



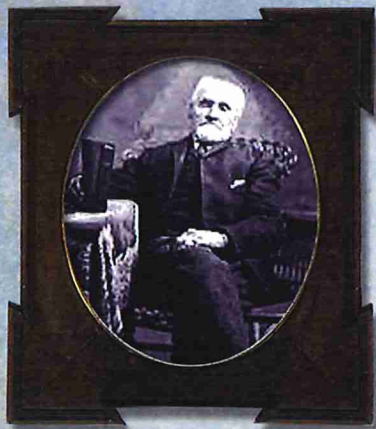
The Gospel News

150th

Anniversary

THE CHURCH OF
**Jesus
Christ**

In their own words...



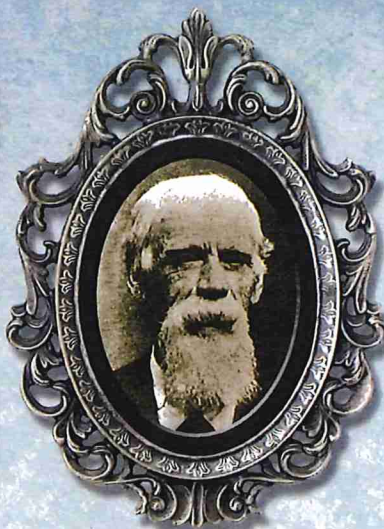
William Bickerton
(1862–1880)

I was born in London in 1815. When I was 32 years old, the Lord showed me a powerful vision in which I was on the highest mountain on the earth. He told me that if I did not preach the Gospel, I would fall into a dreadful chasm below.

I was the founder of The Church of Christ and the first President of the Church. I remained in this office until 1880. During those years, the Lord blessed us much as we reestablished His Church. We baptized and ordained many people and the gifts of God were prevalent among us.

My wife Dorothy and I had seven children. After Dorothy passed away, I married Charlotte. Charlotte and I had one child.

I was 90 years old when I died in 1905 in St. John, Kansas.



William Cadman
(1880–1905)

Born in England in 1833, I remember telling my mother, "Mother, when I get to be a man, I am going to America."

After I was married in 1856, my wife and I left for Liverpool to board a ship for New York. At the Liverpool port, we went aboard a ship and instantly, I was affrighted exceedingly; I never felt such a sense of fear. I said, "If we never go to America, we will not go on that ship."

Soon we found another ship. On the last three days of this 32-day journey, we had three days and nights of very stormy weather, which carried away our main mast and crippled our ship considerably. We finally dropped anchor in New York harbor. The next morning, I read in a newspaper that the first ship we were on went down and all hands were lost in the storm. I wondered why the Almighty manifested His care on us above all others.

Once in America, we found boarding at a tavern. One night, I heard people talking in the bar about religion. The bartender was correctly quoting scripture and defending a church of which he was a former member. Raised as a Methodist, I was familiar with the Bible.

I began attending their meetings and at first struggled much with the Book of Mormon. Prayerfully, I searched the Bible for a scripture that would state that the Book of Mormon is contrary, but I could find no such scripture. Being fully satisfied that the doctrine was sound and prompted by God to comply with the ordinance of baptism, I was baptized with my wife in December 1859.

I was President of the Church from 1880 until 1905.

God inspired me to write *Daniel's Little Horn* and the *Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ*.



Alexander Cherry
(1906–1921)

I was born in Scotland in 1856.

My parents brought me to the United States when I was seven years old. I married Amy Ann Westcoat when I was 17 and we had seven children. When I was 18, I was baptized and ordained an Elder five years later.

My focus was working for the Lord. In 1902, the Church authorized me to go to St. John, Kansas, to strengthen the Saints there. Also, in realizing the importance of the communication with the Saints, I began the first church newspaper, *The Gospel Reflector*, the predecessor to *The Gospel News*.

In 1904, the Quorum of Twelve once again needed to be filled, and I was ordained an Apostle at the conference in January 1904, along with ten other brothers. Brother William Cadman ordained me, and then I assisted Brother Cadman in ordaining the ten other brothers.

Also in 1904, I felt the need to have an organization solely dedicated to learning more about God's dealings with humanity, and of making small contributions to the missionary labors of the priesthood.

As we sought approval from the Conference of 1905, it became the source of considerable controversy, but ultimately the General Church gave its official stamp of approval. Today this organization is known as the Missionary Benevolent Association.

My life included a wonderful wife in the Church, blessing many children, marrying many couples, baptizing many, anointing many and praying with my brothers and sisters. I didn't have material things, but I was rich beyond compare. I was President of the Church from 1906–1921.



W.H. Cadman
(1922–1963)

I was born in West Elizabeth, PA, in 1876. When I was 20, I was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Within eight years, I was ordained an Evangelist and an Apostle.

I married Sister Sadie and we had four daughters.

I was the President of the Church from 1922 until 1963.

I founded *The Gospel News* and became its first editor. I wrote *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ* and helped to publish the *Saints Hymnal*, which is now affectionately called "The Green Book" by almost everyone.

In 1927, during the dedication of the Peace Bridge between Canada and Buffalo, NY, I was the only white man who the Indians of the Six Nations Reservation asked to participate.

I carried the Gospel to five Native American reservations and in 1954, when I was 77 years old, I helped to baptize more than 2,000 natives in the jungles of West Africa.

While I was President, the Church expanded greatly from a small regionally-confined Church in the hills of Western Pennsylvania and a small county in Kansas, to extend from the Atlantic Coast to California, and from Michigan to Florida.

As great as those days were, I told the Church in the last sermon I preached at Conference in April 1963, that there were better days coming.

Even though I had to be carried to the rostrum that day, I wanted to speak to His people. I died one week later at the age of 87.

A. Which President's mode of transportation was often a motorcycle?

B. Which President instituted the GMBA Special Projects Fund?

C. Which President had eight children?

D. Which President founded *The Gospel News*?

E. Which President was introduced to the Gospel in the most unusual place?

F. Which President had the foresight to establish the M.B.A.?

G. Which President first spotted his future wife at a Christmas program practice?

H. Which President, within three and a half years of his baptism, was ordained an Apostle?

Our Presidents' Stories

—Written by Sister Dianne Maddox



Thurman Furnier
(1963 – 1965)

I was born in Allenport, PA, in 1888. At 16 years old, I moved to Smock, PA, and met Birdie Riggen. We were married in 1907 and had three sons, Lonson, Vincent and Ether.

In early 1914, my mother-in-law met Mary Ann King. Soon they began to discuss religion. Mrs. Riggen told Mrs. King that she did not know of any church that was "built upon the plan as laid down by Jesus Christ"

Mrs. King said that she would be satisfied with the church that she and her husband belonged to and that he was an Elder in. Excitedly, my wife and mother-in-law arranged for a meeting to be held in our home. Word quickly spread and meetings were held in our home and in neighboring homes. Finding myself continually in prayer, I soon felt ready for baptism. In August of 1914, Birdie and I were baptized.

Shortly thereafter, we had just ended a wonderful Sunday morning meeting and were preparing for the afternoon service when I retreated into the woods in fasting and prayer. I asked God to baptize me with "fire and the Holy Ghost." In the afternoon meeting, a sister spoke in the gift of tongues. I testified and expressed my thankfulness to God for calling me into the Gospel, when suddenly the Power of God rested upon me and with uplifted hands, I cried out in a loud voice, "I have got it, I have got it!" It was the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost.

The Power of God was resting on me so greatly I felt that I could lift brick houses. Within three and a half years of baptism, I was ordained a Deacon, Teacher, Elder, Evangelist and Apostle and was soon preaching to the American Indians in Canada and South Dakota.



Gorie Ciaravino
(1965 – 1974)

I was born in Detroit, MI, in 1911.

Until I was 17 years old, my parents were strong atheists. Suddenly, my parents began to believe in the Lord and began a search for His church where we lived in New York.

On a vacation to Detroit, Brother Benenati introduced us to the Church. My parents were baptized in 1931.

During the next year on a trip, the Spirit of God began to question me, asking, "What will become of your soul should your life come to an end during this journey?" I promised the Lord that if I returned home, I would embrace the Gospel. I kept my promise.

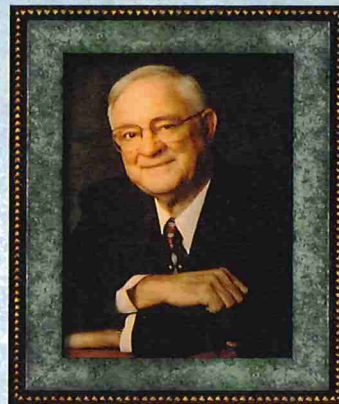
In 1932, I rode my motorcycle 400 miles to attend our General Church Conference. As I began, I felt an evil presence so close I felt as if I could touch it. This eight-hour trip turned into a 36-hour nightmare. I had motor trouble, flat tires and more. On the last leg of the trip, I had just begun up a hill, when I blacked out. Five days later, I woke from a coma. My prognosis was grim, therefore no attempts were made to repair my internal injuries and my broken back. My Brothers and Sisters prayed for me, and praise the Lord, He healed me. During my six week hospital stay, the Saints rallied around me and my family.

God told Sister Marietta Ruzzi that I was not to die and that He would use me in His due time, which He did.

At a May GMBA Conference, I met Sister Antoinette Aquilino and we were married in 1938. We had two children, Carol and Gordon.

I fulfilled the roles of General Church Assistant Secretary, Ordained Teacher, Elder, Evangelist, GMBA President, General Church Secretary, and Apostle.

In April 1965, I became President of the Church. I remained in this office until 1974.



Dominic Thomas
(1974 – 2005)

Born in 1924 in New Castle, PA, I was just an infant when my mother died. My father remarried in 1929, and we moved to Lorain, OH, where we met the Church.

In 1942, I moved to Detroit and began to pray that the Lord would give me a penitent spirit. I was baptized in February 1943, and in 1946, I married Sister Dolores Romano. We had three children: Jared, Jeffrey, and Rebecca.

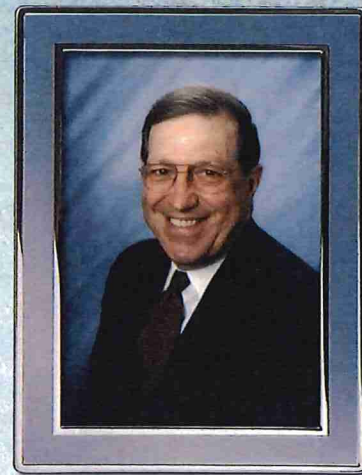
In 1950, I was ordained an Elder.

I was GMBA President for 18 years and led the GMBA through a time of innovation and growth. We introduced an *Organizer's Guide* to support new local MBAs, established Area MBAs and instituted the Special Projects Fund, which is still in existence today. One of the first projects helped by this fund was the General Church World Conference Center.

Ordained an Apostle in 1964, I became President of the Church in 1974. In 1983, we held the first World Missionary Conference. This brought more membership of the Church from all over the world together than ever before. Shortly after this conference, several missionaries died which raised much concern in my mind over the work at home and abroad.

I had a short dream in which I found myself at a church gathering. In one corner of the room, a sister sat weeping. I went to her side trying to console her, but she refused to be comforted.

Looking at me through her tears, she said in a loud voice, "The Great Work of the Lord!" After the fourth effort, I awoke. This dream left me with a conviction that we as a people need to press on with the work of the Lord in spite of any and all setbacks that come to the Church.



Paul Palmieri
(2005 – present)

I was born in West Aliquippa, PA, on April 9, 1933.

My father had arrived from Italy just 13 years before my birth and he waited eight years for my mother to arrive. I am thankful for my parents who taught me to love God and people, to be good to my fellow man and to enjoy life, regardless of the circumstances. We were not the richest people in our town but we had a happy family and we always had enough.

Brother Dominic Jackman introduced my family to the Gospel and my parents were faithful members of the Church all of their lives.

In December 1952, at a Christmas program practice, I spotted Ruth Eleanor Deluca. In June of 1956, we were married. Though we met at church, neither of us was baptized. But thank God, just two months later, I felt the Spirit of God calling me to serve Him and I was baptized. My wife was baptized in November of that same year.

We have one son, Paul Aaron. On April 16, 1967, I was ordained an Elder. I have been blessed to fulfill many roles in the Church, including the *Gospel News* Editor, General Church Executive Secretary, and GMBA President. I have also had the opportunity to bring the Gospel to many other countries including Nigeria, Mexico, Italy, India, England, Poland, Guatemala, the Philippines and Peru.

In October 1986, I was ordained an Apostle and in 2005, I became President of the Church.

A - Gorie Ciaravino
B - Dominic Thomas
C - William Bickerton
D - William H. Cadman
E - William Cadman
F - Alexander Cherry
G - Paul Palmieri
H - Thurman Furnier

High Hopes and Expectations - A Time For Action

By Evangelist Joel Gehly, NAOC Chairman

"Now, my Brethren and Sisters; we have high hopes and expectations, not in the least too high, in as much as they are true." -Bro William Cadman, 1899

One of the great purposes of the restoration and therefore, The Church of Jesus Christ, is the firm belief and expectation that Israel will be restored to their former position and glory in the sight of God when they accept Jesus Christ as Savior. Mormon stated, "...this I speak unto their seed (Lamanites), and also to the Gentiles who have care for the house of Israel, *that realize and know from whence their blessings come.*" (emphasis writer) Mormon goes on to state concerning The Book of Mormon and the Gentiles, "...that they (house of Israel) may be persuaded that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God; that the Father may bring about, through his most Beloved, his great and eternal purpose, in restoring the Jews, or all the house of Israel, *the land of their inheritance, which the Lord your God hath given them, unto the fulfilling*

of his covenant. And also that the seed of this people (Lamanites) may more fully believe his gospel, which shall go forth unto them from the Gentiles..." (Refer to Mormon 5: 10, 14, 15)

The Church of Jesus Christ has understood and been persuaded of this great purpose for the entirety of our history. Countless brothers and sisters over these past years have been dedicated to this commission and endeavor. It would be impossible to name them all, but today we see a few of the results. Church missions such as Muncey, Saugeen and Six Nations, Canada; San Carlos, AZ; Lakeside, AZ; Tse Bonito, NM; plus a handful of others are the current results of many labors.

I would like to emphasize The Church of Jesus Christ today must realize from 'whence our blessings come.' Belief and conviction must be translated into action. Believing and having faith in a truth does not by itself result in a desired outcome. The scripture states that, the devils also believe and tremble (that there is One God). Therefore believing a truth does not result in the eventual fulfillment of that truth. Action is necessary. The Church of Jesus Christ must understand, believe and ACT on the words of the prophet Mormon. The house of Israel is waiting for us now.

Is the task huge? Yes. There are literally 500+ tribal entities identified throughout the USA alone. There is a similar number or more in Canada. Are we inadequate for the task? Yes. God always uses the small, the weak, and the unlikely to accomplish His purposes. Can The Church of Jesus Christ do what God has commanded us to do - give the gospel of Jesus Christ to the house of Israel?

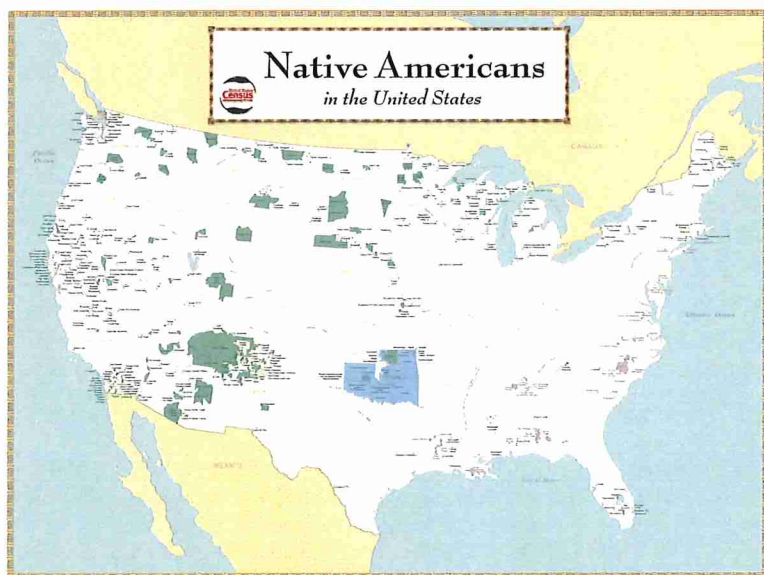
ABSOLUTELY, with God's power.

Brothers William Bickerton and William Cadman had this identical experience when on one of the first missionary trips to the Indian Territory in 1868.

"Next morning, early, I awoke from sleep and found myself in a large building, apparently as large as the world; its height, breadth, and length seemed all the same, and I could see perfectly, all its extremities; its grandeur was entirely bewildering. I was astonished, exceedingly, and said to myself, "Why, this is not where I lay down." I then said to myself, "This must be a vision." (Bro William Cadman) Years later, Bro Cadman was given the interpretation of the vision. He states, "We did not appreciate the glory of that vision, which represented the glory of Zion; we had no inclination to inquire what was meant by its wondrous beauty, and its vast extent, ...We can never expect to attain to the heavenly by pursuing the earthly. We had not a comprehensive understanding of what we were then attempting; hence our failure."

After 150 years, The Church of Jesus Christ has a more comprehensive understanding of what God has asked us to attempt and complete. However, we still are putting earthly things before the heavenly. This cause of past failure with the house of Israel must be reversed and our dedicated actions must be focused more fully upon Israel. Today is the time to do so. Are we giving up on the Gentiles? Not in the least. As we, The Church of Jesus Christ, focus our actions upon the house of Israel, Mormon assures us that the Gentiles will be blessed. The Church, in the hands of the Gentiles today, still will receive many from all nations and walks of life that are not part of the family of Jacob.

In conclusion, I ask all members of The Church of Jesus Christ today to pray for the house of Israel every day. Inquire of the Lord, what action you can do to restore Israel to the true and living God. For a restored Israel, The Church of Jesus Christ has high hopes and expectations - today!



1968

The Southeast District is established

The Church publishes the spiral bound *Saints' Favorites* with hymns entirely written by members



The Finance Committee is started



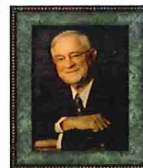
1970

The General Church Auditorium is dedicated



1974

Brother Dominic Thomas is elected President of the Church



The Changing Face

The Church of Jesus Christ

by Evangelist Timothy Mott

Since the time that the early Restoration Movement found its initial success with settlers of English descent, the face of The Church of Jesus Christ has shifted. The early converts to the Restored Gospel message predominantly traced their ethnic roots to the lands of Northern Europe – many of them direct descendants of those who had escaped the religious persecution of their homelands in order to find a new land in which tolerance prevailed. These pioneers were used by God to purify false doctrines that had entered into the church. They were open to divine direction and allowed the Almighty to institute God's workings with them and made our beloved Church what it is today.

As the Church celebrated its 50th anniversary, it would soon usher in the era of the Italian. From the time the Saints shared their first testimonies with Italian railroad workers and coal miners, the Italian people took hold of the Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ soon experienced its most explosive domestic growth to date. They brought a charismatic spirit and a love for music that endures to this day. The Saints also shared the Gospel with men and women of African American descent – an act that unfortunately was not common in that era. Efforts were also made to preach amongst Native Americans. With the arrival of each new group, the face and character of the Church would forever be changed.

By the time we were celebrating our 100th anniversary, organic growth began to shift to geographic growth. The Saints were moved upon by God's Spirit to move south and west. The traditional strongholds of such places as Monongahela and Youngstown would see their peak growth begin to subside as many families relocated to such new places as California, Arizona and Florida. Additionally, the Church began receiving letters from around the world beckoning us to take the Gospel message to the four corners of the globe. Only with this above growth could we truly compare ourselves to the Church of the Lamb of God in 1 Nephi 14 as the church was upon all the face of the earth." Finally, in the United States we began to see an influx of people of Latin American descent, with many of them tracing their heritage to indigenous tribes of the Americas. With them they brought a new sound and cheerfully added themselves to our Changing Face.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, we must reflect on the following question: What good is history if we cannot learn from it? We surely do not want to be like the Zoramites in Alma 31 and only look to history as a tool to lift us up in pride. Let's look back at our progenitors in the Restored Gospel and see how we measure up.



They were humble: Our predecessors were in love with the Gospel, not worldly wealth. Possessions couldn't distract them from spreading the love of their lives.

They were righteous: The early Restoration Saints' righteousness allowed them to be moved by the Holy Spirit, causing sinners' hearts to be pierced.

They bore their testimony: They were willing to bear their testimony to the most unlikely of Gospel candidates, especially those who were ethnically or socio-economically different than they.

Do you hold back your testimony because you are waiting to find someone similar to yourself, someone that you feel would be open to the Church? Too often we allow our mind to guide our daily missionary endeavors, pushing aside the Spirit of God that is patiently waiting to give us direction. Ironically, it is the lack of that same Spirit that inhibits our testimonies to be truly effective. However, let us not consider the battle already lost. While we live in an era that the world considers the most advanced in history, we can still say that there is something missing. God's Word is everlasting, and it continues to tell us that none of the advances of our time can negate the following fact:

Men and women are still searching for divine truths.

As Jesus said in Matthew 4, "Man shall not live by bread alone." Let's rededicate our life purpose to the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. If we want to achieve the success of our predecessors, that means being humble in our goals for material wealth, yet rich in our spiritual ones. It means living righteous lives that allow the Spirit of God to abound in us. And finally it means cheerfully giving our testimony to those that may not look or talk like us. As you take time to reflect on your small part of these 150 years, start to look for a face that is missing the satisfaction of knowing God; a face that will continue to change the collective face of The Church of Jesus Christ. After all, no matter what color our skin, what language we speak, or what generation we were born into, we all need "the glory of God."

1975

1976

1978

The Southwest District is established



The first missionary trip is made to Ghana



The first Urban Indian Committee is established



The Print House is started



The General Church Law and Order is printed



LUC Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Sweet Fellowship & Dedicated Service

By Karen L Progar, President and Lisa Champine, Vice President

Thinking about the past and studying the strides taken by those who created our organization can be a great way to learn what we the women of 2012 can do today. We learn from the example of those we may not have known.

These sisters faced and overcame many challenges. The world was a much different place for women when the Ladies' Uplift Circle (Circle) was organized in 1920. Women were granted the privilege to vote the same year. Surely many at that time did not imagine the impact women might have on the Divine Commission of The Church of Jesus Christ, the work among Native American people.

Sister Mabel Bickerton shared an experience she had with the circle sisters, stating that at the conclusion of her presidency a new era had begun, one of strengthening. In her experience

she was given to understand that Sister Sadie Cadman's time formed a strong foundation, principles and practices that Circles still follow today. Sister Mabel saw her presidency as a time of building, when a majority of the local circles were organized, including Circle in India, Canada and Mexico.

With Sister Arline Whitton, who followed Sister Mabel as president, began a time for strengthening our Circles, encouraging more unity and love. Today we continue to keep those early principles alive, while recognizing the need for involvement of all women of the Church.

Going back to that rich history, it is marvelous to note that even though the United States was in the grips of a "Great Depression", the sisters funded many printing needs and numerous missionary travels. Not many of those early Circle sisters worked outside of the home, yet they were able to meet all needs presented to their small group. The Church history has countless entries regarding the funds made available by the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Today we often marvel at the large contributions made by a relatively small group. The answer is the same today as it was then, God gives the increase.

There is a quote from Sis. Sadie that is so lovely and simple it embodies what the spiritual aspects of the Ladies' Uplift Circle was, is and

(Continued on Page 18)



Sisters at the 85th Anniversary in 2005.

GMBA GMBA News

The Impact of the MBA

By Brother Daniel P. Stone

The Gospel News shares a special relationship with the Missionary Benevolent Association. Since 1945, the publication reported the impact of the MBA upon The Church of Jesus Christ. For the Church's sesquicentennial, it seems appropriate to share some reports over the past sixty-seven years. As you will notice, the accounts speak for themselves.

"I am interested in the Missionary Benevolent Association. To me it is the stepping-stone to the Church. The M.B.A. is a wonderful association, especially for the young people" (Frank Giovanne, The Gospel News, April 1945, 3).

"A young Lamanite woman from the Grand River Reservation testified to the value of the M.B.A. in leading her to a knowledge of the Book of Mormon" (Ruth E. Akerman, The Gospel News, July 1954, 1).

"Once more we have gathered together, to bid a young Brother adieu; and with God's help will endeavor, to send him off with a blessing that's true. Three years ago, in the month of May, there was a conference called the M.B.A. To this meeting you were invited, to meet the young who were united. You accepted this invitation to satisfy a friend, never thinking that the outcome might be such a joyous end. For the love that you encountered, you could hardly comprehend, to find a people so beloved; entreat a stranger as a friend. Thus returning home, you had a change of heart, made a promise within yourself; a new journey you must start" (Mary Ward, The Gospel News, August 1960, 2).

(Continued on Page 18)

1980

The first edition of *The Songs of Zion* is published



1981

The first missionary trip is made to India

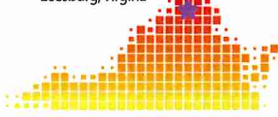


1983

Membership reaches more than

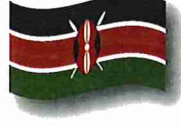
6,000

The first World Missionary Conference is held in Leesburg, Virginia



1985

The first missionary trip is made to Kenya



The Ladies Uplift Circle is established in India



"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! His Truth Is Marching On"

By Elder Duane Lovalvo

In the summer of 1862 the dark clouds of civil war rumbled across the American continent. In the East, near Richmond, Virginia, the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia clashed over a seven day period (June 25 – July 1, 1862), leaving 30,000 men dead or wounded on the field of battle. The campaign to capture the Southern capital of Richmond was a total failure. The Union army was forced to withdraw northward past Chesapeake Bay, ending President Lincoln's hopes for a quick end to the war and ensuring that a prolonged struggle lay ahead.

Abraham Lincoln had ascended to the Presidency in the election of 1860 on a platform of "no extension of slavery to the territories". His surprising victory prompted South Carolina to secede from the Union. On April 12, 1861, the opening shots of the war were fired on Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor. Nevertheless, Lincoln was determined to prevent the breakup of the United States. A year later, he became convinced that freeing the slaves must be made a goal. Lincoln could not have known that God's hand was already moving.

In a village called Green Oak, Pennsylvania, in a humble building, the July Conference of 1862 (July 5-8, 1862) was convened by a small body of Christian saints. As William H. Cadman states, "We always refer to this time when speaking of the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ." (A History of the Church of Jesus Christ, William H. Cadman, p.34) At this conference, twelve Apostles were called and ordained to lead the Church. The word of the Lord was spoken, "...oh ye Twelve, whom I have chosen and ordained; I commit unto you the Keys of the Kingdom; and no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper until you have finished your work. I will make you as a bow and my word shall go from you as an arrow and many shall cry out, 'What shall we do?'" (Cadman, p. 34-35)

In 1862 the Branches of The Church of Jesus Christ were nestled in a few rural towns in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Wheeling, West Virginia. Pittsburgh was a growing industrial center that provided necessary items to the war effort such as food, clothing, shoes, coal and iron. Of course the modes of transportation available to Americans in those days were limited to trains, steam boats, horse drawn carriages, and foot power. When President Lincoln put out the call in 1861 for a volunteer army of 300,000 men, no doubt the brothers and sisters watched thousands of young Pennsylvanians rush to recruiting stations in Allegheny County. There could be no doubt also that as the war dragged on the Saints bore witness to many veterans returning home bearing the scars of war as amputees. And yet, all the while they maintained their focus, laboring diligently to expand the Church and fulfill God's commandments during these difficult times.

God could not have been pleased with this country when the "peculiar institution" of slavery was allowed to thrive for nearly one hundred years in a land that upheld the notion that all citizens retained the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thirty years prior, Joseph Smith received a revelation that a civil war was coming to America. "Verily, thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the Rebellion of South Carolina which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls...for behold the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States; and the Southern States will call on other Nations." (Cadman, p. 13)

Just as Joseph Smith had predicted, the Southern States did indeed call on Great Britain for military aid and recognition as an independent nation. While the British mulled over their decision the will of God began to prevail.

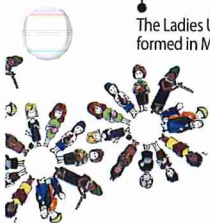
Before he could announce his intention to free the slaves, President Lincoln needed a victory in battle to prove to the world that the Union would stand. That triumph finally came on September 17 at Antietam Creek. General McClellan's Army of the Potomac finally succeeded in cornering General Robert E. Lee's army at Sharpsburg and forced them back across the Potomac at a terrible cost in lives for both sides. On September 22, Lincoln admitted to his cabinet that he had made a covenant with God that if the army drove the enemy from Maryland he would issue his Emancipation Proclamation. "I think the time has come", he said. (Battle Cry of Freedom, James McPherson, p. 557)

In 1864, the tremendous number of casualties incurred by the northern army prompted the President to call for 500,000 more men to bolster the ranks, this time as conscripts obtained through a national draft. We can speculate that during the war the Church encouraged its members to refrain from volunteering for military service. A draft, however, would leave members no choice. The Lord knew the minds of the saints. At the July Conference of 1864, in Green Oak, the gift of tongues was given to Sister Amanda Bickerton and interpreted "Any of my servants that are forced out into this war, if they keep the covenant they made with me at the Water's Edge, I will protect them; for I am God; I am strong to deliver..." (Cadman, p. 47)

Thus, we see that while this land was wracked with civil war the Lord blessed and protected his children in the Church. Not coincidentally, after the Church was organized in July of 1862 God's power and the prayers of the saints brought about a change in the tide of the war. In the end, and at tremendous cost, the United States of America were preserved and the slaves were set free. Truly the saints, then and now, could testify that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

1987

The Ladies Uplift Circle is formed in Mexico



The first missionary trip is made to Guatemala



1993

April – The Church's "Districts" are restructured to better serve the members, and renamed "Regions"



1994

The Youth In Action begins with its first tour in the Fort Worth Mission in Texas



1995

The first missionary trip is made to Dominica



The first missionary trip is made to Peru





The Church has not changed

God which church he should join. The Lord sent an angel and told him to join none of them. He would be used to form a church with the restored Gospel.

An angel of God visited him and showed him a hidden book made of golden plates (sheets) written in an ancient language by the people who had once covered the Americas. It was buried in a stone box along with some other treasures.

The plates had information that powerful prophets from the days of the Tower of Babel had written down about how God worked with them. God brought these first people called the Jaredites from far across the ocean. They came to the Americas in approximately 2200 B.C. and knew about Jesus. Way back in those days, they kept records on thin sheets of gold made into a book. We follow the same rules of serving God they did. They left their records behind that were discovered by

the next group of people God brought to this Promised Land. These people were the family and friends of the prophet Lehi. They came in 600B.C., to settle in this Promised Land. They were the ancestors of the Native Americans (called Indians by Columbus) and many great nations covered the land. They also knew of Jesus.

Some of these people built and lived in palaces in South America, but they still followed God and the same rules of Christ as we do. These first believers were guided by God when they fasted and prayed just as we do today. Their ministers were not paid, (See Mosiah2: 14-17) just as we do not pay ours. They were taught to love and care for others just as we are taught and they kept records to teach us. These rules have not changed.

The prophet, Mormon, put all the records together and wrote a shortened version for us.

(Continued on Page 19)

When I was a girl I knew several old people in our Church who had been born in the 1800s. They often sat around and told us things they did. Brother Reno Bologna, who went to Detroit Branch #2, was almost 102 years old when he passed away this spring. He told us of the many changes in the world that he had witnessed.

He was a boy living in Pennsylvania when he heard a strange sound in the quiet sky and looked up to see something shaped like a cross buzzing across the sky. As he started running to his house calling to his mother, he saw some other children pointing and shouting "Airplane! Airplane!" Brother Reno had seen his first, old fashioned bi-plane. In those early days people in America did not have electricity, telephones or cell phones. Many people did not have running water, or heat and air conditioning inside their homes. Yet, as the years passed and knowledge increased, Brother Reno even saw men travel into space. As a young man he found The Church of Jesus Christ, studied the Book of Mormon and Bible, prayed, and became a minister. He saw many styles come and go and many new inventions discovered in his lifetime, but the Gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ did not change.

In 1823 God heard the prayers of a fifteen-year-old boy, Joseph Smith, who was asking

WORD SEARCH

THE	EIGHTEEN
CHURCH	SIXTY
OF	TWO
JESUS	WE
CHRIST	USE
WAS	SAME
SET	BIBLE
UP	AND
BY	BOOK
WILLIAM	OF
BICKERTON	MORMON
IN	TODAY

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

1996

The second World Missionary Conference is held at Olivet University with 1,300+ people in attendance



1999

The first missionary trip is made to Venezuela



2000

The first missionary trip is made to Columbia



The first missionary trip is made to the Philippines



2002

Renovations are made to the General Church Auditorium and it is renamed the World Operations Center



2003

The first missionary trip is made to Nepal



Green Oak, Pennsylvania Birthplace of The Church of Jesus Christ

Studying in our MBA class in Herndon, Virginia from A History of The Church of Jesus Christ, we read the account on page 111 of Brothers Alexander Cherry and Charles Ashton locating the foundation of the old Green Oak church building on July 9, 1907. It read as follows:

We found it a little after eleven o'clock and when we stood gazing at the walls of the once honored and never to be forgotten spot where God spoke to our ancient brethren to ordain and set apart twelve Apostles, to be His special witness of their dispensation, we felt at that moment to sing: "What are these arrayed in white, brighter than the noon-day sun?" We felt that we were standing on Holy ground. We felt as if the spirits of our brethren were present to bid us welcome. We then bowed in solemn prayer and oh what a calm and Holy peace in our souls that time will never erase from our memory. And, oh how we felt the responsibility that rests upon us as their successors.
– President Alexander Cherry

As we read, a desire began to swell in my chest. I wanted to see the place where it all began. There is not much information recorded, but what I found was helpful.

The Green Oak Church building burned down just hours after a conference in 1871 and was never rebuilt. The property was sold in 1874. When our brothers found the site in 1907, it was owned by the Pennsylvania McKeesport Railroad. It took them about thirty minutes to locate the foundation. Brother W. H. Cadman also found the location, six or eight miles from the city of McKeesport, in the summer of 1961. He wrote "The place was so badly grown up with bush, that hardly any trace of the building could be found".

With this information in hand and a prayer in our hearts, my wife, Sister Jessie, and I set out for the Allegheny County Building to do some

research. We knew if we started with land that the railroad owned in the early 1900's in the McKeesport area we could narrow it down from there. We began our search on July 9, 1998 and knew that it would not be easy to find the location of a building that stood for such a brief time over 136 years ago. What happened next was nothing short of a miracle.

When we purchased a detailed map of the area and found some possible locations, we decided to go to the town of Greenock to see what we could find instead of searching through the county land records. As we passed through town we saw a building, the Elizabeth Township Historical Society, and decided to stop. We noticed the building was closed but knocked anyway. The woman that eventually came to the door informed us the building was closed for the summer for repairs, but would re-open in September. While we stood there discussing what we would do next, she added, "The Executive Director is upstairs if you would like to speak with him." We went upstairs and introduced ourselves to an elderly gentleman sitting at a large table leafing through an old book. I told him that we were looking for the location of a church building that stood on the bank of the river in the mid 1800's. He immediately replied, "Do you mean the old Mormon church?" I began to briefly explain the history of the Church and that we were not part of the Mormon church when he interrupted, "The church is still in existence with a headquarters building in Monongahela. I know exactly where it was!" Jessie and I stood there in awe as he gave us exact directions to the spot where the old Green Oak church building once stood. He informed us that the foundation was removed in the 1930s by the railroad and showed us the information on The Church of Jesus Christ recorded in the book Between Two Rivers, a history of Elizabeth Township. He also told us that our Church history was in their library. After offering our thanks and promising to furnish him with a more accurate history for

their book, we anxiously followed his directions.

The directions we were given led us to a lot located on the bank of the Youghiogheny River. It was so heavily wooded we could not walk through, but proceeded down the hill closer to the river on an adjacent property. With the foundation removed, I wondered, how could we ever confirm the location? As we gazed through the large old trees, we noticed a spot in the center of the lot that was grown up with weeds almost five feet high, but there were no trees. The sun shone brightly down directly on the spot. No doubt this was where the building once stood. After offering a prayer of thanks, we just stared at the spot. I believe it was no coincidence that we found the location on July 9th, exactly ninety-one years after Brothers Cherry and Ashton. An overwhelming feeling came over me as I realized the foundation of the building had been removed, but the foundation that was laid on this site is still in existence today and will never pass away. It is the foundation of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is a portion of an article by Brother Richard L. Scaglione, Jr. printed in The Gospel News in 1998.



Green Oak Church site (starred) on an 1876 map, courtesy of Historic Pittsburgh digital archives

2004

2005

The first missionary trip is made to Malawi



Membership reaches more than

10,000

The Ladies Uplift Circle is established in Malawi



The first missionary trip is made to the Congo



The first missionary trip is made to Rwanda



Brother Paul Palmieri is elected President of the Church



Sweet Fellowship & Dedicated Service

Continued from page 14

should always be. Sister Sadie said that she "... felt to rally the sisters in the Gospel to see if we could raise our lives to a higher standard in the Gospel, not for earthly gain, but to raise our hearts and minds heavenward." We have been proficient fundraisers for the Church, but that is not the main goal of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Our goal, above everything else, is to provide an atmosphere of spiritual growth for the women of The Church of Jesus Christ, regardless of age or station in life.

How do we do this? We do it by meeting together as local Circles as often as we can. We study the scriptures together. We create places where we might interact and have fellowship with one another as women of the Church. We hold fast to the guidelines set by our very first Circle members and we use those things to instruct and encourage. Some might look at our organization and think that elements of it are antiquated or not relevant to the sensibilities of its membership today. That could not

be further from the truth. Our early sisters knew the benefit and necessity of scripture study that lays a foundation for well-rounded women who can be used by God to further the work of His kingdom.

Sweet Fellowship and Dedicated Service is not an empty catch phrase to the members of the Circle. Our membership across the world began with one sister's desire to do more. Over 92 years every era of the Circle has pushed it to the next level. Every organization must grow and change, but to change and lose sight of the aims set forth by divine inspiration would be detrimental to future growth. Keeping the aims of the past and moving those aims to the future is what has kept the Circle alive and in many ways flourishing. Sister Elizabeth Simpson introduced a new concept, Ladies' Circle Retreats. Sister Elizabeth's favorite saying was, 'If it is to be, it's up to me'. These fellowship events were so successful that Sister Arline Whitton adapted that concept into what we now know as General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fel-

lowship Weekends that have brought the sisters immeasurable joy.

We have not stopped there. A sister saw a need for her daughters and began what she called Little Ladies Circle (LLC) in the Mesa local. Just to show how history repeats itself, many years earlier sisters in Monongahela saw the same need and created a young girls circle. When LLC was recently reported at the General Conference, it created quite a stir. Today there are LLCs popping up in many Areas from the East to the West.

What will the future of the Circle hold? Only the Lord knows for certain. But as long as we have willing workers that will hold fast to the principles set down at the beginning and move forward with inspiration and excitement, there is no limit to what the General Ladies' Uplift Circle can do to aid the spreading of the Gospel found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sweet Fellowship and Dedicated Service will always be the rallying cry of the Circle.

The Impact of the MBA *Continued from page 14*

"Brother Thomas invited the Teen Age Class to participate in a short question and answer session with him. He asked each what the M.B.A. meant to them individually. The answers varied in their presentation, but their context was similar. They enjoyed attending M.B.A. for the companionship of their peers and for the religious instruction taught them. The majority concluded that what they are taught in church should accompany them in school, among their friends and all whom they come in contact with. If they cannot bring a friend to M.B.A., they will take the M.B.A. to the friend!" (The Gospel News, April 1973, 11).

"The General Missionary Benevolent Association (GMBA) has also been deeply involved in backing missionary activities, among its many disbursements. A recent analysis of GMBA projects has disclosed an astounding amount of funds, over \$100,000, having been donated between 1978 and 1987 to the Church, ranging from funds for missionary work, which made up the largest percentage, to the printing of literature and songs" (Carl J. Frammolino, The Gospel News, April 1988, 4).

"The 1998 GMBA Campout was held at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, from June 27 to July 3, 1998. The theme, "For Even Me," was one that touched the hearts of everyone who attended. Even before the start of the camp, God showed us that He would be there bless-

ing us. Sister Kay Gray had a dream, prior to the camp, in which the Lord had sent angels to prepare and guard the camp for His saints" (Linda Ali, The Gospel News, February 1999, 1).

"A crucial growth aspect of the GMBA lies in the physical support provided by programs such as Youth in Action, which has four planned trips for 2003. Young people will be assisting with the works in the Inner City of Detroit; Lorain, Ohio; Hollywood, Florida and Dominica. In addition, two young people are being chosen for an extended tour in Fort Worth, Texas that will last the entire summer. It is very exciting to see the programs of the GMBA take such bold and progressive steps" (Karen Progar, The Gospel News, January 2003, 4).

"Brother Jim [Sgro] shared a story about how Brother Augie D'Orazio spontaneously took charge of a mid-week MBA meeting because he felt the Spirit prompting him to speak to the young people. He exhorted them with all the energy of his soul. The next week, Brother D'Orazio passed away. Often we minimize the importance of God's dealings with us, but Brother Jim begged us to realize that there is no such thing as a little blessing, a little miracle - or a little work. Although mentoring and counseling those who are less experienced may not seem like a very glamorous way to labor for the Lord, it is vitally important. If it wasn't important, then why is The Book of Mormon filled with death-bed speeches?" (Michelle Watson, The Gospel News, February 2010, 9).

2006

The first missionary trip is made to Ecuador



The Ladies Circle Blog starts



2007

The first missionary trip is made to Zambia



The Ladies Uplift Circle is started in Rwanda



2009

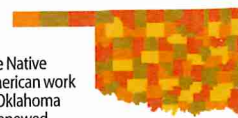
The first missionary trip is made to Mozambique



Membership reaches more than

15,000

The Native American work in Oklahoma is renewed



"I Was Left Alone"

Continued from page 7

ivers. Among crowds Bickerton attempted to impact lives, and by 1851 he gathered a small following of converts. However, unsure how to accommodate his congregation, Bickerton associated himself with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is peculiar that Bickerton joined the Latter-day Saints. While affiliated with Rigdon he heard rumors of polygamous relationships in Utah and denounced contemporary Mormon thought. However, despite his concerns, during this lapse he disregarded the reports. He most likely felt overwhelmed while endeavoring to foster a growing congregation, wanting more stability for his converts.

For a short period of ten months, Bickerton and his congregation worshipped as Mormons. But when news reached that all members were required to officially condone the doctrine of polygamy, Bickerton declared, "If the approval of God were to come to me by accepting the doctrine of polygamy, I prefer the displeasure of God." For a time Bickerton dedicated himself to the Latter-day Saints, but by his repudiation of plural marriage he proved his morals could not be revised. He forsook the Mormons and denounced Young, again finding himself without an official church.

On March 10, 1852, Bickerton met with the West Elizabeth congregation to definitively announce his separation from the Latter-day Saints. In a written declaration the members asserted, "We the undersigned have left off all connection whatsoever with Brigham-Young and the Twelve, whose headquarters or home is the Valley of the Great Salt Lake - because of their [sic] adultery and general wickedness." Twice Bickerton found himself at personal junctures and denounced church leaders who pronounced incorrect teachings. He continued to conduct meetings in West Elizabeth, but organized a new church with a fresh faith and doctrine.

Often members of The Church of Jesus Christ do not recall the confusion in which Bickerton

found himself. Before establishing the Church, he associated with two different Restoration organizations, both subscribing to contrasting beliefs and practices. After each organization presented an impasse, Bickerton reevaluated his religious convictions and followed new ambitions. His vision of the chasm did not commence The Church of Jesus Christ, but instead led him on an investigation for God's truth. Ignoring the emotional wrestling of Bickerton distorts his humanity. Therefore, when revelations were later received comparing Bickerton to Joseph Smith Jr., Alma, and John the Baptist, the Church understood the significance. At one time, all three preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ alone, confronting uncertainties, insecurities, and impediments. Like these men, Bickerton found himself between a mountain and chasm, searching for the correct spiritual path. The commotion of his times necessitated his religious exploration, setting him on a course to establish The Church of Jesus Christ in 1862. Only by overcoming quandaries could Bickerton firmly appreciate the Gospel. For this reason, during the Church's sesquicentennial, let the Saints not only commemorate Bickerton's success, but also his mortality.

The information included in this article was obtained from Church literature, William Bickerton history, Church History, the newspaper "The Ensign," histories of Sidney Rigdon, and from other historical writers. A complete bibliography can be obtained from the writer.

Children's Corner

Continued from page 16

We call it the Book of Mormon. He buried the plates in the hill Cumorah.

In 1823, when Joseph Smith was shown where these golden plates with strange writing were buried, it was a very different time. People drove buggies and women only wore dresses. Many things were different from today. He translated the Book of Mormon for us and it has not changed. The Gospel of Jesus has not changed and we serve God in the same way they did.

When Brother William Bickerton was told by God to set up The Church of Jesus Christ, he used the very same Bible and Book of Mormon that we use. In America many homes did not have running water and CD players and computers were not even dreamt of. Yet, the words of God and His messages to us were the same today as they were then in the pioneer days. His Holy Spirit works the same.

Things change, inventions change, but the word of God does not. Remember, "the Spirit is the same, yesterday, today, and forever." 2 Nephi 2:4

With Love,
Sister Jan Bork

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2010



The first missionary trip is made to Burundi



The first missionary trip is made to Liberia



February - The Church's email system, GospelEmail.org, is launched



2011

June - The third World Conference is held at Olivet University in Illinois



2012

March 5 - The Gospel Blog launches



May - The new Gospel News is launched



