

The Gospel News

150th

Anniversary

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus
Christ

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Message From The Editor

Greetings Brothers, Sisters and Friends-

What a blessing to work on this special edition celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Church! I am very grateful to everyone who contributed to the contents in this issue.

When reviewing our history, a prevailing thought I had is how grateful I am that these brothers and sisters preserved the true Gospel so that today we might know and find joy and eternal salvation through it.

Because of the labors of so many amazing brothers and sisters over the 150 years, the Church has grown to 16,000+ members in 23 countries. Whether they met the Church through family, friends, or Divine intervention, they worked hard to keep the Gospel untouched and unchanged for us. I wish I could bring to your mind each and every member's name and face, past and present, as a tribute to the true history of this Church.

So much has changed in the world in the last 150 years, but our commission is the same today, to share this precious Gospel with the world. What will the Editor in 50 years be writing when we celebrate our bi-centennial? Will the Church now spread over all seven continents? Will the membership grow to beyond 50,000? Will the people and events mentioned involve us, our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors and our friends?

I hope that you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed sharing it with you.

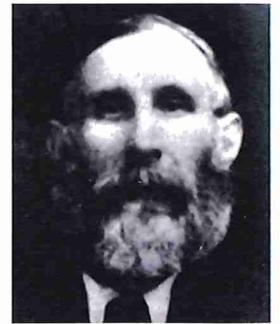
With Great Love,

SisterCarolynn O'Connor
Editor-In-Chief

Blast From The Past

Inspired by Apostle Alexander Cherry, the Missionary Benevolent Association officially received its name at conference, 107 years ago this month. Described through an early Church publication as "an open door, as a stepping stone, and for the young an excellent approach to the Church," the by-laws state simply that "the main purpose of the MBA is to promote

the spiritual welfare of the youth in our midst." Unimaginable in 1905, would be the extent of success the MBA would ultimately achieve on a local, area, and general level. "Let us remember the exemplary life of Brother Cherry," Brother James Curry would later write, "the founder, whose motive in founding the MBA was to advance the cause of Christ and the Restored Gospel through this medium."



Purpose Mission Vision

Purpose Statement

- To fulfill the plan of God by bringing salvation through Christ to all people.

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ.

- To draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused

on the Native Americans of North and South America.

Vision Statement

- The full manifestations of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, resulting from living and worshipping

in unity and righteousness, stimulate continuous growth of the Domestic Church—even at a rate of doubling over a five year period—while strengthening the International Church.

1862

The Church of Jesus Christ is organized during a conference in Green Oak, Pennsylvania, with Brother William Bickerton as its President



1863



Abraham Lincoln is serving his second year as President of the United States.

The Church's first publication, *The Ensign*, is introduced



1865

June 10 - The Church of Jesus Christ is incorporated at Pittsburgh, PA



1868

April - At a conference, the Lord speaks and directs the ministry to go to the Lamanites



August - Brothers William Bickerton, William Cadman and Benjamin Meadowcroft make first missionary trip to the Native Americans

150 Year Anniversary of The Church of Jesus Christ

By Apostle Paul Palmieri, President

Fifty years have passed since we celebrated 100 years of the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ. We are planning to celebrate the 150 Year Anniversary of The Church's organization on October 13-14, 2012 at the General Church Conference.

In retrospect I can remember the 100 Year Anniversary held in the New Eagle Fire Hall near Monongahela. It was a hot summer weekend, but we had a wonderful time singing a favorite hymn, "100 years without any tears". We have been blessed to be able to see the 150th Anniversary of The Church of Jesus Christ in our time.

I would like to share with you some of the major events of the last 50 years that have resulted in many blessings and changes.

Just prior to the 100th year the Church experienced a large number of young men and women joining The Church of Jesus Christ. It is interesting to note that their obedience to the Gospel caused them to become workers and leaders of the Church in the next 50 years.

Less than a year after the 100th anniversary in 1962, we experienced the first change in the Presidency of the Church in over 41 years. Brother William H. Cadman passed away in April 1963. He was succeeded by the First Counselor, Brother Thurman Furnier.

In 1964 Brother Gorie Ciaravino was elected President and he served for nine years. He was replaced by Brother Dominic Thomas who served as President from 1974 to 2005. I was elected President in 2005.

In 1965-1966 the General Missionary Benevolent Association sponsored a weekend field trip in the area of our Native American Mission in Ontario. This experiment evolved into the well-known campouts of the GMBA. The first week-long campout in 1967 in Kansas brought many of the saints together for a week of fellowship, and God rewarded the efforts by calling many young people into the Gospel. This event of campouts has continued to the present where 13 individuals were called to serve Christ in 2012.

The Church reorganized the missionary program which consisted of Mexico, Italy, Nigeria, Ghana and India. New works started and growth was seen in South and Central Americas and continued into different parts of the world. Today we find the church in 23 countries.

The Church desired to have their own meeting place where we could sing, pray and preach the gospel together without time constraints and problems in locating a meeting place for conferences. Our brothers had a vision of a building where hundreds would come together to praise the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1970 the dream was realized as we dedicated The Church of Jesus Christ Conference Center in Greensburg, Pa.

The Church continued to grow and become more complex. Our brothers and sisters brought their talents to help in the "Work of the Lord."

- The Board of Trustees
- The Print house
- The Operations Support Committee
- and many more.

In 2002 we felt the need to centralize the General Church in its administration and location. A renovation of the General Church Conference Center was planned and completed in 2004. The membership responded with raising the largest sum of money we ever have for any project. We added on administrative offices and moved the Print House to the new addition. The official name of the Conference Center has been changed to the World Operation Center.

In addition to changes, I am reminded of the faithful brothers in the Quorum of Twelve that have gone on to their reward that worked so diligently for The Church. I personally have had the privilege in helping to fill the present Quorum of Twelve Apostles. I served with many wonderful, dedicated brothers in the past and feel honored to serve with my brothers of today.

I am especially grateful for the wisdom and help of my two counselors, Brothers Thomas Liberto and Peter Scolaro. They have been a source of strength to rely on and a blessing to The Church.

In conclusion, I feel we have only started to see the Great Work of The Lord. I am proud of our past and committed to the future. Now is our time. The years to come will be the greatest time for The Church of Jesus Christ. We will see God's Plan to restore His covenant people unfold.

- The International Missionary Operations Committee
- The Finance Committee

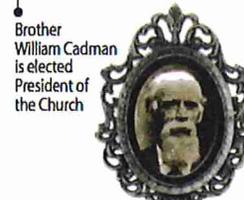
1870

1874

1875

1880

1904



Sesquicentennial of The Church of Jesus Christ

By Evangelist Larry Watson, General Church Historian

Organization and Identity

Year The Church of Jesus Christ celebrates a special anniversary called “sesquicentennial,” having been organized 150 years ago, July 7, 1862, during a conference convened in Green Oak, Pennsylvania. That morning the Spirit fell upon Brother Benjamin Meadowcroft who spoke in tongues, with the interpretation: “Set apart—Set apart and ordain the Twelve. Set apart and ordain.” Later that day, twelve brothers were called and ordained to the office of apostle. According to the minutes—“when the ordinations were over, the power of God came down so powerful that all were made to praise God and give Glory to Him.” The brothers presiding were William Bickerton, Church President; and George Barnes and Charles Brown, first and second counselor, respectively. The next day, Brother Barnes was inspired to utter: “Hear ye the Word of the Lord. Ye are My Sons and Daughters, and I have committed unto you the Keys to the Kingdom, therefore be faithful.”

One cannot overstate the impact of The Book of Mormon, published in March of 1830, on faith, doctrine, and history of the Church. It is esteemed by the saints as having equal stature with the Bible—a second witness to the mission and message of Jesus Christ.

Leadership and Administration

The Church President functions similar to a chief operating officer, overseeing the general operations of the church. He and his two counselors are elected bi-annually by the general priesthood in conference from amongst the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. The Church has had eight presidents since 1862 (see pages 10-11).

As the Church began to grow and spread out geographically, it became apparent that structural change was needed. In 1954, the first district of the Church was organized in California.

In 1959-1960 four other districts were established. The General Church delegated some of its authority to these districts to facilitate the operation of the Church between conferences. In April 1993 the General Church divided up the entire domestic Church into seven regions: Atlantic Coast, Penn-Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Great Lakes, Pacific, Southeast, and Southwest.

The Spirit of Gathering

The Gathering of the Saints and the Restoration of the House of Israel are two themes interwoven throughout the history of the Church. The Book of Mormon makes it clear that many indigenous people of the Americas are descendants of Israel. The following revelation was received on November 8, 1861: “Thus saith the Lord, I will purify my Church and my servants shall go and preach the Gospel to the Indians of America. Go, saith the Lord, and I will go with you, and they shall humble themselves before you. For the day and the hour of the Lord is come...When you go to the Indians tell them that Jesus died to save them. Tell them they are the seed of Abraham...”

An important distinction has emerged among the restoration groups regarding the identity of “Gentiles” and “Israel” in the latter days that has significantly influenced our respective concepts of the Gathering and of Zion. Clarifying the Church’s position, Brother William Cadman wrote: “We [are] not Israel, in the sense of being beneficiary under the covenants made to Israel, until we [are] incorporated with Israel, and we [are] not incorporated with Israel until we [have] carried the Gospel to Israel.”

Reminders of this work’s high priority have been given often over the years. In 1868 the Word of

the Lord was given to Brother Bickerton, “Verily, verily, saith the Lord God, the time has come that salvation go to the Lamanites...” In August of that year, Brothers Bickerton, Cadman, and Meadowcroft left for the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Although this initial trip proved to be somewhat of a disappointment, in 1874 the Church appointed a committee aimed at achieving a gathering of the Church among the American Indians. The following year, William Bickerton moved to Stafford County, Kansas. He proclaimed the area “Zion Valley,” asked a blessing of God on the land, and then encouraged the saints from Pennsylvania to migrate there. Despite the high hopes of these enterprising pioneers, this experiment in what is today known as St. John, Kansas did not produce the hoped-for results. In 1909, the spirit of gathering led to another homesteading initiative.



William Bickerton sitting on far right, holding the Bible and Book of Mormon with the saints in St John Kansas

Restoration of the House of Israel—Mission to the Native American

In 1932, Brother WH Cadman, along with three other brothers, visited Chief George Nicholas and his wife on the Muncey Reserve in Ontario, Canada, which soon led to the establishment of a mission there. Shortly thereafter, in 1937, this work led to the planting of another mission on the nearby Six Nations Reserve. It would be nearly three more decades before another

1905

1906

1919

1920

1921



August –
The Gospel Reflector
is printed at the
Roscoe Ledger in PA

THE GOSPEL
REFLECTOR

Brother Alexander Cherry is
elected President of the Church



The work of the Church
in Ohio is started



January –
Sister Sadie Cadman starts
The Ladies Uplift Circle



April 19 –
The work of the Church
begins in Detroit



mission to the Native American would be established—the year was 1961, and the place was the southwest (United States)—on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Within a little over a decade other works were also established on nearby reservations, the first to the Whiteriver Apaches, and to the Navajo Nation in 1973. These five locations have met with many challenges over the years, but thanks to the commitment and determination of these congregations and their leaders, as of this writing, they are seeing more and more fruit from their labors.

Immigration

The unprecedented immigration to America in the early twentieth century had a profound impact on the Church. Many of these immigrants had escaped a cycle of poverty and oppression for what they hoped to be a land of freedom and opportunity. Many did find greater opportunities for employment and education, but for those who embraced the Gospel, the greatest treasure they found would not be of a material nature. They discovered a glorious Kingdom that transcends anything this world could possibly offer. Immediately following their conversions their thoughts turned to sharing this newfound wealth with their loved ones. This, along with other related factors, led to one of the greatest periods of growth the modern Church has ever seen. The harvest, which was primarily among Italian Americans, began in Pennsylvania and soon spread to Ohio in 1919. In just another two years it spread to Detroit, Michigan, and then in 1925 to the Atlantic Coast.

The Lure of the Sun

Shortly after World War II, there was a sharp rise in migration from the colder, industrialized north to the milder climes of the Southeast and Southwest. This affected the Church as well. In 1943 the Church was established in California, beginning in Los Angeles, soon spreading to other cities throughout the state. It wasn't long before the Church became established throughout the southeast, beginning in West Palm Beach, Florida in 1947, and then the southwest starting with Phoenix, Arizona, in 1960.

International Expansion

Expansion into foreign fields began slowly at first, but gained impetus in recent years under the leadership of Brothers Dominic Thomas and Paul Palmieri.

Canada: The first foreign mission established in Windsor, Canada in 1932 was an unexpected by-product of the missionary efforts that were just beginning on the Muncey Indian Reserve that same year.

Italy: Missionary efforts in Italy beginning in 1948 led to the establishment of our first missions overseas.

Africa: The door to the continent of Africa opened up the following decade with Brothers WH Cadman and Joseph Bitteringer traveling to Nigeria on August 4, 1954. The Church was soon established there with the baptism of thousands of members in a short period of time. As of this writing the Church is established in ten African nations, with members in many more.

Latin America: Brother Eddie and Sister Evelyn Purdue moved to Tijuana, Mexico in 1960 and a mission was established there that same year. The work has since grown to encompass over 13 missions throughout the nation. In addition the Church has established missions in six other Central and South American countries.

Asia: Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Alvin Swanson were used of the Lord to establish the Church in India in November of 1981. Since then many missions have been planted throughout the entire nation. The Church is also established in Nepal and the Philippines.

World Missionary Conferences: The Church has convened two World Missionary Conferences, the first of which was held in 1983 in the State of Virginia, and the second in Illinois in 1999. The primary focus of these conferences was on missionary work throughout the world, and a number of foreign nationals were invited. The most recent World Conference, held in

2011, included focus on the domestic Church here in the Americas.

Important Milestones

Headquarters: On October 19, 1930 the Monongahela Branch was dedicated and became Church headquarters.

Music: Songs have played a vital role in the focusing of our shared vision, engaging our youth, and energizing our worship and praise. The Church has published two hymnals. *The Saints Hymnal*, first published in 1931 is a compilation of hymns that includes well-known Christian refrains composed by members and by non-members of the Church. Later, in 1968, *Saints Favorites*, a compilation of hymns written by members of the Church was published. A third hymnal is currently in development. Many members of the Church have been blessed with inspiration to write songs of praise to God. Most notably, *The Songs of Zion*, enjoyed across the Church, is a collection of hymns given to Sister Arlene Buffington beginning in 1976 and now totaling over 200 hymns in two volumes.

Publications: The Church's first publication, *The Ensign* published in 1863, was intended to give the world an understanding of our beliefs and history. The official Church newsletter, *The Gospel News*, had its inaugural publication in March, 1938, with the printing of regular monthly issues beginning with the March 1945 issue. A motion was passed in 1976 to set up a fund that eventually led to the establishment of a Church Print House, under the leadership of Brother Alex Gentile, to facilitate the printing of Church materials in-house.

World Conference Center: The World Conference Center, now called the World Operations Center, was built in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and dedicated in the year 1970. Since then several additions have been added.

Let us praise the Lord together as we unite to celebrate 150 years of rich heritage found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

1922

1924

1930

1931

1932



Brother William H. Cadman, son of William Cadman, is elected President of the Church



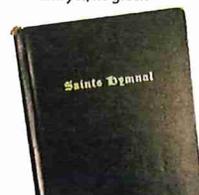
March 2 – The work of the Church in New Jersey begins



October 19 – The Monongahela Branch is dedicated and becomes headquarters of the Church



The Church publishes the first edition of the *Saints Hymnal*, and yes, it's green



The work of the Church in Canada begins on the Muncey Indian Reserve



By Elder Anthony J. Scolaro

One hundred fifty years after the establishment of our Church, we look back and celebrate, with thankful hearts, the amazing way in which the Lord restored and preserved this precious Gospel. We are humbled to know He has placed us as stewards over these treasures. Browsing through the July 1962 Centennial issue of the Gospel News on the Church website, I was struck by the accounts of the power of God and the gift of His Spirit that attended that conference, as told through the vivid memories of some who had heard these experiences from eyewitnesses.

As wonderful as these memories and recollections are, their relevance will inevitably wane with each new generation. With the year 1862 now half again as distant as it was in 1962, and our Church's extensive work in foreign fields, along with our Vision for domestic growth, how many of these historical details of the Church's establishment will resonate with our newest members? Should newcomers to the Church have the same affinity for the events of 1862 as we do? If they don't, how will they ever understand this Everlasting Gospel?

As we ponder the richness of our heritage, a parallel sequence of events in the history of the Church may offer some answers to these questions.

After Christ established His Church, in Jerusalem, on the American continent, and wherever else, He left eyewitnesses to the manifestations of God's power, and bestowed the gift of His Spirit upon them. For a time, 50, 100, maybe 150 years, those eyewitnesses and their experiences must have been a tremendous blessing to the saints. As time passed those voices faded, nevertheless the Gospel continued to go forth to many nations. The Church still grew despite these eyewitnesses passing on because the *evidence* of the Gospel, the full manifestation of God's Spirit and power, was still alive among the saints, and drew people to Christ.

History bears out what the scriptures had foretold,

that eventually this Gospel was obliterated from the face of the earth. Many who looked for evidence of its existence concluded, sadly, that they could not find it. Roger Williams, a clergyman living in New England during the 1600s, wrote, "There is no regularly constituted church of Christ on earth, nor any person qualified to administer any church ordinances; nor can there be until new apostles are sent by the Great Head of the Church for whose coming I am seeking." A century later John Wesley penned, "Ye different sects, who all declare 'Lo, here is Christ!' or, 'Christ is here!' Your stronger proofs divinely give, And show me where the Christians live."

But the Gospel has been restored, and we are the few among billions who fully understand the impact of that restoration. "Our Church's history is very relevant to all who would know Christ. We don't present our history as doctrine, but we recognize its importance and celebrate these milestones as they come. But merely knowing the history of our Church will not draw souls to Christ. The Restored Gospel, in its fullness, that manifestation of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, results from living and worshipping in unity and righteousness.

One of our brothers of old was known to challenge the brethren again and again, "What manner of men ought we to be?" As we make progress in meeting that challenge today, the realization of our Vision will bring a harvest of souls.

In the meantime, let us celebrate the Church's sesquicentennial together. Read from Volumes 1 and 2 of the Church History, and browse through some old Gospel News issues on the Church website. Newcomers to the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world will probably not experience the nostalgia some of us feel when we see the old pictures, read the names of the old saints, or hear the old hymns that were sung long ago. While every new member should understand the importance of our Church's origins, it is far more important for them to see the evidence of the Gospel in us, and experience for themselves that manifestation of God's Spirit and power.

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1934

February – The General Missionary Benevolent Association (GMBA) is organized with Brother Henry Johnson as its first President



1937

The mission in Six Nations is started



1938

The first edition of *The Gospel News* is printed with W.H. Cadman as its first editor



1943

July 3 – Brother John Gammichia of Detroit moves to Los Angeles, and the work in California begins



1947

January – Brother Mark Randy launches The Gospel Hour as the Church's first radio program out of Port Huron, Michigan



“I Was Left Alone”

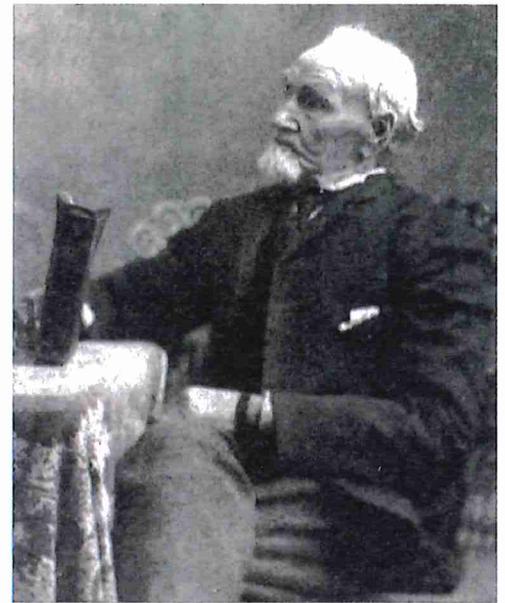
The Significance of William Bickerton’s Testimony

By Brother Daniel P. Stone

Three months after Joseph Smith Jr.’s assassination, his spokesman and counselor, Sidney Rigdon, left Nauvoo aboard the paddle wheeler *Osprey*. Knowing he would never return, Rigdon traveled to Pittsburgh to establish a continuation of the Church of Christ, the original name of Smith’s 1830 organization. In June 1845, a 30 year-old Methodist, William Bickerton, joined Rigdon’s congregation. According to the new convert, “Sidney Rigdon was the best orator I ever heard in classing the scriptures together,” attesting that “Sidney Rigdon had the power of God.” After his baptism, Bickerton eventually accepted ordinations as an elder and

Rigdon determined to build the New Jerusalem on Adventure Farm. According to Bickerton, Rigdon “went wrong after he came to Pittsburgh and wanted to make a gathering in the Emlenton Valley of the Allegheny Mountains.” Like Joseph Smith Jr., Rigdon aspired to erect a city to gather the saints of Zion. However, some members of the Church of Christ doubted his plans. Many gave generous donations to procure the farm, but later saw their investment crumbling. Bickerton wrote, “we had organized a school of the Prophets or solemn assemblies and many things was [sic] revealed to us showing things were going wrong, because the Lord had not interceded in their behalf.” Unable to make the final payment

on Adventure Farm, the property was seized with Rigdon’s followers losing approximately \$6,000. As the School of the Prophets foresaw, the Church of Christ fell into disarray, finally



As of now, the date of this photo is unknown.

“I was on the highest mountain on the earth: he told me if I did not preach the

Gospel, I would fall into a dreadful chasm below, the sight there was awful.”

evangelist. However, after the Church of Christ dissolved in April 1847 Bickerton, believing his ordinations came from God, dismally remarked, “**I was left alone.**” Members of The Church of Jesus Christ often recount this statement to evoke the heritage of Bickerton and the Church. Yet the significance of this remark is often overlooked. By examining the historical circumstances of his life, the saints can further comprehend the spiritual and emotional struggles he encountered. Bickerton found himself at personal junctures muddled with uncertainty, forcing him to reevaluate his religious convictions.

collapsing when Sidney Rigdon relocated to New York.

It is difficult to comprehend the bewilderment that Bickerton felt during this time. As a young man his religious confidence was tested. Yet this trial stirred his emotions and caused him to search for a truth. As he supported converts who lost faith and money in Rigdon’s church, Bickerton also contemplated his life. “I paused to know what course to follow. I know my calling was from heaven, and I also know that a man cannot build up the Church of Christ without divine command from the Lord, for it would only be sectarianism and man’s authority.” His convictions forced him

to seek an answer from God, which resulted in a vision. “I was on the highest mountain on the earth: he told me if I did not preach the Gospel, I would fall into a dreadful chasm below, the sight there was awful.” The vision reinforced Bickerton’s ordinations, as well as admonished him to continue preaching the Restored Gospel. However, in his mind the vision did not instruct whether he should form his own organization or preach in an existing church. His future was uncertain, prompting him to follow his heart.

From 1847 to 1850, Bickerton preached in numerous areas. Although he held anxieties about his lack of education, he persevered in sharing the Gospel. “I had to hold outdoor meetings, sometimes in public houses, streets or other places,” he recalled. He held his first meeting at the McKeesport ferry dock in Western Pennsylvania. In this location, bustling townspeople boarded the ferry to travel on the Youghiogheny and Monongahela

(Continued on Page 19)

Bickerton’s first self-examination began when

1954



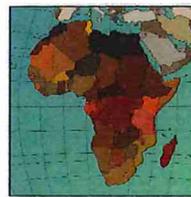
First missionary trip is made to a foreign field — Italy



June 26 — The California District is organized with Brother V. James Lovalvo as its first President



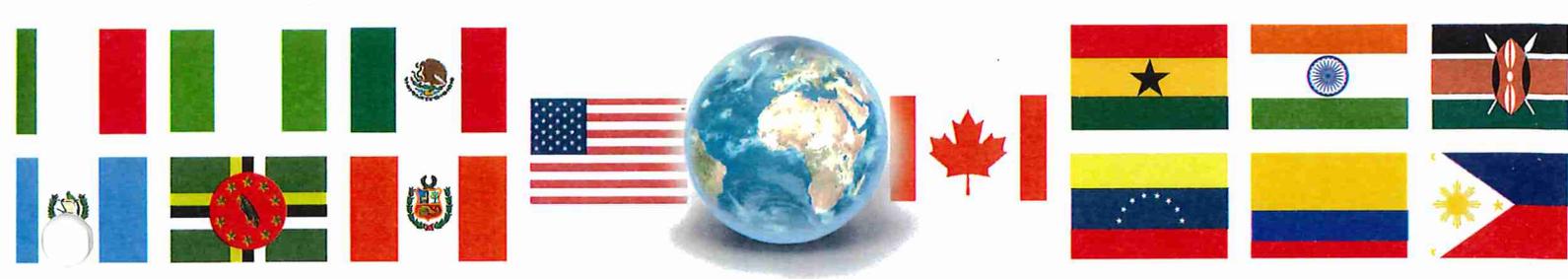
August 4 — Brothers William H. Cadman and Joseph Bittinger leave for Nigeria on the first missionary trip to Africa



1955

The first foreign Ladies Uplift Circle is established in Africa





INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY OPERATING COMMITTEE

By Evangelist Frank Natoli, IMOC Chairman

Today, the International Missionary Operating Committee (IMOC) of The Church of Jesus Christ shepherds over 16,000 members in 21 countries outside of the US and Canada. Currently, there are requests to visit nine new countries and we actively continue to receive inquiries and questions from another 13 countries!

The IMOC traces its roots to what was known as the 'Mission Board'. In the 1950's efforts to spread the Restored Gospel bore fruit by establishing the Church first in Italy, Nigeria and Mexico. Letters of inquiry were received from other countries, desiring to learn more about The Church of Jesus Christ and the hope of salvation. At times, the Gospel spread by word of mouth regarding the healings and miracles demonstrated among the early few who asked for missionaries to come and establish the Church in their country. Others who sought the simplicity and truth became curious about the Book of Mormon and our faith and doctrine, and contacted us. In every situation, the ministry relied on God's revelation to direct each step and decision. Prayerful reliance on the Lord, became the primary element in determining when to make the first missionary trip, exploring the sincerity and opportunity to establish the Church in each country. Soon opportunities in nearly every continent presented themselves and a new structure space was put in place to support this unprecedented growth in foreign fields. The Foreign Missionary Operat-

ing Committee (FMOC) was formed which over time became today's IMOC.

By revelation, the Lord opened doors in seven Central and South American countries, while thousands of miles away, the door to Asia opened with India and the fulfillment of dreams given 30 years earlier that the Gospel would go to the Philippines. This process occurred in country after country and continues to this today. Yet despite the sacrifices and challenges, great blessings accompanied these efforts such as the healings from leprosy, the lame given immediate ability to walk, the blind receiving their sight and on and on. Likewise, the work expanded in Africa and like many third world countries, with a simple way of life came the desire to share the joy of Christ with family and friends – today the Church is established in ten African nations.

The work of the IMOC touches nearly every member in the domestic church. Each of us understands the commission, given by Jesus... "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." - Matthew 28:18-20. Missionary trips typically focus on training and instructing ordained members, empowering them to further expand His king-

dom within their own countries – preaching, teaching, baptizing, building simple church structures to worship in, and helping establish a solid foundation. In some mission fields, we now have third generation members, rooted and grounded in evangelizing their own respective countries because of their love for Jesus Christ and His Church.

Have there been challenges over the many years since the foreign work began? Absolutely, but when compared to the blessings, joy and hope in Christ, those challenges are a dim reflection in the past. Despite cultural and social differences, language barriers, cost of travel to some of the more remote areas of the world and poor living conditions, we're continuously amazed at the joy and peace seen in their faces and their dedication to the things of God.

We've seen the demonstration and manifestation of the gifts and power of Christ in every continent. Members and non-members alike have received visions and dreams, witnessed demons being cast out, great healings of broken bones and broken hearts, and even the raising of the dead. What a joy and honor to live in the latter days - seeing The Church of Jesus Christ fulfill the promises Christ spoke of. We have been given the opportunity to spread the Restored Gospel, help to gather Israel and to usher in the building of Zion! The early brothers, who formed the 'Mission Board', had this same vision, and today we all labor to fulfill that vision.

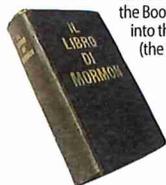


1958

1959

1960

The Church translates the Book of Mormon into the Italian language (the first of its kind)



The first missionary trip is made to Mexico



April – Conference sanctions a "Missionary Board" to oversee and regulate the missionary affairs of the Church



May 2 – The Michigan-Canadian District is organized with Brother Gorie Clarivino as its President



April – Ohio, Pennsylvania and Atlantic Coast Districts are created at the General Church Conference



The Restoration *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

A prophet for the ages, Isaiah's prophecies are most quoted in both the New Testament and Book of Mormon. Living in Judah, after the time the Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians, Isaiah's prophecies gave deliverance to the Israelites remaining in the Southern Kingdom. But more so, he spoke gloriously of the coming Messiah and of the wondrous events of the future. Here are five amazing facts regarding Isaiah's prophecies:

- 1 Of the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ - "And he (the Lord) shall set up ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel..." *Isaiah 11:12*
- 2 Of the Book of Mormon - "... (Joseph) shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust..." *Isaiah 29:4*
- 3 Of Joseph Smith - "And the book is delivered to him that is not learned..." *Isaiah 29:12*
- 4 Of the Divine Continuity - "...As the new wine (our Church) is found in the cluster (all of the Restoration factions), and one saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it..." *Isaiah 65:8*
- 5 Of William Bickerton - "... but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." *Isaiah 66:2*

Blessing Bits

BB He Is The Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever

When I was employed in the construction of a building in Detroit in November, 1921, I was handling material to the bricklayer I was standing on a board about one foot wide, which was supported by a scaffold some distance from the ground. Suddenly the board upon which I stood broke and fell to the ground; but I remained standing in mid-air, safe and sound. I was neither injured nor afraid, and I glorified God that I was preserved, although the board had broken and fallen from under me. I then stepped over to other boards which had not broken. It was just as if someone had held me up until I could reach a place of safety. Later I was telling this experience in a testimony meeting here in Detroit. The Spirit of God descended on one of the brothers, and he saw in a vision, that when the board had broken, the Lord Jesus himself came and held me by my arms to keep me from falling. I thank our Lord again and again that He saved me from perishing.
– Brother Ishmael D'Amico, *Detroit, MI*

BB He Can Heal The Blind

In 1889, I was baptized and I thank God that He had mercy upon me and drew me into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord has been my physician of both body and soul and I have witnessed many wonderful

gifts of healing. My little girl had scarlet fever. She was anointed and was instantly healed. A neighbor lady and two children died within one week of scarlet fever and one child of black tongue diphtheria. I also felt to pray to the Lord to restore my eyesight or make it possible for me to get glasses. The next morning I took my Bible and could see to read and I can do any kind of work. I never use glasses any more.
– Sister Minnie Kennedy, *Roscoe, PA*

BB And The Prayer of Faith Shall Save the Sick

In June, 1939, a very painful affliction came upon me. My face started to swell and my left eye was swollen shut. My husband, Brother Frank, took to me a specialist. The doctor found that I had a cauliflower cancer in my mouth. They quickly made arrangements to operate on me. I was very discouraged, but I told my husband that no doctor would ever operate on me, instead I will ask the Elders to anoint me. That evening, Brothers Joe Lovalvo and Marco Randazzo arrived at 12:30 with many brothers and sisters, to anoint me. The Lord heard their prayers and healed me. On the day of the surgery the swelling had disappeared and there was no need for an operation. After two sets of X-rays, the doctors finally admitted they could find no trace of cancer!
– Sister Leata Ford, *Windsor, Ontario*

1961

The work of the Church begun in Mexico



1963

The San Carlos Reservation work begins



Brother Thurman Furnier is elected President of the Church



1965

July – The first GMBA Campout is held on the Muncey Indian Reserve in Ontario, Canada



Brother Gorie Claravino is elected President of the Church

