil is out there working too; but God is working to deliver us and be our friend.

A DOC member, Brother Ken Staley moved to Nashville, TN – the Bible Belt – where there are many wonderful Christians. They have eleven baptized members in their mission. Brother Ken spoke on Jesus' cleansing of the leper in Matthew 8:1-3. We all need cleansing from something in our lives. A young man in Nashville applied for a

job as a college professor. He wanted to get closer to church and his family; the brothers and sisters were praying that he would get the job. The first and second choices declined the job, so it was his. It was all in God's plan. A woman was having nightmares and the Church prayed for her and she stopped having them. A man on drugs was coming to church and interrupting the meeting and went out to have a cigarette. Everyone got down on their knees and prayed for him and he is now clean from drugs. He has had experiences about surrendering his life, but has not yet surrendered. Brother Ken appealed to all to try Jesus and receive God's blessings.

Brother Joe Benyola referred to the scripture at the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:2 where there were 120 gathered together in one accord. He observed that there were also about 120 gathered together in Anaheim this day, resembling the same environment as at Pentecost when the Spirit of God was as a mighty rushing wind and approximately 3000 were baptized. Brother Joe recalled when Brother Joe Lovalvo spoke and a mighty rushing wind swept throughout the congregation.

Brother Joel Calabrese gave his testimony and talked about a campout at age 15 where they were actually camping out in tents in the National Forest. They found a clearing to play football and Brother Joel found a 1974 penny that was the same year and thought it was unusual. That is when God started working with him and he started praying to God to reveal Himself. Later, he had hands laid on him and God brought back all that God had done for him. He realized how much God had been working in his life since that campout. He realized then there was nothing left but to surrender his life to God.

The Spanish choir from Bell and Anaheim sang one song, *Coritos* (Ninos De Anaheim), accompanied by three young guitarists led by Brother Simone.

God blessed us abundantly on this glorious day, inspiring our visiting elders to feed the flock in this part of the vineyard.

Great Lakes Region Conference

By SisterCarolynn O'Connor

Brother Frank Natoli, Region President, began our fall Region Conference by sharing a few thoughts in hopes to prepare us for the blessings to come.

Brother Jim Lambert Jr. opened the meeting. He started by asking us to sing the chorus of *Holy Spirit*. He then began his sermon sharing the words of Christ, "I am the way the truth and the life." He continued, "What does that mean to us? Christ explained it in a few words. Who do we say that He is? Let Christ be EVERYTHING to you in your life. I believe when you were singing you invited Him here today. We have the benefit of the before and after story, and by the Spirit of God we believe it."

He read from John 11, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" He continued, "Do I believe this? Thank God I have the scriptures to tell me what it was and my heart tells me who I am today. If I believe it I have to prove it. It is more than words on the page. It is my daily living. There are so many negative things going on in this world. Don't let the world get you down or rob your assurance that Jesus Christ arose from the grave and lives today. If you make him everything you can make an impact in the world. To the unbaptized, don't wait. To those who are baptized, if you believe in the truth, don't wait to show the world what you have. Remember the day you allowed Christ and you understood who He was."

Brother Jim closed by saying "He is the truth, Christ is the way, Christ is my life, so daily when I exist I need to ask myself this question, 'What is Christ to me today?'"

Brother Perry Vitto who was newly ordained into the priesthood followed. "It is so good to be here." He said it with such conviction that it

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Great Lakes Region

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was a reminder that we too should feel this grateful for the opportunity. Brother Perry mentioned that this Church was his heritage, that he like his grandparents was born into it and that he had taken it for granted for so many years. He was now overjoyed that the scales fell off of his eyes.

Brother Perry spoke of Alma and the sons of Mosiah and how they were separated for 14 years before they stumbled upon each other. He read from Alma 17:2, "...therefore Alma did rejoice exceedingly to see his brethren; and what added more to his joy, they were still his brethren in the Lord..." Brother Perry said that when he looked out at the congregation, he felt that joy. "There is so much going on in this world and we can't trust man, we can't trust the world. We must trust in the Lord. If we are fixed and know the scripture and know that He loves us we will not be affected by this world. If we are blessed enough to be here today, then we are chosen to hear this word. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is perfect. The four sons of Mosiah were the vilest of sinners. I was the vilest of sinners. If we are not happy, we don't know enough."

Brother Tom Everett shared a few thoughts with us as well. "Abinadi says we have an intercessor that stands between us and justice and the lack of a job and our health and, and..." He shared that the literal translation in Hebrew of "the Lord will provide" is "more than enough." Brother Tom closed by saying that the Lord is everything and He is more than enough.

Brother Frank also shared some of his thoughts on the state of our country and how we as members should have faith and make Him everything to us. "You have been given the pearl not to be selfish with it but to share it with others. Is it everything to us?"

Following a medley sung by the members of Branch #1, Brother Frank shared that 50 years ago this day at Branch #1, ten souls came into the Church and that three of them were

with us that day. He asked Brother Lou Pietrangelo, Brother Dave DiBattista, and Sister Sara LaPlena to give a word of testimony and then opened the meeting to the congregation for anyone who felt to testify. This was not typical of our Region Conference, but the Lord had directed the brothers to include testimony as part of the service.

Many others came forward and gave God glory for all that He had done in their lives including Steven Dulisse from Branch #2 who shared that he had been fasting and praying for God's presence in his life. He had many experiences in the days preceding the conference and declared that he wanted to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

After sharing in the Lord's Supper, Brother Alex Gentile took a moment to share that when he arrived at the conference and greeted Steven, God revealed to him that Steven would ask for his baptism that day.

Sister Diane Stigleman then stood and said that earlier when she saw the faces of the ministry, they were illuminated.

Brother Peter Scolaro took a few moments to bring our meeting to a close by sharing a few words and encouraging us to take seriously the message that was shared throughout the day – not to let ANYTHING get in the way of making Him EVERYTHING.

It was a blessing to gather as a region and a great reminder that God's blessings are available to us if we make Him EVERYTHING in our lives.

Seizing and Utilizing Opportunities

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your God" (Mosiah 2:17). One of the greatest joys in life is helping out our fellow brothers and sisters. The Good Samaritan crossed the highway and assisted an individual in need. He bound his wounds, carried him to the inn and handled the financial obliga-

tions. He did not seek any personal glory or satisfaction. I am sure the Lord rewarded him for his effort just as He blesses us each and every day of our lives.

The Lord desires us to seek Him on a daily basis. Alma told the people, "*Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day*" (Alma 37:2). We seek His advice in all facets of our lives.

It is a great challenge presented before the people of God. The Lord asks us to draw closer to Him and He will pour a blessing that we will not be able to contain. The Lord is waiting for us to seek Him and rely upon Him. He desires us to seek His ways.

The Lord is waiting to bless The Church of Jesus Christ. He wants us to draw closer to Him. He will shower us with the blessings of God if we seek Him every day of our lives. Throughout the year, we encourage you to be a blessing to the Church, the brothers and sisters and our friends. Listed below are goals that we might seek in the upcoming year:

- (1) Support the Church leadership by **keeping the commandments of God** and supporting the goals of the Church.
- (2) Fast and pray that the Church might grow and souls might be brought to Christ. Ask the Lord to bless the work of the Church, such as:
 - a. Seed of Joseph
 - b. Foreign Missionary Fields
 - c. Domestic Church
- (3) Love the brothers and sisters.
- (4) Love, teach, support, encourage and be good examples to the young people.
- (5) Attend all of the branch meetings, such as: Sunday school, Sunday Services, MBA, Fast and Prayer meeting and all of the Church auxiliaries.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

“Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that” (James 4:13-15).

Recently my mom was suddenly called home after having a car accident. As tragic as that may sound, God granted her wish to die quickly, without years of being afflicted, which she viewed as a burden to her family. My dad passed away a few years ago, also as a result of an accident. A van he was repairing suddenly went into reverse and caused injuries that he did not survive. My mom always said she hoped that God would call her home in a similar way that He did my dad. God granted her wish. For those that do not know the Lord, they are not sure what to say to me, since they view these tragic events as something that would send me into deep depression. Those that know the Lord understand that God never makes a mistake. He gives life and He takes it away, and His timing is never the wrong timing. The night before my mom died, I was speaking with her on the phone about general things, planning for Christmas gifts for my children and getting together for the holidays. Neither of us knew that the next day would be her last.

Life is like a vapour. A person exists and no one ever really thinks of what would happen if they were not there anymore. And yet, just as a vapour of smoke from a candle quickly dissipates after the flame is blown out, so does a person who passes away. The phone calls you would get from them are silenced, and you no longer see them. Our lives can seem so vibrant and active, and yet in an instant, we disappear from this life forever. People plan for the next day, week, month, year, or even years the activities they will be doing. We spend so much energy in planning a future we may never see. No one knows the time they will leave this life. Some are very young, some are middle-aged, some live to be very old, but no one can say they know when their life will be over. The things we plan to do in the future should always include the disclaimer, “If it be God’s will.”

Knowing this should make us step back and examine our lives. If God were to call me home this instant, what would my life reflect? If there was a movie of my entire life; all the things I did and said, would I be able to watch it, and God see me as worthy to inherit the mansions of glory and rest in paradise with my Savior? Nothing unclean can enter the portals of heaven, it is impossible. I know it is often said, but we should live every day as if it were our last...because it can be. I also lost my brother suddenly not too long ago. He was 52 years old. These events in my family have caused me to look at being alive as much less of a guarantee, but instead a gift. A gift that if used properly can lead to a reward of everlasting happiness in the immortal life to come. At the same time, our life can be a curse to us if we misuse it. So many people push forward through life, never even thinking of what would happen if they would die. They see the here and the now, and they put incredible energy into securing their future. The decline of our economy and unemployment rates at an all time high have forced some people to slow down and put more emphasis on just getting through the day, not planning their retirement. This is how we should live our days, making each moment count and making each moment pleasing to the Lord.

If sudden death hasn’t affected your family, the depth of these words might not be as impactful, but for those who have experienced this, I’m sure would agree that it is profound. Let’s live every day as if it were our last, really. Let’s try to please the Lord in every way. Let us put others before ourselves, and extend love to everyone around us. Let us overlook the petty distractions of life and focus our attention on the prize that awaits us. Let’s make 2009 our best spiritual year ever.

The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

Those That Wait Upon the Lord

(Isaiah 40:31)

Dear Friends,

The Bible and Book of Mormon are full of stories of many great people who made mistakes and then started over. Faithful Abraham once was afraid to protect his wife and marriage from a powerful king who wanted the beautiful woman. There was nothing he could do. He waited on the Lord. God had to send plagues against the king to make the ruler give him back his wife (Genesis 12:10). Moses was afraid to speak in front of the Pharaoh and the people so God sent his brother, Aaron, to go with him and talk for him (Exodus 4:10-17). Peter was afraid of Pilate's soldiers and lied and said he did not know Jesus. Jesus had told him he would make this terrible mistake. Peter had said it could never happen. He failed but Jesus saved him and forgave him.

Esther was an ordinary Jewish girl chosen to be the new queen of the land. She had to learn who to trust and how to act like a queen. There were many laws separating her from her husband. But, when an enemy planned to kill all Jews, she fasted for three days and waited upon the Lord for guidance. Then she had the courage to ask the king to save her people (the book of Esther).

Have you ever wished you could understand something or try and learn something new but have been afraid you would fail? Have you ever done something that made you feel sorry or bad inside and been angry at yourself



and wished you could change? Well, this year, you can. Today you can change just like the people mentioned above changed.

It all starts with awareness and talking to God. Go to a quiet place where no one will bother you for awhile. Hold still and picture yourself climbing into the lap of a loving Jesus, just as children in the scriptures came to Him. Let the safety of His arms surround you while you talk to Him in your heart. Tell him you are sorry for the things you have done wrong. Ask Him to forgive you and help you be wiser, stronger, kinder, and braver.

Stay there for a time and tell Jesus what is scaring you, worrying you, and making you feel afraid or useless. Ask him to protect you, and help, or change the people who are causing you trouble. Tell him to teach you how to know what to do and what to say. Ask Jesus to take away your bad feelings, then thank him for helping you.

Show Him you love Him as you slide out of His lap and go your way this day. Feel your peace. Feel His love and hope. Trust Jesus who blesses us and wait to see Him work things out for you. You can change. You can do things that you have dreamed of. You can change and be an instrument in God's hands. You can be successful and have many interesting experiences with the Lord. Your life can be so much better once we pray and trust and wait upon the Lord.

We are promised by the ancient prophet Isaiah (40:31), "...they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not

faint." This can be the year you change and be who you want to be.

With love,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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From the Editor: This month's *Gospel News* is shorter than usual. This is a result of a lack of material to fill the entire issue. I apologize for this, but hope that writers will be inspired to submit articles through their branch Editors to the *Gospel News* in the future. May God bless you.

Brother Carl Huttenberger



Blessings in Rochester

By Sister Bette Panfile

Psalm 91:12 "...lest thou dash thy foot against a stone...."

Sunday, August 31, was a special day for the saints in Rochester, NY. Along with Brother Leonard and Sister Jean Benyola, we all gathered with much joy and anticipation at the Lyons Nursing Home in Lyons, NY, (about 40 miles East of the Rochester church) to have a church service with Brother Andrew Locci, our Presiding Elder. Brother Andrew has been confined, first to a hospital and is now receiving physical therapy at the nursing home. This would be the first time he would be present for a church service since he entered the hospital in February, 2008. We also had a visitor, Tom, who has been occasionally visiting our church.

Our meeting was held in one of the activity rooms, and it made us happy to see Brother Andrew sitting next to Brother Leonard at the lectern. Before our service was opened, we sang several hymns, beginning with *Amazing Grace* followed by *In the Garden*. During this time an elderly female wheeled herself into the room in her wheelchair and positioned herself next to Sister Bette Panfile. While we were singing, we all noticed that she was very softly mouthing the words, so we continued to sing a few more hymns, including *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* and *More Like the Master*.

Brother Leonard then led us in prayer, thanking God for His mercy and blessings for Brother Andrew and guiding him through this long recovery and giving us the opportunity to gather together.

For his text, Brother Leonard read the entire 91st Psalm and reminded us of God's undying Love for us and that through our darkest hour,

we need only to petition the Lord. He is only a prayer away. Wherever we are, we need only to bow our head and speak to our Father and He hears us.

He also quoted from the beautiful poem that is familiar to all of us *Footprints in the Sand*. "...During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you..." How true it is – how many times have each one of us been carried by our Savior through our darkest hour.

Our meeting continued glorifying God with beautiful testimonies from each one of the brothers and sisters testifying to His goodness and His love for us. Brother Andrew was overcome with emotion as he testified and thanked God and praised Him for sparing his life and granting him strength to endure his trial. He also expressed gratitude for his loving wife, Sister Teresa, who has unfailingly, been with him every day. During her testimony, Sister Jeanette Clinkscales related a dream she had and Sister Celestina Drobeck also testified of a dream she recently had.

After our testimonies, we continued with sacrament. The last time Brother Andrew received sacrament was in February, 2008, so this was a special blessing for him and a much anticipated one. However, we were all a little anxious, since he is still on a trach and a feeding tube, but he was able to swallow the bread and wine. Praise God!

God willing, we look forward to meeting here once again at the end of the month.

We humbly ask you to keep Brother Andrew and all of us here in your prayers, that the Lord would move His hand on this little mission and keep us strong and unified, while we wait for Brother Andrew to recover and be able to return to his place in leading this little flock. During our past meetings, Brother Andrew would always encourage us to be strong and support one another and stressed the importance of the spirit of unity for our members.

Brother Andrew expresses his gratitude for all of your prayers on his behalf and for your encouragement

and the many cards he has received.

He also wants to thank Brother Leonard Benyola for his continued support in visiting this mission to conduct services and Brother Hank Cardillo for his help with Sunday School, church services and looking after the church building in Brother Andrew's absence. Both brothers leave their own branches and travel long distances to be in Rochester and also for going to the nursing home to anoint Brother Andrew. May the Lord bless them both and grant them strength and health to continue to do His work.

May God Bless and be with each of you!

Seizing and Utilizing Opportunities

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- (6) Be financially generous to the Church.
- (7) Volunteer for an office.
- (8) Seek the Lord's guidance in our lives by desiring His blessings.

It is the sincere desire that the Church might enjoy the blessings of the Lord in every branch, mission, auxiliary organization and missionary field. "*Adam fell that man might be; and men are, that they might have joy*" (II Nephi 2:25). It is everyone's goal to improve in our service to the Lord and to experience the joy in our hearts. The Gospel needs to be preached and witnessed throughout the world. There is work for every member of The Church of Jesus Christ. There is no greater joy than witnessing a sinner come to Christ. Let us rise to the challenge this year that we might witness the following scripture, "*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it*" (Malachi 3:10).

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Jonathan Nath and Sister Anna Sauro were united in holy matrimony at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on October 4, 2008.

Sister Jamie Nicklow and Nick Fedorchak were united in holy matrimony at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on October 25, 2008.

Sister Karen Mellor and David Kulivan, Jr., were united in holy matrimony in Mount Vernon, Virginia on November 22, 2008.

Correction

Jonathan Eric Eiler and Kelly Ann Bradburn were united in holy matrimony in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on September 27, 2008.

Ordinations

Brother Robert (Adam) Matthews was ordained a deacon on August 24, 2008 at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother Robert Golling and he was ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione, Sr.

Brother John Bilsky was ordained a teacher on October 26, 2008 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. His feet were washed by Brother James L. Speck and he was ordained by Brother James Abbott.

Children Blessed

Olivia Mae Baez, daughter of Brother Eric and Sister Linda Baez, was blessed on March 2, 2008 at the Detroit, Michigan Inner City Branch.

Sanage Halthon, daughter of Rachel Adams and Sanchez Halthon, was blessed on August 14, 2008 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Isabella Nina McCoy, daughter of Greg and Sister Lisa McCoy, was blessed on November 16, 2008 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Nolan Tyler Gross, son of Brother James and Sister Carolyn Gross, was blessed on November 30, 2008 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #2.

Zoey Marie Devore, daughter of Sister Lisa (Italiano) and Brother David Devore was blessed in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Ethan Benjamin Seighman, son of Dan and Crissy Seighman was blessed on November 23, 2008 at the Herndon, Virginia Branch.

George Henry Phillips IV, son of George and Karen (Willforth) Phillips was blessed on November 23, 2008 at the Liberty, Ohio Branch.

OBITUARIES

MARY AZZINARO

Sister Mary Azzinaro of the Lockport, New York Mission, passed on to her reward on August 18, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Salvatore Azzinaro; one daughter, Connie Craft; and one son, Daniel. She is survived by five sons, Brother Sal Azzinaro, Perry, David, Timothy and Peter; one daughter, Annie Payne; nine grandchildren; two sisters, Sister Grace D'Amico and Sister Antoinette Giansante; and two sisters-in-law, Sister Josie Jasmin and Sister Betty Azzinaro.

NANCY SPECK

Sister Nancy Speck of the Forest Hills, Florida Branch passed on to her reward on September 19, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother James Gavin Speck III. She is survived by her son, Brother James L. Speck and wife Sister Kellie; daughter, Sister Susan Windman and husband Michael; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

EMORY COGAR

Brother Emory Cogar, originally of the Leesburg, Virginia Mission, passed on to his reward on November 20, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Sister Verna, along with seven children.

MARIE HUTTENBERGER

Sister Marie Huttenberger of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch passed on to her reward on December 12, 2008. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Carl Huttenberger Sr. and son, Brother John Huttenberger. She is survived by her sons, Brother Jim Huttenberger and wife Sister Lynette, Randy Huttenberger and wife Amaya, and Brother Carl Huttenberger Jr. and wife Sister Suzette; six grandchildren, and a sister, Sister Marge Calabro.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Branch or Mission _____



THE CHURCH OF Jesus Christ

International Headquarters in
Monongahela, Pennsylvania

February, 2009

Volume 65, No. 2



THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Front row left to right: Isaac D. Smith, Paul N. Liberto, Paul Benyola, Thomas M. Liberto, Paul Palmieri, Joseph Calabrese
Back row left to right: Peter A. Scolaro, Philip R. Jackson, John R. Griffith, Leonard A. Lovalvo, Richard T. Christman,
James L. Crudup



Quorum of Twelve Apostles

The photo of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles on page 1 was taken in January 2008. Last month in the January 2009 issue of the *Gospel News*, we reported with great sorrow that on December 5, 2008 Brother Joseph Calabrese passed on to his eternal reward. Since 2004, four other brothers of the Quorum of Twelve have also passed away: V. James Lovalvo, Russell Cadman, Dominic Thomas, and Joseph Lovalvo. The Quorum of Twelve and all of The Church of Jesus Christ priesthood mourn their passing and consider it a privilege to have personally known and labored with them. They served the Church faithfully and diligently for many years. Truly we will always remember them as inspirational men who were filled with the love of God and dedicated to the promulgation of the Restored Gospel.

Over the past five years, other brothers have been called and ordained as apostles in their stead, and it is without question that those that have been ordained regard the valiant men who preceded them with great respect and admiration. Each of them is quite aware of the weight of their calling and feels very humbled to be in this very responsible position. The biographies of each of the current apostles can be found on The Church of Jesus Christ website at www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org.

Listed below are the current apostles and their dates of ordination:

James L. Crudup – October 14, 2007
Leonard A. Lovalvo – April 22, 2007

Paul N. Liberto – April 17, 2005
Philip R. Jackson – April 17, 2005
John R. Griffith – October 12, 2003
Richard T. Christman – October 12, 2003
Peter A. Scolaro – October 12, 1997
Isaac D. Smith – October 12, 1997
Thomas M. Liberto – October 15, 1995
Paul Benyola – April 23, 1989
Paul Palmieri – October 12, 1986

There are many duties and assignments that the apostles have relative to their position as leaders of the Church. The Law and Order of The Church of Jesus Christ, pp.2-5, is cited in the following paragraphs delineating their specific functions as apostles.

“The scriptures indicate that the Saviour chose twelve men in Palestine as witnesses of His life and resurrection, whom He called apostles. Also, when He established His Church on this land of America He chose twelve as His witnesses, whom He called disciples. We believe it to be the will of God that twelve should be chosen in this last dispensation of time as living witnesses of His Church on the earth. They are to bear testimony throughout the world to the everlasting Gospel being restored and that the Church is adorned with the divine gifts and blessings of God.

“The Twelve have power to officiate in all the ordinances of the Gospel in the name of the Lord Jesus and are to regulate the spiritual affairs of the Church throughout the world.

“As spiritual leaders, they should travel throughout the Church endeavor-

ing to encourage the saints to live righteously before God and man. Their acts in teaching and preaching and officiating in the ordinances should conform strictly with the original Twelve.

“...The Twelve should review the spiritual status of the Church and make recommendations to conference for the welfare and betterment of the Church.

“In order to oversee the spiritual welfare of the Church, apostles have been appointed to serve as spiritual counselors in each region of the Church.

“The Quorum of Twelve shall accept assignments given them by the General Priesthood regarding matters that relate to the Faith and Doctrine of the Church, appeals, and controversies which have not been resolved at other levels of the Church.

“Members of the Twelve may serve as consultants on General Church committees and/or boards.

“Only apostles are eligible to be elected to the Presidency of the Church.

“Currently and historically, Church policy and practices involve the Twelve in all levels of Church governmental functions, during and between conferences.

“In summary, the quorum can, does, and should perform a variety of functions: selecting and training elders, doing missionary work, investigating and settling problems, counseling, advising and guiding regions, committees and boards, formulating programs and proposals to advance the Church, leading the Church spiritually, preaching and writing about the Gospel, monitoring and evaluating Church progress toward our restoration goals, organizing, coordinating and directing its quorum, presiding over the Church, executing the orders and decisions of the Priesthood, and laboring for the general upbuilding of the Church. The quorum’s functions are manifold and varied, but the essence of the quorum’s functions is to serve the Priesthood and the membership of the Church.”

Listed are some of the individual positions and assignments of the Quorum of Twelve:

(Continued on Page 4)