

Brother Paul Palmieri

Personal Data *birth: 4/9/33; baptism: 8/19/56*
Ordinations *elder: 4/16/67; evangelist: 10/27/74; apostle: 10/12/86*
Leadership *GMBA President: 1974-1977; GC Executive Secretary: 1979-1986; GC First Counselor: 1992-present; Editor – "The Gospel News": 1970-1979*
Mission Work *Nigeria, Africa; India; Mexico; Italy; England; Poland; Guatemala; Philippines*

Brother Paul was born to Anthony and Cannela Palmieri in West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania on April 9, 1933, the third of four children. His father left Italy for the United States in 1920; and his mother did not arrive in this country until eight years later. They were married in 1929. His father, who was introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Dominic Jackman, was baptized in 1923 and his mother in 1931, both remaining faithful all their lives. Brother Anthony was ordained an elder in 1934. Reflecting on his parents, Brother Paul comments:

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 always had enough. My father worked hard to provide for us.

The year 1952 brought with it some very significant events in Paul's life. First of all, in January of that year, he graduated from high school, and shortly thereafter entered the job market. After a brief stint with a local steel company, he was employed for 11 years as an electrician with the Aliquippa and Southern Railroad. However, what was to prove to be a far more important development is best described by Brother Paul, himself:

At the end of 1952, while attending a Christmas Program practice, I asked one of the young girls, Ruth Eleanor DeLuca, to go out on a date. This was the beginning of our lives together. Ruth Eleanor and I were married on June 23, 1956 by Elder Thomas Ross of the Aliquippa Branch.

In April 1953, he was drafted into the United States Army where he served for two years. After his discharge, he qualified for 36 months of schooling under the GI Bill. He enrolled in Geneva College in 1956, at the same time maintaining his employment with the railroad. It took him seven years to earn his Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering because of conflicts with his work schedule. He credits the Lord with helping him through these very challenging years – it also took much perseverance on his part. Shortly after graduating, he was employed by Westinghouse Electric Corporation as an Industrial Engineer.

Rebirth

In Brother Paul's own words:

With all the wonderful things that have transpired in my life with Christ, the greatest blessing I received was the day Jesus Christ called me into His Gospel. After starting school in 1956, I became interested in the Church. Then one beautiful day on August 19, 1956, I felt the Spirit of God calling me to serve him. I was baptized by Brother John Ross and confirmed by my dad. My wife followed, as she was baptized the Monday after a GMBA Conference on November 12, 1956. (She was ordained a Deaconess on February 28, 1988). This changed our lives and we would never be the same again. Our lives became very involved in the church.

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Second Draft

It wasn't long before he would be drafted once again, but this time into a very different kind of service. Brother Paul explains in his own words:

In 1967, I was offered a supervising position with Westinghouse, but it required me to work the afternoon shift. At this time in my life, I felt that God was calling me into the priesthood so I refused the position with Westinghouse and remained as an engineer. The position of Supervision was for the afternoon shift and I felt it would conflict with my responsibilities in the Aliquippa Branch. I remember traveling home in my car and hearing the voice of the Lord speaking to me that, when I would arrive home, the phone would ring and it would be Brother John Ross who would speak to me about being called into the ministry. When I arrived home, the phone rang and it happened exactly as the voice said it would. I was ordained an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 16, 1967.

It is significant to note that shortly after he was ordained, he did, in fact, receive another offer to be promoted to a supervisory position; however this time it did not conflict with his responsibilities with the Church, and so he accepted it. Brother Paul continues:

On October 27, 1974 I was ordained an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. My ministry was blessed as I have seen the sick healed, and in one occasion where an individual had fallen and appeared dead, he was anointed and was brought back to life. I praise God for His goodness.

The Call to Service

According to Brother Paul:

One of my greatest challenges in The Church was when I was asked to be the Editor of the Gospel News. This was something I never thought I could do. But with the help of the Lord, I was the Editor for nine years from October 1970 to April 1979.

The Call to Labor

In 1979 he answered the call of the "Lord of the Harvest" to labor in foreign fields. His first trip was to the Netherlands with Brothers Paul Carr and Mike Hildenbrand. Brother Paul recalls that:

The Lord increased my desire to travel throughout the Church, and in 1980 I visited the Church in Nigeria with Brothers Dominic Thomas, Paul Carr and Mike Hildenbrand. In 1985, I made my first of five trips to India. Four of my trips were with Brother Joseph Calabrese. Each trip was unique and each brought a blessing to our people in India and to those of us who traveled there.

In 1995 we received an inquiry about the Church from Mr. Edward Spyra in Poland. Brothers Phil Jackson, John DiBattista, and I made our initial visit there in 1995. A year later, we returned to start the work in Poland when I baptized Edward Spyra.

The Call to Lead

Brother Paul has answered the call again and again to provide leadership at many different levels within

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the Church. He was elected vice-president of the GMBA in 1968 and president in 1974. He resigned this position in 1977 because he was asked to serve as the Executive Secretary of the General Church. In 1979 he was elected to that office.

The call to lead, however, did not end there – in 1986 our brother was recommended to be ordained an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. On October 12, 1986 he was ordained at the General Church World Conference Center. In 1992, at the October Conference, he was elected First Counselor of the General Church.

Brother Paul's family has been a very important part of his life. He and his wife have one son, Paul Aaron.