

January, 2011

A New Year

A s 2010 leaves and 2011 enters there are many thoughts which come to mind. There are things that we would, no doubt, like to leave behind with the old year and things that we would like to change or adopt as we enter the new year. Resolutions, as they are called, can be good as there is always room for improvement in all of our lives, both naturally and spiritually speaking.

Naturally speaking, some of our thoughts and desires, just to name a few, might be to lose some weight, exercise more, eat more healthy foods, be a more thoughtful husband, loving wife, a better father, mother, son or daughter, etc.

Spiritually, our thoughts and desires might be to draw closer to God, spend more time in prayer and the reading of the scriptures, more time in fellowship with the saints in our homes, being more faithful in attending all church services and church related functions, etc.

These, no doubt, are all good things for us to consider, however, let's dwell on the thought of being what God wants us to be and doing what God wants us to do. There is no doubt that we are living in what the scriptures call the "last days". The last days is a day and time when many prophesies recorded in the scriptures will come to pass. Along with the prophets, Jesus Christ also spoke of the last days and things that would happen and be fulfilled. We will mention a few of the events that will occur and our role as the body of Christ [His Church].

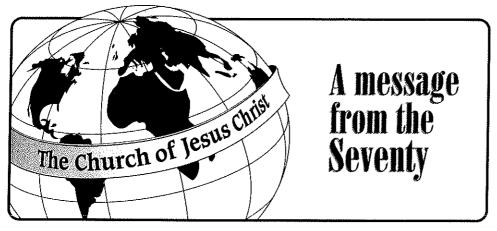
The last days is the time immediately before the Kingdom of Zion [in the flesh], referred to as the "Peaceful Reign", when the prayer of Christ will be fulfilled when He prayed unto His Father in Matthew 6:10, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Christ spoke in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 that false messiahs would rise up. there would be wars and rumors of wars, nation shall rise up against nation, famines, earthquakes, persecution for the people of God, iniquity shall abound and the fact that this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations.

God's word is yea and amen! The scriptures say, let God be true and every man a liar. What He has spoken Volume 67, No.1

will surely come to pass! Much will transpire in the last days to fulfill all of God's Word. To bring about all that has been spoken God will use His children, His Church, the body of Christ as the vehicle to establish His truths and eventually build His Kingdom on earth. What an awesome responsibility and calling the people of God have in these the latter days.

What can we do, as His people, in 2011 that will put us in position to be used of God in such a mighty way to go to every nation throughout the world, to every people, to bring the gospel message of love, hope and salvation? Certainly, as we examine ourselves individually, we see need for improvement, necessary changes that need to be made in our lives to put us in position for such a calling. What should our prayer be? How can these changes be made? There is a saying that goes like this; "Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be!" We must go to the source of all help and strength; He who can miraculously effect positive change in our lives that we might be vessels of honor fit for His use!

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### **Southwest Region News**

Evangelist Barry Mazzeo, Southwest Quorum of 70 Region Secretary

It is always a blessing to visit the saints of God and to fellowship together in His wonderful love.

#### Fort Worth, Texas Branch

Sunday, December 5, was a brisk sunny day with a wonderful opportunity to meet with our dear brothers and sisters in Fort Worth.

The Spirit of God was felt in greeting each other with that love so often experienced in the body of Christ.

The blessings of God showered us as we sang together in praise to our Savior filled with thanksgiving for His grace imparted to His children.

#### Vision

As the communion table was being set, a sister had a beautiful vision of the Lord. He was dressed in white garments and was standing next to a brother sitting on the rostrum. He then moved next to the table being set, looking at the congregation and pointing to the table said, "This is why I came because of my great love for you!"

#### Worship Service

The gathering was opened in prayer invoking God's blessing upon all present.

A solo was sung, so appropriately,

"When He Was On The Cross, I Was On His Mind."

The visiting brother arose to speak and lovingly greeted all who were assembled. He used for his text Psalm 27:1-3,

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" [verse 1]

His words were encouraging as he spoke, telling the saints we need to ever be confident, trusting in God, knowing His promises are true. His Word declares He will never leave us nor forsake us but will be with us always. Whatever the trial, God has promised us victory and deliverance in and through Jesus Christ, the great lover of our souls.

Our brother's theme was the "Heritage of the Children of God" taken from Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; ... This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord..." He cited two examples; the first, taken from II Kings Chapter 19, when King Hezekiah received news the armies of Sennacherib, King of Assyria, were going to come to destroy Jerusalem. He, Hezekiah, went up into the house of the Lord and spread the letter before the Lord crying that God would save

the people. God spoke that Sennacherib would not even enter into the city and He, God, would defend the city. That very night the angel of the Lord went out and smote, in the camp of the Assyrians, 185,000 of the armies of Sennacherib. God heard the cries of His people! The second example, taken from II Chronicles Chapter 20, when Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah as he heard that the children of Ammon. Moab and Mount Seir were going to come to destroy them. The Lord heard their prayers and spoke through Jahaziel, the son of Zechariah, saying; "... Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." [verse 15]

As the people of God began to sing and to praise the Lord, God caused the enemy armies to destroy one another! Our brother encouraged the saints to lift up their heads and be of good cheer for the Lord will fight all of our battles and the victory will be ours in every circumstance; this is the heritage of the children of God!

As the service continued, many spirit-filled testimonies were given praising God and thanking Him for all His benefits which He bestows upon His children. That same beautiful spirit continued in the administering of Holy Communion in remembrance of our dear Lord!

The wonderful love of God and blessed fellowship continued as some of the saints came together for dinner in the home.

It truly was a blessed weekend as we basked in the sunshine of God's presence with the saints in Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Denver, Colorado Mission

Sunday, December 12, was also a brisk sunny day as I had the opportunity, along with my dear wife, to visit with the saints in Denver.

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#### **Southwest Region News**

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The love of God filled our hearts as we greeted one another with such joy we have come to realize in this glorious Gospel.

Though the number of people in the Denver Mission are few, the fellowship and love of God we experienced was beautiful. The saints there are faithful and continue on in their service to God with hearts filled with thanksgiving for all of His blessings.

#### Worship Service

The meeting was introduced with prayer asking God's blessings to be with us in our gathering.

The table of the Lord was set for Holy Communion and the Spirit of the Lord came in our midst as we meditated upon our Savior and what He did for us at the cross.

The visiting brother greeted the saints in love thanking God for another opportunity to visit them in Denver.

His text was taken from Luke 1: 26-33. The theme of the sermon was the message of the angel Gabriel unto Mary, "Being highly favored of the Lord," relative to the coming birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our brother spoke of the great blessing in Mary's life as God handpicked her to give birth to a son whom she was to call Jesus! A great miracle [man had nothing to do with] as this was God's Son, who was prophesied in the scriptures would come into the world. What a privilege and what a joy to be used of God for such a mighty work! Our brother continued stating we too are greatly blessed, as children of God and "highly favored of the Lord", that we might be vessels of honor to bring Jesus Christ into the hearts and lives of the children of men unto their salvation. The angel of the Lord in Luke 2 spoke unto the shepherds, abiding in the field, concerning good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

He was speaking of the Savior which is Christ the Lord whom we adore and whom we bear witness of not only of His physical birth but of His spiritual birth into our hearts and lives and how God the Father desires all men would be saved from their sins and none would be lost!

The Spirit and Love of God was felt as testimonies were given to His glory and the exaltation of His Holy Son, Jesus Christ. The Lord's presence was felt as Holy Communion was administered and we remembered the great price our Savior paid in giving His life as a ransom for whosoever would come, believing in Him unto eternal life!

The fellowship and love of God continued as all were able to enjoy a delicious meal together before separating one from another.

Another beautiful weekend passed by as we were able to rejoice with the saints in Denver!

#### **Other Southwest Region Blessings**

Our Heavenly Father has been gracious to us throughout 2010 and we want to thank Him for all of His blessings which He has showered down upon His children in each branch and mission throughout the Southwest Region.

#### San Carlos Mission

The mission has been blessed with many visiting brothers and sisters who have a desire to help with the work on the reservation. Along with a rotation of ministers, we have been encouraged to see teachers, deacons and deaconesses respond to the call for help throughout the year supporting this great work. San Carlos has been blessed with numerous baptisms. those who have returned to fellowship rededicating their lives to Christ, weddings, blessings of children along with numerous visitors who come and have expressed a desire to someday be baptized and become part of the family of God!

#### Albuquerque, New Mexico

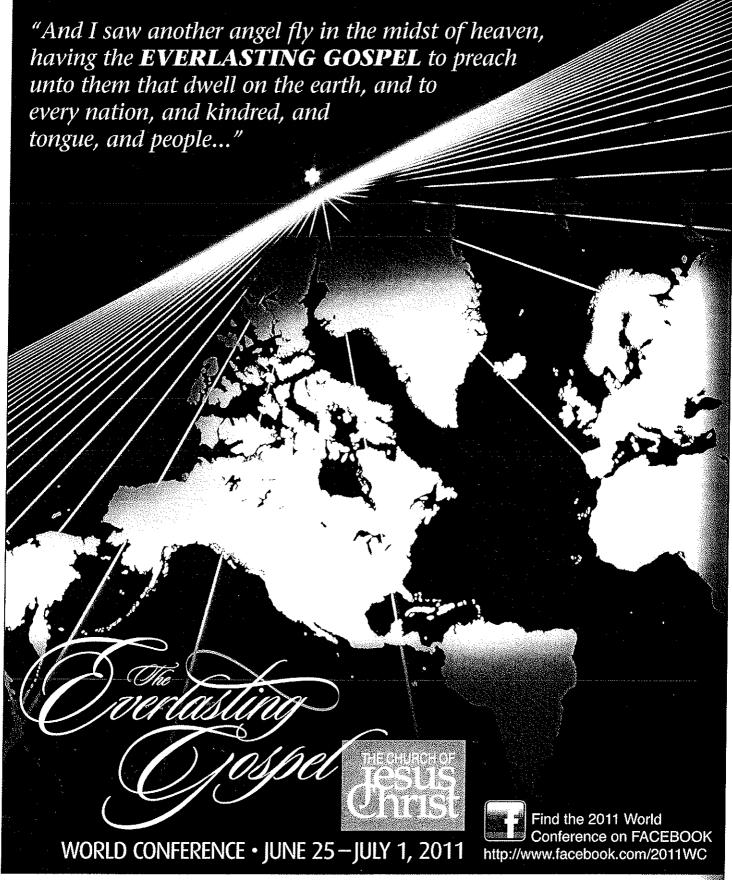
There is a beautiful group of people that have been meeting in Albuquerque for several years now and are very excited about the Church and the great work of the Lord. There have been four baptisms of late with hope of more who show desire and enthusiasm along with a nice group of young people who love to gather together. They have a beautiful fellowship and are very active in attending all Region events and are planning, with excitement, through fundraising activities, to attend the World Conference in June.

We thank God for His goodness to us yet we are also aware there is much room to grow. Our prayer is that our Father will fill us with His love and we will possess more of the divine nature of our Savior and be more Christ-like, filled with desire and love for the children of men. We want to see more souls come to Christ and experience this joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

May we always seek to be meek, humble followers of the Lord always recognizing His greatness and our great need for Him in every facet of our lives, both to our natural and spiritual needs. Christ said if we would abase or humble ourselves before Him that He would exalt us. May we ever be sufficiently humble that He might exalt us to enjoy the abundance of His blessings, filling us with His Spirit and experiencing His presence daily along this journey from earth to glory.

In conclusion, it is our desire to draw closer to God and be the light of Christ to shine more brightly in us that others may desire to come to the Savior and find rest unto their souls.

May 2011 be a wonderful year for all of our branches and missions, both domestic and foreign. Might the blessings of God and His presence be in our homes, among our families and may our marriages be blessed and strengthened in Christ, the giver of all we enjoy.



http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org/2011Conference.cfm



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The definition of standard is "used as, or conforming to, a standard, rule, model, etc. Generally accepted as reliable or authoritative." Using this definition, what is the *standard* in the world today? What rules or customs are accepted as the standard, or model for all to follow? Can this standard be changed by just one person, who is viewed as reliable or authoritative?

In Alma chapter 46, we read about a man named Amalickiah, who used flattering words to cause many people to leave the Church. Helaman and his brethren worked so hard to establish the Church, and took such great care of it, but in practically an instant, it nearly fell apart.

It is true that it takes years to build, but only seconds to tear down. We can even see today, how the World Trade Center buildings, which took many years to build, were destroyed in a matter of minutes. This is true spiritually. It is true in the case of standards that take years to build, but with just a few flattering words from someone who disagrees, can be destroyed in almost an instant. I recently heard there is now an initiative in the United States to ban the use of God's name in any form of media. There are hundreds of thousands who signed a petition in agreement to this!

"Thus we see how quick the children of men do forget the Lord their God, yea, how quick to do iniquity, and to be led away by the evil one" (Alma 46:8).

The only "standard" or "model" that we should follow is found in the Word of God. Yet, because there are some who disagree, this standard, that took years to build is being torn down every day, at an extremely rapid pace.

Moroni, the chief commander of the armies of the Nephites, became angry with Amalichkiah. He rent his coat and took a piece of it, and wrote, "In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children." He fastened it to the end of a pole, like a flag. He called it "the title of liberty." Moroni went about waving his flag, and proclaimed:

"Behold, whosoever will maintain this title upon the land, let them come forth in the strength of the Lord, and enter into a covenant that they will maintain their rights, and their religion, that the Lord God may bless them" (Alma 46:20).

Moroni boldly was trying to re-establish the *standard* among the people. Are we trying to re-establish the *standard* in the world around us today? There are many who are fighting furiously to remove God's standards. Are we fighting back just as furiously to keep God's standards in tact?

It is amazing how one person, who has flattering words, can cause people to reject a standard they have been following all their lives. Many people today who have left the Church, made the decision based on what one person may have told them. They may have spent their whole lives being blessed, and receiving confirmation of their beliefs by the power of God, and with just one conversation with someone who has a convincing spirit, can deny it all.

The year of 2011 is upon us. Our forefathers would not even recognize the world in which we live. Things have changed so dramatically and so rapidly. It is never too late to lift the title of liberty, and boldly proclaim God's standards to the world around us. The song "The Standard of Liberty" says, "Why do you wait, son? The battle is raging, And many young soldiers have long gone to war. There's no need on the side lines, and not on the back lines, But only the front lines are pleading for more." As we begin this new year, I leave you with that challenge. If one person can lead so many away from the truth, surely one person can lead them back. Maybe that person is you.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

ear Friends.

## The Story of Jesus' Other Sheep in the Americas

Have you ever watched a little puppy or kitten trying to figure out where things are or how to jump up and get something? They have to learn just like we do. Since God created us, He knows how hard it is for people to do the right thing. From the beginning of creation, God had a plan to teach us. In the Bible, he gave Moses the Ten Commandments when He was training the twelve tribes of Israel to be good followers. He also promised that in the future He would send a Savior for the world, the Messiah, Jesus, to teach us the true way to love each other and be kind.

In The Church of Jesus Christ, we are greatly blessed to have two books, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, to teach us how to be better people. Sometimes people are surprised to hear about the Book of Mormon. Some people think that God only speaks through the Bible to teach us. They do not know that in the Bible, Jesus called himself a shepherd for people and said to His followers in John 10:16, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." He was telling us in the Bible, that somewhere else in the world there were other people that Jesus was going to visit!



This is where the Book of Mormon comes in. It is the record of three different groups of believers who were led to the Americas by God. Each group had great men of God and many prophets to teach them the right way to live. Just as the Jews kept the record of God's promises, which became the Bible, these people kept records of their lives and God's power and promises to them. It is called the Book of Mormon. The stories were written on thin sheets, or plates of metal that could not easily be ruined like paper is. These plates were hidden so they would not be destroyed by the evil one who wants all people to be afraid and ignorant of God's love. They contain wonderful stories of how God worked with and helped His followers here in what God calls "The Promised Land," set aside for His followers. It also tells us the future of what will happen on this land.

The first group followed a good man named Jared who prayed God would not confound their language during the time when the Tower of Babel happened and everyone was scattered. (Genesis 10: 4-9). God blessed this group called Jaredites, and brought them across the ocean to the Americas where they lived for hundreds and hundreds of years. But little by little, they quit serving God. He warned them that they would be wiped off from the Promised Land unless they stopped their evil ways. They did not listen. Soon the entire nation became one huge battlefield until all were killed except for one survivor, King Coriantumr, who wandered across the land. Huge cities lay abandoned and empty. This last survivor was found by the third group; they had left Jerusalem when it was being destroyed, following Mulek, a king's son and calling themselves Mulekites.

This group found part of the ancient Jaredite record carved in a strange language on a huge stone (see Omni: verse 20), and later twentyfour gold plates [sheets of metal] were found in the ruins of huge abandoned cities along with rusted parts of huge swords and breastplates worn to battle by large Jaredite warriors. The Mulekites were so curious about the Jaredite city ruins and wanted to know more about who those people were. But none of them knew the language. And none of them served God and had the power of God to interpret, or figure out, ancient writings. When they met up with the second group, the Nephites, God allowed these plates to be translated by His seer, King Mosiah, and then they all knew who these ancient people were and how they came over during the Tower of Babel days.

Mormon put a shortened version, called the Book of Ether, into the Book of Mormon. When we read these amazing stories we learn more about the love of God, His promises to all who follow Him and how we are all supposed to be equal and loving to each other. Many of the preachers and prophets in the Book of Mormon were given the power to see the future also. They promised us that when we do a truly good job of serving God and helping each other and when we follow the words in the Book of Mormon and Bible until we are hungry for more of God's word, then we will be given even more ancient records of God's workings with other nations!

In the Book of Mormon, the Lord said in II Nephi 29:11, "For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I

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### **Ready for the Meat**

By Brother Anthony Scolaro

A tlantic Coast Region President Brother Jerry Valenti addressed the congregation gathered for our Regional Conference on Sunday, September 26, 2010, continuing on the theme of Outreach that had prevailed on the preceding day. The principal text of his sermon was taken from Hebrews 5:12-14:

[12] For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

[13] For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

[14] But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

In addressing the congregation this morning our brother submitted that the comparison of "strong meat" to "milk" in this scripture was not an exhortation to become expert in the scriptures, or to memorize every article of faith, or the timeline of the Restoration of the Gospel. Rather, Brother Jerry turned to the fourth chapter of the Gospel of John, where Jesus is invited by His disciples in verse 31 to eat of the food they had gone to buy in verse 8. At this juncture of the account Jesus, having just ministered to the woman at the well, explained to them, ". . . I have meat to eat that ye know not of" [verse 32]. ". . . My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" [verse 34].

The strong meat, as Brother Jerry explained it, is the ability to exercise skill in the word of righteousness [verse 13]. It is the exercise of the Spirit of God in us to discern both good and evil [verse 14]. Jesus demonstrated the use of this strong meat in John 4:7-30, where He spoke of the "living water" to a woman who He knew had had five husbands, and was living with a man who was not her husband. She was truly thirsting for this living water, and through the course of their conversation, Jesus was eventually able to reveal to her that He was the Messiah.

Brother Jerry then blessed us by recounting numerous revelations, experiences, and miracles that took place in the lives of some of the members of his home branch in Levittown, Pennsylvania, which has had 24 baptisms in the last six years. Remarkably, many of these recent converts have been individuals not previously affiliated with the Church or any of its members. In one case, upon attending her husband's funeral service, a woman who had never before attended our church [although her husband had been baptized for some time] remarked how comfortable she felt there and eventually asked for her baptism.

Another man, who had continually opposed his wife's involvement and membership in our church, called the presiding elder and said that he had some issues to settle with him, and told him to meet him outside of the branch the next morning. When the presiding elder arrived, expecting a very unpleasant encounter, he was shocked when this man whom he had never met came out of his pickup truck, threw his arms around the brother, and crying, explained how the night before, the Lord had come to him in a dream telling him of the error of his ways. Experiencing a complete change of heart, he too asked for his baptism.

In a third instance, one of the branch elders was getting a haircut when the woman cutting his hair told him that due to a dream she had, she realized that she and her longtime boyfriend needed to be married. The problem, she said, was that none of the local churches she asked would perform the marriage. "Well, you didn't ask me," replied our brother elder. Eventually, he did marry the couple and shortly afterward, the husband and then the wife each asked for their baptism. In each of these situations, the Lord had been working in the lives of these people, revealing to them the truth in The Church of Jesus Christ, and calling them to repentance and baptism.

Brother Jerry admonished the congregation to give the Spirit of God ample opportunity to work in people's lives. His words caused us to look at ourselves and ask how we would interact with a person like the woman at the well in our world today. Would we see them as a soul in need of salvation, prayerfully seeking a way to present the Gospel as something to be greatly desired? Or are we still feeding on the milk, preoccupied on what we want God to do for us instead of vice versa, so concerned with our temporal needs and circumstances that we don't see the need that others have for the Lord? Can we make the time to give them a kind word, to understand them, and eventually to explain to them how Jesus Christ has changed our lives, and can change theirs?

Brother Tom Goode of the Metuchen Branch followed Brother Jerry's message with an account of his own missed opportunity to share the Lord with someone while waiting in an airport. During a lengthy delay, he had felt strongly prompted by the Spirit to tell a certain gentleman about Jesus Christ. However, our brother talked himself out of it, worrying what the individual would think about a complete stranger coming up to him and initiating such a conversation. Brother Tom stayed right where he was, and didn't say anything.

When they all finally boarded the plane, this man ended up sitting

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#### **Ready for the Meat**

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a couple of rows ahead of where our brother was seated. The next thing Brother Tom knew, a young man sitting next to the gentleman turned and asked the man if he knew Jesus Christ! The two of them became engaged in a conversation about Jesus Christ and the plan of salvation that continued for the duration of the flight. Brother Tom shared with us the remorse he felt at not following the Lord's prompting.

What had made him hold back from sharing the Lord? Brother Tom explained it very simply: it was fear. He brought to our remembrance the account of the prophet Elijah in I Kings chapter 19, where he fled from Jezebel and hid in a cave. The Lord asked him, not one time but twice, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" In our day, just as then, there are many who have not "bowed unto Baal and kissed him." Our brother encouraged us, along with himself, to be confident that we have the Lord with us as we go out in His name. He told us that he himself had been raised in a Christian church, but until he was introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ and experienced the love that he found here, he had never known the Son of God.

The next speaker was Brother Nick Boruch of the Levittown Branch. He spoke of the excitement manifested in the bearing of a person who has just experienced something wonderful in his or her life, and shared an account of something that occurred shortly after his first child was born.

Having taken some time off work and staying home with his wife and baby for a number of days, Brother Nick finally ventured out to the store to get a few items. As he was paying, he explained that without realizing it he was saying, "Here's one dollar, and here's another dollar, and here's a third dollar, etc." in the same sing-song manner that he had been cooing to his newborn infant. The cashier looked at him and said, "You're a new father, aren't you?"

Brother Nick suggested to us that being part of the Restored Gospel should impart a sense of excitement and joy to us that should be obvious to the people we encounter on the highways of life.

Our brother then shared a testimony of his relationship with the family that had lived next door to him for the last ten years. On several occasions he had opportunities to pray for them, once praying in their home so they wouldn't be bothered by nightmares and be able to have restful sleep, and another time anointing their young child when her finger had been caught in the car door as it closed. The nightmares had ceased, and after looking at her daughter's finger, the doctors in the emergency room told the girl's mother that there was nothing wrong; that she didn't need to be there.

Brother Nick expressed his thankfulness that God allowed His power to be manifested in the lives of this family, and then shared with the congregation the fact that his neighbors were of the Muslim faith--something that was obvious to him the day they moved in. In spite of this, they continue to invite him into their home to pray for them in the name of Jesus Christ! He asked our continued prayers on behalf of this family, and urged us not to allow any preconceived notions or prejudices to deter us from sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with anyone. Jesus died for all, and His precious, sinless blood washed away the sins of the entire world.

Brother Thomas M. Liberto continued on the theme of being ready for the meat. He stated that there are seven billion people on this planet who need the Lord. We're all here for a reason—for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to go forward. He quoted from I Peter 2:9,

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

Brother Tom exhorted the congregation and priesthood alike to know that the Lord has chosen us, and that He has a purpose for our lives in His Gospel.

After the young people came forward and sang a hymn, each one was asked to introduce herself or himself, identify their branch or mission, then tell of something they were thankful for. Looking at our young people, it is always amazing to see the change that takes place over the course of two or three years. What were yesterday young boys and girls are now young men and women; the transformation is sometimes so dramatic that we don't recognize them unless they tell us their name. Before they returned to their seats, Brother Jerry Valenti turned to face them and admonished them to become strong brothers and sisters in the Church. He explained that we look at them not only as a part of the Church today, but also, more importantly, as the ones growing into spiritual maturity and carrying the Church forward in the future. Both young and old left the meeting on this day with the conviction that we must be ready for strong meat and in the love of God, bring the message of salvation to a dying world.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: Great is thy faithfulness.

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(Lamentations 3:22,23)



## CHANGE

By Brother Pete Oestreicher

The theme that developed at the Sunday, October 31, 2010 meeting in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania branch was "Change". Brothers, sisters and friends from the entire Penn Mid-Atlantic Region [including North Carolina], and from the Midwest and Great Lakes Regions, gathered to witness the ordinations of two workers in the Gospel. Brother John Mark D'Antonio was to be ordained an Evangelist, and Brother Tom Hunt was to be ordained a Deacon.

Evangelist Nephi DeMercrio from the Plumbrook, Michigan Branch opened the meeting, and asked the congregation to reflect on Jesus Christ. Brother Nephi used I Corinthians 15:1-19, the resurrection of Jesus Christ as his scriptural reference. Christ resurrected, in order that we may have the hope of eternal life, and in order to achieve eternal life, we must change from natural or temporal beings to spiritual beings.

Apostle Phil Jackson from the Kinsman, Ohio Branch offered experiences and his testimony to show how God had changed him. Brother Phil exhorted the candidates to use the authority and exercise the gifts they will be given today in their new calling, and mentioned that the Lord changes us a little at a time.

Evangelist George Kovacic from the Gastonia, North Carolina Branch, and Vice Chairman of the Penn Mid-Atlantic Quorum of 70, introduced the Evangelist ordination service. Brother George referenced the four sons of Mosiah, whom the Lord revealed were to be evangelists [although not ordained]. Brother George read the duties of an Evangelist from the Law and Order, and mentioned that at the recent Q70 meeting, Brother John Mark was unanimously recommended to become an Evangelist. While he was being recommended, Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in tongues, confirming Brother John Mark's calling. Apostle Paul Palmieri washed Brother John Mark's feet, and he was ordained by Evangelist Frank Giovannone.

While Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri was mentioning that Brother John Mark has experienced trials in his life which prepared him for his new office, Brother Tony Ricci, Penn Mid-Atlantic Region President, spoke in the spirit:

#### "Rejoice, Rejoice! O, Church of Jesus Christ, an Evangelist has been ordained. Thus saith the Lord."

Brother John Mark expressed himself. From when he was baptized thirty years ago, he was dedicated to the Lord. He thanked his extended family, relayed a dream where the Lord promised to take care of him, and made it known he wants his light to shine to all.

According to Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, the ministers of the Aliquippa Branch made it a matter of prayer, and knew Brother Tom Hunt was ready to fulfill the duties of a Deacon. A spirit of unity was experienced in their meeting. The duties of a Deacon were read, which include being filled with the Holy Ghost. Brother Tom's feet were washed by his son, Brother Brandon Hunt, and he was ordained by Brother Don Ross.

Brother Tom then expressed himself, thanking the Lord Jesus Christ for calling him into the Gospel and changing his life. He stated he always wanted to do more for the Church and made it a matter of prayer. Brother Tom is looking forward to working with his fellow deacons, and wants the Lord to help him in his new office.

This day is a day of *"change"* for both brothers. Brother John Mark was born and raised in the Church, and rendered his life to Christ thirty years ago. His "*change*" occurred gradually as he took on the responsibilities of a deacon, a teacher, an elder, and is continuing as he assumes the duties of his new office.

The "change" in Brother Tom's life is different. Brother Tom was raised in a different faith, and met The Church of Jesus Christ through his wife, Sister Earlene. They were married in the Church, their children attended Sunday School, they attended campouts and other activities, and attended The Church of Jesus Christ thirty-three years before being baptized. Brother Tom's decision occurred about four weeks after his wife was baptized. He saw the change and joy in her life, and for about a month, continued his old life style alone, but it wasn't the same. He wanted to experience the same joy that his wife was experiencing.

Brother Tom was active in his community. He was a football and baseball coach, and an officer in several social, fraternal, and civic organizations. He spent a great deal of time in bars and clubs, and admits he had problems with gambling and alcohol. For all the time he was involved in this lifestyle, he provided for his family, had a successful marriage, sent two sons through college, and prepared for his retirement. Brother Tom held numerous jobs throughout his life, is a retired Corrections Officer for the state of Pennsylvania, is retired from the National Guard, and presently works with disabled people to supplement his income.

Since being baptized, Brother Tom wanted to do more for the Church, the brothers and sisters, and the Lord. He helped whenever and wherever he was able, and was especially inspired by a sermon about "Using Your Talents". He then prayed, and asked the Lord, "what will you have me do," and right after that, was approached regarding his new calling.

(Continued on Page 10)

#### Change

Continued from Page 9

Before the end of the meeting, Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr., related an experience he had on the pulpit. Brother Bob smelled the odor of oil which was particularly strong, and he knew the Lord was in attendance, since oil is representative of the Lord. It was at this time that Brother Tony spoke in the spirit.

We wish Brother John Mark and Brother Tom the best in their new callings, and are certain that the "changes" in their lives will, and have resulted in positive "changes" for The Church of Jesus Christ.

## The Church of Miracles

#### Lorain, Ohio December 2010

Submitted by Calabrese Family

If you had any doubt that our Church was a church of miracles read the following:

We need to share a Christmas miracle with everyone that we all witnessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Sister Aileen Calabrese has survived three episodes of lymph node metastatic tongue cancer in the 1980s. We all know Brother Tony and Sister Aileen's lives have been quite stressful as she has been blind since age nineteen and is slowly losing all her vision. To add to their grief, their son was taken home in a car accident in 2004. So the whole branch was concerned when she announced she had a new lesion on her tongue, strikingly similar to the other cancers. We called upon our whole branch to fast and pray as well as Michigan and Florida Regions through our brothers and sisters in the family of Christ.

The lesion had developed over about a month and she sought treatment from her oral surgeon for biopsy. The Lord was with Sister Aileen and the family through the whole ordeal. First, while Sister Aileen and her daughter, Sister Jennifer, were out Christmas shopping, they ran into a messenger of God, a man who kindly led Sister Aileen away from some ice and spoke to them. It was later confirmed this was one of the three Nephites!

Before she went for her biopsy, a voice spoke to one sister that it was not what we feared. Another sister had an experience that Sister Aileen's grandson, Zane, came to her and told her his Grandma was still going to be around next Christmas. One brother had a vision that only delicate flowers were springing from Sister Aileen's mouth. Then another beautiful vision came forth about Brother Tony and Sister Aileen wading through rough waters when a voice spoke to them asking why they would trudge through, when up ahead a bridge had been prepared for them. The initial surgeon's report was encouraging but still recommended biopsy after an initial treatment plan.

Through the prayers of brothers and sisters, one week later the lesion was completely gone! When the surgeon went to biopsy it, he was amazed to find the lesion healed. He acknowledged the miracle! Another brother had an experience that the lesion was cancerous but had been changed by the hand of the Lord. The gift of tongues was spoken and confirmed this.

To paraphrase III Nephi 27:7-10, as Jesus told His disciples on this land when He appeared to them, if you call upon the Father for the church in my name, the Father will hear you and if it so be that the church is built upon my gospel then the Father will show forth His own works in it and bless the church for His sake. We are The Church of Jesus Christ, Restored Gospel and I believe these are the kinds of works [miracles] that will be manifested in His church.

Praise God! Happy New Year! Let us hope this experience encourages and strengthens all that it reaches!

### **FREE AT LAST!**

By Sister Rosanne Champine

On a brisk morning, December 5, 2010, Brother Dustin Palposi stepped into the waters of life. He was baptized at Detroit Branch #1 by Brother Brett Gibson and confirmed by Brother Larry Champine.

Below is our young brother's testimony of finding his way to Christ:

"Brothers and Sisters—FREE AT LAST!"

Growing up, I was brought to Church by my family from time to time [I am the great-grandson of Brother Vito Buffa]. I came pretty regularly as a teen for a while, but as I started making my own choices, and began doing things I knew were wrong, I was soon over my head in sin. I remember talking with a coworker, telling him I wanted to be closer to God. I would pray every night, but not with a full heart. I didn't really know how. I didn't understand. I made a lot of mistakes.

But the Lord, through my darkness, has brought me into His Light!

I would ask for God's Spirit to help me with my anxiety. I would pray with my father and it would help me. There is no worse feeling than lying in your bed at night thinking you are going to die, and knowing you are going to hell. But again, I would pray. I visited church and was prayed for by the ministry. I felt that I should come more often, and the Lord started to work with me.

One day at work, my heart began to race. This joyous, euphoric feeling came over me so strongly that I wanted to cry. But there was no one there who would understand.

I started to attend church more and talk about my feelings with my Aunt, Sister Stephanie Rado. She asked me

(Continued on Page 11)

#### A New Year

#### Continued from Page 1

In 2011,

- Let us take time to be holy, spend more time alone with Him in prayer throughout the day and in the reading of His Word.
- Let us love one another not looking upon the weaknesses of others as surely we have our own weaknesses and shortcomings to deal with!
- Let us pray for one another holding each other up before the Lord that God might bless, provide and help according to each of our needs.
- Let us pray for revival that God might fill each heart with His love, rekindle each soul with fire from above and let us see clearly those things that are important. May the light of Christ shine brightly from our lives and in our branches and missions that when we relate to people they might see and know that we have that old-time religion, see the Love of God in action and that the Spirit of God might enlighten them to surrender their hearts and lives to Christ unto salvation.

We are the church, members of the body.

- Let us support the church and all that it stands for.
- Let us be more active in 2011 by attending all services and encourage others to do so, too. May we be examples to each other, to our children and grandchildren that they might realize that this is part of our service to God when we attend every Sunday including Sunday School and church auxiliaries [Ladies Uplift Circle and Missisonary Benevolent Association] whenever they meet.
- Let us support our mid-week

services, supporting our ministry and auxiliary teachers and officers. It is important to attend our monthly fast and prayer services and other prayer services when they are called. There are two voices that speak to us regularly, the Spirit of God and the spirit of the enemy.

• Let us hearken to the voice of the Spirit of God as it directs us, teaches us to do what is right and bids us to support our branches and missions and all scheduled services. James makes us aware in his writings that if we draw nigh to God, He will draw nigh unto us!

The year 2011 will be a great year throughout the church if this is what we really want for our branches and missions. It is up to us. God is waiting to shower His richest blessings upon His people.

"But individually seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

In conclusion,

- Let us each take inventory, be honest with ourselves and endeavor, with the help of Almighty God, to do better in 2011.
- Let us be kind and loving to each other and all those around us. Let us be more patient with our family members always seeking to encourage one another.
- Let us ever be thankful to God for all His benefits and remember the needs of those about us.

Lastly, "... receive ye one another as Christ also received us to the glory of God" (Romans 15:7).

May God richly bless you and your families and Happy New Year to all!

#### Free at Last

Continued from Page 10

if I was considering baptism, and I found myself answering, "Yes!"

A few weeks went by, and I continued to come to church, drawing closer and closer to God. One night, the Lord gave me a dream. I woke up in the spirit. It overcame my body and it was such an intense, powerful feeling! That Sunday, after the service, I spoke to Brother Larry Champine and Brother Brett Gibson and they encouraged me to keep praying—that I was at the gate and to seek the Lord's clear direction, so I would be sure.

I continued coming and praying, and praying, and praying! I asked the Lord to knock on my heart and show me if baptism was the right thing for me. He gave me another dream. In the dream, I saw myself standing up and testifying with the spirit, asking for my baptism. I knew I was going to go to church and ask for my baptism.

That morning, the Lord gave me another dream. I saw myself standing on these beautiful, rolling, emerald green hills. All around were these beautiful waterfalls with the clearest water you could ever imagine. I made my way down the hill to the water and a dock where I saw a friend of mine washing his car nearby with the water. Again, it was crystal clear-perfectly clear. My friend told me, "Dustin, it's not good enough." But I jumped into the water and heard a voice say to me, "Yes, it is!" I looked up, and saw the Holy Spirit and it descended upon my body, and enveloped my whole being, surging through me. Jesus in His glory came and appeared right before me. It was beautiful. I knew that it was time. I was ready to make my promise to God.

That day, I stood on my feet during testimony, and shared my experiences and asked to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ! *Praise God!"* 

#### The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written."

That tells us there have been more ancient written words than just the Bible and the Book of Mormon! It makes us wonder which islands of the sea have the hidden records, or where in the north, the south, the east or the west are these records. It reminds us that God has been present in this world from the beginning. His spirit has worked with mankind. Every person will be fairly judged by God who knows what is in each of our hearts

When a new book is sent from God, it will say the same things. If a new book goes against the Book of Mormon or the Bible, it is not God's word. The test of truth is that it will tell of God's greatness, His promises, His prophecies, and His love and care for His children throughout all of time.

If someone gave us love as a baby, then we know how to give love. If someone treated us fairly, even one time, then we know how to treat others fairly. We will be judged by our actions based on doing good as we have been taught. This is God's promise and His plan. He loves each and every one of us. As long as you follow the teachings of Christ, meet often with one another at church, pray and study God's words, and work to change and be a better person, you will receive God's blessings and continue to grow in God's wisdom and love. There is a right and a wrong way to live. We are blessed to have two great books to guide and teach us the right way, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Read their stories and learn.

> With love, Your friend, Sister Jan

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February, 2011

Volume 67, No.2

## Making Time for Each Other

#### Southwest Area Marriage Retreat November 5-7, 2010

By Sister Michelle Watson

ost of us would readily admit that our lives are too busy, and we never have enough time to totally empty our to-do lists. Before I got married, I thought that having a spouse would mean that I'd have more free time-because my husband would gladly take care of half the chores on my to-do list. Alas, I discovered that marriage actually doubled my to-do list rather than cut it in half. My husband and I often find ourselves overwhelmed by our obligations and commitments, and we don't even have kids. I can imagine that having children adds a wonderful chaotic element to the mix. Between business meetings and baseball practice, commuting across town and cooking dinner, paying bills and putting out fires, when are husband and wife supposed to find time to spend together? Alone?

We've all heard that the only way to find time for something is to make time, and that's what about 11 couples from the Southwest Region did on November 5-7, 2010. They escaped from their busy lives for one weekend to attend an MBA sponsored marriage retreat in the beautiful Flagstaff mountains.

When we arrived at the Little America Hotel, our home base for the weekend, we were charmed by the large fireplace in the lobby, which was ablaze and giving warmth to travelers who were sitting in oversized chairs, sipping cups of tea and cocoa. We immediately went into relaxation mode, putting our worries and cares on pause.

Brother Paul and Sister Orletta Liberto kicked things off on Saturday morning with a seminar outlining the building blocks required for a good marriage relationship. Our discussion was enriched by the wide variety of marriages represented in the room. There were many new couples that had been married three years or less, and there were also couples that had many years of marriage experience. And listening to the insights of the Libertos, who spoke with the wisdom of 50 years of marriage, was a real pleasure.

At one point in the seminar, the men left the room for a breakout session, while the women stayed for their own discussion. When it was time for our two groups to come back together, the men returned each carrying a single red rose for his sweetheart.

Later that day, the couples had a chance to get to know each other better by playing a hilarious version of "The Newlywed Game." Our knowledge of our spouses was put to the test with questions like "If you couldn't cook dinner for your husband, what would he eat?" and "Where, specifically, would your wife say the two of you had your very first date together?" Needless to say, we had more than a few good laughs.

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## The Church of Jesus Christ 2011 World Conference June 25 - July 1, 2011

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Olivet Nazarene University • Bourbonnais, IL 60914

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 31, 2011



Find the 2011 World Conference on FACEBOOK http://www.facebook.com/2011WC

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**Our Origin** 

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle is an auxilliary of The Church of Jesus Christ, headquartered in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. The Ladies Circle was organized to assist The Church of Jesus Christ in its Missionary work and to promote a close fellowship among the women throughout the Church by praying and sharing their problems and joys with one another and to provide wholesome, beneficial study of God's Word and opportunities for meaningful service.

Local Circles have been organized within branches and missions throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, India and Africa. The local Circles report to their Area Circles. The General Circle is then composed of the Area and Local Circles with each being subordinate to the General Circle.

### A BEAUTIFUL DAY

Sister Geneva Dell

The sisters from Levittown, Pennsylvania arrived at my home before noon. We enjoyed visiting and after lunch we went to Green Acres, a section of the Magnolia Gardens, where Sister Mary Pagniozzi is a resident. We were greeted by Sister Mary's sister, Ann Zippo, with delight [Ann has known the Church her whole life]. We had planned this time at Green Acres for several weeks and were given the use of the main sitting room with a piano.

Sister Tammy Valenti announced, we are from The Church of Jesus Christ, and gave a booklet of typed hymns to all in the room, and asked all to join us in singing, and to call a hymn they wanted to sing. We also gave the bookmarkers we made with a verse of scripture, and printed The Ladies Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Ten sisters and one brother from Levittown, New Brunswick, Hopelawn and Freehold were present.

I wish I could tell you in my feeble words the joy we felt, and the response we received in the happiness of Sister Mary and her sister, Ann.

Sister Tammy asked the members of the Church to stand and sing the hymn, "Just For Me." When we sang the line, "One drop of blood just for me," I cannot tell you in words the feeling that came over me. I kept thinking that one drop of blood, just for me, I kept repeating in my mind, our precious Saviour, just for me unworthy me. We praise our Heavenly Father for His mercy and grace extended to us.

After the singing, we were able to spend time visiting and speaking to Sister Mary, her sister Ann, and all the residents in the room.

Sister Rose Mercurio brought a large tray of delicious cookies she baked for all to enjoy.

It was a delightful, blessed day. The staff and the residents let us know they enjoyed the visit.

There was an expression of love

in the embrace from Ann Zippo, and Sister Mary Pagniozzi. We left with the wonderful experience of the Love of God.

#### A HEALING

I received a call on November 9, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. from Sister Mary Pagniozzi's sister, Ann Zippo ,that Sister Mary was taken to the hospital Sunday at 4:00 p.m. She said Sister Mary was not able to recognize her. It was determined she may have suffered a stroke, but tests were being taken.

I mentioned I would call a minister of the Church. She said that would be good. After that call from her, I called the sisters that came Saturday to Green Acres and asked them to pray.

The next morning, Sister Maria Peterkin, Brother Lou Gallichio and I went to the hospital. To our surprise, Sister Mary knew us, and was able to talk. She was on her way to recovery, praise God!

When I arrived home I received a call from Ann telling me that Sister Mary was able to talk. Ann was very much surprised, but glad. I mentioned to Ann that many were praying for Sister Mary. Praise God there is power in prayer.

Brother Matthew Rogolino went to the hospital that afternoon to see Sister Mary, and he anointed her.

The next day I spent a little time with her at the hospital. Sister Mary was well, happy, and did not need oxygen. She was doing very well.

> We thank God for His mercy, healing power and love for us all.



### Evangelist Ordination and Baptism (Omaha, Nebraska)

By Sister Valarie Wells

Our beautiful weekend began On Friday night, November 5, 2010 as we gathered at the home of Sister Sherri and Joe Harris for a welcome meet and greet dinner and fellowship. We welcomed Brother Mitchell Edwards, Brother John Straccia, and Brother John Genaro. Brother Clifton Wells blessed a delicious meal of fish and chips made by Joe Harris, Sister Sherri Harris' husband. The evening included a season of sharing testimonies and the spirit of healing through anointing many of the saints in attendance.

On Saturday, November 6, 2010, after waiting for the arrival of Brother Joel and Sister Ruth Gehly and Brother Nephi DeMercurio, the Omaha Mission members and visitors met at the Missouri River for the baptism of Darrell Walton [oldest son of Sister Freddie Shields]. The sun shone brightly and we enjoyed unusually lovely weather for an early November day in Nebraska. Brother Darrell was the first baptism for Brother Todd Wright. After the baptism, we met back at our Church where Brother Darrell was confirmed by Brother Nephi DeMercurio. After the meeting, we enjoyed lunch and fellowship.

Saturday evening we gathered again at the Church for our Sacrament meeting. We welcomed the saints who drove to Omaha from South Bend, Indiana—Sister Michelle Gomez, Sister Beverly Love, Sister Cora Love, and Brother Charles Love. We also welcomed Brother John DiBattista, Brother Lyle Crisculo, and Brother Jim Bork. The opening prayer was offered by Brother John Genaro. Brother Lyle Crisculo opened our services speaking from Micah chapters 4 and 5 referencing the remnant of the House of Israel and being confident when Christ begins a work in you from Philippians 1:6.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio followed referencing Mark 16:15-18 bestowing the gift of the office of Evangelist takes great courage without fear to spread the Gospel in a very humbling journey with the prayers of the saints.

Our third speaker was Brother Mitchell Edwards who spoke from the second chapter of Habakkuk that all of us are missionaries and we, as baptized members, should always tell our testimonies to all who will listen. Sacrament was then served by Brother John DiBattista and Brother Joel Gehly. Our newly baptized member, Brother Darrell Walton, enjoyed his first Sacrament.

On Sunday, November 7, 2010 we awoke to another beautiful day to share the blessing of the ordination to the office of Evangelist for Brother Clifton Wells. We rented the John Beasley Theatre in the South Omaha YMCA to hold the many friends and saints in attendance.

Brother John Straccia opened the meeting referencing Hebrews chapter 5 in the calling after the order of Melchizedek and Isaiah chapter 61 to justify, sanctify and be glorified in the Spirit of God which is in you. He ended with Moroni chapter 3 about being anointed with the power of God and the Holy Spirit to perform the work of God as an Evangelist. Brother John DiBattista followed sharing a story from a missionary trip to Italy with Brother Joel Gehly. Sister Michelle Gomez then spoke in the Spirit, "Thus saith the Lord, the fruit is ripe."

Brother John Genaro followed speaking about the Jubilee year when the House of Israel accepted the year of the Lord while referencing Ezekiel chapter 36 and Jacob chapter 5.

Brother Todd Wright continued by telling how Brother Clifton had the spirit of an Evangelist while doing domestic work in Omaha. He referenced John 21:15 *"feed my sheep"* seizing the moment to work in Omaha as an example of the four sons of Mosiah.

Brother Joel Gehly then exhorted the ministry to return to Omaha one at a time and not to let much time go by before coming back for a visit. He then referenced Luke chapter 10 when the Lord appointed 70 men to go and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He also included a scripture from Ephesians chapter 4 where the fruits of the Spirit were for the perfecting of the saints to the edifying of Christ. He referenced Exodus chapter 15 of the 12 Apostles, 70 Evangelists in Moses' day, in Jesus' day, and in our day. He read from William Bickerton's biography as an example for the ministry to the responsibility to perform the work of the Father in these the last days (Jacob chapter 5 and Mormon chapter 5).

Brother Clifton's feet were then washed by Brother Mitchell Edwards. After prayer was offered by Brother Joel Gehly, hands were laid on him by Brother John Genaro. Brother

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettuer Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 734-429-5080. Periodical postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS. BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

## Editorial Viewpoint . .

"Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt" (Genesis 19:24-26).

Lot's wife made a tragic mistake in turning back to the look at the cities of sin that God was destroying. He had warned them not to turn back or else they would be punished. This clearly represents a person's longing for the former life or ways of life, which should be left behind us, and never picked up again.

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

Jesus stated the awful condemnation that comes upon a person when they look back to their past, instead of looking forward to the great things God has planned for their life. A wonderful example was when Moses died, and Joshua was commissioned to lead Israel over the river Jordan into the Promised Land. God set aside a period of time to mourn over the death of Moses, but when the time of mourning was over, it WAS over! It was time to move on, forget the past, and receive God's greatest blessings that he had in store for Israel. They moved on into the Promised Land conquering city after city.

In our lives, often times the past haunts us. Be careful brothers, sisters and friends, this is a tool of the devil to impede our progress in obtaining God's blessings and plan for our lives. When we dwell on the past, we can never move forward. Some may dwell on how someone has hurt them, and they cannot forgive. Others dwell on situations such as broken marriages or relationships, the onset of terminal illnesses like cancer, miscarriage, the loss of a loved one, losing a job, and the list goes on and on. Some look back to the life they lived before knowing Jesus Christ. They revert back to addictions, fornication, lying, stealing, filthy communication from their mouths, and the like. Jesus said we are not fit for His kingdom if we do this. Try driving your car with your head turned looking out the back window. You will crash! It is the same way spiritually. We have to look forward to God's next move in our lives, otherwise we will crash.

No one said it is easy to forget the past. But just like Israel had a period of time to mourn over the death of Moses, we too must realize that when the past haunts us, it must be temporary. It MUST come to an end or else we can never move on. I love when I hear young people in the Church refer to themselves as "the Joshua generation." Yes, as the prophecies unfold before our very eyes, and as we see the "bloom on the vine," it is time to gird up our loins, stop the mourning, and cross the river Jordan to obtain our Promised Land! Read The Songs of Zion and see how every song looks forward, not backward. God wants us to prepare ourselves to cross Jordan. He wants to establish His Zion, and He wants each and every one of us to be a part of it, and not be left in the wilderness to die. But if we dwell on our past sins, discouragements, mistakes, and ways, we will never be fit for His kingdom.

Brothers, sisters and friends, forget the past. You can never re-live it, or bring it back. Live for the future. The Bible says without vision, the people will perish. Make a decision today to ask God to wipe the slate clean in your life. Ask Him to forgive everything you've ever done that displeased Him. Start a new life of looking forward, striving to make each day better. Look forward and strive to keep step with God's plan for you. He will lead you from victory to victory because He loves you.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Parts of the Body

(Words by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 12:27)

#### "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."



are quick and skillful on a bicycle or at playing sports. You might have a song in your heart and you can sing it or play a musical instrument so everyone can feel the peace and beauty of music. Or you might have a kind heart that sees when others are sad or hurting. You are needed in our church. Each one of your skills is needed to make up the Church.

The Bible tells us that we all are all parts of the body of Christ. In other words, every person in this Church (I Corinthians 12:27) together makes up the body of Christ. (Romans 12:5) We are the Church. When we serve God, we do the things that are right and not just what we want to do. We pray and ask the Lord for His power to be better people and then love is our goal. Each part of the body of Christ is supposed to love one another and the Lord. (I Corinthians 13).

Each of us also has a job to do, just like each part of the body has its own, special job to do. Maybe I am like an eyelash, or an eye. Maybe I will see a problem someone is having that no one else sees and I will shine my light by helping where there is a problem. Maybe I am a voice and I can shine my light by talking kind words that help solve confusion or make a sad heart glad. Maybe I am a toe, even a little toe that helps balance the entire body. If I am part of the foot, then I am one who gets to make the Lord happy by stepping forward to solve a problem or move someone

out of the way to a safer place. If I am a hand, I can reach out and take hold of those who need help. If I am teeth. I can bite into the meat or serious part of a problem. If I am a knee, I can bend with the flow of the group and understand how others look at things. If I am an elbow, I am also bendable, flexible and able to follow through. If I am lips or tongue, I can speak up for those who are weak or who cannot speak. I can tell the story of Jesus to others. If I am an ear, I can hear for the deaf and help them to understand. If I am an eyebrow, I protect the eyes from storms.

It is human to think our way is the only way, or the best way. It is human to want to tell others the way to do things. But, we each are only one part of the body. If I am picked by the Lord to do one job, and have had talents given to me by the Lord to do one job, then that is the job for me to do and do well. The other parts of the body will be using their talents from God to do their work well, too.

Yet there is one thing that every part of the body must do to please God, we all must use our heart. We must love others. In the Bible, we are taught a great commandment from Jesus (see Luke 10:27) Jesus tells us to first love God with all of our hearts. Then love our neighbors [anyone around us] as we love ourselves. We are even taught by Jesus to "Love your enemies!" That means we should pray for those who are doing wrong things to us. We can use our hearts and minds to think about that person and their mistakes and pray for them. There is great power in prayer. There is tremendous power in loving and forgiving and no matter what part of the Church, the body of Christ, we are, we can all increase our prayers and love for others.

(Continued on Page 11)

## Dear Friends,

There are so many times in my life when I wished I were different. Maybe I wished I wasn't so shy, or was better at doing something [talented in an area] that I saw someone else doing. Everyone has times when they wish they were taller, thinner, faster, prettier, smarter, or more successful. As we get older we learn that we can pray and God can help us change. We learn we can practice, or study and work to change some things but other things will not change and we just have to accept ourselves. Then, when we read the Bible, we are surprised to learn that this is the way God created us; we are all supposed to be different!

God made us each to be good at different things. Some people are very smart with reading or numbers. Others have clever brains and make us laugh at things they notice and say. Some people have patience with little babies and others are afraid of crying babies. Maybe your body is good at running and kicking a ball or you

## The Major Sets Of Plates Associated With The Book of Mormon

Author Unknown Copied/Retyped by Brother Don Ross, July 1975

Our present Book of Mormon is composed of writings and abridgments of several sets of plates which were prepared and written at various times between about 2200 B.C. and 421 A.D.

However, the five sets of plates briefly described here are those most closely connected with our present Book of Mormon.

#### The Brass Plates of Laban

The Brass Plates of Laban served as a scripture for the people of the Nephite nation. These plates were obtained from Laban in Jerusalem and were taken to the Promised Land by Lehi's colony. They were evidently written in Egyptian (Mosiah 1:3-4) and were kept by the descendants of Joseph who was sold into Egypt. (I Nephi 5:14-16) These two facts suggest the Brass Plates were probably started in the days of Joseph.

The Brass Plates contained the following:

- (1) "A record of the Jews" and a genealogy of the forefathers of Lehi (I Nephi 3:3)
- (2) The words of the prophets from the beginning of the world down to the time of Jeremiah [who was a contemporary of Lehi], including the prophecies of some prophets who are not even mentioned in the Old Testament such as: Zenos, Zenock, Neum and Ezias. (I Nephi 3:20; I Nephi 5:12-13; I Nephi 19:10,21; Helaman 8:19-20)
- (3) Additional prophecies of Jacob [Israel] and of his son Joseph, who was sold into Egypt (II Nephi 3:1-25; II Nephi 4:1-2; Alma 46:24-25)
- (4) The five books of Moses, which include an account "of the creation of the world, and also of Adam and Eve who were our first parents" (I Nephi 5:11).

Thus the Brass Plates were similar to our Old Testament down to the time of Jeremiah except that they were more complete and comprehensive. (I Nephi 13:23)

Joseph Smith did not translate directly from the Brass Plates of Laban, but he did translate two records which contained some of the writings on the Brass Plates. These were:

(1) The Small Plates of Nephi, which frequently quoted directly from the Brass Plates

(2) The Plates of Mormon which contained a few writings from the Brass Plates which Mormon included in his abridgment of the Large Plates of Nephi.

Therefore, through our present Book of Mormon a portion of the Brass Plates has already gone forth

"unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people"

just as Lehi prophesied. (I Nephi 5:17-19)

#### The Large Plates of Nephi

These plates were started by Nephi soon after Lehi's colony arrived in the Promised Land. They served as the official record of the Nephites from about 590 B.C. to 385 A.D. (I Nephi 19:1-4)

During part of this period they were primarily a record of secular events among the descendants of Lehi, but later they contained the religious record as well. (I Nephi 19:4; Jacob 3:13) These plates contained a "full account of the history of Nephi's people" (I Nephi 9:2,4; II Nephi 4:14; Jacob 1:2-3), the genealogy of Lehi (I Nephi 19:2) and the "more part" of the teachings of the resurrected Jesus Christ to the Nephite nation. (III Nephi 26:7)

The major books on the Large Plates of Nephi were as follows:

- Lehi
- Mosiah
- Alma
- Helaman
- Third Nephi
- Fourth Nephi
- Mormon

(Continued on Page 8)

#### **Major Sets of Plates**

#### Continued from Page 7

After the prophet Mormon was commanded by the Lord to make an additional set of plates, he abridged the writings of the Large Plates of Nephi and wrote this abridgment on his own plates. (III Nephi 5:8-11; Mormon 2:17,18; Mormon 5:9)

Joseph Smith translated Mormon's abridgment of the Large Plates of Nephi, although he did not translate directly from the Large Plates themselves. The complete writings of the Large Plates of Nephi may yet be published to the world. (See Enos, verse 16 and II Nephi 29:13)

#### The Small Plates of Nephi

These plates were started by Nephi about 570 B.C., and for approximately 440 years thereafter served as the religious record of the Nephite nation. (II Nephi 5:29-32; I Nephi 6:3-5; 11 Nephi 9:4; I Nephi 19:2,3, 5,6; Jacob 1:4) Many of the religious writings from the Brass Plates of Laban were also copied onto these plates. (II Nephi 4:15; II Nephi chapters 12 through 24) Joseph Smith's translation of these plates occupies the first 133 pages [?] of our present Book of Mormon. Thus, as Enos prophesied, the teachings of these records have been preserved. (Enos, verses 16,17)

#### The Plates of Ether

These plates contained the secular and religious history of the people of Jared who came over to the Promised Land at the time of "the great tower" of Babel. Also, the record contained an account of the tremendous vision of the Brother of Jared in which he was shown the major events which were to occur on this earth. (Ether 3:25) Moroni abridged the writings of the Plates of Ether and wrote his abridgment on the Plates of Mormon. Joseph Smith translated part of Moroni's writings, and his translation appears as "The Book of Ether" in our present Book of Mormon! (Ether 1:1,2). However, Moroni was commanded by the Lord to "seal up" part of his writings which contained the "very things which the Brother of Jared saw," and Joseph Smith was instructed not to translate the sealed portion. (Ether 4:1-4; Ether 5:1)

This sealed portion will be published when the people

"repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord. . .and exercise faith. . . even as the Brother of Jared did" (Ether 4:6,7).

#### The Plates of Mormon

These plates were started by Mormon and contained his abridgment of the books which were written on the Large Plates of Nephi. (III Nephi 5:8-11; Mormon 2:17,18; Mormon 5:9) Moroni also added on these plates:

- (1) A brief postscript to his father's record (Mormon 8-9)
- (2) His abridgment of the plates of Ether (See Ether 1:1-3)
- (3) His own Book of Moroni (See Moroni 1:1-4)
- (4) The material which appears as the title page in our present Book of Mormon
- (5) His account of the vision of the Brother of Jared which he was commanded to "seal up" (See Ether 4:4,5).

The Plates of Mormon were given to Joseph Smith by the Angel Moroni on September 22, 1827. Joseph Smith translated all of these plates which were not sealed.

However, his translation of Mormon's abridgement of the Book of Lehi, comprising 116 pages of manuscript, was subsequently lost by Martin Harris. The Lord then instructed Joseph Smith to translate the Small Plates of Nephi in the place of the lost manuscript.

#### Additional Information Concerning These Plates

The following references and sources provide additional information concerning the major sets of plates associated with the Book of Mormon.

A. From the Book of Mormon: "Brief Analysis of the Book of Mormon:" P.III

- I Nephi 1:17
- I Nephi 3:3,4, 19-20
- I Nephi 4:24
- I Nephi 5:10-22
- I Nephi 6:1-6
- I Nephi 9:1-6
- I Nephi 10:1-5
- I Nephi 13:19-29, 35-41
- I Nephi 14:25-28
- I Nephi 19:1-6

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." (Rev. 14:6)

## Ordination and Baptism in Omaha

Continued from Page 4

Clifton ended our meeting preaching the subject "*There's a God in Israel*" asking "Are you able?" and "Can you be used?" to do the work of the Father.

Sister Michelle Gomez had several experiences leading up to and during the weekend. She had seen an angel in Omaha dressed in transparency gold and white three times---Once while she was in South Bend, Indiana and the angel told her to go to Omaha. Next, the angel was seen in our Saturday night Sacrament meeting where the ministry sits. The third time the angel was standing over Brother Mitchell Edwards when he was washing Brother Clifton's feet during his ordination. In addition, she saw the three Nephites over Brother Clifton while Brother Mitchell was washing the feet of Brother Clifton.

Sister Michelle saw two headlights shining at night and the Lord reminded her back when Brother Clifton and Sister Valarie were baptized in Mosquito Lake, Ohio at night and the headlights were shining on the place where they were baptized. Additionally, while in South Bend, Indiana, Sister Michelle Gomez had a vision of the back of someone going into the water to be baptized in Omaha, Nebraska. Once she arrived in Omaha, she realized it was the baptism of Brother Darrell Walton.

Sunday evening we met at the home of Brother Clifton and Sister Valarie Wells. Brother Nephi, who stayed until Thursday, led nightly lessons which were enjoyable and a blessing. We also took pleasure in the visit from Victor and Connie Young who are friends of Brother Clifton and Sister Valarie when they attended college at the University of Nebraska in the seventies.

## Our Lord God Amongst Us

Brother Anthony Cardinale

This was no ordinary Sunday that took place December 26, 2010 in Bell, California. The Lord had put into motion the Holy Ghost to move within many lives, in many different ways, to bring to fruition the glorious blessings we felt that day. The day was unforgettable as we witnessed a baptism, a reinstatement into fellowship of a brother, and heartfelt petitions of two people who asked for their baptisms, as well many other manifestations of His Holy Spirit.

The events unfolded on a cold early Sunday morning when we first witnessed the baptism of Sister Rocio Martinez. It had rained hard all through the night, but the morning was beautiful with no rain clouds in sight. Before Brother David Arreola baptized our sister, he spoke in regards to Luke 15:1-7 that tells of the Lord's love as a pastor for a lone "lost sheep," and how there is "joy in heaven" when a sinner is saved. Until we come into His fold, we all represent the lost sheep that He seeks out. What rejoicing takes place in heaven, as well as upon earth, when a sinner is saved.

After Sister Rocio humbly stated her desire to serve God the rest of her life, she was taken into the frigid waters for baptism. There were tears, wide smiles, and other expressions of happiness as our beloved sister came out of the watery grave a new creature in Christ Jesus. When Sister Rocio came upon the lagoon bank, she was greeted by Sisters Teresa Sanchez and Diane McDonnell to dry the cold water from her face and legs. Sister Diane later related how surprised she was to have felt warmth come from our newly baptized sister's legs through the gloves she was wearing. She told this experience after Sister Rocio stated how amazed she was that after being immersed in the cold waters of baptism she felt warmth throughout her body.

Sister Rocio Martinez initially came into contact with the church through her son's participation in the annual Bell Branch Vacation Bible School, which began four years ago. Even though her son went to the Vacation Bible School programs, she had only recently started coming to the church due to the prompting of the Spirit of God. She now represents the firstfruits from that labor of love the Bell Branch commits itself to every year. She has faithfully attended and participated in all church gatherings and activities. During meetings with the ministry and teachers, Sister Rocio has expressed her belief in the Church's faith and doctrine and an understanding that Christ should be reflected in her life. She continues to be a great blessing, along with her son, Arturo, to the Bell Branch family.

After the baptism, we reunited at the church for the Sunday service, and the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon our newly baptized sister. Brother Robert McDonnell preached from Mosiah 15:1-7 that speaks of the simple, yet mysterious plan that "... God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people... The Father, because he was conceived by the power of God; and the Son,

(Continued on Page 10)

#### **Our Lord God Amongst Us**

Continued from Page 9

because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and the Son-" In order to redeem mankind from spiritual death, Jesus Christ paid in the flesh the eternal price, demanded by the Father in exchange for the sins of the world, through His holy pure, sinless blood. He dwelt amongst us and set an example of how we should live, and He explained that by way of our demonstration of faith, repentance and baptism we can obtain salvation. Brothers Robert McDonnell and David Arreola also preached from John 16:7-9 concerning the indwelling "Comforter/ Holy Ghost" that was promised to the disciples, as well as to us today. It was emphasized the opportunity to have the gift of the Holy Ghost was contingent upon the Lord's sacrificial death and resurrection. The Comforter comes through the confirmation prayer of the ministry, for the reception of the Holy Ghost, after a person is baptized. Afterwards, we saw the demonstration of this ordinance when the "gift of the Holy Ghost" was given to Sister Rocio Martinez upon the prayer of the ministry.

We then witnessed the mercy of God graciously poured upon Brother Lloyd Franklin Elzby as he was reinstated into the church. Although he had been out of fellowship for fourteen years, the Lord gave him powerful experiences of His love towards him, which convicted his heart and mind to return to God and not lose his soul. As Brother David Arreola was praying for Brother Lloyd to be restored back into the church, he visualized a ring being placed upon our brother's finger as well as a white coat being place upon his shoulders, just as the prodigal son was received by his father in the Scriptures. Brother Lloyd had expressed his sincere desire to be back into the family of God prior to his reinstatement into the church.

Afterwards, the entire church family and friends joined in harmony to testify of God's goodness. Many praises rang out to God in words and in songs in both English and Spanish. A frequent neighborhood visitor, Ilda Ortiz, was touched by the Spirit of God and asked for her baptism. Additionally, another church friend, who has been attending for some time, was also visibly moved by the Spirit of God and asked for his baptism. The Lord had given this man, Jose Reyes, a remarkable vision a short time after coming to church. Pray for these two candidates as we work with their desires to eventually join our church family.

This extraordinary Sunday was in fact no surprise to the Bell Branch family. The Lord has revealed that He would bring in many souls from the community for us to nourish both naturally and spiritually. As we increase in love, He will increase us in number. However, anticipating future blessings can never compare to the actual manifestation of those blessings in real time. Furthermore, the collective testimony expressed in this article about "Our Lord God Amongst Us" is not to be misunderstood that the Lord is not with us every meeting because it is written, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). However, there are those special times when God does do something special for us through a chain of events that He has foreordained to happen, together through our freewill, to bring about something that is truly amazing. The most miraculous, marvelous, astounding event took place as recorded in Matthew 1:23, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is,

GOD WITH US."

### FEBRUARY

This is the month we think of those we love and reflect on the meaning of love.

There are many scriptures that refer to love.

"... A friend loveth at all times..." (Proverbs 17:17)

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Deut. 6:5)

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." (I John 4:7)

"We love him because he first loved us." (I John 4:19)

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

#### Making Time for Each Other

Continued from Page 1

That evening, we returned to the banquet room, which had been transformed into a candlelit "restaurant" complete with a full-service meal and mood music. The highlight of the evening was when each couple stepped up to the microphone and responded to three questions:

- 1. What couple do you admire and aspire to be like?
- 2. Share an experience that brought you closer together and to God.
- 3. Share an embarrassing moment in your marriage.

Wiping away tears of joy, sympathy and laughter, we all felt closer to our spouses and one another by the end of the night.

On Sunday, we worshiped God by thanking Him for our spouses. We did this by taking turns sharing how we fell in love with our spouse. We told the love story that the Lord had written for us—love stories that often incorporated how we fell in love with Jesus, too.

I think we were all touched by the amazing things God had done for us by not only blessing us with our spouses but also supporting us through the trials we have faced in our marriages.

One thing is for sure—the weekend was far too short. Before we knew it, we were driving back home to our overcrowded schedules and packed to-do lists. But we had been re-energized and re-focused by the fellowship we shared with our spouses, with each other and with the Lord.

#### The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

The Apostle Paul teaches us in I Corinthians 12:14-21,

(14) "For the body is not one member, but many.

(15) If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

(16) And if the ear shall say, Be-cause I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

(17) If the whole body were an eye where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

(18) But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

(19) And if they were all one member, where were the body?

(20) But now are they many members, yet but one body.

(21) And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head say to the feet, I have no need of you..."

And God has set every one of the members in the body [the church] as it pleases him. So God is giving you these abilities. He has a plan for you.

And if everyone was the same part [member with the same talents] how would you have a church body? Everyone would be trying to do the same thing and important things would not get done. This is God's beautiful and interesting plan. Each one of us has some things we are supposed to be doing.

#### Find them! Do them!

Show your love and be the part of The Church of Jesus Christ that God has called you for.

> With love, Your friend, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

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ARE	ALL
ALL	MUST
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WHAT	OF
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## NOTICE

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March, 2011

Volume 67, No.3

## Trusting in God

We define trust as our firm belief or confidence in the reliability of our faith. It is the confidence we have in God that what He promises He will do, that total confidence in God can be termed, "Our Trust in God".

Many today place their trust in tangible entities, such as governments, financial institutions, schools and individuals. To trust in the above are important when balanced with priorities. Even our currency in the United States uses the term, "In God We Trust". However, there is a greater resource in whom we can place our trust, that is, in God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Today we are being challenged by the world and especially by the opposition to our souls, to place our trust in what we can accomplish, not what God can do but what we can do.

Above everything in life, trusting in God for our spiritual and natural needs gives us the hope and joy of living. If we lose this, we have lost it all. We trust Him for our salvation; we trust Him for the hope we have

#### By Apostle Paul Palmieri

in eternal life with Christ. God gave His Son that we would be able to once again be in His presence. Jesus came to redeem us to Himself, without any stipulation except as stated in the Book of Mormon; "... for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in His Son, who is the Holy One of Israel" (II Nephi 30:2).

I am reminded of a project in which we participated to save stamps to redeem them for a van to give to one of our missionaries on an American Indian Reservation. We trusted the company to redeem the stamps; the company went out of business, and fortunately another company took over the project or we would have lost the redemption value.

What a contrast with the promise of God; no one can take away our redemption, whom should we trust? God gave His most valued possession, Jesus Christ, that we would be redeemed. The only requirement to make it effective is for us to do His will. He made the promise thousands of years ago, thousands trusted Him and He kept His promise. He is worthy to be trusted.

God could have invalidated His promise because of mankind's disobedience, but He kept His promise. Trust God and His promises, they are sure and true. Consider some of His wonderful promises that we have believed and trusted:

\* He promised He would never destroy the earth again with water.

\* He promised Abraham that he would have a great family, even when he was old and had no children.

\* He promised the children of Israel that He would deliver them out of Egypt, and their bondage. The promise may have been a long time coming, but God was faithful.

\* He promised them a promised land. And even when they disappointed Him, God was faithful to His word.

(Continued on Page 3)



### Apostles Visit the Irvine Branch

By Brother Anthony Cardinale

We were blessed to have the Quorum of Twelve Apostles visiting with us at the Irvine Branch on Sunday, January 23, 2010. It was evident from the beginning of the service that the Lord was orchestrating our meeting for His divine glory.

There was a beautiful vision at the start of this blessed service. While Apostle Paul Palmieri was opening the meeting in prayer, a sister saw a somewhat tall personage that was illuminated in whiteness on the rostrum standing to the left of the rostrum. As Brother Paul petitioned God for a blessing on the meeting, the personage raised his hand towards heaven and also asked a blessing upon all of us. Next, the personage walked over to Apostle Jim Crudup, Jour opening speaker] and put his hand on his shoulder and said, "You go first." Then the personage whispered something into Brother Jim's ear that couldn't be understood.

Several Apostles were moved by the Spirit of God to eloquently preach the Word of God to us. Apostle Jim Crudup first spoke from I John 3:1,

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." Our brother emphasized that it was the Lord's love and sacrifice that brought us to God. We should be kind, envy not and not be puffed up, as noted in I Corinthians chapter 13.

Afterwards, Apostle Paul Benyola spoke from Mark chapter 5 concerning Jarius, the ruler of the synagogue whose daughter was ill and subsequently died. He had begged Jesus to come and provide a miracle for his daughter, and Jesus responded by saying, *"Be not afraid, only believe!"* Soon afterwards the Lord healed the young girl bringing her back to life, but only after He had removed the unbelieving mockers. Today, just like in times past, the Lord can answer our prayers, and He does so if we have faith.

Apostle Leonard A. Lovalvo made the point that it is difficult for us to grasp "love" according to the concept of the Father and Jesus. The Lord sacrificially demonstrated this love in His life and death, which gives us a point of reference of what true love is. Brother Leonard further encouraged us to yield to the enticing of the Holy Spirit, so that the evil one won't have an open door to our hearts and minds.

Apostle Paul Palmieri also encouraged us all to rely upon God in all things and inspired us to take confidence in that He will not let us down.

The meeting was filled with motivating congregational and special individual and group song arrangements. Later in the service, during the Sacrament portion of the service, the Holy Personage appeared again on the rostrum. He was sitting on the floor of the rostrum with his legs crossed, and he had a large loaf of dark bread on his lap. As the Ministry broke bread in remembrance of the Lord's life being sacrificed for us, he was also breaking into pieces the large loaf of bread he had and placed them on the plates for us to consume. Truthfully, the Spirit did bear witness that we had communion with the Lord while the holy ordinance of Sacrament was observed.

We thank the Lord for coordinating this blessed meeting together with His apostles. The Lord revealed to us once again that He truly does love us. May we praise His name forever, and show works of love as lavishly as He does for us.

## **Muncey Ordinations**

By Sister Mona Ogden

Several ministers spoke at the ordinations of Brother George Grosbeck, Jr., as Teacher and Brother Shane Fisher as Deacon.

Before the service began Sister Judy Coppa lead the congregation in the singing of the Songs of Zion. Sister Connie Smith from South Bend, Indiana, graciously provided the piano playing during the service.

Elders in attendance were Brothers Leonard A. Lovalvo, Frank Natoli, Alex Gentile, Dan Mora, Mark Palmieri, Tom Everett, Nestor Gomez, John Buffa, Jerry Benyola and Presiding Officer of the Muncey Mission, Brother Gary Coppa

Brother Dan Mora opened in prayer in his native tongue [Spanish].

Brother Tom Everett was the first to speak. He spoke from Jacob that there began to be fruit again in the vineyard. He spoke about how Enos prayed and God promised, "I will grant unto thee according to thy desires because of thy faith." He also spoke from Alma Chapter 5—where Alma admonished the people with the Word of God. He referred to Gideon,

(Continued on Page 3)

#### **Trusting in God**

Continued from Page 1

\* He promised His people on the land of America that He was going to come into the world as He promised thousands of years ago. Some people were willing to kill their brothers over the belief that Christ was going to come into the world. Christ spoke to reassure Nephi, and said, "tomorrow I will be born." [God was and is faithful].

God works today as in the past. God wants us to place our trust in Him and in His Holy Word. He promised that the Gospel would be restored and it was. Some will differ but that does not change God's promise. God promised that the tribe of Joseph and the entire House of Israel would be restored. Is anything impossible with God? Has His word ever failed? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, that is why we trust Him. He promised us that a peaceful condition will exist on the earth while men and women are living in the flesh. What a wonderful hope the saints of God possess, that a peaceful condition will exist again on the earth as it was in the Garden of Eden.

Today God has commissioned The Church of Jesus Christ to bring the Gospel to all people, in all parts of the world. To accomplish this, we must trust in God that He will fulfill all that He has spoken. We must trust in God for everything we need. We need to depend more on Him and less on our own ability.

Trusting in God extends beyond the spiritual needs we have as individuals and the work of the Church. It embraces every aspect of our lives; our families; our homes; our jobs, and our associations. It needs to be taken into consideration when we take a job, when we take a transfer in the Church and in our jobs, when marrying a mate, when buying a house, and when giving to the Church, etc. This is what God wants from each of us, to place our trust in Him completely for everything!

God never forgets anything, "except our sins." We can trust Him for that. Trust God to solve your needs, spiritually and temporally and He will never fail you. At the end of your life, He will be faithful and bring you into His glorious kingdom.

ONLY TRUST HIM !!

#### **Muncey Ordinations**

Continued from Page 2

a Teacher, who gave his whole life as a witness. (Alma 1:7-9) We are all spiritual warriors. Our weapons are the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Brother Tom asked the saints to support and pray for Brother George, Jr., and Brother Shane.

Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo spoke next. He referred to an experience which was had recently at the General Church Conference. A native woman in native dress came out from among trees and said; "My people are thirsty." She then disappeared. Brother Leonard stated, the harvest is great. Labourers must follow through. Take responsibility-to bear your testimony and to be committed to the straight and narrow way. He also spoke of a Deaconess in Muncey reported in the Church History Book, Sister Phoebe Hall, who developed TB. Her family had all died from the disease. One Sunday she was anointed by Brother Mark Randy and was healed. She regained her health and lived a productive life until her passing at the age of 87.

Brother Alex Gentile related that

he had been ordained as a Deacon and later as a Teacher. He explained that a Deacon is called to serve the brothers and sisters as he is inspired by God. Also that we are all called to tell our testimony and to plant seeds. Take time to talk to the Lord and always enjoy the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Frank Natoli acknowledged that many names were mentioned today of people who had laboured to bring the Gospel to Muncey. He also focused on the list that God has before him in the "Lamb's Book of Life". "I died for your sins," Jesus said. Let us give our best.

Many wonderful words of encouragement were spoken by the priesthood and also strong words of advice.

Brother Nestor Gomez spoke directly to Brother Shane Fisher explaining to him his duties as a Deacon and his overall responsibilities. Brother George Grosbeck, Jr., had his feet washed by Brother Owen Wilcoxson. Brother Shane had his feet washed by Brother Clayton Lunham, our Deacon from Muncey.

Brother Shane later testified that earlier that morning as he was praying about the ordination, the Lord told him that he would be shown who was going to wash his feet. Later as Brother Shane was driving to the Church he met Brother Clayton who was also driving to the Church and the Lord spoke and said, "There's the man that will be washing your feet today."

The singing was beautiful and so was the joyful Spirit of God, evidenced on the smiling faces of everyone in attendance. We later enjoyed a buffet lunch and wonderful fellowship. We praise God for His many blessings here at the Muncey Mission and we are thankful for all the faithful servants of God in The Church of Jesus Christ.

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, Pennsylvania and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

## Editorial Viewpoint . .

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus instructs John to write letters to the seven churches that were established throughout the area of Asia minor. At this time, there was still only one church, The Church of Jesus Christ, so these would be like modern day branches of the Church. During this time, the seeds of apostasy were stirring. Not long afterwards, there was a complete falling away, and many other churches came into being, while The Church of Jesus Christ was taken away for 1260 years.

In these letters, Jesus begins to speak to each church one by one. He points out their strengths and weaknesses. In some cases He condemns, in other cases He praises. In all cases, He was speaking the truth to them regarding their condition.

When The Church of Jesus Christ was restored after the 1260 years of apostasy, an experience was given that we are the "Church of Philadelphia". One of the churches that Jesus dictated a letter to, through John, was in Philadelphia, located in Asia minor [probably in modern day Turkey]. He said to them:

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" (Rev. 3:8).

This verse is so prophetic to our day since The Church of Jesus Christ has an "open door" to the world, and no one is trying to stop us. The Church is going forward throughout the world with lightning speed! In addition, the Church does have a "little strength". We certainly are not like other rich and naturally powerful churches. In fact, most people still haven't heard of us. Yet, we have striven to "keep His Word" by being fiercely protective of the faith and doctrine. He later promises that He would keep the Church from the "hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world" because we have "kept the word of His patience". Jesus was pleased with the Church of Philadelphia. He is pleased with The Church of Jesus Christ today. The question is, is He pleased with you and I individually?

Just being a member of the Church is not going to "save" you. But we are going to be judged as individuals. Although it is beautiful to read His promise to the Church of Philadelphia [our Church today], we should read what He says to the other six churches and check ourselves to be sure we are not guilty of any of the things He condemns.

The church in Ephesus was one that was very active. They probably were involved in a lot of outreach programs, and had lots of activities. But they lost their first love. Do we get so involved in "activities" in the Church that we lose sight of the importance of taking time to nurture a loving personal relationship with our Father? If so, all the works we do mean nothing. The church in Pergamos had some who were holding onto pagan customs and rituals. When we joined The Church of Jesus Christ, did we leave it all behind? If we came from other churches, did we truly abandon doctrines and beliefs that were false, and accept the truth? Did we leave the old man or the old woman in the waters of baptism? The church in Thyatira allowed a false prophetess to teach them that fornication was acceptable, and other false teachings. Do we hear other teachings, which are NOT sound doctrine and accept them? Do we allow Satan to whisper in our ear, "It's okay to sin a little"? Jesus called the church in Sardis "dead". Are we "numb" to the spirit of God? As King Benjamin asked, if we once felt to sing the song of redeeming love, can we do so now? The world can weigh us down heavily, but is it worth spending so much time focusing on natural things [which will perish] and lose eternal life? Lastly, He told those of the church of Laodicea that they were "lukewarm". Do we come to church whenever we want, and then criticize everything and everyone? Do we pray and read infrequently or not at all? Do people around us even know that we are servants of Jesus Christ?

Let's make sure we fit the category of those in the Church of Philadelphia. With wars and tribulation around the world imminent, it's time to stand like never before in the light of His truth. He said to the Church in Philadelphia, and is saying to us today:

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11).

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## A Wizard Tries To Trick the Apostle Paul

D<sup>ear friends,</sup>

I was just a little child when television was invented. In my Mom's day everyone would sit around the radio to hear the news and listen to favorite programs. In my day, we could see programs in black and white on a screen! The neighbor kids would all come over to our house at four o'clock to watch Superman and cartoons. People were careful about what they could show on television, but television began to influence us. I wanted a doll called Ricky Ricardo because the star on a program called "I Love Lucy" had a new baby. My husband's little brothers got the idea to tie capes around their necks and try to fly their bikes off the garage roof like Superman. [They crashed of course].

Many programs were good and taught good things. But little by little, things that were not good, or true began to sneak in. For example, programs showing cute witches or genies became really popular. Or we'd scare ourselves by watching weird shows called science fiction [meaning not true] like "Twilight Zone", which were way off of the good way God has set up the world. Because we could see it, [but not the filming tricks that were used to make the show], we started thinking that maybe, it was truewhen IT WAS NOT! God made order in our universe-marvelously detailed



and ordered. We did not have to fear anything. God knows all.

One of my friends became scared that aliens would come for him. I told him I do not believe there are aliens, but if there were, then they also would have been created by God. God has total power over all of creation today, yesterday and forever. But we must learn about God's ways of love and God's power.

Thousands and thousands of years ago, the most beautiful angel, Lucifer, tried to get control of heaven, and overthrow God. He was kicked out of heaven with all of the bad angels that chose to follow him. (Revelation 12:7-9) In his hate and jealously, that old devil is constantly trying to get people to do bad things to themselves and others. He doesn't want us to go to heaven and be happy when we die. He is all about lies, getting power, controlling others and hurting people. He is our enemy.

Way back in the Bible days, (see Acts 13:6-12) the followers of Jesus had a huge work to do. They needed to spread the good news throughout the world that the Savior, Jesus Christ, had come and there was a beautiful religion of love to learn and practice. The Apostle Paul and his friends were glad to go. People in those days worshipped statues, followed religions full of rules that even told them how many steps they could walk on the Sabbath Day, and more, or were full of superstitions and lies. Many others served the devil by doing much harm to anyone they could.

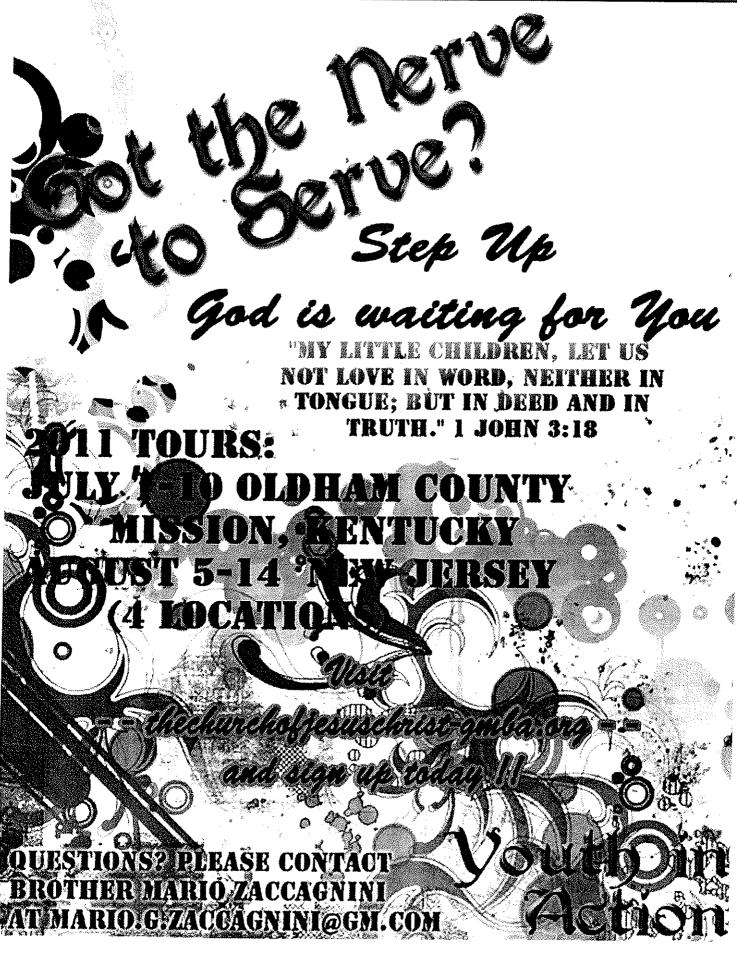
These followers of Jesus fasted and prayed for guidance and after the ministers had laid hands on them again and prayed for them, they left and sailed towards the beautiful, sunny island of Cyprus. This island is the third largest in the Mediterranean Sea and has beautiful warm weather nearly year round. Ships liked to sail to Cyprus and rest in a safe harbor before continuing on to cross the Mediterranean. The people there were very superstitious and believed in fake legends of many gods and goddesses. [They did not know the truths in the Bible].

After Paul and his minister friends landed, they went to visit the Jewish synagogues where people believed in God already. Then they travelled along the southern coast of the island of Cyprus until they reached the city of Paphos.

In that great city the deputy [like a Governor, who was an important ruler with power from Rome], asked to speak with Paul and the brothers and hear the Word of God (Acts 13:2-12).

But, another man, an evil, powerful, man called a sorcerer was already a friend with the ruler. He was named Bar-jesus or Elymas, and was influenced by the devil. He tried to turn the ruler away from the faith. He did not want this man to leave his side and believe in God. He wanted this ruler under his power. Then Paul, filled with the Holy Ghost, looked at him and said, "Oh, you troublemaker, you child of the devil, you enemy of all that is good, will you not quit trying to ruin the ways of the Lord? And now watch, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a season."

(Continued on Page 8)



#### The Children's Corner

#### Continued from Page 6

And immediately there fell on this man a mist and a darkness; and he went about to find someone to lead him by the hand. Can you imagine how many people saw and believed in the power of God! The power of this evil man, who called himself a sorcerer, was nothing when God got involved. And when the ruler saw what was done, he was astonished by the power of God and the ruler believed in Jesus!

There are still people who call themselves wizards, sorcerers or psychics. Television advertisers want to sell us fake magic wands, wizard clothes, genie outfits. Even this is a waste of your money. Many times people who want power over others study how to trick people and they say they claim to have power, but it is not a good or safe power that any of us can trust in. They will use trickery, film and camera tricks to confuse or pretend they have magic. These people do not love others. In some places in the world, they even sneak drugs, herbs or powders into people's foods or bodies to cause confusion or make people fear them.

Do not give them power by doubting God or by believing. Do not pretend to be wizards, or any of the fake things you see on television or in movies. Trust in Jesus, not in people who want you to buy a book, a costume, a movie or a fortune. We are the people of God. Think about the true power of God and what it means to you. How many times has God answered you prayers? How many times has someone you loved been healed? Do not trust the devil or things the world tells you are real. Believe in the Word of God.

Remember in James 4:7,8, we are

promised, "...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh [near] to God, and he will draw near to you. ..."

Remember whom you are—a special child of Christ.

With love, Your friend and sister-in-Christ, Jan

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The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE has moved.

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The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE World Operations Center 110 Walton Tea Room Road Greensburg, PA 15601

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April, 2011

Volume 67, No.4

## Atlantic Coast Regional Conference

The Atlantic Coast Region had its Region Conference on Sunday, March 20, 2011. There were many brothers, sisters and visitors from our region gathered together this weekend, including brothers and sisters from Maine. We started our meeting with some wonderful singing; we truly felt the spirit of God. Our Region President, Brother Jerry Valenti, made opening comments encouraging us to prepare our minds and to be focused on God and He will bless us and fulfill our needs.

Brother Richard Onorato, Sr., opened the meeting. He began by relating that he had a vision of John the Apostle, the three Nephites and others walking around and greeting everyone. When the communion table was being set, they fell to the ground, praising the Lord. Then Christ appeared in the middle and He pronounced a blessing upon the congregation, saying we would be His people until the day He takes us home. Brother Richard read from

#### By Brother Michael Zaino

II Nephi 26:30,31:

"Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing, wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love. And except they should have charity they were nothing. Wherefore, if they should have charity they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish. But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish."

Brother Richard expounded on this scripture that we should labor for Jesus Christ every day of our lives. He related an experience he had when he was sick—the Lord told him He still has work for him to do—the Lord spared his life.

Apostle Paul Benyola followed, continuing in the same chapter, reading II Nephi 26:32,33 addressing the congregation to be obedient to God and not do those things that are in the verse that are not pleasing unto God—not to murder, not to lie, not to steal, or take the name of the Lord in vain. He encouraged us to work for the Lord and labor for Him.

Brother James Sgro followed speaking about the power of Jesus' resurrection. He talked about the earthquake in Japan, and asked us if we felt the earthquake of the stone that was rolled away. He encouraged us to understand the power of the cross.

Brother Jerry asked the brothers and sisters from Maine to sing a song. They followed with a few testimonies. The young children also sang a song.

After the meeting David Boruch, from the Levittown Branch, came forward and made his wishes known that he is ready to be baptized. We praise God for another soul coming to Christ! Our prayer is that God will continue to bless our region and bless the Church.

## **MISSIONARY WORK**

By Brother David Nolfi

We rejoice in the ongoing fulfillment of the commission of Christ to, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." The Church of Jesus Christ continues to fulfill the words of our Saviour.

Throughout the years and presently, the Lord continues to direct the missionary work resulting in a worldwide Church. The Gospel has been carried into remote corners of the earth. The Lord has called, ordained and by divine direction sent brothers and sisters to areas never considered. The Lord be praised; He has blest the Church with the means to spread the pure Gospel throughout the world. By the grace of God we have undertaken the "Great Work of the Lord".

It is critical to the ongoing missionary effort of The Church of Jesus Christ that we keep a clear understanding of what missionary work is and where the mission field is located. Too often we presume missionary work to be a plane ticket, a suitcase, a passport and reserving a portion of our vacation or free time to travel to some distant area under the auspices of the IMOC or the NAOC. This is a vital part of the worldwide missionary outreach but it is only a portion.

Missionary work is first and foremost a love for the souls of humanity; compassion for those bound by sin; an expectation of blessings wherever the saints gather and a willingness to invite others to church. When Lehi tasted the sweetness of the fruit of the Tree of Life he turned and looked for his family that they also would partake of the blest fruit. Is it in our heart to want others to partake of the sweetness of the Lord's presence in our worship services?

Once we have tasted of the joy of salvation it is a treasure that we desire others to discover. The mission field is wherever the saints gather. Whether we travel halfway around the globe or if we walk across the street to our home branch, it is our mission field! Every testimony that is offered to our Lord's praise; every sermon preached; every song of praise; every prayer; every invitation extended to a visitor is a missionary outreach effort!

Never before in our life time has there been such a need for the pure Gospel, throughout the world and in our own neighborhood. A favorite in the Saints Hymnal proclaims, "Millions now in sin and shame are dying, listen to their sad and bitter cry."

The love of Christ must abound in our hearts to be a missionary. Additionally we must listen for opportunity to present itself as we communicate with people. When people say: "I don't know what to do. I don't know where to turn. I need help. I have tried everything." In that moment of time the door of opportunity opens to their heart. This is the opening to plant the seed of faith and the invitation of hope.

Although the situations in the broken lives of people seem hopeless our faith is Jesus Christ's words, ". . .*with God all things are impossible*" must move us to speak words of faith in the worst of circumstances.

When Christ spoke to the woman at the well her testimony moved hundreds to "Come, see a man which told me all things..." It is our testimony in Christ that Almighty God will use to ignite the fire of missionary work. With the Lord's blessing our words can reach the core of the soul of those to whom we speak. Whether in a remote land or at home branch, whether a village or a brief conversation with a passerby; Jesus said, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

Therefore, let us pray for the opportunity to offer our testimony. When the door of opportunity opens may God grant us words of grace and love to the listening soul.

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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

(Matthew 28:19,20)

### SIMPLE AND SWEET

#### By Brother Daniel P. Stone

s residents of the United States, we are all aware that our country is suffering a devastating recession. The familiar statement, "to pinch a penny", now has new meaning for everyone. Poor Abe is currently being pinched so hard that he cannot help but scream from his copper profile. However, despite these financial hardships, we should remember that God always provides for His people. Keeping this affirmation in mind, there is one particular chapter of scripture that we should pay close attention to. It truly holds the assurances that we desperately need. This story is found in the sixteenth chapter of Exodus, and it recounts of a miracle that still exists today.

While in the wilderness, the Israelites began to murmur against the Lord due to their lack of food. God was not pleased with His people's insolence, but despite their rebellion, the Father proclaimed to Moses, "...Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no" (Exodus 16:4). Then, just as the Lord had promised, the Israelites awoke the next morning to find manna upon the dewed ground.

We all know how the story continues. God, by His infinite love and grace, fed the children of Israel for forty years while they journeyed in the wilderness. However, the question we need to ask is, "What makes this story so significant?" Let us continue to examine the chapter and find out!

When the Israelites found the manna, Moses states that it was "... as small as the hoar frost on the ground" (Exodus 16:14). He also

writes that "... it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey" (Exodus 16:31). By feeding the children of Israel with small, white, sweet tasting bread, the Lord was establishing a type and shadow of His great work for the future.

The manna symbolized what God has already given to us in our day and time-the pure and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ! Like the heavenly bread, Christ's Gospel may not seem notable at first. His words are brief, simple, and to the point. Nevertheless, when we "take a bite" of the Gospel our souls are filled with the sweet, pure, and fulfilling taste of His love! No natural food can ever fill the hunger of one's soul like God's word. That is why we must remember to read the scriptures everyday. Our Savior even reminds us, "... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

As we continue to read the chapter, again we find that the Israelites sinned against the Lord. After collecting the manna, some left remnants of the bread until the next morning (Exodus 16:20). This was contrary to God's instruction, directing the Israelites to eat all the bread that was collected. And as a result of their disobedience, the manna bred worms and became rotten. After witnessing a miracle, the Israelites still failed to trust that the Lord would continue to provide for them, so they saved manna hoping to support themselves. Likewise, do we also find ourselves worrying about the next day, or the weeks to come? Can we ever sufficiently prepare for the future? The answer is obviously no, and that is why our Savior states,

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient is the day unto the evil thereof" (III Nephi 13:34).

Therefore, as the children of God, we should know that the Lord will always provide for His people. If God provided for the wandering Israelites for forty years, who are we to question or worry about the future? He has already given us manna from Heaven, and it is our choice to partake of it. So as we sit down everyday and read God's word, let us remember that it is manna from Heaven. Also, as we partake of our daily sustenance, let us too recognize that it is manna from Heaven. Lastly, let us remind ourselves of Christ's important commandment--"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (III Nephi 13:31-33).

If we continue to place the Lord's will before our own, we will never lack His sufficient care. Thank you for reading, and may God strengthen your faith as you perpetually strive to serve Him.

## CAN YOU IMAGINE?-Mary

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

In a recent seminar, we were asked to list a weakness that we felt we had in our service to God, something that we wanted to improve upon. For me it was clearly reading the scripture more often. Actually, it was reading and comprehending the meaning better. I wanted the content to come alive for me. At the end of the seminar, we committed to ourselves to make those improvements.

#### Can You Imagine? — Mary

Continued from Page 4

In the months after the seminar, something interesting happened. I began thinking about the Bible characters. Trying to put myself in their shoes for a moment to catch a glimpse of how they may have felt in the situation that they were in.

For example, when we read the story of Jonah we read that he did not do what the Lord had commanded by going to Nineveh to preach and was swallowed up by a great fish. Though we don't know the type of fish, it is most often referred to as a whale. He lived in the great fish for three days until it vomited him out on dry land. There is much more to the story of course and I have heard or read it many times. How many times have I just glossed over the words-"swallowed by a whale"? There are even pictures in children's books where Jonah sits comfortably in the fish contemplating his fate. But CAN YOU IMAGINE what it must really have been like sitting inside of a fish for three days? In Jonah 2:2, Jonah describes it as the "belly of hell". The scripture can only tell us so much, it is important for us to make these stories come alive to appreciate the true message.

We will save the rest of Jonah for another time because the scriptural figure that has been most prevalent in my mind recently has been Mary. Brother Joe Gianetti, visiting Branch #2 from Atlanta, preached a Christmas sermon through the eyes of Mary. His theme was, "A Baby Changes Everything".

This sermon made me think about Mary as an ordinary woman. CAN YOU IMAGINE finding yourself expecting after knowing no man? CAN YOU IMAGINE a visit from an angel saying "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women" (Luke 1:28)? CAN YOU IMAGINE knowing that He chose you to carry and give birth to the Son of God!? I know that God finds favor in each of us for the service we give Him but to feel that complete love and acceptance and approval from God must have been wonderful. I imagine Mary was truly an amazing person.

CAN YOU IMAGINE going to your fiancé and explaining that you had conceived a child of God? Joseph must have loved her very much to believe and understand the truth. CAN YOU IMAGINE carrying the baby inside you for nine months? Was she extra careful through the pregnancy? Did she feel a responsibility to protect the baby or did she feel as though she was just the vehicle and God was protecting Him?

When it was time to give birth, Mary was not allotted even the meager conveniences of that day. She was away from her home with her then husband Joseph traveling for over a week on the back of a donkey, and after arriving was given a place in the stable where she gave birth to Jesus. CAN YOU IMAGINE how uncomfortable she must have been on that journey? When after traveling this long way and arriving at the inn searching for comfort and most likely sustenance, she was turned away. She did not have the option of hopping in her car and driving to the next town or looking at her GPS to see where the next inn was or better yet the closest hospital with a staff ready in the birthing wing. Was she asking God if this was really how His Son should be born or did she patiently and willingly submit to the circumstances knowing that her life was in the hands of the Lord?

The scripture does not tell us

much of the young years of Jesus. What must it have been like to know that you were in charge of the guidance and teaching of the Son of God? Did she teach Him about God or did He already know more than any human could know. IMAGINE meeting the basic needs of clothing and food or the day to day interaction with Jesus the child. As parents many of us worry about even the smallest situations with our children, sometimes even questioning our ability to provide for them the spiritual and intellectual knowledge they need. CAN YOU IMAGINE being Mary and knowing that God entrusted you with the care and keeping of His Son as a child? Each time she performed a daily task for the small child did she feel as though she was nurturing the Savior? I doubt she was ever boastful but any declaration of the truth that she had borne and was raising the son of God would probably seem so to many.

Sadly, I CAN'T EVEN IMAG-INE the pain she must have felt as they nailed Him to a cross and His life ended. Neither can I truly imagine the joy and excitement she heard when He rose again.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see Mary now and learn more about that time, how she felt through those years? If we endure to the end we will get that chance. For now, it is my hope that the life of Mary and her dedication have become a bit more real. For me, this certainly puts into perspective my role as a mother and any trials my life has. Mary submitted her life and even her person to the Lord to accomplish His will. This message is a reminder that we too can follow in her footsteps and totally submit our lives to the Lord. We may not be chosen to carry or nurture His Son but I CAN IMAGINE that He will use us in the way He sees fit to help save the souls of man.



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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

## Editorial Viewpoint . .

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

D id you ever break up a fight or mediate in an argument? If you did, then you know that in order to be successful, you must be sensitive to both sides of the issue. If you take sides, you create even more contention and end up joining in on the fight. The children of God, according to Jesus, are those who are peacemakers. We, being the children of God, can only claim that title if we truly are peacemakers. In God's Word, there are numerous examples of this. When others were performing miracles in the name of Jesus, John wanted them to be condemned. But Jesus, being a peacemaker, told His disciples to leave them alone. If they weren't against Jesus, they were for Him. The adulterous woman would have been stoned to death by the people for the sins she had committed. But Jesus mediated on her behalf, and caused the people to see her side of the story. He told the people that if they were without sin, that they should cast the first stone. The people were confounded, and had to end their planned attack of the woman.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

Peace can only come when there is forgiveness. If a person can forgive another, then contention is stopped in its tracks. This is just like Jesus who forgives all our sins. He said that if He can forgive all our sins, even if they are red like crimson, then we ought to forgive one another. Forgiving is the only thing that can end contention. When we end contention, the devil cannot work.

"For verily, verily I say unto you, he that has the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirrith up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another" (III Nephi 11:29).

The devil causes us to only see our side of the story, and not consider the feelings of others. This feeling breeds contention. Did you ever meet someone who always felt he/she was right about everything? This is a person who is driven by the spirit of contention, which is of the devil. The Bible says that the wisdom of mankind is foolishness to God. So how can a person always think he/she is right about everything? But the true children of God are those who are humble peacemakers. They don't always have to prove their point, or think they are always right. They can empathize and sympathize with another person, forgive them, and love them, regardless of what they have done. I think sometimes as saints of God, we are too quick to become offended. We must realize that being able to understand another person, and forgive them [thus eradicating any possible contention] is a conscious decision on our part. It doesn't come naturally. Human sin nature tells us to become offended and contend with one another, rather than be a peacemaker. But as saints of God, we have to work at suppressing those feelings and truly be the peacemaker that God wants us to be.

Sometimes God must humble us down in order to be a peacemaker. He does this by causing us, or someone in our family, to go through something that we have been criticizing others for. An example is people who don't have children condemning other parents who seem to have unruly children. Then one day, they have children of their own, who become unruly. Suddenly, they can understand and empathize. Another example is those who condemn others who are going through a divorce. Then the day comes when they go through it, or someone in their family does. Suddenly, they understand and empathize. There are numerous other examples.

Brothers, sisters and friends, let's avoid having to be taught this kind of lesson, simply by being the peacemaker Jesus wants us to be. Let us understand, forgive and love one another. No one really ever "wins" an argument or a fight. In the end, the only "winners" are the true children of God—the peacemakers.

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## The Ancient Records

Dear Boys and Girls,

What would you do if you wanted to keep a record of something important so that when you were an older person you could teach your family and others? What if you wanted to write down the miracles you have had in your life and all of God's promises and blessings? What if you wanted people to remember how to write? Would you use a pretty piece of paper, or nice journal? What if it rained and got it wet? What if it was stored somewhere and fire burned the building down? Would you write on a computer? But what if the electricity went out and the computer wouldn't work? Where could you keep a really important record safe?

The Book of Mormon is an ancient book that records the lives. deaths and faith of millions of people who lived in North, South, and Middle America, which is called the Promised Land. It covers centuries of time; from the grandchildren of Noah who tried to build the huge Tower of Babel and were scattered over here, through the prophecies and visits of Jesus Christ, to the downfall of every nation that turned to evil, to the future city of Zion where all will someday live in peace for a thousand years. It has words to guide us regarding the past, present and future.

The stories in The Book of Mormon were written in ancient languages. You understand how quickly things written on paper could be destroyed by water, fire, or rough



handling. So the Lord instructed His people to keep records on thin sheets of metal, like brass, or gold, called plates. (see I Nephi 9:1-6) They were stamped or engraved. (see Jacob 4:1-4) It was not easy to do. Some of the records of those who came over after the Tower of Babel were also carved on a stone as well. (see Omni 19-21). Some of the plates held an account of the times the kings ruled and the wars and history, and some were for the ministry. They recorded the prophecies, the laws and the great plan of God. He wanted every person to know about Jesus and His plan of love and forgiveness.

God set aside the Americas as a special place, a land promised by God to protect and provide for the people as long as they served the one true God, and live in peace with one another. God warned them that if they started doing evil, they would be wiped off the face of the Promised Land.

The first group in this Promised Land, called the Jaredites, was not related to today's Native peoples. They came over the ocean in barges at the time of the Tower of Babel in the Bible. (Genesis 11:8). God told them (see Ether 2: 8,9) ". . . whoso should possess [live] this land of promise. . . should serve him, . . . or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath, [when he was totally angry at them] . . .when they were ripened in iniquity [or full of doing evil]." They were incredibly blessed for centuries until they became wicked and formed secret organizations to gain power and began fighting among themselves. They hardened their hearts and separated into two great armies formed of men, women and children and fought to the death.

The prophet Ether hid in a cave and watched the great destruction of his people. He kept a record on twenty-four thin sheets of gold. This record was found by explorers from Zarahemla who got lost and discovered that the land north of them was filled with huge abandoned cities. The whole country was filled with the bones of animals and Jaredite people. There were huge breastplates and the hilts of giant swords whose blades had rusted away. Their marvelous cities and riches were left when their nations fell. Their last remaining king, named Coriantumr, wandered alone down to South America where the people in Zarahemla discovered him. He lived with them for nine months before he, too, died.

This group in Zaramemla had come across the ocean at the time when Babylon was destroying Jerusalem. One son of King Zedekiah, named Mulek, and friends escaped capture and was led to the Promised Land of South America. They did not bring written records with them but had a tradition of memorizing the long lists of their genealogy back to their days in Jerusalem (see Omni 18). But, since they had no written records, they had forgotten their original religion. They denied the existence of their Creator. Their language had also changed over the centuries but they quickly learned the Nephite language once they joined one another. They were converted to be people who served God with the Nephites (Mosiah 25:13).

The Nephite group came across the ocean from Jerusalem about 600 years before the birth of Christ [and fifteen years before Mulek's group]. Their father, Lehi, was a prophet of

(Continued on Page 8)

# "Wage are longing Cathering" See you there!

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#### The Children's Corner

#### Continued from Page 6

God and a descendent from the tribe of Joseph. They brought over old records engraved on brass that listed all of their ancestors down from Jacob. The record also had the five books of Moses, which told about the Ten Commandments, and the creation of the world from Adam and Eve to their day and time (see I Nephi 5:10-17). The brass records had the prophecies of the holy prophets including Isaiah to Jeremiah. That meant that Lehi's group knew the past, present and the prophesied future of God's peoples. It was the basis for establishing a godly civilization.

When Lehi's family were told to leave Jerusalem, his oldest two sons Laman and Lemuel, did not believe God spoke to their father. They did not want to be obedient. They hated their younger brothers Nephi and Sam who did believe in the prophecies of God. On their journey to the Promised Land [they landed in South America near Peru] Laman and his followers tried to harm and even kill Nephi. Many times God had to discipline them.

After they arrived and started building cities, the trouble grew. Finally God told Nephi to take his followers and flee into the wilderness. God told Nephi to bring along the brass plates that that had come from Jerusalem, which gave the people their laws, history and prophecies of the future!

As the years passed, there was much intermingling with the Nephites and Lamanites. Usually those following God chose the name Nephites, but sometimes it was the Lamanites who were better followers of God.

The year that Jesus was born, a mighty Lamanite prophet, Samuel, preached from the top of the walls of the bright star that would come to mark the day. Many, many Laman-

ites believed and served God. Many Nephites did not. Time passed andduring the years Jesus was living and preaching in Jerusalem, the people in the Americas started doubting. Secret gangs called the Gadianton robbers began attacking everyone. All the Lamanites who had become converted unto the Lord united with the Nephites and fought against the robbers-and those Lamanites who had united with the Nephites were numbered among the Nephites. (III Nephi 12-14). Again, the two groups of Nephite and Lamanite people united. These more righteous Lamanites and Nephites were also spared at the time of the great destruction and these are the true ancestors of the native people in all of the Americas. They kept the ancient records, they studied them and preached them and then they hid them up.

As prophesied by Lehi in II Nephi 3:19-21, these old, old records, called the Book of Mormon, were written on metal plates and were hidden for nearly 1,400 years. The words " speak from the dust". The angel Moroni gave them to a young man, Joseph Smith, to translate. It is also promised that in the future there will be a great prophet and seer who will raise up and convince the Native Americans of their history and of the special blessings God has in store for them. They will convince the descendents of Lehi, our Native Americans of the promises made to their ancestors so many year ago, and coming true now that The Book of Mormon has gon forth.

With love, your friend, Sister Jan

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May, 2011

Volume 67, No.5

## ALIVE IN CHRIST Southeast Area MBA Campour

Even though our theme was E''Alive in Christ'', arriving after a long work week to our Southeast Area MBA Campout weekend, most of us, I would venture to say, didn't feel very alive at all. Our weekend began like a typical weekend campout. Lots of hugs and hellos and how have you beens? "What time is our orientation meeting?" "You're not getting dressed up, are you?"... were the questions overheard around the camp.

As we gathered together that evening, our Southeast Area MBA officers welcomed us to campout. As the singing began, so did God's spirit. This was only the beginning to a wonderful spirit-filled weekend. As the orientation meeting was opened in prayer, a brother was blessed with a vision of Christ standing at the back of the auditorium, His arms were outstretched and the heavens were opened as He gloried in His saints, looking up to the Father. Following our meeting, the seminar leaders gathered together in a side room to receive their instructions for the following day. During this meeting, the gift of tongues were

spoken and the interpretation was;

#### "The spiritual work has begun. Thus saith the Lord."

Soon after, in the same meeting, a vision was had —"I saw a steam roller cleaning a field, preparing the way, clearing the way." The brother that saw this vision was inspired that this was God's way of telling us that He has prepared the way for each person's blessing.

Saturday morning we gathered together for our chapel service. All in attendance felt the spirit of God working throughout the building. This was made apparent as we dismissed into our various seminars and experiences soon began to come forth. In our 20-39 year old seminar, once again the gift of tongues were spoken. The interpretation was;

#### "This is a chosen generation, who will work for me."

The spirit of God continued to work with those in this seminar.

Those in attendance were each given a brick. On this brick they were to write down something that was holding them back from serving God fully. They then stacked the bricks, knelt down and a brother prayed that their various issues would be removed from their lives. During this prayer, a brother saw the following vision --- "I saw Christ come and take all our bricks away one by one and carried them away as He walked away bearing His cross as He went to Calvary and hung on the cross." The seminar class then arose and collectively knocked their wall of bricks down. That evening, this seminar class was asked to express themselves. As they were testifying, Gisette Onorato [wife of Brother Justin from the Hollywood Branch] requested her baptism. Rejoicing filled the room!

Sunday morning even more blessings were in store for us. Once again, God spoke to our camp, but this time it was directed specifically at the ministry. As our brother was preaching, he



## First Ordination at the Mount Laurel, New Jersey Branch

By Sister Mary Perri

The weather forecast for Sunday, March 6, was cloudy and rainy. However, the atmosphere in God's house was warm and sunny with His holy spirit as the saints gathered and greeted each other.

Visiting brothers and sisters from the Herndon and Vanderbilt Branches, accompanied by their families, met with us for this special day and to give support to Brother Robert Beeman, who was to be ordained into the office of a teacher.

Starting from our Sunday School and the singing that followed, we could feel the anticipation of experiencing a wonderful day. Our presiding elder, Brother James Sgro, welcomed all that were present. Brother Chip Smith from the Herndon Branch introduced our morning service by reading from Luke 9:20 the words of Jesus speaking to His Apostles asking them, "...But whom do you say that I am?" The Apostle Peter, knowing who Jesus was, answered without hesitation and said, "...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

Brother Chip asked the question, who are we when we are not in church, when we are at our place of employment; our young people being at school, or when we are with our friends? He encouraged us to share our testimony, to demonstrate and live the Gospel so that others may see that we are a different people and come to know Christ. Without Christ being in our lives, there is nothing of value out in the world. Knowing Jesus must be the most important venture we should seek after.

He related an experience of being anointed for a problem he was having with his knee when he was a young boy. He didn't give it much thought after being anointed, because the problem he was having completely disappeared. He walked away from the Lord and the Church. It was not until some 30 years later he had to have surgery on that same knee. The doctor who operated told him the knee must have had surgery some years earlier because he found scar tissue. When the doctor mentioned being operated on the same knee years earlier, the anointing and prayer that was offered when he was a young boy came back to his mind. He mentioned being grateful to God that he was given another opportunity in his youth to come back to church and get baptized.

Brother Lawrence King from the Vanderbilt Branch followed telling us there are many people in the world that do not know God nor do they have Him in their lives. Because of our love for Jesus Christ and His Church, we have a peace in our hearts that the world cannot give nor can it take away. We need to have a goal in life, one of them should be worshiping God and enjoying attending church. He encouraged us by quoting the scripture-"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all things would be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). We cannot have a better reward then to experience joy with the Lord.

We sang the song "Do You Know My Jesus" in conjunction with the theme of the sermon.

What we were all waiting to experience was about to take place. Brother Jim Sgro, our presiding elder, informed all present that it was a unanimous decision by the branch priesthood that Brother Beeman was called to be ordained into the office of a teacher. He read some scripture and the duties pertaining to the office of a teacher.

Brother Kevin Perri washed the feet of Brother Robert and Apostle Paul Benyola offered prayer asking God to inspire one of the priesthood to come forward to ordain Brother Beeman. Brother Chip Smith came forward, placed the oil upon the head of Brother Robert and ordained him a teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Following his ordination Brother Beeman bore testimony of being raised in the church as a young boy in the Vanderbilt Branch. He is dependent on God each day for everything he does and how he has been blessed all his life. He thanked everyone for their support, especially his immediate family, and for coming to his ordination.

After spending a wonderful day in the service of God, we concluded with some fellowship and refreshments before our visitors departed for their homes. We all agreed it was a wonderful day well spent.

# Baptisms in Spartanburg, SC

#### By Sister Connie Rossi

*"There's a new name written down in glory..."* — actually two names!

Isn't it wonderful that we serve a living God who is always on the move. He never takes a time out and is always there taking care of business. That is what the Spartanburg, South Carolina Branch experienced on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011. It was a beautiful, warm and glorious day. The sun

#### **Baptisms in Spartanburg, SC**

Continued from Page 2

was shining as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our four elders presented a beautiful salvation message and how there is no other way but through Jesus Christ. The service ended and we all proceeded to go about our plans for the day. But the Lord had plans, too, as the Spartanburg Branch witnessed two new souls being put into the liquid grave and rising as new creatures in Christ.

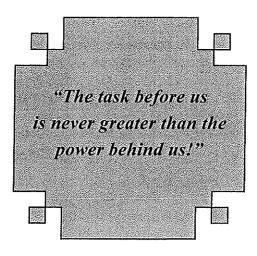
Brother Carlos Douglas Valentino "Nino" Lytle [brother of Sister Regina Alverson and brother-in-law of Brother Joe Alverson] and his wife, Tabitha asked for their baptisms shortly after the Sunday service. Brother Nino and Sister Tabitha have visited the Spartanburg Branch over the years but have been attending every Sunday since Brother Joe's ordination as an elder on April 3rd. After leaving church on Sunday, Brother Nino and Sister Tabitha spoke with Brother Harold Littlejohn and Brother Joe Alverson at length asking many questions about the Church. They then expressed their desires to be baptized; but they did not want to wait, they wanted to get baptized that same night! Phone calls were made to branch members to meet at the lake at 8:00 pm. Those that were able to be there gathered around and we began to sing "Shall We Gather At The River". By that time it was close to 9:00 pm and it was already dark. With flashlights in hand and car headlights lighting the way, we proceeded down to the water's edge. Brother Willie Brown took Brother Nino into the water first followed by Brother Joe Alverson who baptized Sister Tabitha [his first baptism as an elder]. Brother Nino was confirmed by Brother Darrell Rossi and Sister Tabitha was confirmed by Brother Harold Littlejohn. But the blessings did not stop there. Brother Nino

and Sister Regina's mother, Glenda Figueroa, attended the baptism but was in much pain. In fact, before she was called to come to the lake, she was on her way to the hospital. Glenda asked to be anointed and the elders laid hands on her. After being anointed Glenda testified that she felt much better and most of the pain was gone. Praise God!

The sun had set in the sky but the SON — the light of the world— shone His light for us that night. The heavens opened and the angels rejoiced for two new names were written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. We all left there that night refreshed and with a renewed hope knowing that God is an awesome God. He is not bound by the clock and when the Spirit moves and says "NOW", then we must obey —even if it means getting baptized at 9:00 at night!

A luncheon was planned for the following Sunday at the branch for our new brother and sister in Christ. Please keep Brother Nino and Sister Tabitha in your prayers for we know this journey is not only a joyful one but can also be challenging as well.

May God bless you all and may we continue this walk together hand in hand holding fast and firm to the hope and glory we have in our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Everyone Loves Visitors

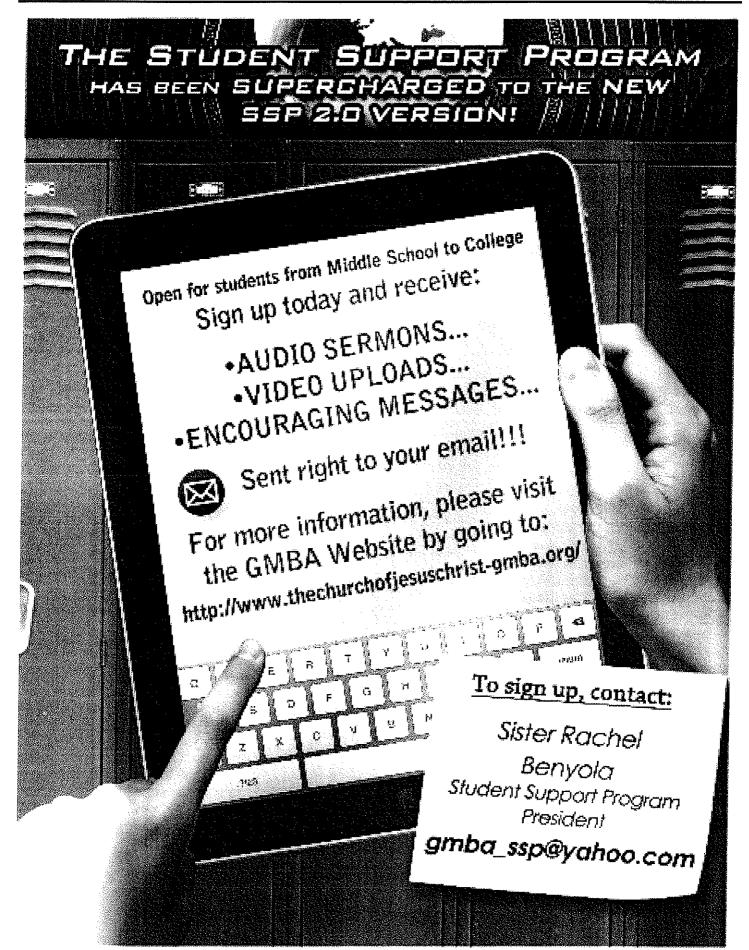
By Sister Karen L. Progar

n April 10, 2011, the Aliquip-pa Branch was blessed to have two apostles and an evangelist visit. Brother John DiBattista, opened the meeting reminding us of our responsibility to the world. Brother John shared the scripture in III Nephi 19:28-29, where Jesus prays to the Father in our behalf, asking that the Lord purify those that have been given to Him because they have believed His words. The Lord also prays for those who will believe in their words. He stated that everywhere we go, we have a purpose. People feel the spirit. We glorify Christ through our actions. We are the key to the hope this world has. because without Christ, the world has no hope. Christ concludes this portion of scripture saying that He will be glorified in us. What a marvelous commission.

Apostle Paul Liberto continued by reminding us of a scripture in which it states, "I may be glorified in them as thou, Father are in me." Brother Paul spoke of being lost and how panic stricken we are when we are lost. He likened it to those who are lost in a spiritual sense and reminded us that there are those in the world who don't even know they are lost.

Apostle Tom Liberto encouraged us that greater work has to be done and that we must be mindful of man. He added that we all have a job to do and we must all be involved in the work of Jesus Christ. Brother Tom concluded by speaking of the song, "Somebody Else Needs Him Too", the theme of the sermon and our mission.

Yes, everyone loves visitors and we must never forget that as we are given the opportunity to share what we have with those with whom we come in contact.







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# Editorial Viewpoint . .

"I will extol thee, O Lord; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:1-5).

Victory in any situation in life is something everyone expects, but not everyone receives. When wars are fought, as the current one against Iraq, the United States and allied forces are convinced that victory will be theirs eventually, even though there may be many casualties along the way. Those in Iraq who are against the United States are convinced that victory will be theirs. In war, however, both sides cannot win. There always must be one winner, and one loser. In everyday life, people are faced with challenges every day, and always look to succeed or overcome each and every challenge they face. Some do, and some don't. For those who overcome, they win. For those who do not overcome, they lose.

When my aunt passed on to spend an eternity with the Lord, this scripture in Psalm came to me very strongly prior to her death. I didn't realize why these words stayed with me so strongly, until the day she died, and then I understood why. Victory was hers! Her foes [the enemy of all righteousness] did not rejoice over her. Her soul has been kept alive, and is in Paradise now. Complete joy truly came to her in the morning when her loving Savior embraced her, and welcomed her home. During this same week, another sister who was a member of our branch for many years also passed away at 45 years old. Although it was very sad to hear of her passing at such a young age, I was amazed at the experience I heard. Prior to her passing, the nurse [not a member of the Church] saw a crown on her head. She ran out to get another nurse to come and see. When she returned it was gone. Our sister was victorious! She didn't let anyone take her crown. It was hers. Joy came in the morning for her soul.

In both of these sisters' lives, they were the winner and the devil was the loser. Brothers, sisters and friends, when Jesus is on our side, we can **NEVER** be the loser! This life is like a grain of sand on a beach. Compared to the entire beach [eternity], the time we spend here is so incredibly short. Yet victory or defeat is determined in this short life of ours. Jesus promised He would never leave us or forsake us. He promised us a mansion that He prepared for all those that would love and serve Him. He promised us that all things would work together for good if we love and serve Him. This means that whether we succeed or fail in the everyday battles we face, in **ALL** cases, we actually will succeed, because God will turn **EVERY** failure into a success. This doesn't mean we will always get everything we want in life, but it does mean that whatever happens, in the long run, it will be the right thing for us.

This scripture points to the fact that God's anger endures for only a moment. God is not a God of anger. His love and forgiveness is greater than we can ever understand. This is why once we repent of the things we do to displease Him, each and every day, we need to *FORGET* it. God doesn't hold a grudge. He forgets all our sins we repent of, and erases it. It is as if it never happened. This is the character of the God we serve.

Weeping and sorrow in any situation can endure for a night, but He will always carry us through. Joy comes in the morning of any trial in this life, when it is light and we can see clearly the end result and reason for that trial. The end result is always something good for those who love and serve God. And, if we cannot see the reason why something happens to us in this life, like our sisters, we will see clearly in the morning when our soul is returned to its maker, and joy is ours forever and ever! Knowing this can help us to always praise Him when we "remember His holiness"!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## God's People Fight For Their Lives [Book of Alma]

Dear boys, girls and friends, One of the best things about the Bible and Book of Mormon, our holy scriptures, is that they give us a guide on how to live our lives. Life often is difficult and hard, and always keeps changing, sometimes for the good and sometimes for the bad. One day someone is your friend, and you agree on things. The next day, you realize that your friend thinks one way and disagrees or may even be angry with you. Maybe you are angry back! So, what do you do when someone has done something wrong to you?

In the Bible, [see Matthew 18:21, 22], Peter came up to Jesus and asked him, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, [does something wrong to me] and I forgive him? till seven times?" In those days, the Jewish belief was that you forgave someone three times, so Peter was thinking that he had double the forgiving of others!

But Jesus answered him and said, "I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." That would be 490 times! Can you imagine how patient and forgiving you would be then? Has someone ever really been unfair to you to the point that you hated him or her? If you forgave someone that many times, you would be free of hating them. Have you ever gone to your bed at night thinking really mean thoughts about someone and wishing you could punish them? Jesus



teaches us to be forgiving. This means we give up our hateful and angry thoughts. We pray and then stop worrying about our revenge and anger and let God take care of it. God will.

Jesus taught His followers not to be fighting and angry. He taught, "You have heard it hath been said, Thou shall love your neighbour and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you...." [do mean things to you on purpose)] (Matthew 5:43-45). If you do not hate them back, you have taken all the devil's power away from him by not being evil as he is. Try it. This works!

In the Book of Mormon, the wicked man, Amalickiaha, wanted to be a king. He tried to tear apart God's people to get power. He flattered many people [made them feel important] and he caused many problems but it never worked. So, he left God's people called the Nephites, and went to join their enemies, the Lamanites. He was a man full of anger, hate and the love of power. He still wanted to be a king. First he offered to help lead the Lamanite army, and then he secretly had his followers murder the King. He lied about who did the crime and convinced the queen to marry him so he could rule. Then the trouble for God's people, the Nephites, really increased. [see Alma chapters 46-51] Because this evil man, Amalickiah, was led by the devil and wanted to rule over all of the country, he began constant warfare against the Nephites.

He was full of hate for God and His people.

Amalickiah and his armies marched into the Nephite cities and murdered and killed people, even taking the wives and children to sell as slaves. A great leader for God's people, named Moroni, gathered the people to fight. They did not fight for power or to rule over others. They fought for their religion, their homes, their freedoms, their wives and their children and for the freedom to worship and have their church. (Alma 43:45)

Moroni constantly asked God and the prophet Alma, for guidance on where to go to fight the next battle; God answered him (see Alma 43:23). And the Lord told them, "Ye shall defend your families even unto bloodshed" (Alma 43:47). You are not to give an offense [start the fight]. and never are you supposed to raise the sword except to save your live. . . Insomuch that ye are not guilty of the first offense, neither the second, ye shall not suffer yourselves to be slain by the hands of your enemies" (Alma 43:46). This was their faith, that by doing this, God would prosper them in the land; in other words God would warn them to flee [run away], or to prepare for war, according to their danger and would protect them. (Alma 48:14-16)

Moroni taught the people to pray and serve God. He also dressed them for battle with shields, breast plates, head plates and swords (Alma 43:28). They went with prayers in their hearts and armor on their bodies. They fought and won but did not delight in the shedding of blood. They were also sorry to be the reason so many Lamanites died, leaving this world unprepared to meet God. (Alma 49:23) They had seasons of

#### Alive in Christ

Continued from Page 1

turned towards the ministry and spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was;

#### "You were called with a holy calling, and I stand beside you. Thus saith the Lord."

As we watched the next brother stand to his feet to address us, we were blessed simply because he is struggling with debilitating rheumatoid arthritis and we knew that God was giving him the strength to rise on his feet to address us. As he returned to his seat, he asked that he would be anointed. During this anointing, many visions were had. One vision was of Christ standing inside the circle of elders with His hand outstretched to heaven making intercession to God. Fire came down and consumed our brother and he was taken away and restored. Another was of Christ with His hands on our brother's head crying out to God and fire consumed him again. And yet another person was shown that Christ had His hands on our brother, anointing him.

Our young people were then called up to testify. The ministry was inspired to gather around these beautiful young people and pray for their welfare. As our brother prayed, the following experience was had —"I saw a light come down and envelop the young people and a fire encircle them. As the prayer continued and the brother asked the Lord to remove the evil spirits, I saw them flee and depart from the group."

As we departed from this wonderful weekend, we all felt much more

#### Alive in Christ!!

[The author asks forgiveness of all involved for any omissions or errors of these wonderful experiences].

#### **Children's Corner**

Continued from Page 6

peace but their wars never ended for many, many years. But as long as they kept the commandments of the Lord, they prospered [had good lives] in the land. When the years passed and they stopped serving God and asking for help, they fought alone.

So this is what the scriptures teach us. We must remember to lean on God and follow the ways of peace. We are supposed to be a forgiving and loving people. Christ teaches us to pray for our enemies, and forgive others over and over, even as God forgives us. God will protect His people if we ask Him for guidance and protection when we are in danger or others try to destroy us. Just as God warned His people whether to go or stay in the city that was going to be attacked, He will warn and protect us today. God is the same vesterday, today and forever. He has a plan for you and your lives and problems if you just ask Him.

Pray and listen carefully.

With love, Your friend, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

WAR	OF
GODS	WIVES
PEOPLE	CHILDREN
FOUGHT	THEY
FOR	WANTED
RELIGION	ТО
LIBERTY	FORGIVE
FREEDOM	AND
ТО	LOVE
WORSHIP	THEIR
LIFE	ENEMIES

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June, 2011

Volume 67, No.6

## 其 Philippine Trip – Spring 2011 ↓

rom March 31, 2011 through P April 12, 2011, Brothers John Mark D'Antonio, Art Gehly, Sr., and Rick Scaglione, Jr., traveled to the Philippine Islands to visit and support our brothers, sisters and friends. The Church of Jesus Christ has missions in three locations in the Philippines. There are five missions with 106 members in Southeastern Mindanao: four missions with 103 members on the Island of Bohol; and a mission with eight members in Northwestern Mindanao. We try to split our time between the locations as best we can, but it is very difficult to only spend three or four short days at each. As in every mission throughout The Church, domestic or international, we are always welcomed with hospitality and the love of God.

The first stop was the Southeastern part of the Island of Mindanao. We blessed five babies and had six baptisms at a growing mission. The elder in charge of this mission, is a young man with as much enthusiasm for The Gospel of Jesus Christ as has ever

#### By Brother Rick Scaglione, Jr.

been seen in anyone. He has doubled the size of his building in the past year and his congregation has grown to match. This brother visits, teaches, and encourages many families in the villages surrounding his home. He holds scripture studies in the homes of anyone who may be interested in The Church. The Sunday Service was held at another mission where we had the privilege of baptizing two young sisters we have seen grow up during the past five years. The growth potential is amazing; whichever location we visit, there are twice as many children as there are members. Almost everyone eagerly offers a special song selection or testimony during the meetings. There are a few missions we cannot visit because of the distance. At least one day at each location is spent meeting with the ordained officers teaching, enjoying feet washing and communion together, and conducting any necessary business. Our van driver in this area is a young man who has been driving for the brothers when they have visited for the past seven or eight years. Last year he was baptized into

The Church. While we were meeting with the elders, he came in and told us his youngest son was in a hit-and-run accident and injured his knee. It was so sore and swollen they had to take him to the hospital. Because of the distance, we anointed a handkerchief for him. When our brother picked us up to take us to the airport the next morning, he stated that, when he went to the hospital that night, he placed the handkerchief on his son's knee. He and his wife prayed together and he told her; "you pray like this", he knelt and folded his hands, "not like this", and made the sign of the cross. In the morning, the swelling was down and the pain was gone. Praise God for His goodness and mercy! Our brother stated his wife, who is of another faith, wept at the power of God and stated she now understands why he was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The second stop of our trip was the Island of Bohol. This is a very rural mountainous and beautiful area and we can travel freely between the

(Continued on Page 2)

#### **Philippine Trip**

#### Continued from Page 1

missions. The only hindrances are the road conditions. We are blessed with a wonderful van driver. He will take us anywhere we want to go and we know most van drivers would not take us where this young man does with no hesitation. He attentively sits through every meeting and is greeted with hugs by the brothers and sisters. When he dropped us off the last day we were there, he asked whether it would be okay to bring his wife along the next trip. Each day we met at two of the missions, all in a mountain setting surrounded by the Chocolate Hills, a natural wonder unique to this island. Like in Mindanao the amount of children in each mission is wondrous. and each member has a beautiful song or testimony to offer up to the Lord. Through the efforts of the elder in charge of The Church in Bohol, it has expanded over the past few years with the addition of another mission. This mission was begun when a member of one of the other established missions moved to another area with their family. The elders would go to visit this member and preach The Gospel of Jesus Christ to whoever would listen. often going house to house. Two years ago we met with about 20 people seated on the ground, preaching from the porch of a home. Today we meet in a beautiful building in the middle of the rice patties with 15 members and numerous children. We also ordained a teacher at another mission. This brother lived on a different island, but when he heard the Gospel from our elder, he left his family to be with him in Bohol and join The Church of Jesus Christ. His plan is to have his wife and children join him as soon as he is able. He will lead this mission which has recently struggled with persecution over The Book of Mormon.

We next traveled to Northwestern

Mindanao. Although located on the same island as our first stop, it is not feasible to drive there. The terrain is very mountainous and would take many hours to drive. The city overlooks a large bay on the Celebes Sea. The elder in charge was a leader in another restoration church when he began to question its teachings relative to The Book of Mormon. He began an internet quest to find a church whose doctrine followed the teachings of The Bible and The Book of Mormon. Over time, he narrowed his search down to one and contacted The Church through our web site. After some e-mail correspondence with The Church, we first visited this man and his family in 2009. On that trip, we baptized him. his wife and three of his children and daughter-in-law. When presented with The Pure Gospel of Jesus Christ and his calling into the ministry, we advised our brother to pray to God for direction. That very night, the Lord showed him in a dream the confirmation to that calling. He stated he had been in his prior church for over 30 years and last night was the very first time he had ever felt the Spirit of God and His divine direction. Our brother has diligently sought ways to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this location. In preparation of our visit, he distributed flyers announcing our meeting along with visiting his friends and neighbors inviting them to the Sunday Service. There were 20 visitors at the meeting, including children. We encouraged our brother to continue to fast and pray and encourage and invite the visitors back to the services. Since that time, they have started a Sunday School where 14 children have been attending and a few of the visitors have returned, with some attending regularly.

Just prior to our flight home, we enjoyed a brief visit with a young brother, his wife and their 14 monthold son, at the airport in Manila. This brother is an ordained teacher from one of our missions on the Island of Bohol, but has moved to Manila to obtain a job. Last year we met with them and blessed their son in the airport chapel. They both expressed a desire to return to Bohol and for our brother to resume his duties there. His wife expressed her desire to be baptized as soon as they are able to return to Bohol. We prayed for them that God would direct their lives according to His will and pathway.

Please pray for our brothers, sisters and friends in the Philippines. They face many natural and spiritual challenges in their lives. Like many of our members around the world, they struggle with things we take for granted. The great work of the Lord has taken the pure and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ and His gift of salvation to many nations throughout the globe. We praise and thank God for the many who have accepted the pearl of great price of the nations of the world and on the islands of the sea.

If you do not plant knowledge when you are young, it will give you no shade when you are old.

## **JESUS CHRIST**

Seminar by Brother Donald Ross at the GMBA Campout of June 14-21, 1986

"He possessed no magic equipment from His birth that guaranteed Him against the ordinary perils of life. He knew hunger, thirst and weariness; temptation and perplexity; uncertainty, disappointment and despair. Yet, He overcame the world.

As a man, He lived the most strangely Beautiful Life ever known. He was the Kindest, Tenderest, Gentlest, most Patient, most Sympathetic man that ever lived. He loved people; He hated to see them in trouble; He loved to forgive and He loved to help. He wrought miracles to feed hungry people. For relieving the suffering, He forgot to take food for Himself. Multitudes that were weary, pain-ridden, and heart-sick, came to Him and found healing and relief. It is said of Him, *and no other*, that if all the deeds of kindness that He did were written, the world would not contain the books. That is the kind of person Jesus was.

His name — JESUS CHRIST

Jesus — In Greek it signifies *Saviour* (Matthew 1:21)

Christ — In Greek it means "Anointed One" and the Hebrew equivalent is "Messiah". (Haley's Bible Handbook)

#### III Nephi 9:15 — "BEHOLD, I AM JESUS CHRIST"

#### 1. HE WAS SINLESS IN LIFE

•	I John 3:5	"In Him is no sin"
•	I Peter 2:22	He "did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth"
•	II Corinthians 5:21	He knew no sin
•	Matthew 27:24	Pilate — "I find in Him no fault at all"
•	John 18:38	Pilate — "I find in Him no fault at all"
•	Matthew 27:4	Judas had to own he had shed "innocent blood"
•	II Corinthians 5:21	"Who knew no sin"

#### 2. HE WAS THE EPITOME OF LOVE

•	John 15:13	"Greater love hath no man"
٠	II Nephi 26:24	"For He loveth the world, even that He layeth down His own life"
•	I Nephi 19:9	"He suffereth it, because of His loving kindness"
•	III Nephi 17:6	"Filled with compassion towards you"
•	II Nephi 1:15	"I am encircled about eternally in the arms of His love"
•	III Nephi 12:44	"I say unto you, love your enemies"
•	John 13:5	Feet washing-Christ washed "all" the disciples feet
_	I-1-12-24	

• John 13:34 "As I have loved you"

#### Jesus Christ Continued from Page 3

#### **3. HE WAS OBEDIENT** [Subjection to the authority of another]

- John 4:34 "My meat is to do the will of Him"
- Luke 22:42 "Nevertheless, not my will"
- III Nephi 27:13 *"To do the will of my Father"* 
  - III Nephi 11:11 "I have suffered the will of the Father"
  - III Nephi 16:3 "But I have received a commandment of the Father"
  - III Nephi 13:10 "Thy will be done on earth"
- Philippians 2:8 "Became obedient unto death"

#### 4. HE WAS FORGIVING

- Luke 23:43 *"Today shalt thou be with me in paradise"* 
  - Ether 2:14 *"For the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the Brother* 
    - of Jared"
- John 20:26 "Peace be unto you"
   John 20:27 "Peace be unto you"
- John 20:27
   "Be not faithless, but believing"
- III Nephi 23:11 *"How be it you have not written this thing"* 
  - Luke 7:49"Who is this that forgiveth sins also?"
  - I Nephi 7:21 "They would pray unto the Lord their God for forgiveness"
- Mosiah 4:10 *"That He would forgive you"*

#### 5. THE LORD WAS KIND

٠	Luke 10:33	"But a certain Samaritan"
•	Matthew 25:35-36	"For I was an hungered"
•	I Nephi 19:9	"Because of His loving kindness"
•	III Nephi 22:8	"But with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee"
٠	Luke 6:35	"For He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil"
•	Matthew 5:45	"He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good"

#### 6. THE LORD BROUGHT SALVATION TO THE WORLD

- John 15:1 *"I am the True Vine"*
- John 8:12 *"I am the Light of the World"*
- John 14:6 "I am the Way"
  - "I am the Truth"
    - "I am the Life"

"I am the Door"

- John 10:9
- John 6:35-38 *"I am the Bread of Life"*
- John 11:25 *"I am the Resurrection, and the Life"* 
  - John 11:26 "Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die"
  - III Nephi 15:9 "Look unto me, and endure to the end, and ye shall live"
- Mosiah 3:9
   "That salvation might come"
- II Nephi 9:21 "Cometh into the world that He may save all men"
- II Nephi 9:45 *"Come unto that God who is the rock of your salvation"*



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, Pennsylvania and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire" (I Nephi 22:17).

This wonderful promise was made to the righteous by God through Nephi as he prophesied about our day. In this chapter, Nephi speaks regarding the establishment of a mighty nation [the United States] that would scatter Israel [American Indian], but that God would do a marvelous work amongst the people of the United States [or the Gentile majority]. This marvelous work began the day The Church of Jesus Christ was restored, and a record of the American Indian [seed of Joseph] sprang forth from the earth. This record is of great worth to all of mankind, but in particular, to the seed of Joseph because it explains their role in God's plan in these last days. Nephi also predicts how the great and abominable church, and all those who fight against the Gospel and against Zion [the gathering and enlightenment for the seed of Joseph and all the other tribes of Israel who God promised would be gathered in the last days] would be destroyed. Nephi explains how God will make bare His arm in the eyes of the nation, and His wrath would be unleashed upon the wicked. Yet, He promised the righteous have NO NEED to fear.

Throughout the ages of time, God spared His people when His wrath was unleashed. This is not a new concept. Remember Noah and his family? Or, Lot and his family. What about the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea and escaping the wrath of God upon the Egyptians? Israel was spared the wrath of the "death angel" upon Egypt by putting the blood of the Lamb upon their door post, thus waiving the death angel over. What about the great destruction upon this land at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus? The more righteous were spared.

Is God any different today? God is unchanging and will save His people from generation to generation. Destruction upon this land is inevitable. In just a short amount of time, wickedness upon this land has multiplied exponentially. Just turn on your television. It looks much different than it did just 20 years ago! Although there have been humbling events like 9/11 when many turned to God, it seemed to wear off as the months progressed afterwards. Although God is still allowing our nation to have victory in natural wars, the greater war is occurring upon our soil. It is the spiritual war against sin. Sooner or later, God will intervene in this more important war, but the outcome will be far different than the natural wars our nation has fought throughout time. The Book of Mormon states that when this land is ripe in iniquity, the wicked will be swept off. When this war against sin will end, the righteous, not the politicians, will be victorious. This chapter mentions that Satan will be bound for a long time by the righteousness of the saints. It will be a day of victory for the righteous.

Brothers, sisters and friends, these events are already happening, and the fullness of these prophecies are not far away. We have **NO NEED** to fear, because God will be our Commander-in-Chief when that day comes. Who can stand against our God? Remember how God consumed the sacrifice that the prophets of Baal made with fire? There is no wickedness that can stand when "the flood waters rise." There is only one thing we should fear. . .that we would displease God. Let's live each day pleasing our Master and trusting in His all-powerful protection that will carry us all to that day of victory. This is the beauty and peace we have cherished since knowing the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Live confidently, despite the frightening events that may come, because God will protect us, even if it be by fire!

# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## Nephi's Father Dreams

Dear Boys and Girls,

How would you feel if your father woke up one morning and told you that you and your family had to move? If he told you that you were going to leave your beautiful, safe home and live in tents, would you be happy?

Nephi's father, Lehi, told his wife and four sons that they had to leave everything behind and go into the wilderness. God was going to allow the city of Jerusalem to be destroyed and the wicked people there to be taken as slaves. But the family of good Lehi was going to be saved. God planned to take them to a new land, far away, a land of promise.

Two of Nephi's sons, Laman and Lemuel, were really mad that they had to go. They didn't want to leave their friends, their plans, and the property and riches they would someday own. They did not believe anything could destroy a city as important and big as Jerusalem.

Every step of the way they muttered and murmured against their father. Anger filled them until they were like the Jews in Jerusalem who tried to take Lehi's life. The two younger brothers, Sam and Nephi, began to wonder who was right, their father or their older brothers.

After walking for several days from Jerusalem, Lehi had enough of



his older sons. The Spirit of God filled him and he began to talk with Laman and Lemuel. Such power was there that those young men shook. They were so overcome that they did not dare to keep complaining against their father, and they did as he commanded them.

Now Nephi was a very young man, although he was the size of a full-grown man. Yet he began to wonder about the mysteries of God. He wondered if God had really showed his father everything he said God had. And Nephi cried unto the Lord.

The Lord heard Nephi, and visited him and softened his heart until he believed the words of his father. Nephi told his brother, Sam, about the love of God and Sam believed him.

But Laman and Lemuel still hated and disbelieved. Nephi was brokenhearted that his brothers were so hard. He went to God in prayer for them, and God showed Nephi that everything was under control.

All four sons of Lehi were going to a Promised Land. The Lord told Nephi that in the future the people that descended from Laman and Lemuel would go against the people descended from Nephi. In that day God would curse them. They would be lazy, full of trouble, and not able to beat the people of Nephi. Those people of Nephi would rule over them as long as they served God.

The Lord continued to bless Nephi as time passed. Nephi saw many

wonderful things in dreams. He was shown every single human being that ever would live. [That means you and me!] He saw Jesus Christ before he was even born on earth.

All of this happened according to God's plan and because one young man, Nephi, had a desire to know the mysteries of God. Nephi gave up a comfortable life he knew well to journey in the wilderness and cross the mighty oceans.

What if sometime we are asked to give up something familiar and safe, because God's Holy Spirit shows us to? Would you be willing to ask God, to believe your dreams, and to open your heart to a new life? As God helped Nephi, He could help you, and He would, but *you* have to ask first.

#### Sincerely, Sister Jan

WORD SE	ARCH
JERUSALEM	JEWS
RETURN	CRY
ТО	PRAY
NEPHI	SHAKE
SAM	LOW
LEHI	STONE
DREAMS	BOW
GOD	

R	E	Т	υ	R	N	s	A	М
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J	L	D	R	Е	А	М	S	Y

## THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

Continued from Page 4

## 1. HOW CAN WE BECOME CHRIST LIKE?

•	Philippians 2:5	"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"
•	Mosiah 3:19	"Yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit"
•	Romans 6:4	"Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, even so we also should walk in newness of life"
•	Colossians 2:12-13	"Buried with Him in baptism" — "being dead in your sins"
•	III Nephi 27:19	"And no unclean thing can entersave it be those who have washed their garments in my blood"
•	II Corinthians 5:17	"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature"
•	Psalm 40:8	"I delight to do thy will"
•	James 4:7-8	"Submit yourselves therefore to God." — "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you."
•	James 3:10	"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."
•	Alma 13:12	"Could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence"
•	I John 3:9	"Born of God doth not commit sin"
•	I Thessalonians 5:22	"Abstain from all appearance of evil"
٠	Romans 12:9	"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil"
•	Matthew 5:48	"Be ye therefore perfect"
•	III Nephi 12:48	"Ye should be perfect even as I, or your Father who is in heaven"
•	Luke 6:40	"But every one that is perfect shall be as his Master"

#### 2. THE CHARACTER OF A SAINT

•	Galatians 5:22-26	"But the fruit of the Spirit is"
•	Ephesians 4:32	"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another"
•	Mosiah 3:19	"Becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things"
•	Alma 7:23	"Be humble, and be submissive and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long-suffering; being temperate in all things"
•	Alma 13:28	"Thus be led by the Holy Spirit (ex. Alma 7:23)
•	Alma 32:15	"He that truly humbleth himself, and repenteth of his sins"
•	III Nephi 9:20	"A sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit"

NOTE: Humbleness [to serve, not dominate, preference].

It is required for salvation: see Matthew 18:3-4; Luke 18:9-14; III Nephi 11:37-38; [said twice in the same chapter to become as a child]

## Members of The Church of Jesus Christ

Continued from Page 7

### 3. THE ROLE / DUTY OF A SAINT

•	Mosiah 18:8-9	"Willing to bear one another's
		burdens" — "willing to mourn with
		those that mourn"
٠	Galatians 6:1-2	''If a man be overtaken in a
		faultrestore such an one in the
		spirit of meekness" — "Bear ye one another's burdens"
•	Jacob 2:19	"To clothe the naked, to feed the hun-
		gry, and to liberate the captive, and
		administer relief to the sick and the
		afflicted"
•	III Nephi 18:22	"Ye shall not forbid any man from
	-	coming unto you when ye shall meet
		together" (see verses 31-32)
•	James 1:27	"Pure religion and undefiled To visit
		the fatherless and widows in their
		affliction, and to keep himself unspot-
		ted from the world"
•	I Thessalonians 5:14	"Comfort the feebleminded, support the
		weak, be patient toward all men"

# 4. OUR REWARD — THE BEATITUDES ARE RICH IN BLESSING FOR THE SAINTS OF GOD!

•	The poor in spirit:	made rich as the rightful heirs of the kingdom	
•	The mourner:	shall be comforted for he shall see the diving purpose of his grief and shall again associate with the beloved ones of whom he has been bereft	
•	The meek:	suffer spoliation rather than jeopardize their souls in contention, shall inherit the earth	
•	Those who hunger and thirst:	shall be fed in rich abundance	
•	The merciful:	feel compassion for all men, shall be judged mercifully	Name
•	The pure in heart:	shall be admitted to the very presence of God	Addro
•	The peacemakers:	who try to save themselves and their fellows from strife shall be numbered	Phone
•	Those who are persecuted:	among the children of God shall inherit the riches of the eternal kingdom	

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July, 2011

Volume 67, No. 7

## THE RESTORATION

By Evangelist Spencer Everett (deceased)

Webster defines "Restoration" as the restoring or replacing to a former state or position; or the recovery of something which has been lost.

Out of this general definition we shall attempt to make clear the following truths:

- That in these latter days Christ restored His Church as it was in former times.
- That the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon plates was the work of Christ.
- That there are other instances in which metallic plates were used for recording important matters.
- That Joseph Smith was a man used as an instrument in the hands of God.
- That the Priesthood authority was divinely restored.

- That shortly after the death of Joseph Smith, the Church was disorganized.
- That the Church was again reorganized by revelation of God.
- That it is a privilege to share in the blessings and work of Christ's Church today.

# 1. (JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD)

Jesus Christ is central to everything we believe and teach. He is the Son of God, and there is no salvation except through Him. Full acceptance of Christ requires obedience to His Gospel principles.

#### 2. (THE CHURCH COMPLETE)

This is the Church instituted by Jesus Christ and built upon the Rock of Revelation; having a foundation comprised of members of the Priesthood, with Jesus Christ, Himself, as the Chief Cornerstone. Built upon this foundation are the saints, or members. They are the ones who have come by FAITH, REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM, and who are properly aligned to the doctrines and teachings of Jesus Christ. Being born of the water and the spirit is the doorway. It is through this door, one must enter in order to pass into the proper relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

# 3. (JESUS ASCENSION—ACTS 1:9-11)

"And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel: Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

(Continued on Page 2)

Continued from Page 1

Here the angels repeated the promise of Jesus that He would return. They further indicated that His return would be in the same manner as His departure.

#### 4. (PENTECOST—ACTS 1:4,5; ACTS 2:1-6)

On the day of Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost. To the disciples this was the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus made to them, that they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. This was further evidence to them of the divinity of Christ. With this conviction, and under the power of the Holy Spirit, these people moved forward to bear witness of Christ by both word and deed.

#### 

Here is an outstanding example of Christian devotion to Christ. Those who had given themselves to Him recognized that the material things they possessed were not theirs, but God's. They were willing to place these second in their lives, giving Christ first place. Therefore, they sold of their possessions and laid them at the Apostles' feet. This is one of the many ways in which they showed their love for Christ and their fellowmen.

#### 6. (THE HIRELINGS FLEE— JOHN 10:12-14)

Unlike the Good Shepherd, the hirelings do not own the sheep, but are hired to watch them for a wage. Therefore, their interests in the sheep do not arise out of genuine love. The time came when the shepherds in the Church likewise lost their love for the sheep. As the years passed the clergy was no longer motivated by love, but by desire for money, honor, and power. This was a major factor that led to the Apostasy.

#### 7. (SCRIPT---AMOS 8:11,12)

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it."

The Apostle Paul foresaw the conditions coming upon the Church. He stated that ". . . after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3,4). He also said, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29,30). Paul told the Thessalonians that the second coming of Christ would be preceded by a falling away or in other words, an Apostasy.

#### 8. (TRUE RELIGION BURIED)

"During this [seventh] century true religion lay buried under a senseless mass of superstitions, and was unable to raise her head. The earlier Christians had worshipped only God and His Son; but those called Christians in this century worshipped the wood of a cross, the images of holy men, and bones of dubious origin" —these comments were taken from Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, Fourth American Edition, page 250. Here is evidence from historians that the prophecies referred to were fulfilled.

#### 9. (DIVISIONS OF PROTESTANTISM)

The many divisions of Protestantism you can read for yourself. All of these churches and many more have come into existence because they protested against something that was done wrongly in their mother church. Therefore, they are called "Protestant" churches. They attempted to reform the existing Church, each believing that the other had gone astray. The Christian churches in our day now number into the hundreds. They teach opposing and conflicting doctrines. As you may have discovered by this time, The Church of Jesus Christ is nowhere to be found in this period since it did not originate as a Protestant church. We believe in "The Restoration" not the reformation of Christ's Church.

#### 10. (SCRIPT—ISAIAH 11:11,12)

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left. . .And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

In spite of the darkness that had come, here was a promise that the Lord would make things right again, and restore His Church and His people.

#### 11. (REVELATION 14:6,7)

We find the "Restoration" typified in the Book of Revelation:

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto

(Continued on Page 3)

Continued from Page 2

them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred and tongue and people, saying with a loud voice; Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: And worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Jesus, speaking of the signs preceding His return and the end of the age said, "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

In Revelation, we have an angelic messenger bringing the gospel to earth. This implies that it was not here at the time. It also emphasizes that it was to be sent from above.

#### 12. (SCRIPT-ZECHARIAH 2:3,4)

In Zechariah we find the following: "And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him, And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein:"

The angels spoke regarding the rehabilitation of Jerusalem which was soon to take place. Note that this information was to be given to a young man by an angel.

#### 13. (JOSEPH SMITH READING THE BIBLE)

Joseph Smith was a young man used as an instrument of God to bring about the "Restoration" of The Church of Jesus Christ. He was born in 1805 in Sharon, Vermont on December 23, just two days before Christmas. Little did his parents imagine that this boy, coming unto the world on such a bleak December day, would be used to establish the embryo of God's Kingdom upon this earth and help prepare the nations for the second coming of Jesus Christ. In 1816, when Joseph Smith was ten years old the family moved to Manchester, New York.

Shortly after Joseph Smith had turned fourteen at Christmas time, 1819, ministers of three churches-Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists-began stirring up the people in and around Palmyra with "religious revival meetings". Lucy Smith, [his mother], and her daughter, Sophronia, along with two sons, Hyrum and Samuel, stepped up to the minister at one of the meetings and were "sprinkled" into the Presbyterian Church. The father and his oldest son, Alvin, along with Joseph, favored the Methodist Church, therefore they decided to wait. They were not sure which church to join.

In the midst of the revivalists war of words and tumult of opinions said Joseph, "I often said to myself, what is to be done? Who of all these parties are right; or are they all wrong together. . ."

Although Joseph was but fourteen, he turned to his Bible for guidance. Reporting these vexing days he says: "I was one day reading the Epistle of James, first chapter, and fifth verse, which reads:"

#### 14. (SCRIPT-JAMES 1:5)

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." As he read the Holy Spirit prompted him to follow its counsel. Joseph stated, "Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart—So in accordance with this, my determination to ask of God, I headed down the lane toward the woods to make the attempt.

#### **15. (THE LANE TO THE GROVE)**

It was on the morning of a beautiful, clear day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty. It was the first time in my life that I had made such an attempt, for amidst all my anxieties I had never as yet made the attempt to pray vocally.

After I had retired to the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me, and finding myself alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God:

#### 16. (JOSEPH SMITH KNEELING IN THE GROVE)

I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such an astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. But, exerting all my power to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction-not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world, who had such marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being-

(Continued on Page 4)

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#### 17. (JOSEPH'S EXPERIENCE)

Just at this moment of great alarm—I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw one personage, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. Then a voice spake unto me, calling me by name, and said,

"This is My Beloved Son, hear ye Him."

#### 18. (SCRIPT)

My object in going to inquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. I was answered that I must join none of them."

## 19. (JOSEPH'S EXPERIENCE NO NEW THING)

"This is my Beloved Son, hear ye Him." This experience and testimony is somewhat similar to the appearance of the angels to the shepherds, the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain and Paul's vision on the road to Damascus. Peter, James, John and Paul were mortal men, no different than you and I. We should have no difficulty then in accepting the reality of the vision this young, sincere boy received while praying in the grove.

#### 20. (MORONI APPEARS)

About three years later Joseph Smith received his second vision. An angel of God named Moroni appeared to him in his room.

#### 21. (SCRIPT)

"On the evening of the twentyfirst of September, after I had retired to my bed for the night, I betook myself to prayer and supplication to Almighty God. While I was thus in the process of calling upon God, a personage appeared at my bedside. . .." (Church History Volume 1 Page 12).

"He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Moroni; that God had a work for me to do; and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people."

#### 22. (SCRIPT)

"He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, their history, God's dealing with them and he also said that the fullness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants. After telling me these things, he commenced quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament. He also said that this was not fulfilled, but was soon to be."

#### 23. (BOOK OF MORMON PLATES)

There is a picture of a model of the plates. The inscriptions on the plates were reformed Egyptian. Each plate was six inches wide and eight inches long, and not quite as thick as common tin. The pages were bound together with three rings, and the volume was about six inches in thickness, part of which was sealed. With the plates was deposited the Urim and Thummim which consisted of two transparent stones in metal rims and attached to a breastplate.

#### 24. (STONE BOX)

The plates were buried in a stone box on a hillside. This is typical of several stone boxes that have been found, some in the Middle East, and some on this continent. This indicates that it was not unreasonable to have found the plates in a stone box, which has been buried in the ground.

#### 25. (OTHER METALLIC PLATES AND INSCRIPTIONS)

These inscribed Metallic Plates contain records of Darius the Great, King of Persia. They were found in 1936. They are inscribed in gold and silver plates which were written about 516 B.C. When these were discovered, the metal was shining brightly.

#### 26. (THIN GOLD PLATES FOUND AT MONTE ALBAN, MEXICO)

The gold plates found at Monte Alban, Mexico, show that the ancient people on this continent used these plates for keeping their historical and religious records.

#### 27. (BOOK OF MORMON MANU-SCRIPT)

There is a complete manuscript of the Book of Mormon in existence and it is the original. It is owned by The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The first printing of the Book of Mormon was in 1830. This is a good place to repeat that the Book of Mormon was not written by Joseph Smith, but is a record of the ancient Americans, which was translated by Joseph Smith with the help of God through the use of the

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, Pennsylvania and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness" (II Timothy 2:15,16).

Opinions are as numerous as the sands of the sea. Often times, during lessons that foster open discussion, we as the people of God begin to express our deepest opinions openly. These opinions may have only been in our minds, or only discussed with our immediate family around the dinner table. But once it is expressed openly, then others, who also have opinions that are otherwise, begin to contend with the opinion expressed. Over the years in the Church, I have seen discussions such as this erupt into arguments, which never really get resolved. Fortunately, there are times when a mediator steps in, and using the Word of God, clarifies the opinions presented.

The Word of God has been given to us to "set the record straight". Throughout time, opinions which are contrary to the Word of God have destroyed many, and led many astray. But when the Word is read AND understood, there is clarity and there is peace.

In the book of Jacob, there was a man named Sherem who tried, with his opinions, to confuse the people of Nephi.

"And he was learned, that he had a perfect knowledge of the language of the people; wherefore, he could use much flattery, and much power of speech, according to the power of the devil" (Jacob 7:4).

Jacob, who had many revelations, had seen angels, and who had heard the voice of the Lord, could not be shaken by Sherem, who challenged Jacob's beliefs about the Christ who would come.

"But behold, the Lord God poured in his Spirit into my soul, insomuch that I did confound him in all his words" (Jacob 7:8).

Those who try to promulgate their false opinions are usually men and women who are very convincing. They are usually viewed as someone educated, and someone who "knows what they are talking about". In this way, Satan can easily convince people of his lies, and lead them off the straight and narrow way. However, this beautiful account shows how someone who is knowledgeable of the Word of God, and who utilizes His Spirit, can confound even the most intelligent man or woman. Although Sherem continued to contend with Jacob, Jacob held his ground. Eventually, Sherem confessed that he had been deceived by the power of the devil. Immediately after his confession, he died. Peace and love were restored to the people, and they returned to reading their scriptures, and not listening to the opinions of wicked men.

This is an extreme example of how destructive opinions can be. Most of the time, however, we innocently believe our opinions are true, and spend an inordinate amount of time trying to convince others. Sometimes, we may even become obsessed with convincing others of our opinions. Brothers and sisters and friends, let us search the scriptures to discover the truth. Let the Word of God be our "opinion". Let us never open our mouths to express something, unless we know it is true according to the Word of God. Some things are not spelled out in black and white for us; however, the Word of God is full of stories and examples which can clarify any opinion. When we do this, we can eliminate any confusion. The devil is the author of confusion, but God is the author of truth.

There isn't time to argue about topics we haven't fully studied or do not understand. In these last days of turmoil and contention, let us "rightly divide the word of truth" and confidently speak the truth to the world around us. Like Jacob, God will pour His Spirit into us, and we will never have to be ashamed, because in the end, God's Word will stand forever.

# The

# Children's

# Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

#### ". . .Lean Not Unto Thine Own Understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

ear Boys and Girls,

When I was seventeen I had been baptized one year and we were heading back to another beautiful campout along the Mississippi River in Nauvoo, Illinois. Campouts are a time for learning and growing spiritually. As the miles rolled along, I was praying that God would use me as an instrument in His hands to bring someone to a full understanding of the gospel and be baptized. This had happened to me the year before at campout.

A young brother in the Church, Brother Kem Metz, had studied the pamphlet called "The Apostasy and Restoration" with me. I learned that the Bible referred to our church in Revelation! In chapter 12, the original church set up by Jesus had become bad. The church is referred to as bride and we learned that the Lord had taken her away for 1260 days [or years]. In chapter 14 it says, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel [as established in the Bible and The Book of Mormon] to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred. and tongue and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."



I finally understood God's great plan for our Church to be established for all time and I wanted to be a part of this.

When we read Revelation 12, we are taught that God took the Church away from the world because people did not want to follow the teachings of Christ. Historians say that the complete apostasy, or falling away of the original church set up by Jesus took place by the year 560 A.D. From that time, we went through the dark ages. Superstition and ignorance of God's goodness ruled over the earth.

In Europe, huge churches were established in different countries to acquire power and riches. They did not follow God. They imprisoned others and sent armies to get gain by conquering other countries as in the crusades. They also supported expeditions to the Americas to steal treasures and gold for their churches. In South America, the Inca rulers conquered tribe after tribe. In Mexico and Central America, the powerful Mayan rulers conquered and sacrificed their enemies. In North America the people were separated into thousands of individual tribes surviving without the knowledge of Christ which they once had.

In the Bible, many times the word "day" is used to describe another chunk of time, like a year or a thousand years. For example, in Ezekiel 4:5,6 God told Ezekiel to lay on his side saying,

"... *I have appointed thee* [forty days] each day for a year." In the book of Numbers 14:33,34 Moses sent spies out for forty days to see the new land God was bringing them to. All of the spies but two were afraid and did not believe God could help them conquer their enemies. The people who had been slaves in Egypt were quick to doubt God. God said, ". . .your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, .... until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness [they will die]... After the number of days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year. . . even forty vears..."

When it says the bride [or church] left for 1260 days, this means the church and power of God was gone from the earth for 1260 years. If you add 1260 years to 560 A.D. [when the complete falling away happened during the early part of the Dark Ages,] you get the year 1820. This is the year that the angel Moroni appeared unto Joseph Smith and told him of the records hidden up in a stone box in the Hill Cumorah. The angel told Joseph that he would be used by the Lord to bring about the true, restored Gospel which we know brings back the plain and precious parts that have been taken out over the centuries. This beautiful record is the Book of Mormon which we have in The Church of Jesus Christ.

I was thrilled to learn these facts and I was convinced that The Church of Jesus Christ's beliefs were true. Now, this year, I wanted to help someone find their way to God the way my friend had helped me. I wanted to be an instrument in God's hand. I prayed constantly that God would use me at this campout.

In those early campout days families stayed in tents and trailers. The first night, after we had moved into our little hot trailer, my sisters and I walked

#### The Children's Corner

#### Continued from Page 6

around meeting, joking and talking with others. It was so exciting to see so many new faces and to enjoy the love of the saints and friends. We held our evening meeting in a huge tent, sitting on folding chairs and looking down the rolling hills to the huge river below. The weather was hot and muggy and did not agree with me. I was soon getting a sore throat and running a fever.

Our nurse at the campout was a kind young woman who was not raised in The Church of Jesus Christ. She looked at my throat and told me it was very inflamed. We talked about the miracles and power in The Church of Jesus Christ. The thought came to me that if I got anointed and healed, she would see the miracle and be convinced. Maybe she would even get baptized! I thought hopefully. I wanted so badly for God to use me to bring someone else in. I thought how this would work.

I prayed and asked to be anointed. But the horrible pain in my throat did not cease. It got worse. I had been healed miraculously before. I knew God had all power. I couldn't understand why He did not heal me this time. It was so important that I would be healed and show the nurse the power of God. I was getting more upset as the days rolled along and I was not being used by the Lord as I had planned.

Finally, the last night of the campout, we had another glorious meeting. I was sitting in the far back of the tent with the sides rolled up in the heat. My throat continued to be swollen and painful and I kept praying that God would heal me and convince the nurse. I was upset God had not done as I had prayed.

A young brother from Ohio

stood up and said, "The first night of campout, I was setting up our tent and Sister Jan came by and said. . .[he mumbled as I leaned forward to hear what it was I had jokingly said]. He went on, "All week I thought of those words and now I want to get baptized!" We were thrilled!

But I was confused. My plan was not God's plan. I was still sick and in fact the next day we drove straight from campout home to the hospital where I got shots and antibiotics. Yet God had heard my prayers and my honest desire that He would use me, even to the convincing of someone else. So, it worked. God had heard my sincere desires and answered my prayers.

My Mother gently reminded me, Honey, remember Proverbs 3:5-7. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." This time, my wise ideas and God's wise ideas were not the same. Yet, I had been used. He had heard my prayers and I did feel the joy of being an instrument in His hands.

Think of yourself as a strong little tool. Imagine the Lord picking you up and using you. Maybe you are a pencil in God's hands and will write something. Maybe you are a complicated measuring device and the Lord gives you careful words to get someone back on the right track. Are you a medical instrument whose kind words cut off painful things, or are you a musical instrument who brings peace and soothing calmness to others? It is an incredible thrill to see and know that God is using you to help another.

Pray and ask to be an instrument in God's hands. You are a part of The Church of Jesus Christ which has the Gospel that has been restored. Put your faith and trust in the Lord and let Him decide what kind of instrument you are and how best He can use you!

With love, Your friend in Christ, Sister Jan

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Continueed from Page 4)

Urim and Thummim, and the gift and power of the Holy Ghost.

#### 28. (THE PRIESTHOOD RESTORED)

On May 15, 1829, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were baptized after a visitation by a messenger of God. This was a divine restoration of ministerial authority looked for by many of the reformers and which has since been re-affirmed to the Church many times over the years by means of revelation.

#### 29. (THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH)

The Church of Jesus Christ was organized on April 6, 1830, at Fayette, New York. They were told by revelation the very day on which this should take place. Notice that in this important thing CHRIST [not man] was the one who directed what should be done. Man merely obeyed the divine directive. Thus there was restored to earth The Church of Jesus Christ with the same divinely called ministry, doctrinal principles, and spiritual power as in the New Testament times.

#### **30. (THE CHURCH COMPLETE)**

The Church became complete with its divinely called ministry, doctrinal principles and spiritual gifts. Here we have Jesus' Church restored in its original, correct order. This accomplishment was not the product of human planning but was the work of heavenly powers, Jesus Christ Himself directing its organization.

#### **31. (KIRTLAND TEMPLE)**

In two revelations, December 1830 and January 1831, the Lord

commanded the saints to leave the state of New York and move three hundred miles westward to Kirtland, Ohio. In two or three weeks there were 127 souls baptized and by June 1831, the number had reached two thousand. Sidney Rigdon, a pastor of the Campbellite faith, his wife, and Frederick Williams plus 125 other Campbellites were in the first group baptized.

Sidney Rigdon was made President of the Kirtland Branch and later the First Counselor to the President of the Church, Joseph Smith. This temple was built by the command of God [divine revelation] and is the only building standing today for which such a claim is made.

## 32. (STORY OF THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE)

Kirtland Temple—built 1833/ 1836. The "House of the Lord" Joseph Smith, Jr., called this building in his dedicatory prayer, March 27, 1836. The solemn, massive, weather stained structure stands today as a memorial to Smith's followers who sacrificed their worldly goods to build of local materials this impressive Gothic Revival and classic style temple.

#### 33. (THE MIGRATION WEST)

While Kirtland, Ohio became the temporary headquarters of the new church, many of the saints continued on to Independence, Missouri.

#### 34. (MISSOURI COUNTIES)

Here also because of persecution in Jackson County, the saints were driven across the frozen Missouri River in the winter, finding refuge in Clay County, and then were forced to move on to Ray and Caldwell Counties.

35. (NAUVOO, ILLINOIS)

It was finally necessary for them to move out of Missouri into Illinois where they built this wonderful city. In its' day, Nauvoo was larger than the City of Chicago then was. By 1846, this city had a population of 20,000 and Chicago only 15,000.

#### 36. (MOB VIOLENCE AT CARTHAGE, ILLINOIS)

Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were arrested on false charges and were proven guilty. They were cast into jail at Carthage, Illinois and on June 27, 1844, Joseph and his brother, Hyrum, were assassinated by an angry mob who stormed the jail.

#### 37. (JOSEPH SMITH, JR.)

The unrest and opposition of the persecutors finally resulted in the martyrdom of Joseph Smith, and with his senseless killing, it reached its climax. The death of Joseph Smith was the end of an epoch, in which a man was used as an instrument in God's hand to bring about His divine plan; The restoration of the Gospel and the establishment of His Church once again amongst the children of men.

## 38. (THE DISPERSION OF THE CHURCH)

The slaying of Joseph Smith seemed to throw wide open the door, to those who had ambitions for leadership. While certain leaders took followings with them to various parts of the country, there were many members who refused to follow these self-appointed leaders. The work of The Restoration was soon continued through the guidance presented through revelation from God and divine direction.

#### **39. (SIDNEY RIGDON)**

At the death of Joseph Smith,

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Jr., and his brother in 1844, Sidney Rigdon was First Counselor in the Church, and as such, the reins of government would fall upon him; at least, until one could have been lawfully elected to fill the vacancy caused by the tragedy at the Carthage jail. The United States Government provides for the election of a President and Vice-President, and in case of the death of the former, we look to the latter. This, we believe appeals to good reason, and as a nation we have passed through these experiences without being torn asunder. Historical records indicate there were some irregularities in the proceedings that finally placed Brigham Young at the head of that part of the Church which located in what is now known as the state of Utah.

#### 40. (WILLIAM BICKERTON)

In 1845, William Bickerton was baptized by an elder of Sidney Rigdon's following and later was ordained into the Priesthood. In William Bickerton's own words he testifies, "I was baptized into Christ and put Him on. I received the gift of the Holy Spirit at the laying on of hands, and the signs have followed me. I have spoken with new tongues, and have had the interpretations, and I have seen the sick healed, and I have been healed myself, so that I know that the Gospel is the power of God. I entered the Church under Elder Rigdon's organization. I was called by the Holy Spirit to be an Elder. I received ordination and the power of God came down and sealed that office upon me. I was afterward called into the Quorum of Seventy. I received ordination the second time, but the Church became disorganized. Here I was left to myself. I paused to know what course to pursue. I knew

my calling was from Heaven, and I also knew that a man cannot build up The Church of Jesus Christ without divine commandment from the Lord, for it would only be sectarianism, and man's authority."

#### 41. (SCRIPT)

"But the Lord did not leave me; no. He showed me a vision, and in the vision I was on the highest mountain on the earth; and He told me that if I did not preach the Gospel, I would fall into a dreadful chasm below, the sight thereof was awful. I moved with fear, having the Holy Spirit with me. Here I was, none to assist me, and without learning, popular opinion against me, and the Salt Lake Mormons stood in the way. I could not turn back unto Methodism again. No, I knew they had not the Gospel. I stood in contemplation. The chasm was before me, no other alternative but to do my duty to God and man. I went ahead preaching repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

#### 42. (SCRIPT)

"Some believed my testimony and were baptized, and we met together. The Lord met with us, and we could many times sing with the poet, 'The Spirit of God, like a fire is burning, the latter day glory begins to come forth. The visions and blessings of old are returning. The angels are coming to visit the earth.' According to the will of God other elders were called and ordained to assist in helping forward the good work of God."

#### 43. (SCRIPT)

In conference, the word of the Lord was given to the Church as follows: "Hear O my people, this is the word of the Lord unto you today, The Church must be one, and my people one, for unto you is committed the work of God in these last days, and you, my servants, feed the flock of God, over which I have made you overseers, for great is the responsibility that rests upon you; for unto you are given the Keys of this last ministry, and to lift the last warning voice to the world; therefore, be faithful to the end of your calling." This last ministry has preached the Restored Gospel for over one hundred years now.

#### 44. (SCRIPT)

Again in Conference, July 5, 1860, during a fast and prayer meeting, the power of God was made manifest in our midst and a vision was given to one, which we relate. "I saw in a vision a woman, dressed all in white, come into the house, with a crown in her hand. In the crown were twelve stars; and she laid the crown upon the stand and said, 'This crown belongs to this Church,' and then disappeared." Just previous to this vision, the following word of the Lord was given:

#### 45. (SCRIPT)

"Hear ye the word of the Lord God of Hosts today, I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I sent forth my servant, Joseph, with a message of glad tidings to this generation; Him have they slain saith the Lord, my people have they persecuted, scattered, and driven out, yet once again I have raised up another like unto Joseph, to lead forth my people; Him shall ye hear in all things. I decreed that I would set up an ensign, and raise up a standard; that ensign has been lifted, that standard raised, and now I have called forth my servant William Bickerton to lead forth my people and they shall go in and out and find pasture, and the

#### Continued from Page 9)

world shall know that there is a God in Heaven; therefore touch not mine anointed; saith the Lord." We wish it understood that this Church will only hearken unto the things that are presented by man, inasmuch as they are consistent with the teachings of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; as He is our great Law-Giver.

#### 46. (PRIESTHOOD AUTHORITY TO THE CHURCH)

To an intelligent mind, it will be plain that this Church came into existence by way of revelation and heavenly experience; not as a split from any other faction of Latter Day Saints. Therefore, be it understood that The Church of Jesus Christ. which was organized at Greenock, Pennsylvania, in July 1862 and incorporated at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 10, 1865, is not a split off of any other body of people. The said Church has come into existence by way of heavenly experiences and revelations from God. We claim a divine succession of Authority and Priesthood as restored in 1829.

#### 47. (SCRIPT—CHURCH HISTORY BOOK PG. 32)

It was also revealed what direction and program was to be followed to achieve the ultimate goal of the Church. "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. Therefore you must go to the right and to the left, to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south. You must do your part and I will do my part. Go, and the gifts and blessings shall go with you. When you go to the Indians tell them that Jesus Christ died to save them. Tell them they are the Seed of Abraham. Tell them what I did for their forefathers when they were carried away captive into Babylon, how that I brought them again into their own land and tell them that I will again gather them to their own lands for I the Lord have spoken it."

#### 48. (SCRIPT---CHURCH HISTORY BOOK, PG. 38)

In the July Conference of 1863, the word of the Lord was given as follows: "Verily, verily, thus saith the Lord unto my servants, go ye forth and preach my Gospel unto all this continent; and when you return, I will give you power to preach my Gospel to all nations. And the records which I have given are to be preached unto them, for there are no other records to be given unto the Gentiles. The records which are hid are for my covenant people, which I will give unto you to gather them from all nations, for my word is Yea and Amen."

#### 49. (THE CHURCH'S GROWTH)

The Church of Jesus Christ has continued to increase. During the years many branches and missions have been opened throughout The United States, in Canada and Mexico, in Italy and Africa. This Church today has the same primary purpose and objectives as the Church that Christ established during and subsequent to His first advent in the days of Peter and Paul.

#### 50. (THE GREAT COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH)

The great commission is, "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16). "...Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Act 1:8). The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored with power from on high. Through The Church of Jesus Christ our Lord is continuing His ministry to all of mankind who will trust and obey.

# 51. (BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

This same Jesus is standing at the door of your heart asking and waiting to be admitted. He holds out before you a life of peace, joy, happiness, and eternal life to be shared with Him forevermore, encompassing all God's riches and glory. May your heart cry out, "Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry, while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by."

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16).

## Can you Imagine?— Peter

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

<sup>66</sup>Walking on water", it is a phrase we use to describe achieving the highest level of faith along with exercising that faith in the form of action. It is an appropriate analogy, but can you imagine actually stepping out of the boat and literally walking on water? In Matthew 14: 28,29, Peter does just that, if only for a moment.

Can you imagine the incredible opportunity of being in the physical presence of our Lord and Savior? In just a natural sense, let's consider the chance of this taking place. Jesus' ministry lasted only three years. In the 6000 plus years of the earth's existence and the billions of people who have come and gone, Peter was one of only a few that had this incredible experience. I am certain that while Peter knew he was blessed, could he comprehend the magnitude of this blessing? Did he doubt his worthiness?

Peter was awarded the privilege of being one of 12 men, disciples, that were chosen to serve at the time of Christ's Ministry. He learned from the Master Himself. He saw the many miracles and he knew what was to come. Can you imagine traveling from town to town watching Jesus heal the lepers, give sight to the blind, forgive the sinners?

Just hours before Peter took that incredible step, Jesus had fed the multitude of 5000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fishes. (Matthew 14: 15-21). Can you imagine being one of the disciples and being present when this miracle took place? Can you imagine after feeding 5000, gathering up 12 baskets

full of the left-overs. Peter and the other disciples were human and while afforded the opportunity to be close to the Lord and being exposed to the healings and miracles in His presence, I imagine when the Lord first told them that they had enough food to feed the multitude, they must have doubted. I imagine after all were fed and the 12 baskets were filled that they must have felt sorrow for questioning God's power. Are we not the same today? How often do we see God's power in our lives yet we continually doubt Him or stand in the way of blessings?

A similar experience regarding feeding the saints took place in modern times. Sister Rose Milatoni has often shared the experience of when she and Brother Joe were at the Muncey Mission. Sister Maness and Sister Theresa Palermo were serving pasta to approximately 100 people. The pot was almost empty and there were many left to feed. From the journal of Brother Joe Milantoni, "Sister Maness then began to stir the macaroni and as she did, the miracle of the five loaves and two fishes reoccurred. The pan was suddenly filled to the brim. What a beautiful experience of God's love for the poor among men!" In both cases, God clearly showed that not only can he feed His people but also He has blessings left over. Can you imagine the sisters relief as they realized that God was the provider that day and not them? I imagine that there was a moment of panic and doubt in the beginning. Again the human side of us says it can't be done.

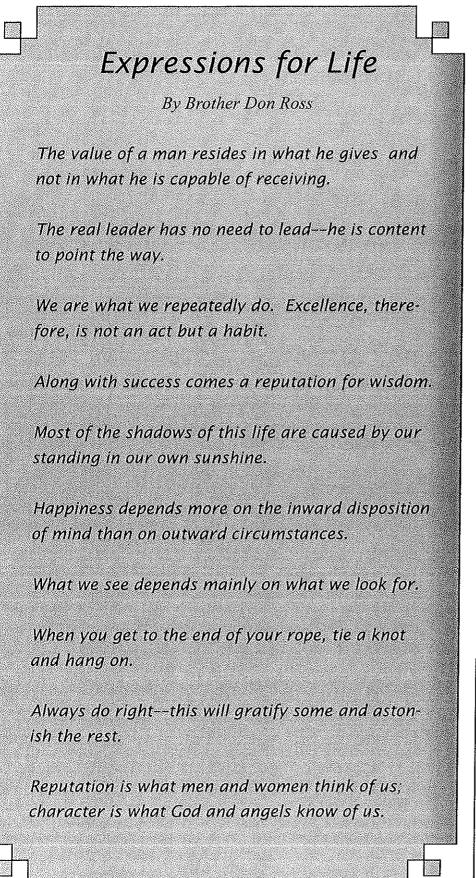
Peter was no different. He was a fisherman by trade and he knew the water well. When the disciples saw Jesus walking across the water they were scared, thinking it was a spirit. When He called out to them to not be afraid, Peter, wanting to go to Jesus, asked Jesus to bid him to come. And Jesus said, "Come."

Can you imagine extending your foot from the boat or the moment that Peter's toe first touched the water? I imagine he felt triumphant as he took that first step and then the second. Can you imagine the feeling of total faith and acceptance of God's power to allow you to walk on water? I have heard it said that there must have been stepping stones for Peter. The stepping stones were the lessons taught by Jesus and the miracles He performed. They were not physical stepping stones, they were spiritual and they gave Peter the faith to set his foot on the water and know he would not sink. It does not say how long he actually walked on the water only that the wind picked up, he was afraid and when the fear entered him, so did the doubt and he began to sink. Jesus stretched forth His hand and lifted him up. How many times has He lifted you up when you begin to fear or doubt?

Jesus does then ask Peter, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt" (Matthew 14:31).

> This short word, *doubt,* is what takes us from being able to move a mountain, see the Lord's hand, confidently feed many with just a little food, or walk on water.

It is not a matter of doubting God's existence or the Restored Gospel but just that we have the power to do amazing works. Can you imagine what we could accomplish as a Church or people if we could remove this small obstacle in our path? Can you imagine if we could live our lives *EVERY MOMENT* as Peter did in *THAT MOMENT* when he stepped out of the boat to walk on water?



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August, 2011

Volume 67, No.8

# Everlasting Fellowship

very individual who had the I fortunate experience of being a young person in The Church of Jesus Christ has fond memories. Most likely, when one recalls this era of life [presumably, an era which seems to have passed too quickly] the first sentimental recollection that comes to mind is an event of enjoying fellowship with the young people of the Church. Although these memories vary among the saints, there is a common theme that exists among each. This theme is the emotion of joy. Helaman knew the effects of fellowship, and related when the saints partook in this activity, they "...did rejoice one with another, and did have great joy" (Helaman 6:3). The young people certainly enjoyed the fellowship at the World Conference this past June.

The G.M.B.A. is happy to report it hosted three fellowship activities at the conference. The first was a "Meet and Greet" where the young people took part in a modified speed-dating game. As they walked into a room Monday night, the group found they were go-

ing to sit across from an individual, introduce themselves, and move onto another person, continuously repeating the same action. Although each individual only had a small amount of time to talk, the young people appreciated the experience. Brother Jared Stone from the Hollywood, Florida Branch stated the game was fun, and "I liked how I got to talk to people I didn't really know." Not only did this young brother make new friends, but he also felt self-admiration during the activity, relating "people appreciated my funniness." After the game was finished, these newly acquainted individuals enjoyed another enriching experience; appetite-enriching that is, biting into several slices of world famous Chicago pizza.

Rejuvenated from the speeddating game, and more importantly the Spirit of God that was felt during each meeting and presentation at the conference, the young people were in for another surprise as Wednesday night approached. Walking into a dark room filled with flashing lights and loud

rave music, the thump of bass vibrations penetrated each individual's ears. However, these young people were not walking into a dance party, but rather "Club E"-a spiritual meeting cleverly devised to peek the interest of all who were present. Once the group sat in a circle, the flashing lights and music stopped. The lights turned back on, and to the surprise of many stood Brother David Lovalvo, Brother Jim Lambert, and Brother Cameron Staley. Then, as the young people looked into the circle, they found a single strip of carpet running down the middle, forming a straight and narrow line.

Brother David spoke, explaining that every individual has to work towards righteousness to stay on a Godly path. After showing a Power Point presentation of baptisms, Brother David asked a few young people to share how they felt after giving their lives to Christ. According to Dominic DiMelis from Branch #2 in Detroit, Michigan, this meeting "was secluded

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## The Founding and Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ

By Brother Felix Buccellato (November 23, 1961)

We must first establish the reasoning in a true and unadulterated Gospel, and The Church of Jesus Christ. In the gospel according to Matthew, we find the words of Christ setting up His Church.

#### Matthew 16:18

"And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, [true interpretation in Greek, is petra, which is by interpretation, rock] and upon this rock [not Peter], I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

With this quotation we must bear in mind, that since these words were spoken by Jesus, no church or religious organization has remained intact on their doctrinal beliefs. Ours has not deviated in doctrine from its initial entry of The Restored Gospel. Hence, we notice a drastic contrast between the religious world today and the true followers of Christ.

I Corinthians 3:9 "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry [or field], ye are God's building."

I Corinthians 12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if ye have love one to an- other."

As we now have vision unlimited, let us accept the words of the Apostle Paul to Timothy in searching the truth of the authenticity of the words of Christ.

II Timothy 2:15 'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word [Christ or revelation] of truth."

Also the words of Jesus:

#### John 5:39

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are them which testify of me."

In Acts, we find a similar incident:

#### Acts 17:11

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Let us compare the above words with those of the Book of Mormon. Jesus names His Church.

#### III Nephi 27:8

"And how be it my church save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses' name [symbolic of so many names today], then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel [Rock]."

#### Moroni 10:4

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, He will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." [We see the results of the diligent seeker].

Jesus was precise and exact in all things. Lest, any one individual find either fault or discrepancy in His doctrine, we then in all fairness must see how He set up His Church. Jesus knew by revelation that His appearance on earth was but for a short duration. Therefore, He calls His workers to labor in the field after His baptism.

Matthew 10th chapter Read the whole chapter

Luke 10:1-12 Calling of Apostles and Evangelists

Titus 1:5 Calling of Elders

Acts 6th chapter Calling of Deacons

#### The Founding and Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ

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Ephesians 4:11 Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers

#### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS:**

Matthew 7:7

"Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

#### Mark 6:13

"And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."

#### Mark 16:17,18

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

#### Luke 9:2

"And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."

#### Acts 2:4

"And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

#### Hebrews 2:4

God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will?"

One of the most important facets of His doctrine was to be not only readers or hearers of His word; but also doers of it. Jesus commands His ministry to perform, and observe these ordinances as follows:

Matthew 3:13 "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."

#### Mark 1:4

"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

#### John 3:5

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

#### Acts 2:38

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

#### Acts 8:38

"And he commanded the chariot to stand still and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

#### Colossians 2:12

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead."

#### FEET WASHING:

#### John 13:15

"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

#### LORD'S SUPPER:

Matthew 26:26-28 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

#### LAYING ON OF HANDS FOR RECEPTION OF THE HOLY GHOST:

#### Acts 8:17

"Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

#### Acts 19:6

"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

#### **ANOINTING WITH OIL:**

#### Mark 6:13

"And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."

#### James 5:14

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

#### RELIGIOUS SECTS AT THE TIME OF CHRIST:

#### Pharisees and Sadducees:

The Sadducees accepted only the Old Testament as authoritative in religious and ethical matters [Josephus]. The Pharisees added to these scriptures the oral traditions (Mark 7:3-10).

They were more observant of the words of the scribes than to the observance of the words of the written law.

#### The Founding and Establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ

#### Continued from Page 3

Differences of interpretation eventually gave rise [among Pharisees] to the two Pharisaic schools of Hillelites, and Shammaites. The Shammaites allowed only infidelity as a ground for divorce, while the Hillelites accepted any sort of inadequacy on the wife's part as sufficient ground. Both of them basing their decision upon Deuteronomy 24:1.

According to Acts 23:8, the Sadducees denied the existence of angels and spirits, as well as the doctrine of the resurrection. The Sadducees hierarchy had its stronghold in the temple, and it was only during the last ten or twenty years of the temple's existence that the Pharisees finally got control. With the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70, their power as an organized party disappeared.

#### Essenes:

They lived in Palestine, and Syria, and numbered about 4000. The Essenes were communists. They supported themselves by manual labor, never making weapons of war. They were devoted to study, prayer, and acts of benevolence, especially towards the aged and sick. They condemned slavery in principle and practice. The younger ministered to the elder. As a body, they preferred the country to the city. They despised pleasure, and luxury, regarding anointing oil as particularly hateful and defiling. They wore simple white garments and did not own a change of clothes. They bathed in cold water, ate but a single dish, and worked until sundown. They prayed before sunrise and grace at meals was said by a priest.

An oath once taken was never capable

of being annulled. They practiced justice towards men, never injured anyone, either of his own accord or under compulsion. Always to hate the wicked and side with the just, never when in office to force his personal views. To love truth and hate falsehood. To keep his hands pure of theft, not to have any secret from his brethren and never to betray one of theirs, even at the cost of life.

Sabbath observance was very strict. They lived long as a result of their simple habits and diet and neither torture nor bribery could make them false to their principles.

#### Herodians:

Mentioned in the Gospels as taking up a hostile attitude to Jesus. [Once in Galilee and again in Jerusalem]. Mark 3:6; Mark 8:15; Mark 12:13; Matthew 22:16. In every case, they are coupled with the Pharisees.

#### Paganism:

The history of the Christian judgment of paganism is older than Christianity itself. From Olivet, the Saviour beheld the storms about to fall upon the Church. (Matthew 24: 9,21,22).

We find that the powers of earth and hell arrayed themselves against Christ in the person of His followers. Paganism foresaw that The Gospel would triumph, her alters and temples would be swept away. Therefore, she summoned her forces to destroy Christianity. Christians were stripped and driven from their homes. Great numbers sealed their testimony with their blood. Noble and slaves, rich and poor, learned and ignorant were alike slain without mercy. These persecutions began under Nero about the time of the martyrdom of Paul. Christians were accused of all manner of crimes. Even blamed for bringing about famine, pestilence and earthquakes. The advancing centuries witnessed a constant increase of errors in the doctrines put forth from Rome. Even before the establishment of the papacy, the teachings of heathen philosophies had received attention and exerted an influence in the church. Purgatory was another invention of paganism. The people were also taught that by payment of money to the church, they might free themselves from sin and also release the souls of their deceased friends from tormenting flames [Indulgences]. By this means did Rome fill her coffers and sustain the magnificent luxury. The scriptural ordinance of the Lord's Supper has been supplanted by the idolatrous sacrifice of the Mass. For this reason then, for centuries, Europe had made no progress in learning arts or civilization. A moral and intellectual paralysis had fallen upon Christiandom. The conditions of the world under Roman power presented a fearful and striking fulfillment of the words of the Prophet Hosea 4:6. Compare Hebrews 10:32; Hebrews 11:35,36,38

#### THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE:

Prior to the death of Christ, Jesus refers to other sheep which are not of the fold of the brethren in Jerusalem. Scholars believe this scripture has a bearing on the Gentile nation. We, The Church of Jesus Christ, differ boldly on this interpretation for the simple reason that Jesus was referring to the Seed of Joseph on this land.

#### John 10:16

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall near my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, Pennsylvania and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

## Editorial Viewpoint . .

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:1-6).

The fearful thing about this scripture is that as we read the newspaper, watch our television L or movies, or simply look around us, we see that fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking and jesting, and idolatry is everywhere. What is worse, is that this scripture instructs us not to be deceived by those who would say these things are okay. Today, not only are people saying that these things are okay, but discussions of right or wrong do not even occur anymore. These things are simply the norm. This is especially true of young people today who do not even think twice as to whether or not fornication is right or wrong. It is just something normal, that "everyone does." What is more frightening is that it's possible our young people in the Church, are accepting these things as "the way things are". This scripture states that a person like this, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Simply put, it means they will spend eternity with Satan in hell. It also promises that in this life, the wrath of God will come upon the children of disobedience. Diseases that come about due to promiscuity reflect the punishment of God. Serious problems in life come about due to a greedy, selfish, covetous attitude. Marital destruction comes about due to idolatry—a man or woman who values something or someone more than they do their spouse.

If there was ever a time we need a revival, it is now! The Church was restored fully to show us the way. That "way" does not change with the times. God's commandments are the same regardless of the "way things are". It's a sobering thought to imagine what God is thinking about mankind today. It's an even more sobering thought to imagine what God thinks of His people today. We are buffeted on all sides by the world and by Satan's darts. If there was ever a time when we need to rely completely on God's help, it is now. Certainly, things in the world around us must change. I heard it said that if God permits things to continue as they are, he must apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah for destroying them. He must apologize to the people who were drowned at the time of Noah. But we read that "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Things will change.

Instead of us being "deceived" into thinking these things are okay, let us be God's "change agents". A change agent is someone who initiates change. Let us be the peculiar person in the crowd. Let us proclaim that these things are wrong; not pointing a finger at other people, but pointing a finger at sin. Let us act "surprised" when others speak of these sinful things as normal. Let us say to them like Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Being a change agent means starting in our own homes. Let us teach our families the principles of Christ. Let us tell them that the things the world is saying is normal and okay, are NOT! Can you imagine what God will think of us if we do this! Imagine how pleased he will be with us. He will look at us and truly say that we are His "dear children" who follows Him. Let us be God's change agents in a world that is on the wrong path, and follow our Savior to that mansion that awaits us.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

#### By Sister Jan Bork

## What Did David Do With His Enemies?

ear Friends, What do you do when you discover someone hates you, or envies you, or is trying to say or do something against you? This is a problem that humans have struggled with since the days of Adam and Eve when one jealous son, Cain, felt such hatred that he killed his own brother, Abel. Nowadays, in North America, it is against the law to harass people at work. You can go to the boss and force them to do something to stop it. But what do you do if it is a person at school or in your neighborhood that you cannot escape? If they are being a bully, and you are scared, you must tell your family and they must tell the school. Teachers are being trained to learn how to make bullies stop; they must protect all children. But it is human nature to feel afraid and angry when we are being attacked, even if it is only with words. But what else can vou do?

What does the Bible tell us? First of all, we are never alone. Scriptures teach us that our God is the great Creator whose son, Jesus, came down to earth in human form. They see everything. They totally understand all things human. Best of all, they have all power and God who hears and answers our prayers, has the power to help us. We can find that power by praying and talking things over with the Lord.



God also has power over our enemies. He tells us over and over, *"Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."* This means God will fight for us. We do not have to waste days, months and years hating back someone who has done evil to us. You will also lose if you let the bully or mean person fill you with bad feelings. That is the other reason it is more important to talk it over with God and let Him change things.

The Apostle Paul teaches us to overcome evil by not fighting back. He said to be kind instead. In the Bible, in Romans 12:19-21 "...*it is written, vengeance* [getting back at someone] *is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*...*If thine enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing, you will heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*"

Can you imagine the peace you will feel if you return good for evil? In I Samuel 25th chapter David and his band of six hundred soldiers were hiding from King Saul by living in the desert wilderness of Paran. The richest man there was named Nabal. He was an evil man who was also greedy. He had a beautiful and wise wife named Abigail. They had thousands of sheep and goats, and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. But was hard finding food in this wilderness for David and his soldiers

David's men protected Nabal's flocks from other robbers for many

months. At the festival time when they sheared [cut] the sheep's wool to be sold for lots of money, David sent his men to ask the rich man, Nabal, for food.

Greedy Nabal wasn't thankful for all the help David had given him. He said bad things about David and then sent the men away without anything! This was not fair.

David was angry. He told his men to get their swords and put on their armor! They were going to attack Nabal and take the food they needed.

But one of the young men ran to Nabal's home to tell his wife, Abigail, what was happening. She was a woman who believed in God and was also a smart woman who listened. He told her that the soldiers were like a wall protecting them from robbers and he told her how David's men had never stolen anything, but now they were angry! Nabal had mocked them and refused to give them food.

Immediately Abigail took two hundred loaves of bread, two bottles of wine, five sheep cut up and ready to be cooked, one hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs and loaded them on donkeys. She sent her servants ahead and quickly followed on another donkey. As she came around the hill, the army of hundreds of men and David surrounded her. Can you imagine her fear?

When Abigail saw David she hurried, got off the donkey, and bowed herself on the ground at David's feet. She apologized to David and told him that Nabal was a foolish man but she had not seen the young men he had sent for food. She took the blame for the rudeness of Nabal and begged David to forgive her. She told him that the Lord had kept him from coming and killing all of the servants and families who lived by Nabal.

(Continued on Page 12)



# What is Your Commitment?

By Sister Karen L. Progar

A beautiful day began with the setting of the Communion table and the hymn, "My Jesus, I Love Thee". I began to feel the blessing, but had no idea what a blessing the Lord would actually provide for the Aliquippa Branch.

Brother Jason Monaghan opened the meeting by sharing an experience on prayer and how a need was met immediately upon conclusion of the prayer. It wasn't that Brother Jason requested an immediate answer, as he had prayer regarding the situation in the past. It did not appear that there was a way for the request to occur with things being what they currently were. It was sharing a desire and knowing that God could bring it about, yet it was a pleasant surprise when it came to be. As we listened, no doubt many thought about the unlikely events that had occurred in their lives and how a mindful God made a way when there was no way.

Brother Jason then went on to present a sermon on our service to God, reminding us that 50% is not passing on any level. Our brother reminded us of a brother, now gone on to his reward, who was oft times described as blessed and highly favored. Brother Jason concurred that the brother was indeed blessed and highly favored, but stressed that most of us know that this brother lived 100% for the Lord and was rewarded accordingly. He added that everyone has a relationship with God, regardless of the quality of that relationship, encouraging us to heed the example of our beloved brother.

Brother Jason spoke of Jonah and what got him into trouble was listening to the Lord at 50%. Jonah heard the Lord's voice and did 50% of what he was told. Just as Jonah paid the fare [to board the ship], sometimes we pay the price for going where we want to go. Jonah found himself in trouble, just as we do when we do what we want. The Lord delivered Jonah when he turned his attention to Him, and will do likewise with us.

Brother Paul A. Palmieri continued on the theme admonishing us to recall that 50% is equal to lukewarm and we all know that God spews out lukewarm. Brother Paul concluded by stating that it was clear that the Lord loved Jonah and the Lord loves us just as much. What a marvelous thought!

Our meeting was concluded with a very blessed feet washing service. The sermon caused me to think about my commitment. Do you ponder your own?

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass (Psalm 37:5)

#### **Everlasting Fellowship**

#### Continued from Page 1

from the rest of everything else. There was a good spirit in the room." After some baptismal stories were shared, Brother David asked the group, "Who wants to get back on the path?" A few stepped forward, but once Brother David declared, "If anyone wants to get back, do so now," the rest of the group followed. Prayer was then offered, and three souls asked for their baptism! "I definitely felt the Spirit." Dominic said, and believed "We also got closer as a group." As the night drew to an end, many did not want to go back to their rooms. Dominic even stated, "It was kind of a buzz kill when we had to leave."

The third fellowship activity was on Thursday night, concluding the World Conference meetings and festivities. Everyone who attended ate pizza, sang songs, and conversed. Yet what made the night special was the Mexican brothers' and sisters' "unplugged," guitar jam session. One of the favorite hymns sung was "En la Veña del Senor." According to Grace Phillips from the Forest Hills, Florida Branch, "I liked singing and eating and having fellowship with everyone. It made me feel special and blessed!" Brother Josh Benyola from the Forest Hills Branch reiterated similar feelings, stating, "That was one of the best parts of conference for me!" With all of these activities, it is evident The Church of Jesus Christ continues the ageless tradition of bringing joy to others with fellowship. The G.M.B.A. is blessed to have such a wonderful group of young people, and its officers pray the memories and friendships created this past June will continue to last forever. Thank you for reading, and we hope this article brought you a piece of the joy the young people felt during the World Conference.

Continued from Page 4

#### III Nephi 15:21

"And verily I say unto you, that ye are they of whom I said; other sheep I have which are not of this fold."

The Church of Jesus Christ, hence becomes established in our hemisphere when Jesus makes His appearance in the Land of Promise. Read all of III Nephi, chapter 11.

#### THE APOSTASY PREDICTED:

#### Jeremiah 9:1

"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people."

#### Jeremiah 13:17

"But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the Lord's flock is carried away captive."

#### Isaiah 24:5,6

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left."

#### Isaiah 29:9,10

"Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry; they are drunken; but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes; the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered."

#### Isaiah 50:3 "I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering."

#### Isaiah 60:2

"For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."

#### Ezekiel 16:14,15

"And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God. But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was."

#### Ezekiel 34:6-8

"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill. yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; As I live saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and fed not my flock;"

#### Amos 8:11,12

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst of water, but of hearing the words of the Lord; And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it."

#### Psalm 74:9

"We see not our signs; there is no more any prophet; neither is there among us any that knoweth how long."

#### Micah 3:6,7

"Therefore night shall be unto you, that ye shall not have a vision; and it shall be dark unto you, that ye shall not divine; and the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them. Then shall the seers be ashamed, and the diviners confounded; yea, they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer of God."

#### Daniel 9:25-27

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

#### Matthew 23:37

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

#### Matthew 24:11,12

"And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

#### John 9:4

"I must work the works of Him that (Continued on Page 9)

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sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work."

#### Acts 20:28-30

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

#### II Thessalonians 2:3,4; 7,8

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed. whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

#### I Timothy 4:1-3

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils: Speaking lies in hypocrisy: having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

#### II Timothy 3:1-5

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

#### II Timothy 4:3,4

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

#### II Peter 2:1-3

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. Any many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

#### Jude 17,18

"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."

Revelation, Chapter 12: Read it all

Revelation 13:4,6,9 "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast; And they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. If any man have an ear, let him hear."

#### **Revelation 18:4**

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

#### APOSTASY PREDICTIONS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON:

#### I Nephi 12:19

"And while the angel spake these words, I beheld and saw that the seed of my brethren did contend against my seed, according to the word of the angel; and because of the pride of my seed, and the temptations of the devil, I beheld that the seed of my brethren did overpower the people of my seed."

#### II Nephi 6:10-15

"And after they have hardened their hearts and stiffened their necks against the Holy One of Israel, ..." [Read these verses]

#### Alma 45:10-12

"And these are the words: Behold, I perceive that this very people, the Nephites, according to the spirit of revelation which is in me, in four hundred years from the time that Jesus Christ shall manifest himself unto them, shall dwindle in unbelief. Yea, and then shall they see wars and pestilences, yea, famines and bloodshed, even until the people of Nephi shall become extinct. Yea, and this because they shall dwindle in unbelief and fall into the works of darkness, and lasciv-

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iousness, and all manner of iniquities; yea, I say unto you, that because they shall sin against so great light and knowledge, yea, I say unto you, that from that day, even the fourth generation shall not all pass away before this great iniquity shall come."

#### Helaman 13:5-10

Refers to the words of Samuel the Lamanite, warning the people to repent, lest the sword of justice fall upon them.

#### III Nephi 27:32

"But behold, it sorroweth me because of the fourth generation from this generation, for they are led away captive by him even as was the son of perdition; for they will sell me for silver and for gold, and for that which moth doth corrupt and which thieves can break through and steal. And in that day will I visit them, even in turning their works upon their own heads."

#### PREDICTIONS OF APOSTASY IN ITS INFANCY IN THE CHURCH:

#### Acts 20:29,30

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

#### Galatians 1:6-9

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

#### II Thessalonians 2:7,8

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

#### I Timothy 1:4,6,7,19

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling. Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:"

I Timothy 5:15 "For some are already turned aside after Satan."

#### II Timothy 1:13-15

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

#### II Timothy 2:17,18

"And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

II Timothy 4:10,14,16

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me; I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge."

#### Titus 1:10,11

"For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."

#### Jude 3,4

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

#### Revelation 2:4,5; 12,16

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

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#### APOSTASY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE:

IV Nephi 24,29,42,45

"And now, in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls, and of the fine things of the world. And again, there was another church which denied the Christ; and they did persecute the true church of Christ, because of their humility and their belief in Christ; and they did despise them because of the many miracles which were wrought among them. And it came to pass that the wicked part of the people began again to build up the secret oaths and combinations of Gadianton. And it came to pass that when three hundred years had passed away, both the people of Nephi and the Lamanites had become exceeding wicked one like unto another."

#### Mormon 8:6-10

"Behold, four hundred years have passed away since the coming of our Lord and Savior. And behold, the Lamanites have hunted my people, the Nephites, down from city to city and from place to place, even until they are no more; and great has been their fall; yea, great and marvelous is the destruction of my people, the Nephites. And behold, it is the hand of the Lord which hath done it. And behold, also, the Lamanites are at war one with another; and the whole face of this land is one continual round of murder and bloodshed; and no one knoweth the end of the war. And now, behold, I say no more concerning them, for there

are none save it be the Lamanites and robbers that do exist upon the face of the land. And there are none that do know the true God save it be the disciples of Jesus, who did tarry in the land until the wickedness of the people was so great that the Lord would not suffer them to remain with the people; and whether they be upon the face of the land no man knoweth."

#### **REASONS FOR APOSTASY:**

#### Persecutions Under Paganism:

From Olivet the Saviour beheld the storms about to fall upon the apostolic church; and penetrating deeper into the future, His eye discerned the fierce, tempests that were to beat upon His followers in the coming ages of darkness and persecution. Paganism foresaw that should the Gospel triumph, her temples and altars would be swept away; therefore she summoned her forces to destroy Christianity. The fires of persecution were kindled. Christians were stripped of their possessions, and driven from their homes. They endured a great fight of afflictions. They had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment. Great numbers sealed their testimony with their blood. Noble and slave, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were alike slain without mercy. These persecutions, beginning under Nero about the time of the martyrdom of Paul, continued with greater or less fury for centuries. They were condemned as rebels against the empire, as foes of religion, and pests to society. Great numbers were thrown to wild beasts or burned alive in the amphitheaters. Some were crucified; others were covered with the skins of wild animals, and thrust into the arena to be torn by dogs. Vast multitudes assembled to enjoy the sight, and greeted their dying agonies with laughter and applause. Wherever they sought refuge, the followers of

Christ were hunted like beasts of prev. They were forced to seek concealment in desolate and solitary places. Destitute, afflicted, tormented; of whom the world was not worthy, they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. The catacombs afforded shelter for thousands. In spite of all these persecutions, the Gospel continued to spread, and the number of its adherents increased. Said one Christian during this period of time, "You may kill us, torture us, condemn us which shows your injustice, proving we are innocent. The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed."

#### **INTERNAL DISSENSIONS:**

I'm afraid you are going to be on your own on this one point. I'll only give you reference on some books to read.

Read Gibbons, "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

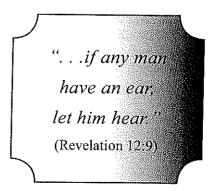
Read of Schisms and Heresies in Early Church by [Eusebius Ecclesiastical History]

Read Church History by [Mosheim, Joseph Milner]

#### ORDINANCES CHANGED: BAPTISM, LORD'S SUPPER:

Read Church History by the above authors.

(ARTICLE TO BE CONTINUED)



#### The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

David began feeling calmer. Abigail said many more kind words to him and told him how she knew that God truly loved him and had a great future for him. "And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel which sent thee this day. . . which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand" (I Samuel 25:33). See, David knew God would fight for him. He told Abigail that if she wouldn't have come, they would have attacked and by the next day, no one of Nabal's group would have been alive!

And finally, remember what Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44,45 "But I say unto you, Love thine enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; [are mean to you] that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven..." This is one of the things that make people who love Jesus much stronger in their heart and spirit than those who are too weak to even try to love hateful people!

So, be strong in your spirit. You will have peace and God will work things out for you. When you need help, ask others for prayers for God to protect you and tell you what to do. Ask the elders to lay hands on you for spiritual strength. And follow Proverbs 3:5-7 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil."

> With Love, Your friend, Sister Jan

"...Love thine enemic bless them that curse vodo good to them that hate you, and pray for them whic despitefully use you.

(Matthew 5:44)

WORD	SEARCH
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AND	ТО
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September, 2011

Volume 67, No.9

## Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

**X** Jelcome to The Church of Jesus Christ. We hope you enjoy your day here. During the course of the meeting, questions may arise as to how and why certain things are done. We have chosen the most common questions and attempted to answer them in the following pages. If there is anything left unanswered, feel free to ask. The last two questions on the final two pages will tell you where to get additional information. We hope you will choose to continue to worship with us and that we will see you frequently at The Church of Jesus Christ.

#### 1. Questions that may arise when you enter the Church building.

## *Q. Is the name of the Church significant?*

A. Yes, Jesus told us "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20) and the Apostle Paul adds "And whatsoever ye

#### By Evangelist Jerry Valenti

do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). We believe that a church named after the man belongs to that man, but that a church named after Jesus belongs to Him, as long as it is founded on His precepts.

*Q.* Why aren't there crosses or holy pictures displayed in the Church?

A. There are no crosses or holy pictures because they could be interpreted to represent images which have been forbidden from the time of the ten commandments: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath..." (Exodus 20:4). Moses later had to remind the Israelites: "Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth" (Deuteronomy 16:22). Although Jesus' death on the cross was an important part of the plan of salvation, it is not the cross that redeems, but Jesus. Thus, we worship Him and let the cross simply have its place in history.

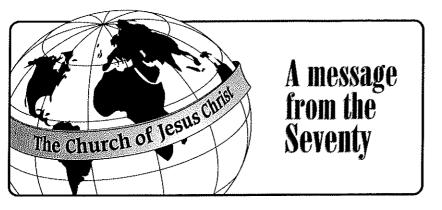
## Q. Why isn't there an altar in front of the Church?

A. There is no altar because in the Old Testament, the altar was used as a place to offer sacrifices to God. When Jesus was crucified, He became the perfect sacrifice; thus, the altar became useless as no sacrifice we can offer can compare to Jesus. Paul describes the type of sacrifice God wants from us: "By him [Jesus] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:15-16).

Q. Are special services held to celebrate traditional Christian "holy days?"

A. No, special services are not held to celebrate traditional "holy days". We feel that serving God and following Jesus is a 365 day per year

(Continued on Page 9)



## Third Missionary Trip to Oklahoma Building on a Sure Foundation May 14-23,2011

By Evangelists George Kovacic, Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., Wayne Martorana, and Mark Kovacic



Evangelists George Kovacic and Nephi DeMercurio, Sr.

This trip was our third in three years to the State of Oklahoma. We were not only fulfilling the directive from the Lord as recorded in the Book of Mormon:

"And now, the thing which our father means concerning the grafting in of the natural branches through the fullness of the Gentiles, is, that in the latter days, when our seed shall have dwindled in unbelief, yea, for the space of many years, and many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed" (I Nephi 15:13).

But also the directive from the Lord from 1861, where in the Lord directed the church to share four points with the Native American: that they are descendants of Abraham; what great things God did for their forefathers; Jesus Christ died for them; and God will gather them into their lands of inheritance. [Church History Volume 1, Page 32]

As we continue with history, in the July Conference of 1868, Brothers William Bickerton, William Cadman and Benjamin Meadowcroft were commissioned to go the Indian Territory [today the state of Oklahoma] after the Power of God was manifested in the April Conference of 1868 relative to the Indian Territory. They reported on their activities to the conference of 1869. Over the years, a number of visits were made to the Indian Territory, which eventually led to the establishment of Zion Valley, Kansas, to where a number of saints relocated.

However the preaching of the Gospel in Oklahoma was not forgotten. In 1957, Evangelist Timothy Dom Bucci had a burning in his heart to travel by bus from Youngstown, Ohio to Oklahoma to see what missionary work could be done in the state still heavily populated with Native Americans. He made several follow-up visits over the years. His two grandsons, George and Mark, had accompanied him on different occasions which left a burning desire in their hearts to one day return to Oklahoma. In 2009, they followed in their grandfather's footsteps. The desire they had now became a reality. They started out by exploring the possibilities of interacting with the natives in Oklahoma. They spent a week visiting and meeting people and presented the message that the Native American is of the House of Israel and the promises God has made to their fathers. Encouraged by the positive nature of the trip and the vast potential of the work, in 2010 Evangelists Nephi DeMecurio, Sr., and Wayne Martorana joined the brothers in the work to Oklahoma. As a result of this addition more time was spent on meeting various tribal leaders and individuals. Because we were split into two teams we were now able to cover more areas of Oklahoma. For the May, 2011 trip, another approach was added to the framework, revisiting people with whom we were building relationships, being equipped to make presentations to groups, and sitting for long discussions with tribal leaders and culture and heritage directors.

(Continued on Page 3)

#### **Missionary Trip to Oklahoma**

Continued from Page 2

And most importantly, having prayer with each and every one of them.



Just prior to our trip on May 12, 2011 one of our Brothers had a dream in which the four of us brothers were standing in a garden and we noticed several plants growing up, but one was growing up more than the others. We felt that God was letting us know that there was about to be a break through where some individuals would take hold of the message more than others.

The following provides an overview of our activities. For privacy sake and to protect the confidentiality of the work, the names of the people and their tribes were excluded. But you will see how God's hand moved on our behalf because of your prayers and support.

Our hopes and expectations were high and we were convinced that God would bless us. This anticipation was confirmed when a brother called us very early one morning to tell us of the vision he had just had. In the vision, Jesus turned to the brothers with a very serious demeanor and urgent manner and told them: "I have prepared the hearts of the people. Preach to them my Gospel." In addition while our brother was talking on the telephone with us, the Lord spoke to our brother and said: "O ye watchman this work must continue." The message affirmed our anticipation as to God being with us as well as showing us the work that we were to do. God was

true to his revelation. Now here is the story.

In the past visits we made some acquaintances with Native People from various Indian churches, and although they continued to be friendly, we saw the door was slowly closing. But God was opening other doors for us—some without any effort on our part.

However, one of our first concerns was Brother John Andrews and his wife, Shela. Brother John has been alone in Oklahoma for many years, being isolated from the body of the Church most of the time. We were able to give Brother John the Lord's Supper and share the scriptures with him. He shared with us that when he was anointed last year that God gave him a healing that exists to this day.



There are 36 Native American tribal organizations in Oklahoma. In the last three years, we have visited and made contact with at least 30 of them. This trip alone we had meaningful discussions with 12 tribal leaders and we met with two small groups of Native People desiring to hear all about our message and watch the presentations we had developed about several important scriptural topics of potential interest to Native Americans, such as the Scattering and Gathering of Israel and The Choice Seer. These two presentations made a strong impact on the people that showed our message was resonating.

We learned that everyone we left literature with the prior two years had taken the time to read it. When meet-

ing with a tribal leader, he noted that the Sunday before we arrived he was moved to pull his copy of the American Indian Moses off his bookshelf and started glancing through it. An assistant said, "You mean you started to read it again." He said to her, "No, I read it all last year and I enjoyed it. But Sunday I felt to just hold it and glance through it." He added that he tried explaining it to his wife, who decided to read it for herself. He was also drawn to the article in the First Voices Journal about education and language, which are topics dear to his heart. God hears our prayers and opens the hearts of men and women to receive the message.

A very prominent tribal leader spent over two hours sharing with us experiences [revelations and prophecies] he had and his future expectations of his people and all Native Americans. He even sang to us a song that God gave him one night. He explained to us that he had made a study of the Old Testament and saw many parallels with the ancient Israelites. He was fascinated with our message and showed true interest in it. The marvel is that our message is not really foreign to them.

In one instance, the purchase of a baseball cap in a tribal souvenir shop opened the door to a long discussion about ancient Israel with the director of development. In another instance, a cold call with a frustrated receptionist led to a long discussion with a council member, who was open and receptive to the message. Her awareness of the Book of Mormon made the discussion easier.

On another visit, there was a lot of confusion about who we were looking for and why. After three women got together to hear the message and received the First Voices Journal, they

#### **Missionary Trip to Oklahoma**

Continued from Page 3

realized we had something special for them. Although it did not lead to a meeting with a tribal leader, these three women heard and understood the message that was meant for all Native Americans. We learned that we do not always need to meet tribal leaders to spread our message.

Besides having prayer with a number of tribal leaders and Native Americans, we also added this comment to them, "When future events begin to occur, remember which church told you about them."

With one tribe we learned that they had a tribal version of Adam and Eve, the creation story, and their people building a "storehouse" to heaven [they considered it to be parallel event to the tower of Babel] and that their people had a version of infant blessing. Several times we heard about the similarities of tribal customs to the Book of Leviticus!

We have a beautiful relationship with a man we met in 2009 whom we had given a Book of Mormon to during that first visit. He continually asks questions and shares with us his experiences. He is both a prominent member of his tribe and a spiritual man, absorbing all that we have shared with him. He loves to hear his questions answered with scriptures and when it was time to show the presentations, he called some of his friends and family to join us. This man enjoys our company and finds comfort in us. He readily reads and believes the Book of Mormon and shares the American Indian Moses book with others who come into his office. He sets the American Indian Moses conspicuously on his desk for everyone to see. We were even invited into his home for dinner and this was the first such visit to anyone's home. We presented

some of our prepared topics, which they video recorded. Attending this little gathering was a former chief who is both prominent and spiritual. After this presentation, the little gathering exclaimed; *"We have hope!"* 

For one man, it was the painting titled "The Five Deacons" painted by one of their own that prompted intense discussion. This painting depicts five deacons in a circle praying. This level of spirituality is often found among those we met with. In this case it was the bridge to other topics of discussion. One of those discussions was about Native American DNA. Thankfully we were prepared with an article Brother Tom Everett provided for us and this article was very helpful to the individual because he had been struggling with this issue. Again, the presentations were shown, and in this case, those in the office were asked to join us.

At another tribe, we went to meet a new administrator and it turned out that the woman he replaced left a copy of the American Indian Moses in now his office. She had received it in 2010. After he found it he began reading it. He is very impressed with the book. He was open and receptive and gladly received the message we delivered. We could sense his soft heart and sincere love for his people. He is truly a very passionate man.

God can even open the natural eyes. We were to meet with a woman one day. As we were standing in the parking lot taking pictures, this legally blind woman, who only sees the outline of people, came up to us and introduced herself and said we were to meet with her. When we asked how she knew us she responded, "*The Great Spirit told me who you are.*" Of course that led to several hours of discussion about her people and Native American beliefs and we were able to present our message to her.

The next day, on our drive to one tribe, we received a call that there was a woman who had heard about our message and about us and wanted to meet us at their museum. She shared several of the native customs of her tribe, explaining how many of them have a religious foundation, but are frequently misunderstood outside tribal circles. She related an experience given to her family when she was a young girl. It was that they saw Christ. When she related this experience she was given a Book of Mormon and told to read third Nephi where Christ appeared to their ancient forefathers. As a result of knowing this event she rejoiced in it. She also shared the fact that many of their prophecies are given in song and that she has family members who receive songs during the night and they awake and record them. She then asked the question we all want to hear, "When are you coming to my home to present this message to my family?" What a gift from God. We went to her home on our last Sunday in Oklahoma, where eight members of her family were waiting for us. They listened intently to our presentations. After some discussion, they sang "Amazing Grace" to us in their tribal language and we sang for them a Song of Zion. We left them with Books of Mormon and American Indian Moses. What a wondrous way to end our trip. Prayer was offered and we left rejoicing.

## "I have prepared the hearts of the People."

In closing, one thing we noted was the need for prayer. Pray that those whom we met will continue to seek the truth and be open to our message. Pray that God's spirit will confirm the message. Pray that God will grant those who are receptive with good health to continue their work. And pray that the day is fast approaching when the Scriptures will be fulfilled and all Israel will be gathered.



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, Pennsylvania and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

## Editorial Viewpoint . .

"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:5-8).

In another part of scripture David states that he has never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread. Certainly, we can say as saints of God, that He has given us sufficiency in the natural things of life. However, if we compare our possessions with those around us who have more, and wonder if God in some way has abandoned us, then we do err in that thought. In fact, according to this scripture, if we equate natural prosperity with godliness, we have a "corrupt mind" and are "destitute of the truth." Pretty strong words, I would say. Unfortunately, it is in our fleshly nature to desire the finer things in life, and then to proclaim that the "blessings of God are upon us." How foolish.

I currently work for a company that is considered to be in the "luxury" industry. The products we sell cost thousands of dollars [products you can find elsewhere for a few dollars]. I don't sell or promote the products; I just work in the Human Resource aspect of the company. Our customers like to be dripping in our product, and look down on others who cannot afford it. In the Church, we simply call these people "worldly." However, if we in the Church feel the same way [even if it is to a much lesser degree], we really are no different than they are. When we see someone who is poor, or has been in bankruptcy, or is struggling to make ends meet, we must NEVER say or even think that this person has in some way disobeyed God. If anything, if we have a lot of money or possessions, we are in far greater danger of losing our way than they are.

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Timothy 6:10).

Many times in the Book of Mormon, the people began to prosper, and when they did, they forgot about God. The problem wasn't that they were prospering; the problem was they forgot about God. We should be content with whatever God gives us, great or small. The truth is, it all belongs to Him anyway. The things we own are only loaned to us. In the end, we take nothing with us, as the scripture states. God will always provide just the right amount for us, and we should never complain. Yet, I hear many of our people complaining about how they wished they had more, or that they just can't make ends meet. I always ask them if they have food to eat or are they starving. Also I ask if they have clothes to wear, or are they naked. Usually, the answer to both questions is yes, they do have food and clothing. Look again at the scripture above and see that with having food and raiment, let us be content. We can gain so much in our spiritual life if we are godly, and content with what we have. Our focus can then be on our spiritual life, which WILL go with us when we die. That is what God will be concerned about when we face Him and a decision is made where we spend eternity. Kind of a sobering thought, huh?

Let us be content with what we have, and not even think about it. Possessions will not bring happiness. I meet so many wealthy people in my line of work, and you would be surprised how many are so unhappy, or in therapy. Let us be like our ancestors who lived through the Depression, who were thankful to even have something to eat each day. And how God took care of them! I am convinced; as David was that He'll take care of you too!

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

#### Stop Being Scared to Grow

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

ear friends, When was the last time you had to do something that scared you? I remember being scared to talk in front of my class when I was young. I remember forgetting I had to do a report and being scared the teacher would call on me. I remember wearing something to school that I thought looked ugly and being afraid that other kids would make fun of me. I remember the year my body started to change and several buttons popped off the back of a dress, and I felt embarrassed, ashamed, and afraid to go back to school the next day. I went of course, and acted like it didn't bother me and people forgot about it.

Now I am grown up. I'm not afraid of those same things anymore. I've worked and can buy pretty clothes, so it's okay to stand up in front of people. I know now that not everyone is my friend. I know how to stay away from mean people, and pray about them. I pray that God will take them away or help change them so they don't hurt others. I know more about protecting myself and making good choices. I picked enough mean friends growing up that now I only



pick nice friends. You will learn these things too.

But sometimes, I still get scared. There are so many things in life that we are powerless over. I get scared something will happen to people I love or even to myself and I can't fix it. I get scared people I love will not love me back. I have to remind myself that God is in charge. I can pray to God for help and trust that things will work out. The only way to handle those kind of fears is through prayer.

Sometimes I worry or get scared about changes or even good things. Once when I was in high school, I was elected to be in a group called Student Council. This was a fun group that made plans for activities for the whole school. I was just starting my first year of High School. I went to the meeting with my friend, Ann. I had a good idea and raised my hand to share it. The President of Student Council noticed and said he "didn't know my name, but speak". I was so embarrassed and shy that I never spoke out loud in that group the rest of the year. I would just whisper my idea to Ann and she would say my idea, because he knew her name.

The next year in Student Council I changed. I went up and talked to the new President so he would know me. Now when I had an idea this year, I could raise my hand and speak easily. I had learned. I had quit being scared to something fun and worthwhile. I did not give up.

This year, with a new school year starting, you have a chance to try some new things. Of course you will not be good when you first start. When you were a baby, you had to fall on your bottom many times before you could walk or start to run! Now look at yourself go! First you will have to have others help you. That is still okay when you learn a new thing! Have someone help you or show you how to do some new thing. Practice until you can do it. We all make a lot of mistakes but if we keep on trying we can learn and improve.

So, try something new at school or home. If you are not good at sports, try something else. Write a story or poem and send it in to a children's magazine. Ask your teacher or Media Specialist if there is a contest to try. Ask if you can help a younger child and be a reading buddy. Learn to throw a football with everyone watching. Sign up to take a band or singing class. If you don't try, you never will learn something new. When you keep busy learning and growing you will get smarter and smarter with each new thing you learn, and life will be fun and interesting too. You can learn all of your life long.

Jesus told us the story, called a parable, about three men whose master gave them each an amount of money [also called talents] before he went away. (see Matthew 25:15) One man was given five talents to take care of. This man used them each and they doubled. The second man had two talents that he used and they also increased; they doubled. But the third man was too scared to try and use his talents. He buried them in the ground and didn't even try to use them.



## World Conference and The General Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sister Karen L. Progar and Sister Jacqui King

If you missed the World Conference, I pray that the articles you will read and the experiences that will be shared with you by those who attended will provide a portion of the joy we felt as we heard the history of the Church in such beautiful presentations and videos.

The Circle was asked to help with the Children's Seminars at the event and our Sister Jacqui King coordinated the week's activities. Remarkably, our sister had an experience that led her to volunteer to take the responsibility for the children seminars, choir, and activities for the World Conference. She knew she was to take on this project! The Lord directed her to use an adaptation of Sister Mabel Bickerton's lessons, "The Long Ago Story". This story Sister Jacqui knew would support the theme of The Everlasting Gospel. The lessons began with the story of Abraham and continued through the story of Joseph to our modern day seed of Joseph. One of the first stories is when Abraham is told to look to the stars in regard to his seed. Remarkably, while our sister was touring the University, the group was told of the Planetarium located in the middle of the campus! Our guide explained that the software, just installed, had the best representation of our stars and that field trips would be available for the children. The Lord had shown

Sister Jacqui that He was in the matter and that He even had a plan for the Children's Seminars.

I was delighted that the children had the privilege of being addressed in their daily chapels by the President of the Church, Brother Paul Palmieri, Apostles, Brother John Griffith and Brother Leonard Lovalvo and the Vice President of the GMBA, Brother Jason Monaghan. The children were engaged and attentive as the brothers spoke to them. It was marvelous to see the young people enjoy the current leadership of the Church. They may not have realized during their week with the brothers what a privilege they enjoyed, but they will no doubt reflect on it over the years and know the love that was shown to them.

The children heard wonderful lessons from the brothers and were attentive throughout, no small feat for nearly 100 children. At one point, one of the children asked Brother Paul Palmieri who his boss was and another quickly replied, "Jesus". They may be young, but they know the structure of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The week long lessons began with the promise made to Abraham regarding his seed and concluded with the present day Native Americans and their record. As part of each session, students built a family tree to visualize how the promise made so long ago continued down through the ancestors of Abraham. The lessons highlighted the birth of Isaac, the promise to Jacob, the establishment of the twelve tribes, the great blessing to Joseph and Lehi's family coming to the blessed land of America. While the oldest class completed one large craft project of a mural depicting the entire story, the younger children enjoyed a variety of activities. Sand art was used to create the promise to Abraham, clay walls represented a "mighty bough"

over the wall, colored rice was used to create Joseph's colored coat, and gold foil was used to make the Nephite records found in Cumorah. These lessons were made possible by many sisters volunteering two hours of their conference week to work with the children. Everyone did their little part and many hands made the enormous task possible.

Each day, children met for chapel and then reported for their class lesson and craft. Following that, Sister Carolyn Gross worked with them to learn five different songs for their Thursday night program. They did great and sang their hearts out. It was a blessing to hear them. One song, "Jesus, You're Beautiful", included sign language.

Each day, under the direction of Brother Tyler King, the young people organized recreational activities for the children.

In Wednesday's chapel service Brother Jason Monaghan [GMBA Vice President], brought the children a message on friendship. Brother Jason instructed the children on making friends and being friends. He used Christ as the example and shared some scripture on Jesus' view of friendship.

As a little memento from the circle, each child received a small flashlight from the General Ladies' Uplift Circle.

The Circle had a small part in the monumental task that was the World Conference, but I thank God for each and every one who assisted in teaching, helped get the crafts ready and attended the chapel and classes to provide support and do whatever they could to be a help. Your efforts were noted and are greatly appreciated.



## Bus Trip to the Monongahela Branch

By Sister Terri Bravo

For over 50 years the saints of the Atlantic Coast Area MBA have enjoyed bus trips to various branches and missions of The Church of Jesus Christ. There is a similarity of experience which we can draw upon which is love, hospitality and the fellowship of the saints. For example, on March 14, 2011, Brother Kevin Perri, our Area MBA President, planned a weekend trip to the Monongahela Branch, the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ, in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

A bus trip gives us the time to talk with one another, unhampered by time schedules, deadlines and obligations. Early on Saturday morning we boarded the bus for a six hour journey to Western Pennsylvania. While this is a long ride for such a short period of time God was with us and blessed our journey and visit with our brothers and sisters! During our ride we had time for spiritual discussions and general catching up with one another. We delighted in seeing the youth of The Church enjoying one another's company and getting to feel more comfortable with the adults. The loving attention that the brothers and sisters give to the children of the saints is so heartwarming and is part of their spiritual development. God's love was expressed in the cheerful faces of our travelers.

The hospitality we experienced is that old fashioned love that has

been such an integral ingredient of The Church of Jesus Christ. When we reached the Monongahela Branch the Presiding Elder Brother Jeremy Nicklow and a contingent of brothers and sisters welcomed us and swept us away to their homes for relaxation and a hearty meal.

Bus trips give us an opportunity to learn about The Church of Jesus Christ. On Saturday evening we gathered at the branch for a presentation given by Brother Richard Scaglione about the 80th anniversary of the building of the Monongahela Branch. For us the history of the branch is special because it is the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ and its first conference center. We learned of the hard work and spiritual determination that our brothers and sisters of old exercised when building the branch. Nothing could stop them from laying the foundations of the branch. The slide presentation of pictures of these pillars of the Church brought life to this blessed history.

We even learned of Church trivia. For example, do you know why Brother William Cadman had a mustache? He worked in a steel mill and got cut with a piece of steel above his upper lip. The mustache was used to hide the scar. We see that history is not only made up of important events but the simple life events that often go unrecorded. After the presentation, we were treated to luscious desserts and coffee.

A bus trip brings the saints together to worship God and participate in the partaking of Communion. The theme of our Sunday service summed up the entire weekend: the passing of the torch. Our brothers and sisters of old did God's work; they built the branch, grew the congregation, raised their families and lived holy lives. Now by the grace of God they rest in

the heavenly kingdom and have joined the cloud of witnesses spoken of in the book of Hebrews. We were asked, What about our work for The Church of Jesus Christ? It is a question that we all need to answer and eventually one day give account. We had a season of testimony and partook of the Lord's Supper. As our spiritual meal ended our brothers and sisters treated us to a hearty, homemade dinner. The saints sure know how to prepare a meal and make everyone feel at home. Again, love is expressed in many ways and the offering of a good meal is very much appreciated.

Parting company is so sad. As with each bus trip there comes a time to wish our hosts good bye and go back home to our busy lives. In such a short period of time we enjoyed the fellowship and love of our lovely brothers and sisters. God gave us a break from the world and we took advantage of our time together. There is a spiritual refreshing that make our bus trips such a blessing. The spiritual strength we receive from these weekends gives us the energy to face life's challenges. That is the reason we count it a blessing to travel so far for such a short period of time.

The trip home is a blessing, too. But the weekend for us wasn't complete because we had the ride home to enjoy. We had our own singspiration with hymns sung by Sister Cindy Bright and Brothers Tom and Jacob Goode. The Tenorio children, Elizabeth, Andrew and David recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Andrew singing the chorus of "At the Cross".

Bus trips with the saints are a means to draw us closer in love and to deepen our relationships with one another. God has many ways of drawing His people together and bus trips are

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#### Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

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activity. We do not wish to support the notion that Jesus should only be remembered on certain days of the year or that attending church on "holy days" relieves a person's obligation to attend church the rest of the year. To do so would be "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," which is discouraged in Paul's writings to the Hebrews (Hebrews 10:25). However, we do observe holidays, such as Easter and Christmas, remembering what the Lord did for mankind.

## 2. Questions that may arise prior to the start of the meeting.

Q. Why do members of the Church greet each other with a kiss?

A. "Greet one another with an holy kiss" is mentioned in at least four different places in the Bible (II Corinthians 31:12, I Thessalonians 5:26, Romans 16:16, I Peter 5:14), and therefore our membership follows this example. In order to ensure that kisses are not construed as anything but holy, we restrict kissing to members of the same sex.

#### Q. Why are members called "Brother" or "Sister"? Shouldn't those titles be reserved for positions of honor within the Church?

A. We do in fact use the terms "Brother" and "Sister" to refer to the most honorable position in the Church, that of a member. As we are all part of the Family of God, and are "affectioned one to another with brotherly love" (Romans 12:10), the titles are certainly appropriate. Jesus showed preference to His followers over His own natural family when He announced, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister. . ..." (Matthew 12:50, Mark 3:35). If Jesus was willing to call His followers brothers and sisters, who are we to call them anything different.

*Q.* How is the mode of dress determined?

A. In regard to general behavior, Paul wrote, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. .." (Philippians 4:5) and in regard to attire specifically, "...that women adorn themselves in modest apparel. .." (I Timothy 2:9). Our people are thus encouraged to dress moderately. In general, we want to make a good appearance in the House of the Lord, so we dress nicely, but modestly.

Q. What is the function of the woman who sets the table in front of the Church?

A. The woman seen setting the table is called a Deaconess and is ordained to serve the church in appropriate situations, such as setting the table for communion. Even in biblical times, there was a place for female servants in the Church. Paul wrote to the Romans, "I commend unto you Phebe, our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her. . .in whatsoever business she hath need of you:" (Romans 16:1,2). God has work for anyone who is willing to serve Him.

# 3. Questions that may arise while the congregation is singing hymns?

*Q. Why are there so many differ- ent books?* 

A. We use many hymnals because our people love to sing praises to God and "*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord*" (Psalms 100:1). The Saints Hymnal is our traditional hymn book, the Saints Favorites contains hymns composed by members of the Church, and the Songs of Zion are hymns composed by inspiration. Some branches may add other books if they contain hymns not included in the books already mentioned. "...Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints" (Psalms 149:1).

# 4. Questions that may arise when the meeting is opened in prayer.

Q. Who is being prayed to?

A. Jesus instructed His disciples how to pray, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which are in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9). We pray to God the Father, but we do so through Christ, His Son. As Jesus said, "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

## 5. Questions that may arise while the sermon is being delivered.

Q. Who are the men who sit in front of the Church and deliver the sermon?

A. The men sitting in front of the church are Elders [Ministers], responsible for the spiritual well being of the Church. In Acts 14 and 15, Paul traveled throughout the Church, ordaining elders in different locations to look after the Church's needs in each area. Our elders serve a similar purpose.

*Q.* Why aren't there any female *Elders*?

A. Although it is difficult discussing a female's role in our Church in today's modern world, the Apostle Paul was very definite on this matter, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted for them to speak. . ." (I Corinthians

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#### Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

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14:34) "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve" (I Timothy 2:12,13). Women do have responsibilities in the Church [see earlier question regarding the Deaconess], but not those of an Elder.

Q. Why aren't the Elders referred to as "Father" or "Reverend?"

A. Our Elders are not referred to as "Father" or "Reverend" because Jesus said, "And call no man your Father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9). In short, we reserve such honorable titles for God and Jesus only, not for any man.

Q. Why don't Elders wear robes?

A. Our elders do not wear robes because, as mentioned earlier, our people dress in moderation and are not set apart by clothes they wear, this includes elders. Jesus spoke in contempt of the appearance conscious scribes, "Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues,...the same shall receive greater damnation" (Luke 20:46,47).

*Q.* Do Elders prepare their sermons in advance?

A. The elders of The Church of Jesus Christ speak under the inspiration of God, allowing the Spirit to direct their words, such that the congregation may be fed spiritually, therefore they speak from no prepared text. God alone knows what sermon should be preached on any given day, so we leave it to His all-knowing judgment. Paul wrote to Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16,17).

*Q.* Do the Elders of the Church get paid?

A. The elders are not paid any money for their work in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each holds a regular job to make a living for himself and his family. Jesus said, "... freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Paid ministry is not at all consistent with our belief that truth must be brought forth. Paul faced this situation with the Corinthians, "Have I committed an offense in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man. . ." (II Corinthians 11:7-9).

*Q.* How does someone become an *Elder*?

A. A man does not choose to become an Elder; only those who are called by God are ordained into the ministry; "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God..." (Hebrews 5:4). God reveals Himself to the Priesthood of the Church who should be called and ordained into the Priesthood.

#### 6. Questions that may arise when testimonies are given in the meetings.

*Q.* What is the purpose of testimony? Why is it done weekly?

A. The testimony portion of the

meeting gives the members of the congregation the opportunity to praise God openly for what He has done for them. As David wrote, "...praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the assembly of the elders" (Psalms 107:31,32). It is done every week because God blesses us continually and should be praised as often as possible, "I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more" (Psalms 71:14).

*Q.* Are only members of the Church allowed to testify?

A. Everyone has a reason to praise God, so all are given the opportunity to testify. "...*Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud Him, all ye people*" (Romans 15:11).

7. Questions that may arise if someone requests the Elders to pray for them?

*Q.* For what reasons do people request the Elders to pray for them?

A. People who are physically ill or spiritually troubled may request that the Elders lay hands on them to ask God to relieve their afflictions. "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick; and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14,15).

> [This article will be continued in a future Gospel News issue.

Editor's note — This article is the pamphlet entitled, "Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ", authored by Evangelist Jerry Valenti and published by The Church of Jesus Christ.

# Rededication of Herndon, VA Branch

The humble beginnings many years ago led to a newly remodeled building where the rededication service was held on July 24, 2011 with many guests present. Apostles Paul Palmieri and Phil Jackson exhorted us to focus on Jesus Christ and soul salvation not gathering riches. Natural possessions are not going to be our avenue to eternal life. only the shed blood of our Savior and obedience to His will. Brother Arthur Gehly, Jr. followed on the same theme. Brother Chatman Young offered a rededication prayer and there were special musical selections offered.

Sixty-three years ago a group of sisters, [Della Day, Anne Stevens, Lydia Swanson, and Esther Andrews] led by Brothers Alvin Swanson and James Curry, met in a home in the Georgetown section of Washington, DC. They were soon joined by Brother George Timms and Sisters Daisy Barnes, Ida Smith, Marjorie Malone and Ruth Keating, all daughters of Sister Gertrude Curry Little.

With a desire to have a building in which to meet, the sisters sold handmade soap, jewelry and rugs. In 1962 a mission was officially organized and meetings were held at a YMCA in downtown Washington, DC.

The Herndon Virginia Mission was formed fourteen years later after purchasing the current meeting place at 800 Elden Street and was made a branch in 1979 with Brother Mike Hildenbrand presiding elder, Brother Merle Swanger presiding teacher, Brother Greg Swanger presiding deacon, Sister Patty Hildenbrand presiding deaconess, and Sister Cora Lundsford secretary.

We, of the Herndon Branch, ex-

press our appreciation to the Apostles, Evangelists, Elders, members and friends who supported our rededication Sunday. To those who began meetings in Georgetown, we owe a deep gratitude along with the many families who joined them and kept the faith and the Herndon Branch strong. May God continue to bless the work that was started so many years ago.

#### **God the Protector**

By Sister Natalie Pezzenti

"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." (II Samuel 22:3).

Our Lord has such a variety of names: Savior, Master, Creator and many others. But one that we might not often think of immediately is Protector. Sure, before we leave for a long trip, we ask God to watch over us. And traditionally before we dismiss from a Sunday service, we request His hedge about us. But sometimes, He looks down from His throne and reminds us that He protects us even when we aren't aware or asking.

One Saturday evening recently I decided to drive to downtown Cincinnati to meet a friend for dinner. I had never been to the restaurant we picked, so I needed to find a place nearby to park my car. I pulled into a lot right across from the pizzeria we chose and was excited to try a new place in town. I put my car into park, turned my car off and reached to the passenger seat to grab my purse. Just as I turned to open my door, a woman knocked on my window. She looked quite troubled with bloodshot eyes and ragged clothing. My instant thought was that she needed some help but I didn't feel comfortable opening my door as she was standing so close to it.

Just as I had that thought, I heard a man from behind my car yell at the woman: "Leave that young lady alone! Get away from her! You have no business bothering her!" I had no idea where the voice came from as I couldn't see anyone in my rear-view mirror. The woman looked at me and walked away.

I quickly opened my door, looked behind me and saw a man in his car. I said thank you and turned to grab my purse to get out of the car and thank him again. In those few seconds to grab my purse and get out of the car, the man in the car was gone.

It might seem like such a small thing to some—that a suspicious woman approached me and someone told her to be on her way. But, it simply wasn't a small thing. The parking lot I chose to leave my car in was very small with only one entrance/exit. I looked around the parking lot when I got out of my car only to realize that the man didn't park in the lot—which means he only pulled into it to tell the woman to leave me alone, and then he himself went on his way.

When I met my friend for dinner, I told him what had happened and that God sent an angel to protect me that evening. That in broad daylight, with dozens of people around me, He saw fit to send someone to watch out for me when He knew I needed His protection.

It's important to ask God to protect us—He is the best seat belt one can have. He watches over us when we fly, drive in our cars and even walk down the street. I would have never known on my own that I would be in a dangerous situation that evening, but God knew. I'll never forget that night and what happened—and now, when I ask the Lord to protect me, I'll know He always will—and more importantly, always has.

#### **Children's Corner**

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When their master came back he was pleased with the two men who had doubled their talents. He was disappointed and mad at the many who was too scared to try, so he took those talents from him and gave him to the man who was willing to try.

It's that way in life. You must use the talents that God has given you. If you don't, someone else will do it and you will lose out.

If a scared child helps pass the offering basket in church, walking around in front of others, they will learn to follow the rows, not be too shy to smile at people, be helpful, and complete a task. When that child goes to school, he or she is already trained to get up in front of people and do something useful.

This confidence and experience leads to the next thing. You can imagine. Their small talent grows.

> Volunteer! Help someone out. Be kind to others.

King Benjamin said when you are in the service of your fellow man [or helping out other people], you are in the service of God.

#### Be Courageous!

So say your prayers and try something new that is good.

There are so many wonderful, interesting things in this world for us to do.

With love, Your friend, Sister Jan

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COMES	THEM						
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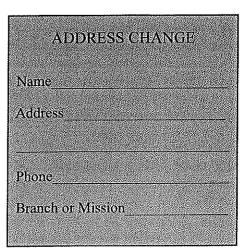
#### **Bus Trip to Monongahela**

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one of the blessings we enjoy! It is a time to worship God and to fellowship with one another. The children were playing together and became more familiar with the brothers and sisters. Bus trips are a joyful means to experience and express our love towards God and one another.

All those on the bus trip offer a hearty "thank you" to the brothers, sisters and friends of the Monongahela Branch for their love and hospitality!

We only hope that soon we can extend that same hand of friendship and love to all of you. God bless you all!





October, 2011

Volume 67, No.10

## The Living Word: Book of Mormon Request for Donations

Tn the late 1820s, young Joseph Smith began translating a record of a remnant of the House of Israel given by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. The translation of the Book of Mormon from an ancient language on gold plates into English progressed at a rapid pace. The entire translation was completed in about 60 days. Witnesses to the plates testified to their deathbed of the truth of the record. Many were beaten, jailed, tarred, feathered, had acid poured down their throats or were martyred. They never denied their testimony to the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, despite numerous threats against their families and the physical abuse they endured.

While the Book of Mormon sparked fierce opposition from unbelievers, the saints of God found inspiration and hope, as with the Bible. God's Word once again became a living revelation. Oliver Cowdery wrote about his days as a scribe during the translation, "These were days never to be forgotten; to sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom!" How thrilling it must have been to witness the gift of God translating the Word of God!

The Book of Mormon needed to be printed after it was translated, but Joseph Smith and other families of the Church were penniless. Martin Harris, who saw and held the plates of gold, mortgaged his home and 240 acre farm to secure payment on the printer's contract. Within seven months, the first 5,000 Books of Mormon were printed and distributed.

Sadly, the majority of The Church of Jesus Christ does not have the Book of Mormon translated and printed in their native language. Actually, only 25% of church members have a Book of Mormon available they can read. Praise God, because this means the Restored Gospel has spread at a rapid pace! Still, we have some catching up to do.

Recently, the Book of Mormon was printed into Tamil servicing 2,000 native speakers/readers in India. A second edition of the Italian Book of Mormon will print in 2012. Chichewa and Visyan printings will shortly follow for the saints in Malawi and the Philippines. Books of Mormon are being translated into Bemba, French, Kinrwanda, Nepali, and Telegu for other areas throughout the world where the Church has been established. Progress is being made, but the work does not stop there. A Swahili revision and Portuguese translation will soon commence. Dozens of translation teams, professional editors, type setters, and saints ensure accurate and timely results are actively working.



October, 2011

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

Imagine going to a church that believes in the Bible, but did not have it available to read in English. Believing in a book you have never read would take an enormous amount of faith. When we consider our world-wide membership, over 75% of The Church of Jesus Christ does not have the Book of Mormon printed in their native language. This means that the majority of our membership believes in a book they have never read, but only been told about, by those who read English.

The Language Translation Committee supports the international missionary work by facilitating translations and printing of the Book of Mormon and materials into foreign languages. The work is translated and edited by native speakers who work in teams. The final drafts are professionally edited and then approved for printing. Nine translation projects are currently underway, changing the lives of our membership abroad. Our goal - provide translated Books of Mormon to every member of The Church of Jesus Christ!

We have had an Italian translation for many years and a Spanish translation in the recent past. Last year, the Book of Mormon was printed and distributed at a total cost of approximately \$23,000 to our Tamil speaking membership in India. Two thousand members in India were able to receive a Book of Mormon and read it for the first time along with the Bible—just as you and I have been privileged to do.

To sustain this momentum, we need your support. Nearly 100% of translation and printing funds in the recent years are privately donated and although we have made significant progress, much remains to be done. We are asking every member to consider making a contribution to this important project and we estimate that a donation of \$75 from each member would help us to accurately translate and print the Book of Mormon into multiple languages, so that current and future members may read this sacred record in their native language.

Thank you for your love, your prayers, and your support.

In Christ,

Jan Jalmien

Brother Paul Palmieri, President The Church of Jesus Christ

> To donate, please send your check [Book of Mormon noted on the memo line] payable to:

> > The Church of Jesus Christ c/o Paul Whitton - General Church Treasurer 17339 Heather Lane Clinton Township, Michigan 48038

## HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU

By Brother Pete Oestreicher

Brothers, sisters, and friends of joyously met on August 14, 2011, in the World Operations Center, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, to participate in the final day of Region Conference. The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Brother Tony Ricci, Region President, opening prayer by Brother Alvin Gehly from the Fredonia Pennsylvania Branch, and the musical selection, "It is Finished" presented by Brother Patrick Monaghan from the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother Nathan Buffington from the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch, requested the congregation sing Hymn #83 in The Songs of Zion, "He'll Take Care of Me". Brother Nathan then let us know how true this is, and this is a promise of God to The Church of Jesus Christ, as long as we remain faithful. With the world being in such turmoil, there is no better place to be than in The Church of Jesus Christ. For his scripture, Brother Nathan used I Kings 17:8-16, where Elijah visited a widow woman and her son. They had very little to eat, and when Elijah asked her to prepare a cake for him, she complied, and the Lord prepared a meal for Elijah in the midst of a famine, and the widow woman and her son ate for many days. God did take care of them. This is a natural famine, and Brother Nathan continued by letting us know that when we have a spiritual famine in our lives, the Lord has provided Psalm 138:7,8 to give us comfort. The Lord takes care of us and moves on behalf of His people. He perfected Brother Nathan's life, and saw him through one of the country's worst recessions, just as He brought the widow woman's son back

to life. Elijah felt discouraged, hid in a cave, and the Lord picked him out of the cave. We must be persistent. The Church is a refuge in a storm.

Brother Patrick Monaghan from the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch, followed stating the song he previously sang, "It is Finished", means a lot to him. It caused the Spirit of God to calm his daughters, and give them peace. Brother Patrick then asked the questions: Does God take care of you? Are you satisfied? God will always take care of you, and it is essential that we fast and pray. He then related the experience Brother Rick Scaglione, Jr., expressed during the Saturday Conference session. Brother Rick had been out of work for four months, and when he fasted and prayed at his son's suggestion, he was immediately offered a job. Brother Patrick told us we must step out of our "cave", take care of others, and the Lord will take care of us, just as when he fed the 5,000. We must share our testimony and never put limits on God. Brother Patrick concluded by sharing a dream the Lord gave him when he was having a difficult time at work [in a cave]. In the dream, he was driving by the ocean when a wave turned into a tidal wave. As the wave began to overtake him, a gentle breeze lifted him up to safety. God took care of him. God always takes care of us.

Brother Rick Scaglione, Jr., Second Counselor, introduced the Communion Service as he also proclaimed, God will take care of us. We wouldn't be here without Jesus Christ who lived, died and resurrected, so we may have the hope of eternal life. Brother Rick was pleased with everyone's attention, and instructed the congregation to focus on Communion. He read from III Nephi 18, where the Lord instructed His disciples to partake in communion in remembrance of Him. This is our testimony to the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Brother Rick concluded by reminding us the Gospel is free, and we should be reverent during this sacred ordinance.

Apostle Phil Jackson relayed Brother Russell Cadman's experience regarding the Communion Service during a General Church Conference. The brothers broke bread, passed it out, and when they returned to the communion table, Brother Russell noticed that all the bread was still on the dishes. Although they had passed bread to the entire congregation, their dishes were still full.

Brother Tony Ricci then set aside some time for testimony. Sister Terri Nath from the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, thanked everyone for their love, cards, support and e-mails. She is sometimes too weak to pray for herself, and she thanks the Lord for seeing her through this difficult time. She is about to go through procedures which will leave her with no immunity, but knows God will take care of her, and more important, God is showing her husband that He is taking care of him.

Brother John Fleming from the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch, testified that God has been good to him. God gives him strength, and he receives additional strength through the cards, phone calls, and prayers he has received. The Lord has seen him through two operations, he is cancer free in his shoulder area, but there appear to be spots on his side. Brother John receives strength from his wife, daughters, son-in-law and grandchildren. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Sister Joyce Ross from the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch, stated it was truly a blessing being at Conference this morning. This is the (Continued on Page 4)

#### The Living Word

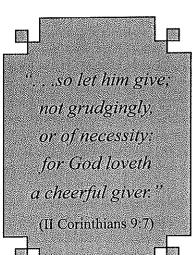
#### Continued from Page 1

We need your help and we won't ask you to sell your farm or take out a second mortgage. The Church of Jesus Christ is soliciting each member, to donate \$75 for Book of Mormon translation and printing. If all of our members and friends have a fraction of the charity of Martin Harris, we will meet our goal of raising \$195,000 for Book of Mormon translation (that's 2,600 domestic members x \$75 = \$195,000).

If you haven't already, you'll soon receive a letter from Brother Paul Palmieri, asking for your donation. Please be generous and think of the saints around the world. If \$75 is too much, consider saving \$5 a week until you have the donation to give. If you can give more, God bless you!

Thank you for loving the saints in foreign countries enough to give your hard earned dollars for this effort, remembering that 100% of the funds will go directly to Book of Mormon translation and printing.

Thank you for allowing the living Word of God to be made available to the Saints of God worldwide.



#### He'll Take Care of You

#### Continued from Page 3

first Sunday meeting she has attended in two years. Sister Joyce thanked God for blessing her, for being with her always, and thanked everyone for their prayers, cards and telephone calls.

Brother Shane Herrera was baptized at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch two weeks ago. He thanked the Lord for never turning His back on him. In the past, he always did things his way, and the results were usually not good. Now, with the Lord, he will try to do his best. Since his life is so different now, he doesn't know what life has in store for him, but he knows that God opened his heart, and it is no longer like stone.

Brother Jimmy Kirkpatrick, visiting from the Bell California Branch and has attended many branches in his life, testified that God has taken care of him. He was raised in the Church, but became an atheist, spent 24 years in prison, and Satan became his god. When he returned to the Lord, he was consumed with the Holy Spirit, and he thanks God every day.

Brother Richard Ackman visiting from the Mesa, Arizona Branch, testified he hasn't been well for a while, and was in Pennsylvania to visit his daughter, Sister Terri Nath, and to be a part of his granddaughter, Sister Leah's wedding celebration. He has numerous ailments, was anointed and God intervened. He still needs a wheelchair for sitting long periods of time, has greatly improved due to God's help, and thanked God for answered prayers. He has taken care of him.

Apostle Paul Palmieri reminded us we all have problems, and relayed the following experience: As a huge ship [representing the Church] was going through a storm, a voice said, "make the ship go directly through the storm". We must fight the enemy of our soul head on with all our might, and Brother Paul implored us to pray for everyone who is in trouble.

Brother Tony Ricci testified that after recently cutting off most of his toe, the Lord was with him, and saw him through this difficult ordeal. Brother Tony also commented on the "sweet, sweet spirit" in the auditorium, and announced that Jesus was with us. God will take care of us, and all those in need. We must all have the desire, energy and determination to work for Christ, and he quoted III Nephi 19:26, "And Jesus said unto them: Pray on". Brother Tony encouraged us to pray— Every Prayer Counts.

Brother Richard Scaglione, Sr., from the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch closed the meeting in prayer. As everyone left the meeting, they had the assurance that God will take care of them, if they love Him, obey his commandments, and remain faithful.

## **Publication Notice**

The Gospel News (ISSN (0279-1056) is published monthly, 12 issues per year at \$18.00 persubscription. It is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ, with headquarters at 525 Sixth Street, Monongahela, PA 15063, and published by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House at 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. The Editor is Carl Huttenberger, Jr., 62 Dogwood Court, Jamesburg, NJ 08831. The Assistant Editor is Donald Ross, 649 North Allerton Court, Moon Township, PA 15108-3291. 1975 copies are printed, 1716 subscriptions are paid, and a total of 1716 are mailed monthly.



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, Pennsylvania and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

## Editorial Viewpoint. . .

The first five years of the reign of Judges over the people of Nephi, with Alma as the chief L judge, is a very interesting time period to compare to our day and time. First, a man named Nehor, who was strong and large in stature, began to preach that the priests [or ministers] should become popular and should not labor with their hands, but be supported by the people. He also testified that people should not fear, because their salvation is sealed "once saved, always saved" (Alma 1:3,4). This concept has been a popular one from the beginning even until our day and time, and has led many away from The Church of Jesus Christ. Who wouldn't want to believe that salvation is a guarantee, no matter what? Who wouldn't want to be a popular minister, and have the people support you and your family financially? Today, there are ministers we see on television, or hear about, who have beautiful homes, cars, private jets, take exotic vacations, all with the money that the membership gives to him or her. We can hear their preaching that is so deceitful, because although you hear of Jesus Christ, there is never any mention of repentance or accountability, only the accountability to pay your dues. Now an old man by the name of Gideon stood up to Nehor who was leading many away from The Church of Jesus Christ. But Nehor being a mighty man killed Gideon. In this day [before Christ had actually come], it was okay to take a life of someone who committed murder, and so the law said that Nehor was to be killed, and he was. Before he died, he retracted his false teachings that he had told the people. But it was too late. The people loved this idea, and priestcrafts continued.

"Nevertheless, they durst not lie, if it were known, for fear of the law, for liars were punished; therefore they pretended to preach according to their own belief; and now the law could have no power on any man for his belief" (Alma 1:17).

The dangerous thing about preaching this false doctrine is that according to the law, as long as you said this was your "opinion" or your "belief," then you were allowed to say whatever you wanted, as long as you did not present it as Church doctrine. Today, there are many false doctrines being discussed and even preached by men and women who protect themselves by saying, "this is just my opinion". Most listeners don't hear that part; they only hear what the opinion is. So many are led away carefully to hell by false teachings. "The Gospel has a sound we know, no other sounds the same. The Church of Jesus Christ will stand, it's built upon His name. There are many sounds on earth today, there are many spirits too, but nothing sounds so clearly sweet, and nothing rings so true." [The Songs of Zion #133]. The beautiful thing about this time is that the ministers and the people of the Church actually left their labors to preach the word of God, and set things back in order. (Alma 1:26). Things turned around.

"And now, because of the steadiness of the church they began to be exceeding rich, having abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need—and abundance of flocks and herds, and fatlings of every kind, and also abundance of grain, and of gold, and of silver, and of precious things, and abundance of silk and fine-twined linen, and all manner of good homely cloth. And thus, in their prosperous circumstances, they did **not** send away any who were naked, or that were hungry, or that were athirst, or that were sick, or that had not been nourished; and they did **not** set their hearts upon riches; therefore they were liberal to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male or female, whether out of the church or in the church, having no respect to persons as to those who stood in need. And thus they did prosper and become far more wealthy than those who did not belong to their church" (Alma 1:29-31).

It goes on to say that during this time the people become "more still" being careful not to commit any wickedness. Oh brothers and sisters, let's strive to make the Church this way in our day and time. God has prospered us indeed, but let us now take the example of the Church in this day and time, and be the people God wants us to be!

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## God's Brings New People to the Promised Land

ear Boys and Girls,

After Adam and Eve, there was a time on this earth when people became wicked and evil. God saw all the evil and was sorry he had even created humans. He was going to send a flood and destroy all of mankind. But, there was one man, Noah, who pleased the Lord with his goodness. The Lord told Noah how to build a huge ark [ship] of wood and had him gather seven of every clean beast (See Genesis 7:2), two of every unclean animal, and flocks of seven males and females of every kind of bird. [Birds were needed to eat and spread seeds once the flood was over]. Can you imagine the noise on that ark?...the fascinating creatures to watch and care for? What about the smell, the work taking care of them for months and months, the fear and cries of the animals when the storm raged and the ark rocked?

It rained for forty days and nights; huge waters covered the entire world. After one hundred and fifty days, the waters went down and after about 370 days Noah's family, the birds and the animals came out. I wonder if they were tired of being around animals. His three sons and wives began having children and within a few hundred years their children grew up with families who also had big families and soon this area was full of thousands



and thousands of people, all descended from Noah and all speaking the same language.

These people came together and got a foolish plan to build the highest building reaching into heaven so they could see God. When God came and saw what they were doing, he decided to stop them by confounding [mixing up] their language (Genesis 11:7, Ether 1:33). They began to separate and be scattered all over the face of the earth. This was about 2,247 years before Jesus was born, or about 4,200 years ago.

One of the wise builders was a man named Jared and his brother whose name we do not know. He is called the Brother of Jared in the Book of Mormon, and he was a man who loved to pray and know the mysteries of the Lord. Jared told his brother, "Pray and ask God that he might not confound our language and the language of our friends and family. Ask the Lord if he will show us a new land that is better than all others to travel to and live, and let us be faithful unto the Lord so he will let us inherit it [have it]. (See Ether 1:38)

The Brother of Jared did so and God answered his prayers. God showed them how to build amazing closed boats, or barges, that could float on the ocean currents above and below the surface of the water. We can barely imagine how they were constructed. They made a hole in the top and the bottom to open for fresh air and the Lord told them if the water starts to come in upon them, quickly stop [close up] the hole so they wouldn't drown in the flood of water! (Ether 2:20) What a terrifying way to travel. The scriptures say that they prayed constantly and sang praises unto the Lord. Can you imagine needing air and praying that when you opened the hole, you would breathe fresh air, not water?

We also know that the barges were made strong and watertight so the ocean water would not crash them in. There could not be any windows so the Brother of Jared prayed and asked the Lord to provide a way for their boats to have a light. The Lord was pleased with the Brother of Jared's request and He touched sixteen stones so each barge would have two lights on their perilous journey. The Lord Jesus was also pleased with the faith of the Brother of Jared and He showed Himself to him. He also showed him all of the people who had ever lived, the future of His people, and all of the people to come. That means the Brother of Jared saw you and he saw me! (See Ether 3:26)

God told the Brother of Jared that he had set the land of the Americas apart as a land promised for people who would love and serve Him. He warned the family and friends of Jared, called Jaredites, that if they became evil and stopped serving God, they would be destroyed. God told them not to pick kings to rule them because kings would lead to captivity [being enslaved and locked up if the king was unfair] but, the people went against His advice and chose kings.

They fought constantly; one group would want to rule as kings, and would fight their relatives. Warfare was common with these beautiful people. One time, when they started

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Missionary Benevolent Association

# Back to School Send-off

On Friday, August 26, 2011, the Detroit Branch #1 MBA hosted an evening for the children and young people of the Region who were due to return to school for a new year of studies. This "Back to School Send-Off" consisted of activities, food, and fellowship. There was something fun for all the ages present. Everyone enjoyed this time together and it was a great success!

But, more importantly, as we looked to send our young—from preschool to college—back to school, there was the essential need to include our God in all of this—that He would be with them when they returned to school. This was the focus of the entire gathering. We took some time to make this point, and a special prayer was offered for the children of the saints, that God might bless them, protect them, and keep them in His hand.

The fact is, when the kids go back to school, parents are handing their children over to others to teach them, care for them, and keep them from harm. Why wouldn't we entrust our God with our children to keep in His tender care? Who else, or who better could we entrust them to?

And what do the scriptures say? For all of their lives, the children in the Church have been taught to exercise faith and establish a lifestyle which is modeled after Christ. These tools are what we hope our children will take with them and use whenever they find themselves out of the sight and care of their parents. Think of the Stripling Soldiers who, as we read in the scriptures, were taught the ways of the Lord by their mothers. There may be a difference between seeing your children off to school and seeing them off to battle, but do we not desire the same? That is, "...that they should be preserved by His [God's] marvelous power."?

Our God is the same today as then, which is why our children are blessed in the Church, taught to believe—not only in MBA and Sunday School, but also at home that they would "... put their trust in God continually." And just like in times of old when we see the young people go out into the world to fulfill the needs we all have—in spite of the things that may seem terrifying, detrimental to their spirit, or eager to swallow them up—we can take comfort in whom we have asked to keep them.

This was the theme of our "Back to School Send-Off". We are blessed to know that God is mighty and faithful to His children. Praise God for this wonderful gathering in His name:

"And now, their preservation was astonishing to our whole army, yea, that they should be spared while there was a thousand of our brethren who were slain. And we do justly ascribe it to the miraculous power of God, because of their exceeding faith in that which they have been taught to believe-that there was a just God, and whosoever did not doubt, that they should be preserved by his marvelous power. Now this was the faith of these of whom I have spoken; they are young, and their minds are firm, and they do put their trust in God continually" (Alma 57:26,27).

## It's here! It's finally here!

Yes, now you can get all the preparation you need to assist the Church with its Native American outreach efforts!

The Native American Outreach Committee has published the Native American Outreach Handbook. It provides explanations of our mission, how to prepare for activities, types and places for outreach, history and culture, reporting activities, frequently asked questions, lots of Scriptural references, and more.

#### It will all be at your fingertips,

Some professions issue handbooks to help their staff perform their work assignments. Now you can have one that will help you in performing the important commission of the Church to Native Americans.

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Call: 724-837-7799 or E-mail: printhousepa@msn.com

Cost: \$5 per handbook plus shipping and handling

#### Grace and Mercy

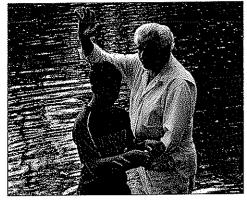
Grace – Something that you get that you do not deserve!

Mercy – Something that you do not get that you do deserve!



## God's Way is the Best Way

Brother Jim Speck



Shane Covalesky being baptized by his grandfather, Brother Joe Draskovich

God had a plan for us this day and we didn't even see it coming. God's way is the best way.

Brother Joseph Fallavollitti opened our meeting on Sunday, September 4, 2011 with the subject "Do you know your place?" That reminded me of the first Songs of Zion given to Sister Arlene Buffington back in 1976. "My Place" was a song that reached out to the young and their walk in life and when they would accept Jesus into their life and join the church. Brother Joseph spoke in Hebrews 10:19-25. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering. We are to consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

During testimonies young Shane Covalesky stood up and made it known that he wanted to be baptized and that he felt he went through the process the elders had asked him to do when he desired baptism a month and a half earlier. Of course, being a young man at almost 14 years old, they wanted to make sure he understood the importance of his desire. Well, he felt the prompting of God's Spirit this day, felt ready and desired to be baptized.

The only problem was we could not get in contact with the owner of the baptismal site Greensburg typically uses. The elders waited as long as they could, then decided to contact Vanderbilt Branch [which is about 35 minutes away] and they were more than happy to have us come down there for the baptism.

We gathered at Vanderbilt that afternoon, driving through a bad thunderstorm and wondering if the weather would be decent enough to have the baptism. Many prayers were being offered that God would stay the storm and allow this blessed event to happen.

We arrived at the church and headed down to the river. As we all gathered at the baptismal site with a crowd of about 50 brothers and sisters you could see and hear thundering and lightning in the near distance, but we continued and sang a hymn and opened in prayer. The storm then was upon us, it was sprinkling and you could see the drops of rain on the Youghiogheny River. While opening prayer was being offered and immediately afterward, it was then that the black storm clouds rolled away AGAINST the wind which was still blowing in our direction. The storm literally went backwards against the prevailing winds.

As Brother Joe Draskovich admonished his grandson, asking him those wonderful questions—[Do you repent of your sins? and Will you love and serve God to the best of your ability the remainder of your life?], the tone was set for a beautiful baptism and the addition of another young soul

to the family of God. It was a beautiful sight as they entered the water. Shane was immersed in the liquid grave and he arose a new creature in Christ. The sky was still cloudy and dark, but as we all bowed our heads to close in prayer, a miraculous thing happened. With my eyes closed, I felt this wonderful warmth on my arm and I looked up during the prayer to see the sun shining so brightly through the clouds directly above all of us that vou couldn't even look directly at it and it stayed out for hours as we met the remaining part of that afternoon. It was a sight to see a confirmation of this maryelous event. God calls to our people to come and enter into a covenant with Him and obtain everlasting life. We were all blessed to experience such a sight in the midst of a terrible thunderstorm. Our Lord stopped the front, pushed it back and brought out the sun, witnessing to us His pleasure.

We then returned to the branch to confirm our young brother. Brother Joseph Fallavollitti opened the meeting and exhorted our new Brother Shane from Mosiah 18:8-11 where Alma, at the waters of Mormon, re-established the church and asked the people who gathered; "...and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life—Now I say unto you, if this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord... and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you? And

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#### God's Way is the Best Way

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now when the people had heard these words, they clapped their hands for joy, and exclaimed: This is the desire of our hearts!" And many were baptized that day and were added to the Church.

This was Brother Shane's desire today, and he has a wonderful support base of brothers and sisters to help him through life with the Lord Jesus heading the way. As Brother Joseph was speaking, Brother Pete Darr spoke in tongues and the interpretation was "I will watch your pathway in life lean on me for all things." A wonderful beginning to our confirmation service. The brothers circled our new convert and asked a prayer that who would confirm him would be directed by God's spirit. Brother Chris Gehly confirmed Brother Shane and his prayer was so strong with the authority of God, the bestowal of the greatest gift given to mankind from Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost was bestowed upon him. The prayer was that Shane would have the gifts of the Spirit as he walks through life, that he would be given dreams and visions and have the gift of LOVE.

The family, Brother Dan Covalesky, his father, Sister Sherri Covalesky, his mother and Sister Erma Draskovich, his grandmother gave their testimones. They explained the joy they felt this day, the experiences of raising Shane and his willingness to go to church even as a young boy, never complaining once and always willing to help when asked. He is a hard worker, Sister Sherri expressed, in a natural sense and now will be a hard worker for the Lord. Many confirmations were related as well, from the Greensburg Branch and the Vanderbilt Branch, that something special was to happen this day. Brother Eric Darr of

Vanderbilt felt a prompting to go down to the river today, but there was no one at the Vanderbilt Branch ready for baptism. Since Greensburg was not able to confirm approval from the land owner to baptize at their usual location, Vanderbilt kindly opened their branch and baptismal site to Greensburg. In doing so, we experienced the confirmation of many, that today God called and made a way to allow us to experience His plan, His way and His blessing from the wonderful break in the storm where the sun shone down to the gift of tongues that God will watch our pathway if we lean on him for ALL things.

As a foot note to our beautiful afternoon, the storms were all around us. but the sun continued to shine through the windows of the church the entire meeting until closing prayer. Then the rains and storms came back. In fact many of us got wet getting back into our cars to drive home, but we didn't care-God's blessings were with us and all who attended were blessed and we bear record of it. God's way is the best way every time. He knows how to make a way, when there seems to be no way. He stopped the storm long enough, so we could rejoice. Praise God for His goodness to our people and the calling of another soul to Christ. God is there, and we just have to reach out and grab His hand.

## **Graduates Honored**

#### By Brother Pete Oestreicher

A ugust 7, 2011, was a hot and humid day in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, and the air conditioners were not working properly, but this didn't stop the blessings from flowing at The Church of Jesus Christ. Brothers, sisters, visitors and friends gathered to honor four members who recently graduated high school and college. As is tradition at the Aliquippa Branch, each college graduate is presented a Book of Mormon from the MBA, and high school graduates receive Bibles from the Sunday School.



Pictured (left to right): Sister Desiree (Palmieri) Robbins; Sister Tawney Palmieri; Sister Samantha Jo Giannetti; and Sister Amanda Gula.

On July 29, 2011, Sister Amanda Gula graduated after six years with a Master's degree as a Physician's Assistant, from Mount Union University, Alliance, Ohio. Sister Amanda, who is presently looking for a job, let everyone know it was great being back in the branch and seeing everyone, as she proudly proclaimed "praise God, I am finally done." These last few years taught her a lot about prayer. There were times she felt discouraged, but with God in her life, the prayers of the brothers and sisters, and the support of her family and friends, she did it. God has blessed her immensely for which she is thankful, and she can truly say that with God, all things are possible.

Sister Desiree [Palmieri] Robbins graduated last December from Seton Hill University, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology. As she approached the rostrum, holding her 21 month old daughter, Gwenyth, and expecting a child in September, it was obvious that Sister Desiree's present occupation is taking care of her family. Sister Desiree thanked God for allowing her to finish college, and even though it took a semester longer, she can now say this portion of her life is complete. Sister Desiree is looking forward to

## Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

(Continued from the August, 2011 Gospel News)

By Brother Jerry Valenti

#### 6. Questions that may arise when testimonies are given in the meetings.

Q. What is the purpose of testimony? Why is it done weekly?

A. The testimony portion of the meeting gives the members of the congregation the opportunity to praise God openly for what He has done for them. As David wrote, ". . . praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the assembly of the elders" (Psalms 107:31,32). It is done every week because God blesses us continually and should be praised as often as possible, "But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more" (Psalms 71:14.)

*Q.* Are only members of the Church allowed to testify?

A. Everyone has a reason to praise God, so all are given the opportunity to testify. ". . . *Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud Him, all ye people*" (Romans 15:11).

# 7. Questions that may arise if someone requests the elders to pray for them?

*Q.* For what reasons do people request the Elders to pray for them?

A. People who are physically ill or spiritually troubled may request that the Elders lay hands on them to ask God to relieve their afflictions. "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick; and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14-15).

*Q.* What determines whether or not the person is anointed with oil?

A. Oil is used if the person is physically ill. If the prayer is for spiritual uplifting, oil is not used. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

*Q.* Why do all the Elders lay their hands on the person instead of just the one who is praying?

A. The Elders all lay their hands on the individual for whom they are praying to indicate that they are united in their faith and desire that the person's affliction would be healed, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

*Q.* Who is the man who sets up the chairs where individuals sit while being prayed upon?

A. The man seen preparing the building for the various segments of the service is called a Deacon and is ordained to assist the Church by looking after the general comfort of the membership. The Acts of the Apostles describes how the disciples needed men to serve in this capacity and relieve the ministry of that responsibility. They looked for "...men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom..." (Acts 6:3). Stephen was one of the men chosen to be a Deacon.

8. Questions that may arise during the ordinance of sacrament.

*Q.* What is the purpose of the sacrament?

A. The purpose of sacrament is to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, that His body was broken and His blood spilt to atone for our sins and give us the opportunity to gain eternal life with God. When Jesus set the examples at the Last Supper, He stated the purpose very simply ". . . this do in remembrance of me. . ." (Luke 22:19).

Q. Why are bread and wine used?

A. Jesus used bread to represent His body and wine to represent His blood, so we use bread and wine as well. We see no reason to deviate from the example Jesus set the night before His crucifixion, "he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you. . ." (Luke 22:19). "And he took the cup and gave thanks and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come" (Luke 22:17-18).

*Q.* Is sacrament served only to members of the Church, and if so, why?

A. Yes, the Elders will serve the bread and wine only to dutiful members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (I Corinthians 11:29). None are worthy of themselves; Jesus makes us worthy. Thus, until a person has accepted Jesus in the way our Church believes, they cannot receive communion from our Elders. We do not mean to cause any offense among our visitors. We pray that some day all who desire to participate with us will be in a position to do so.

(Conclusion of article in future issues)

#### The Children's Corner

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killing each other, trying to get power, God sent a drought. When the rain stopped and food stopped growing, the people began to starve. Then they remembered to call upon the Lord. He forgave them and sent rain. Another time He sent poisonous serpents, which chased the livestock and killed people until they stopped and begged God for forgiveness. They were again grateful and kind to one another and the Promised Land was a good place to be.

During the times when there was peace, there was great creativity. The Jaredites created all kinds of beautiful artwork, giant buildings with pyramids, statues, an accurate calendar based on the movement of the stars and advanced math. No nation on the earth was greater than the Brother of Jared's people. (See Ether 1:43)

For about two thousand years the great Jaredite nation grew and thrived. Yet, these people stopped serving God or listening to the warnings that the preachers and prophets gave them. They hardened their hearts and gave the devil great power over them. The book of Ether in the Book of Mormon tells how the people gathered into two groups that hated each other. They started fighting and killing. Even women and children were involved in a war that went on for years. Finally, one last great battle was planned. Everyone was gathered into one or the other army. Everyone was full of hate for the others. They battled day after day until all their great leaders and blessed people killed each other. Only their great King Coriantumr was left to see the destruction he had helped cause that destroyed his nation. He had been warned to turn to God but had refused. Now he lived to see total destruction of his great nation.

There are amazing ruins in Central America where we believe the Jaredites landed. Scientists called archeologists have made tests to see how old the treasures found buried in the pyramids or ground is. They tested the age of statues, daggers, masks, dishes, giant carved heads, murals and many more of the people's great artwork. They were created at the time that we know the Jaredites lived. Today no one knows the name of these ancient Jaredite people. Since there are so many of their ruins in the part of Mexico where the rubber trees grew, the later people called them the Olmecs or people of the rubber tree lands. You can look up the Olmec ruins in Mexico to see what the Jaredites probably looked like.

When the Lord brought the Jaredites to the Promised Land over four thousand years ago, He declared this was a promised land for people who served the Lord. He set this land up that as long as the people here serve God, He will protect and guide us.

But if we stop serving God, and are full of sin, if we let evil people come to power and set up secret organizations, (See Ether 8:23), we will be wiped off just like the previous great kingdoms that have gone before us in this Promised Land. Those that have left behind stone ruins across Central and South America and North America were people just like you and me. And just like you and me, they were taught that evil can be done away with and that Satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men if we would serve God, and be persuaded to do good continually. (See Ether 8:26). Every day, we have the choice to do the loving and kind things that Jesus teaches us. If we do, God will preserve us, no matter on what land we live.

> With care, Your friend, Sister Jan

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#### **Graduates Honored**

Continued from Page 9

the new baby and spending time with her family. She also thanked God for blessing her with a good husband and supportive family. As Sister Desiree was testifying, Gwenyth was amusing herself trying to catch the microphone.

Sister Samantha [Sami] Jo Giannetti accepted her Bible for graduating Central Valley High School on June 10 of this year. The Central Valley School District was recently formed by a successful merger between two local school districts, and she has the distinction of being in its first graduating class. Sister Sami Jo will be attending the Community College of Beaver County, and plans to transfer to the University of Pittsburgh where she will study Sports Medicine. Sister Sami Jo thanked everyone for their prayers which helped her get through school, especially this past year which was made more difficult by being in a new school and not knowing many people. She reiterated that it was the prayers of the brothers and sisters which got her though high school, and asked everyone to continue praying for her these next few years.

Last, but certainly not least to be recognized, was Sister Tawney Palmieri. Sister Tawney graduated from Seneca Valley High School on June 3 of this year, and will be attending Penn State University; Behrend Campus in Erie, Pennsylvania. [Brother David DeLuca stated that Sister Tawney will most likely graduate before Joe Paterno retires from coaching football]. Sister Tawney thanked God for giving her the strength to complete high school, and she is thankful for her supportive family, both natural and spiritual. She met a lot of people and made many friends in high school, but knows that the only people she can

truly rely on are her family and the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ

Brother David DeLuca, Presiding Elder, congratulated the graduates, wished them well, and exhorted them to always take the Lord Jesus Christ with them. He also congratulated and praised the parents: Lance and Sister Denise Gula; Brother Paul Aaron and Sister Kimberly Palmieri; and Mike and Sister Cindy Harb, for raising such fine, outstanding daughters who truly love the Lord.

We were also blessed with the presence of Brother Carl Frammolino who came to see two granddaughters and one grand niece being honored. This was the first time Brother Carl attended church and received communion in six months, testifying that immediately after returning from the 2011 World Conference, he suffered a stroke, was unable to speak or use his right side. Brother Carl was anointed, and the next day was able to speak and raise his right arm. It can truly be said that miracles and gifts are still alive in The Church of Jesus Christ.

During the testimony meeting, Brother Jason Monaghan asked to borrow the Bible Sister Sami Jo just received. He also had in his hand the Bible of Brother Pete Giannetti, Sr., Sister Sami Jo's grandfather. Brother Jason then ruffled the pages of our sister's new Bible, which were stiff and made a rough noise, and then ruffled the pages of her grandfather's Bible, which were fluffy, didn't make much noise, and were falling out. Brother Jason implored Sister Sami Jo and all the graduates to use the books they were given today as often as possible, studying the word of God, so their Bibles and Books of Mormon become so worn that their pages will also fall out.

Everyone was then invited to join the graduates in a luncheon prepared in their honor. We wish Sisters Amanda, Desiree, Tawney, and Sami Jo the best in all future endeavors, and pray they always take the Lord with them wherever they go.

> "I will watch your pathway in life lean on me for all things."

# ADDRESS CHANGE Name\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Branch or Mission\_\_\_\_\_



#### November/December, 2011

#### Volume 67, No.11/12

## The Church of Jesus Christ-Statement of Beliefs

1. We believe in God: the Father, Jesus Christ–His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. We believe the Church as established by Jesus Christ has ordained officers consistent with the scriptures, that believers possess the signs promised to them, and that this Church/ Kingdom will remain upon the earth until the end of time.

3. We believe the Bible and the Book of Mormon to be the Holy Scriptures telling of God's relationship with the human family. These two scriptures jointly convey God's dealings and plan for mankind.

4. We believe that divine inspiration is an indispensable qualification for the preaching of the Gospel.

5. We believe that The Church of Jesus Christ is patterned exactly as is represented in the scriptures including the following ordinances and practices:

- Baptism by immersion
- Laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost

- Lord's Supper
- Feet washing
- Anointing the sick with oil and praying over them
- Ordaining all spiritual Church Officers
- Blessing of children

6. We believe obedience to the Gospel is necessary to obtain salvation by taking the following actions:

- Believe and have faith that Jesus Christ is the risen Savior of the world
- Repent of your sins with a desire to sin no more
- Be baptized by immersion in water for a remission of sins
- Receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands
- Live righteously, remain faithful, and endure to the end of your life.

7. We believe that the Lord God continues to reveal His will through the power of the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the resurrection of Jesus Christ established resurrection for all mankind. 9. We believe that marriage between a man and a woman is a holy institution.

10. We believe that many pure and precious tenets of Christ were eventually changed in the early centuries of The Church of Jesus Christ and that God restored the Gospel of Christ in its fullness.

11. We believe that God has promised many blessings to all who love and serve Him, and that He will remember His covenants to the House of Israel.

12. We believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ to occur at the end of the world—with the First Resurrection—and that He will wed His Bride, the Church, and gather unto Himself all the righteous.

For more information, refer to:

- Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ
- A Dissertation on the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ

By Brother Felix Buccellato (November 23, 1961) Continued from August, 2011 issue

#### **RESTORATION:**

Isaiah 2:2-5

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more."

Isaiah 11:12

"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

#### Isaiah 29:14,17

"Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed a forest?" Isaiah 62:10,11

"...go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people. Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him."

Daniel 2:28-44 Read all of these verses

Micah 4:1— Same as Isaiah 2:1-5

Malachi 3:1,2

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers soap."

#### Matthew 20:6,7

"And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive."

Revelation 14:6,7

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

#### BOOK OF MORMON REFERENCES TO RESTORATION:

II Nephi 29th Chapter— Read it all

III Nephi 21:9

"For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them."

#### RESTORATION FULFILLED:

- Joseph Smith visited by an angel (September 21, 1823)
- Discovery of Plates 1823
- Receives Plates 1827
- Translation of Plates 1829
- The Priesthood conferred (upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery)

#### BOOK OF MORMON STUDY:

- Isaiah 29th Chapter— Read all of this chapter
- Ezekiel 37th Chapter— Read all of this chapter

Continued from Page 2

- Genesis 49:22—Blessing upon Joseph
- Deuteronomy 33:13-17—Blessing upon Joseph

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH: 1830 at Fayette, Seneca County, New York

- Death of Joseph Smith—1844 Carthage Jail, Illinois
- Study the History and Doctrine of Mormonism.
- Study the calling of William Bickerton, his history and subsequent organization of our Church in 1862.
- Final Study—Entire history of our Church.

#### ORIGIN OF THE BOOK OF MORMON:

Joseph Smith declared that a heavenly visitor, Moroni by name, appeared to him during the night of September 22, 1823, and among other things told him of the existence of a collection of gold plates buried in a hill not far from Joseph Smith's home, on which plates the history of the early inhabitants of America had been engraved by a succession of historians. Joseph Smith further declared that he was led to the spot where the plates were buried in the Hill Cumorah, and that after repeated annual visits covering a period of four years, he was finally allowed on September 22, 1827, to take possession of the plates for the purpose of translating a part

of them. The translation was accomplished through the gift and power of God. Joseph Smith did not claim in any way to be learned in languages or to know the language in which the book was written. Note his own words: "These records were engraven on plates which had the appearance of gold, each plate was six inches wide and eight inches long and not quite so thick as common tin. They were filled with engravings in Egyptian characters and bound together in a volume as the leaves of a book, with three rings running through the whole. The volume was something near six inches in thickness a part of which was sealed. The characters on the unsealed part were small and beautifully engraved. The whole book exhibited many marks of antiquity in its construction and much skill in the art of engraving. With the records was found a curious instrument, which the ancients called Urim and Thummim, which consisted of two transparent stones set in the rim of a bow fastened to a breastplate. Through the medium of the Urim and Thummim, I translated the record by the gift and power of God."

#### CONTENTS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON:

The Book of Mormon deals with the histories of two nations, who flourished in the western hemisphere as the descendants of small colonies brought here from the eastern continent by divine direction.

## The Jaredite Nation 2000 B.C.-590 B.C.

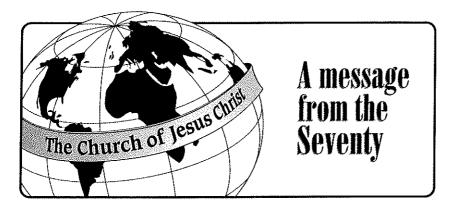
These colonists followed their leader from the Tower of Babel after the Lord confounded the language of all the earth: and scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:9). They traveled to the ocean and there constructed eight vessels, called barges in which, after a passage of three hundred and fortyfour days, the colony landed on the shores of the western continent. Here they became a prosperous nation; but giving way in time to internal dissentions were completely destroyed by civil war. Their history was written by the people of the Nephite Nation.

## The Nephite Nation 600 B.C.-421 A.D.

The progenitors of this people were led from Jerusalem in the year 600 B.C., by Lehi, an Israelite prophet of the tribe of Manasseh. After an eight year journey to the Red Sea, they built and provisioned a vessel in which they sailed across the Indian and Pacific Oceans to the western coast of South America.

The people grew rapidly in strength and numbers on their promised land. They soon divided into two opposing factions, named after their leaders, Nephi and Laman. The Nephites advanced in the arts and crafts, built large cities, established commonwealths, and worshipped the true God. Christ ministered among these people after His resurrection in Jerusalem. The Lamanites became a benighted, nomadic people, having a dark skin, they were the lineal progenitors of the American Indian. The two nations waged successive wars, the final struggle taking place in the vicinity of the Hill Cumorah in what is now New York State. Prior to the extermination of the Nephites in 400 A.D., their great prophet, Mormon, collected and abridged their records, engraving the history of his people on a single volume of metallic plates. This record was then hidden in a stone vault in Hill Cumorah.

#### ARCHAEOLOGISTS GENERALLY AGREE ON THESE POINTS:



## **Forty Years In Preparation**

By Brother Mark Kovacic

Sometimes it is hard for us to imagine God working forty years in advance of something we may need. This account is one of those cases.

Preparing for my third outreach trip to Oklahoma, I decided for some unknown reason to make copies of a Gospel News article from 1971. My grandfather, Evangelist Timothy Dom Bucci, wrote the article. It was an account of his 1971 trip to Oklahoma. That year he had taken me along. It was a wonderful experience for a 15-year old.

While in Anadarko, Oklahoma, at the 1971 Indian Exposition, my grandfather noticed these teenage twins who were preparing to dance. [The exposition is a gathering of plains Indians from all over Oklahoma and other states, with some from as far away as Canada]. The twins were dressed in their full regalia. He asked them to pose with us. At the time, I thought it was a little corny! What does a 15-year old know? My grandfather eventually submitted the picture with his article and it appeared in the Gospel News. So I felt prompted to carry the article with the picture to Oklahoma this year—forty years later.

On Friday, May 20, 2011, during our nine-day 2011 Oklahoma Outreach, Brother Wayne Martorana and I planned to make four stops to see tribal officials in southwestern Oklahoma. The first stop was to see the Cheyenne – Arapaho. On our way there we spoke with Brother George Kovacic, who was in another town with Brother Nephi DeMercurio, and he told us that the fiancé of a Native American we had met in 2009 and with which we had built a relationship was from the tribe we were going to visit. Since that was to be our second stop, Brother George suggested that we call her for information as to who to speak to. When we did, she gave us the name of the museum director and added that she wanted to meet us, too. She said she would see us at the museum.

It was a long drive from where we were to the museum. We met the woman we spoke with at the door, having arrived at the same time. She warmly greeted us and led us to the museum where the director was waiting. We sat around a table and began to discuss our purpose and mission. They offered some examples of their traditions. She explained some of the misconceptions that the general public held about their traditions. She also related an experience her grandmother witnessed when she was a child. We showed them a verse from III Nephi that mirrored her experience.

As we were preparing to go I felt prompted to show the director a copy of the Gospel News article from 1971 that included the picture of me and my grandfather and the twin Native American dancers. She asked me if I knew who they were and I said, "no, I never knew." She said they were her uncles. She sees them regularly. One of them acted in a TV/movie not too long ago.

Then on Sunday, May 22, 2011, while we were visiting a family, I showed the same article to one of the men who immediately recognized them and said one of them lived near by.

How beautiful God prepares the way before us. A forty-year preparation to create a bond and feeling of friendship. A simple photo, prepared of God to be used at the right time and with the right people.

". . Nevertheless, the Lord will be merciful unto them, that when they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer, they shall be gathered together again to the lands of their inheritance." (II Nephi 6.11)



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, Pennsylvania and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998,

## Editorial Viewpoint . .

There is a story in II Kings Chapter 5 about a man named Naaman who was seeking L healing from the terrible disease of leprosy. He was a Syrian, and his wife had a little maid working for her who was from Israel. This little maid told them, that if Naaman were to go to Israel, that the God of Israel would heal him. And so the king of Syria [who valued Naaman greatly] sent this request to the King of Israel along with gifts of gold and silver. The King of Israel, thinking this was some kind of trick, was too suspicious to help Naaman. But Elisha, of Israel, heard of the situation, and requested that Naaman come to him. When Naaman did, Elisha sent a servant out to Naaman to inform him that Elisha said to go into the river Jordan and wash seven times, and he would be healed of his leprosy. Naaman was expecting Elisha to meet him personally and perform some powerful healing, and when Elisha did not, Naaman was angry and was ready to leave Israel. He even claimed that there were other rivers, cleaner than Jordan, which he could wash himself in. Fortunately, the servants of Naaman convinced him to do as Elisha had instructed, and Naaman washed seven times in the river Jordan. You can guess the rest of the story. Naaman was healed, and was even converted, proclaiming: "... Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel. ..." (II Kings 5:15). Naaman knew he would have to return to his homeland, and in advance, asked God for forgiveness, because he knew he would be required to be involved in the worship of the Syrian god. Naaman offered gifts to Elisha for helping him, but Elisha, understanding that it was not him who healed Naaman, but God, refused the gifts. But that is not the end of the story. A greedy servant of Elisha went after Naaman who was leaving Israel, and lied and said that Elisha did in fact want the gifts to give to someone. This servant tried to obtain these gifts for himself. Naaman gave the servant the gifts, and when the servant returned to Elisha, and tried to cover up his actions, Elisha pronounced that the leprosy that Naaman had would be upon the servant and his seed forever as a punishment. ". . . And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow" (II Kings 5:27).

The blessings of God can never be viewed as a transaction. In this life, everything we receive, we work for and pay for. When we are in need of a healing or a blessing in our lives, it is impossible to "purchase" it from the Lord. It is also important to realize that NO ONE can give you this blessing except for the Lord. Even when the elders anoint you for an affliction and you are healed, it is not the elders who have healed you. God uses the elder to bring about a healing. God does the healing. Naaman learned these lessons by not actually meeting directly with Elisha, and by not being able to give Elisha any gift in return for God's healing. We cannot repay God for what He does for us. We cannot say to the Lord, "If you heal me Lord, I'll be a better person." When we have thoughts like this, we have got it backward. First we must be a better person, and then God will heal us. Naaman demonstrated that he was becoming a "better person" by coming to Israel, and eventually doing as Elisha instructed. By demonstrating a little bit of faith, he was healed. It is the same way with us. We cannot make "deals" with God, but we must show a little bit of faith, and He will come to our rescue every time.

Then there is the other lesson in this story about taking advantage of God's blessings. The servant of Elisha saw this situation as an opportunity to make some financial gains. How foolish. He ended up paying a dear price by being inflicted with leprosy, and all his seed after him. This is like God blessing you with a great job, and you hoard all the money for yourself to buy unnecessary luxuries instead of helping those in need, or the Church. We cannot afford to take advantage of the way God blesses us, but instead like the people in IV Nephi, we should celebrate God's blessings by being righteous and happy!

This Thanksgiving, let's consider carefully how we seek after and respond to the blessings and bounty God has given us. Certainly there is a "God in Israel" who wants to bless us, but let's us handle His blessings by simply loving Him back.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

## God Sends a Message By a Star

Dear Boys, Girls and Friends, In the old days, people did not have electricity, telephones, television or electronic games. They woke up with the sunrise to start to work and went to bed in the dark. Of course in some countries lamps with string wicks and little containers of smoking oil provided lights, and there was always the hope of light from the burning fire, or a torch on special occasions. But things were different then.

People were not; people had the same kinds of human feelings, bad or good. But they also depended on the sun and stars in a different way than we do. They noticed them. They planned activities around how much light there was going to be. In Israel and other countries, in warm weather, families sat on top of their rooftop patios in the quiet evenings under the beautiful stars. In other countries people watched and understood how the earth moved throughout the seasons. The stars told them when to plant crops, when the tides would be dangerous, when the large herds of animals would come, or which direction to travel in. So, when God wanted thousands and thousands of people to know something special was about to happen, he sent them a sign in the stars.



It happened this way. First, God had a plan. He was going to send His Son, Jesus, to earth and teach people how to be loving, kind and strong. Jesus was going to teach the people all over the earth not to fear death but to realize there is a good place where every soul can go when we die, and that there are laws about the way people should treat each other.

God sent many prophets for thousands of years to tell them about the great plan of living. He did not forget to come to the land of the Americas. In John 10:14-16 Jesus told his friends and followers,

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. . . I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep [people] I have, which are not of this fold [group]; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

He was telling them about the people in the Americas and in other parts of the world. In the Book of Mormon, everyone had been told that Christ was going to be born. Five years before the birth of baby Jesus, God sent powerful preachers like Samuel the Lamanite who stood on the high walls of the city and warned the people to stop fighting and being evil. The crowds hearing him got angry. They did not want to be told they were doing wrong. They shot arrows and threw spears at him as he preached, but could not hit him. God protected His messenger.

The devil, Satan, was also angry because he knew what Samuel told them was true. God was going to soon send His only begotten Son to be born and live on this earth. Jesus was coming to help people, the devil's time was limited. Some people believed and some people did not. Samuel told them that on the day that Jesus was going to be born, God would put a new star in the sky as a sign.

The ones who did not believe started to talk mean about those in the church who did believe God's prophet. They let the devil confuse them and fill them with hate. As a few years passed, some of them began to say the time was passed for Samuel's prophecy to be fulfilled (III Nephi 1: 4-12). By the time five years had passed since Samuel's warnings, the entire country was in an uproar, causing a great separation between those that believed in the signs promised by Samuel and those that didn't believe. The unbelievers set a day apart that they were going to kill all the believers unless the things that Samuel prophesied happened.

Can you imagine the fear and terror that families of God felt? Can you imagine how desperately they must have searched the skies each night for the new star as they came closer and closer to the day they were going to be killed? Can you imagine how much they must have been praying and asking God to show the star? The leader of the good people was the preacher, Nephi [named after the first Nephi who had come over from Jerusalem 600 years before]. He knew the evil

## Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

This article is the pamphlet entitled, *'Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ",* authored by Evangelist Jerry Valenti and published by The Church of Jesus Christ—Editor's note.

Continued from September, 2011 issue

## 7. Questions that may arise if someone requests the Elders to pray for them?

Q. For what reasons do people request the elders to pray for them?

A. People who are physically ill or spiritually troubled may request that the elders lay hands on them to ask God to relieve their afflictions. "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick; and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (James 5:14,15).

Q. What determines whether or not the person is anointed with oil?

A. Oil is used if the person is physically ill. If the prayer is for spiritual uplifting, oil is not used. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

*Q.* Why do all the elders lay their hands on the person instead of just the one who is praying?

A. The elders all lay their hands on the individual for whom they are praying to indicate that they are united in their faith and desire that the person's affliction would be healed, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

*Q.* Who is the man who sets up the chairs where individuals sit while being prayed upon?

A. The man seen preparing the building for the various segments of the service is called a Deacon and is ordained to assist the Church by looking after the general comfort of the membership. The Acts of the Apostles describes how the disciples needed men to serve in this capacity and relieve the ministry of that responsibility. They looked for "...men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom..." (Acts 6:3). Stephen was one of the men chosen to be a Deacon.

#### 8. Questions that may arise during the ordinance of sacrament.

Q. What is the purpose of the sacrament?

A. The purpose of sacrament is to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made

for us, that His body was broken and His blood spilt to atone for our sins and give us the opportunity to gain eternal life with God. When Jesus set the examples at the Last Supper, He stated the purpose very simply "...*this do in remembrance of Me*" (Luke 22:19).

Q. Why are bread and wine used?

A. Jesus used bread to represent His body and wine to represent His blood, so we use bread and wine as well. We see no reason to deviate from the example Jesus set the night before His crucifixion, "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you..." (Luke 22:19). "And he took the cup and gave thanks and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come" (Luke 22:17,18).

*Q.* Is sacrament served only to members of the Church, and if so, why?

A. Yes, the elders will serve the bread and wine only to dutiful members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (I Corinthians 11:29). None are worthy of themselves; Jesus makes us worthy. Thus, until a person has accepted Jesus in the way our Church believes, they cannot receive communion from our elders. We do not mean to cause any offense among our visitors. We pray that some day all who desire to participate with us will be in a position to do so.

9. Questions that may arise if one of the following special situations arise.

(Continued on Page 8)

#### Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

Continued from Page 7

Q. How does someone become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ?

A. A person becomes a member of The Church of Jesus Christ by obeying the words of Jesus, "... except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Anyone desiring to join the Church is baptized [born of water], after which the elders lay hands on them for reception of the Holy Ghost [born of the Spirit].

#### Q. How is baptism performed?

A. Members of The Church of Jesus Christ are baptized in the same way Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist; they are completely immersed in an open, free flowing, body of water. John the Baptist said, "*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance*..." (Matthew 3:11). "And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto Him. ..." (Matthew 3:16) See also (Acts 9:26-39).

## *Q.* What is the purpose of feet washing? How often is it performed?

A. By washing each other's feet, we demonstrate humility and our feeling that one person is not better than another, and therefore we perform this ordinance four times per year. Again we follow the example set by Jesus, "After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded" (John 13:5). When He was finished, He told them, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John13:14,15). When Peter at first refused to participate, Jesus answered him, "...If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me" (John 13:8).

*Q.* What does it mean when someone stands and speaks in a tongue that cannot be understood?

A. When someone speaks in an unknown tongue, this is known as the "Gift of Tongues" and is generally followed by an interpretation, given by another person who has heard the words in English [or whatever language he happens to understand]. The gift of tongues and interpretation are listed among the spiritual gifts in Paul's writing to the Corinthians: "... .to another [is given] divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues" (I Corinthians 12:10). The message from God is generally in the form of instruction, admonishment or encouragement to His servants.

Q. What does it mean when someone stands and says, "Thus saith the Lord" followed by a message? Is this the same as the gift of tongues?

A. When someone stands and begins his speech with, "Thus saith the Lord," this is known as "speaking in the Spirit" and is not the same as the gift of tongues. Many of the Bible's prophecies came while prophets were speaking in the Spirit. Isaiah said, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me..." (Isaiah 61:1).

## 10. Questions that may arise concerning scriptures.

*Q.* What are the scriptures that the Church uses?

A. The Church of Jesus Christ accepts the Bible [King James Ver-

sion] and the Book of Mormon as divinely inspired Holy Scriptures. In preparing this pamphlet, we used only passages from the Bible to support our responses. Book of Mormon passages could have been quoted as well, but we chose not to use them, as people who read this probably do not presently believe in the Book of Mormon. It is beyond the scope of this pamphlet to fully explain why we accept the Book of Mormon. Briefly, it is a record of the descendants of Joseph, one of the [12] sons of Israel, and chronicles their history in the land of America. Ezekiel made reference to the Bible [stick of Judah] and Book of Mormon [stick of Joseph,] advising to "And join them one to another into one stick, and they shall become one in thine hand" (Ezekiel 37:16,17). The original plates containing the text of the book were found in the ground, fulfilling David's prophecy, "Truth shall spring out of the earth. . . " (Psalms 85:11). If you are interested in hearing more about our belief in the Book of Mormon, please let us know and we will be happy to explain it in more detail.

*Q.* If you believe in the Book of Mormon, doesn't that make you a Mormon?

A. If you believe in the Old Testament does that make you a Jew? Absolutely not. If you believe in the Bible, does that necessarily make vou a Catholic? Of course not. The Church of Jesus Christ has no connection whatsoever with the Mormon church and does not defend its actions in any way. We do wish to point out that the activities for which the Mormons are criticized [i.e., multiple wives] are strictly prohibited by the Book of Mormon. We ask that any judgments of the Mormon church be put aside when evaluating the Book of Mormon.

Continued from Page 3

- There were two great migrations from Asia to America. The first migration about 4000 years ago. The second migration about 600 B.C.
- That the second migration was from the House of Israel.
- They worshipped one Supreme God.
- They had a knowledge of early Bible history.
- They practiced Christianity.
- They had a knowledge of the birth and death of Christ.
- The remnants of their work proclaim them to have been great architects and engineers.
- They built great cement roads 2000 years ago.
- They had a written language and developed a calendar system which is unequalled, even today.
- They compiled their own historical and religious documents.
- Their pyramids rival those of Egypt.
- They had commerce and trade between the Americas.
- Their greatest period was the first centuries of the Christian era.
- At the peak of their glory, their civilization suddenly came to an end.

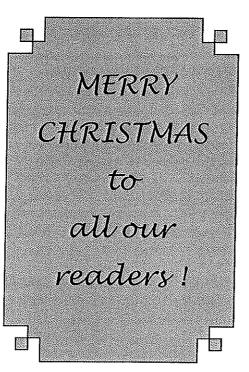
#### NOTE:

Archaeology was an infant science when the Book of Mormon was first published in 1830. The Archaeological Institute of America was not incorporated until 1906, seventy-six years later.

#### IN CONCLUSION:

Let us refer to the words of Moroni 10:4,

"And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having a faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."



#### Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ

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# 11. Questions that will arise if you have further interest in the Church.

*Q.* Where can I get more information about The Church of Jesus Christ?

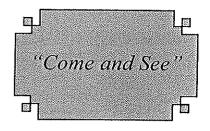
A. The Elders and/or Teachers of the Church will be able to answer any further questions you may have about the Church. A Teacher is another ordained office that God set in the Church, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers..." (I Corinthians 12:28).

*Q.* How do I decide if The Church of Jesus Christ is the right church for me?

A. We invite you to go to God in prayer and ask Him to direct you in regard to decisions about the Church. James said,

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

Many of our members came to The Church of Jesus Christ in this way. God will not mislead you; put your trust in Him!





## Joy

#### By Sister Kathy Vitto

Do you remember where you were ten years ago, or what you were doing? Chances are if you mention the date September 11, 2001 you will have an instant memory of that tragic morning. How about this year, September 11, 2011?

A shroud of terroristic gloom and fear encompassed the United States as the tenth anniversary of September 11 approached. We were no longer able to bury the tragic images of the towers burning, crumbling, people jumping, gaping holes in Pennsylvania and the Pentagon re-entered our minds thanks to the news media. No matter where you were or what news program you watched it was replayed over and over again. New terrorist threats were everywhere. We were being warned once again. This was the message day in and day out, for weeks.

How do you live and get on with your life with this facing you every day? *Through faith!* 

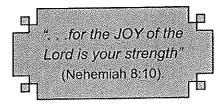
And faith brought us safely once again to our Branch in Windsor, Canada, through the tunnel, and home on the bridge. The same way it had for the last 21 years. We were not the only ones exercising our faith that day as Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Loretta, Brother Dino DiMelis, Brother A.J. Currier and his wife, Sister Tracy came from the United States, also. From Canada Brother Larry Henderson and Sister Cindy, as well as many other visitors, and Sister Stephanie's family were there.

What brought everyone to the Windsor Branch this day? It was to witness the ordination of Sister Stephanie Onorato as Deaconess. Many experiences were had to ordain our young sister. She has been a hard worker in the branch for many years. She teaches the children Sunday School. The young ones love her and look forward to her lessons. She makes it interesting and fun to learn scripture and the adults enjoy the synopsis by her students after Sunday School. She also plays a role in the young people's get-togethers and lockins.

This was a day of JOY rather than what the news media had predicted. Joy filled our building, our hearts, our minds, our souls. Joy was the subject that was spoken of by our Presiding Elder John Collison, followed by Brother Perry Vitto, Brother Dino DiMelis, and Brother Larry Henderson. There was peace and love that filled the building this day, as it does every Sunday. God lives in the hearts of the saints and JOY fills the souls.

And JOY filled our soon-to- be "Sister" Deeanne Trealout who stood upon her feet and requested her baptism after the congregation sang "There's Something About That Name". Praise God for blessing us this day and filling us with HIS JOY.

Sister Stephanie's feet were washed by Sister Kathy Vitto. After a prayer offered by Apostle Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo she was ordained by Brother Perry Vitto. JOY continued this day through an afternoon of fellowship with a luncheon provided by the Windsor brothers and sisters.



#### It's My Desire

By Sister Karen L. Progar

On October 2, 2011, the Aliquippa Branch was privileged to have several visitors as the Apostles prepared to meet later in the week for our General Church Conference. Apostle Richard and Sister Pat Christman, Apostle Isaac and Sister Bonnie Smith, Apostle Paul and Sister Orletta Liberto, along with Brother Larry and Sister Vicki Ali all joined us for a very special day.

It was beautiful to begin our day with the blessing of young Leyton Robbins by his grandfather, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri. I am moved and can envision the scene when Jesus called the children to him and blessed them as is recounted in the hymn, "Mothers in Salem". As Brother Paul took little Leyton in his arms and prayed that the Lord would guide and protect him, the vision of those women of so long ago no doubt came to the minds of those who witnessed the ordinance.

Apostle Isaac Smith spoke to us regarding desire and the fact that those who desired more, saw more. He continued stating that we should reach out to the things He has in store for us.

Following, Apostle Paul Liberto encouraged us to listen to God's spirit, because "he that diligently seeketh shall find". From Proverbs 23:7 he quoted, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he. . .", causing us to consider what we think in our hearts. Brother Ike asked if we desire those things that the three Nephites and the Apostles who went to the Mount of Transformation desired. Brother Paul told us to desire to send people out with the Gospel.

#### It's My Desire

#### Continued from Page 9

Brother Larry Ali, visiting from Greensburg, added to the day's thoughts by asking if we are truly seeking God's plan for our life. As Brother David DeLuca, Presiding Elder, concluded the preaching portion of our meeting he asked the congregation, "What is your desire?", giving us all a lot to consider.

Appropriately, Brother Jason and Sister Rachel Monaghan, along with Sisters Joyce D'Antonio and Marty Jumper sang, *"It's My Desire"*. May we all live for Jesus as the song says.

#### The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

plans to kill him, his family and all the believers in God.

Nephi was heartsick. He knelt down and began praying to God on behalf of his people who were going to be killed. His heart was also terribly sorrowful when he saw the wickedness of his entire people (III Nephi1:10). All day Nephi cried unto the Lord. And it came to pass that he heard the voice of Jesus who told him, "Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold the time is at hand and for this night the sign shall be given, and on the morrow come I into this world, ... .I will fulfill [do] all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets. . .And behold the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given" (III Nephi 1:13,14).

That night, as the sun went down, it did not start getting dark. An amazing star was in the sky! It was so bright in this side of the world that it was like "...*that day and that night* and that day which should be as one day as if there were no night..." (III Nephi 1: 8). Half way around the earth, in Bethlehem, this same star was shining on the manger where the baby Jesus was born. Everyone knew something special had happened the day that the huge bright star took over the sky!

The words of the preachers were true! A great fear came over many of the people who had not believed the prophets and who planned to murder the believers. They began to believe that the Son of God must shortly be born. All of the people upon the face of the whole earth from the west to the east, both in the land north and in the land south, were so extremely astonished that they fell to the earth. And they began to fear because of their sin and unbelief. (III Nephi 1: 17-20).

Many people on this land were sorry they had been so evil. They believed now; they repented and asked God for forgiveness and joined the Church. The people began again to have peace in the land. (III Nephi 1:23).

Over in Israel, the same star was shining down on the manger where baby Jesus was lying. Other men of God who were star watchers travelled many miles from the east looking for the baby. They wanted to worship Him and bring Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrhh. (Matthew 2:1-12). The Lord had sent His sign in the heavens and they followed the star.

The great plan of God was in action. All around the world people watched and wondered. God's plan was working. The same God we serve loved them and loves us today. He has a plan for all times and does not forget His people.

With care, Your friend, Sister Jan

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#### AMERICAS

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