

## **A Day of Rejoicing**

**By Sister Carolynn O'Connor**

It was a day of rejoicing at Branch #2. Sister Erica El-Kadi had asked to be reinstated into The Church of Jesus Christ. In addition to this event, Evangelist Brother Frank Natoli, Region President was visiting on official Region business. He was there to honor Brother Reno Bologna for his years of service as a member, elder and evangelist of the Church.

Our meeting was opened by Brother Jason Monaghan who was visiting from Greensburg Pennsylvania. Brother Jason started by quoting Brother Reno on a sermon that he spoke many years ago that had an impact in his life, "...and I will say it for myself as well that I myself will stand here before you that God has been willing over and over and over again to make the difference in my fight, for that which is right, and for that which is good."

Brother Jason continued with the story of Nehimah and how his role, to bring a drink to the king, seemed insignificant but he had a desire to make a difference. He shared a story of a man who was a recognized war hero who traveled around speaking of the heroics of the war. At one particular event, a man came up to him and said that he knew him. The hero was taken back because he did not remember him. The man said, "I was the one who packed your parachute".

Brother Jason used this example to show how each and every roll is important, including those who are not as visible such as the parachute packer. "Whatever your roll is I would hope that you would do it with all of your mite, to the honor and Glory of God." Brother Jason continued by reading the story of Nehemiah and his service to the Lord. "What is your job in the kingdom of God today? Are you doing what God has required you to do with all of your might without murmuring? Are we still faithful to the call of God in our life?"

Brother Henry Cardillo continued the meeting reflecting on his service as a minister and those who trained him. He spoke about the jobs that we each have. "We each have a parachute to fold and it is the love that you have for one another through Jesus Christ. If you fold my parachute, you are folding a parachute for each and every one of the brothers and sisters. That labor that you put forth, we all will benefit from directly or indirectly."

Sister Erica was then asked to come forward for her reinstatement. She was reinstated by Brother Duane Loyalvo.

Brother Frank Natoli then shared some of the many responsibilities Brother Reno, 97yrs old, had over the years he has been in the Church including his missionary endeavors. Brother Reno then testified humbly to God's goodness in his life. He thanked God that his wife, Sister Isabella had not only stood by and supported him for all of the years, but for the fact that she worked right along side of him. He spoke about the success that they had in missions around the church where he was asked to go and preside over and how

the efforts of Sister Isabella contributed equally to the building of unity and spiritual awareness of these missions.

Brother Reno then shared that the last 5 yrs of his life of service, as he cared for his wife who is suffering with Alzheimer's, had been the hardest but that he had learned the most through this service. He spoke of finally learning about unconditional love and how he loved her more now than he ever had. Brother Reno expressed that he wished that he had known what he knows now many years ago.

His words were a great testimony to the love of God.

Editor's note: Sister Isabella passed on to her reward a few short months later.