

The Gospel News

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*He is
Risen*



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Easter Season

Jesus Is Our Pattern- The Risen Christ.

By Ethel Neill Crosier

Once again we approach that season of the year in which we find great joy in reading the blessed story of the risen Christ as recorded in the New Testament.

As we read the wonderful account of the life of Christ as given by His humble followers, we are truly convinced along with the song writer that, "Jesus Is Our Pattern."

We are, in Christ, a new creation, for the old things are passed away and a new song has been placed in our hearts. If we prove faithful unto death a crown of life awaits us. Every soul that thirsteth for God has the sure promise that they shall be filled. The opportunity is offered to all to take the water of life freely. Come and fret not thyself and be born again and make "JESUS Your Pattern." For true happiness is found only in the Lord. Jesus never fails, for He hears our every call, His promises are true, He will give us strength, and His rewards are eternal.

What greater honor could we bestow on our beloved Master than to give our life to Him who shed His precious blood on a cruel cross and rolled the stone away that you and I might have eternal life with Him in the realms of Glory?

Even nature reenacts the Resurrection scene with the flowers, trees, and grass bursting forth in blossom with life anew like showers of blessing from on high. And so it can be with you, my friend, if you will only accept this Crucified and Risen Savior who so willingly died and broke the bands of death for you and me. Therefore, we know that the words of the poet are true, for:



Jesus is our Pattern,
"Seek and ye shall find,"
"Knock, it shall be opened,"
He will fill your mind;
Let Him wholly fill you,
Heart and soul and will,

Take entire possession,
His desires fulfill.
Jesus, loving Savior,
We would be like Thee,
Loving, gentle, kindly,
Full of charity.



First appeared in the March 1959 Gospel News

	<p>April 1st. It would not be foolish to read the first verses of great chapters. Like John 14:1, Or Hebrews 11:1.</p>		<p>April 5th is Palm Sunday. Take a reading from John 12 and let your heart ring out "Hosanna!"</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 15th, our dear Q12 will begin the Genreal Conference with their meetings. Let your heart be drawn out in prayer...</p>		<p>...then, Thursday, April 16th, our dear Q70 begin their two days of meetings. They need your support.</p>	
	<p>April 8th begins Passover. Say "Happy Pesach" for "Happy Passover", or "Chag Sameach" which translates to "Happy Festival."</p>		<p>At least once in church this month, can somebody call "Showers of Blessings" and say it's April?</p>
<p>Apparently, April is National Soft Pretzel month. It's traditional to eat a soft pretzel on Good Friday! Who knew?</p>		<p>April 18th is Husband Appreciation Day. Just puttin' it out there...</p>	

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

Forty-nine years ago this month, April 17th and 18th, 1971, the General Church Auditorium (now, World Operations Center) was dedicated in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The idea for a Church Conference Center first gained momentum in 1960 when the Missionary Benevolent Association established a land purchase fund to be turned over to the General Church if and when it was decided to purchase land for a building site. The first Committee was elected by 1963 and a site was officially approved two years later near Imperial, Pennsylvania. The expansion of the Greater Pittsburgh Airport later required The Church to seek out another location, and one was acquired in Greensburg. The actual construction of this \$400,000 development commenced in October 1969 with an official groundbreaking ceremony. The Church seats 850 persons in the main auditorium, with room for 150 additional seats in an adjacent multipurpose room. Next year we will celebrate the building's 50th year and dedication. **"Thus sayeth the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?" 2 Samuel 7:5**

Groundbreaking at the World Operations Center ▶



Auditorium building under construction ▶



Purpose Statement

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

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ.
- To draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused on the Native Americans of North and South America.



Vision Statement

- The full manifestations of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, resulting from living and worshipping in unity and righteousness, stimulate continuous growth of the Domestic Church—even at a rate of doubling over a five year period—while strengthening the International Church.

Wordup



“Fear and Great Joy” *By Elder Doug Obradovich*

“I am the resurrection” (John 11:25)

Matthew's retelling of Jesus Christ's magnificent resurrection story includes how the Savior

stepped out of His tomb and into mankind's greatest moment. He wasn't simply being delivered from man's encasement, but was walking towards mankind's deliverance. And doing so, single-handedly removed the sting of death for all who would follow Him, marching them from mortality to immortality, earth to Heaven, death to life, and damnation to salvation. He was fulfilling God's escape plan for all who would believe.

Why did this produce the unlikely coupling of “fear and great joy?” Fear is defined as an unpleasantly strong emotion, created by the anticipation of impending danger. Joy is an emotion evoked by well-being, success or good fortune. One, an anxious concern; the other, a feeling of great pleasure (even delight, when preceded by the adjective “great”). Could two emotions be more opposed?

Early Sunday morning after His crucifixion, Jesus' mother, Mary, and Mary Magdalene went to His tomb with their only intention of caring for His lifeless body. Prior to their arrival, an angel descended with his own single intention, on God's orders—remove the stone sealing Jesus' tomb to make way for the Son of God to return to Heaven. The Romans guarding the tomb had fallen to the earth (with fear?) and “became as dead men.” From his seat, now atop the rock, the angel greeted the women, “Fear not ye” (the same words the angel said to the shepherds at Jesus' birth).

He accompanied them into the tomb, assuring their eyewitness experience to God's glory. After their firsthand observance of its void, the angel sent them (“Go quickly”) to tell what they had seen, and promised Jesus would come to them soon. They hurriedly (“did run”) left the sepulcher with “fear and great joy.” The angel had introduced the moment, “Fear not ye,” so why would they be taken with “fear...and great joy?” The confluence of these two contrasting emotions seems odd.

Their depth of delight (“great joy”) accompanied the verification; just as they had suspected, Jesus truly was the Son of God! In their newly enlightened state, everything He had promised was no longer questionable. All they had prayed for, dreamed of, and believed in had been confirmed. Surely, they had no fear for their own souls, nor was their faith conflicted with doubt. However, God was immediately more real than ever before, so their principal fear must have been due to pure, unadulterated reverence. Their secondary fear may have been for those who had rejected Jesus and passed on their opportunity for salvation.

The women at the tomb discarded any doubt forever, released from fear for their own salvation, with a shift to a much more generous fear for their loved ones. They left with a concern for the unbelievers, non-accepters, and/or uncommitted to a relationship with Jesus Christ. So they ran with an urgency, knowing that time may be someone's enemy. They ran because they understood “today is the day of salvation.” They ran because they were unwilling to risk even one person's soul being jeopardized by their own complacency in sharing the message of Christ. They ran because His message is always urgent.

May the power of the resurrection provide you both “fear and great joy.”

¡Levantate y Despierta!: Awake and Arise!

A Campout in Guatemala *By Sister Alicia Draskovich*



In early November 2019, the Church's very first campout-style retreat took place in the country of Guatemala. For three days the scenic mountain campsite Albergues de Tecpan was home to a great spiritual awakening and unification for fourteen American brothers and sisters and their children, and approximately forty native brothers, sisters, and regular visitors. The inspired theme for the weekend, ¡Levantate y Despierta! (Awake and Arise!), was a call for re-birth/revival to The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala. The theme was taken from Moroni 10:31, "And awake, and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion; and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the Eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled." Through much natural and spiritual preparation, the collective consensus among those in attendance was that a re birth of The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala had truly been fulfilled.

Arriving at the desired outcome was not

without challenges; although with each potential roadblock or discouragement God was always quick to reveal Himself. The night before the start of the weekend, upon hearing that some would not be able to attend due to work conflict and serious illness, the ministry went into prayer. Rafael, a regular visitor to the Church, had his vacation time rescinded at the last minute by his boss. As soon as the brothers prayed, Rafael called and reported that his boss had a change of heart and gave him the time off! While attending the retreat, Rafael was able to witness the ordination of his brother-in-law, Brother Nery Castellanos, into the office of an Elder, the first Elder in-country in this new era of the Church. And, praise God, Rafael and his daughter, Marajir, were baptized that Sunday, being the first baptism of his newly ordained brother-in-law!

Unfortunate news that Brother Manual (Meme) and his family were not able to attend also reached the Ministry. Meme's oldest son, Otoniel, was very ill with dengue fever and quarantined in the hospital. A special prayer was offered for Otoniel. The next morning the ministry and group from the U.S. stopped by the hospital on the way to the retreat to anoint Otoniel or, if not

permitted, to anoint a handkerchief for him. Upon arriving at the hospital the brothers were informed that earlier that morning Otoniel was well enough to be sent home to recover with his family—a true miracle!

It was around lunchtime when the two groups traveling from San Mateo in the west, and Guatemala City in the east, arrived at the retreat venue in Tecpán, the midpoint between the two Church works. The excitement was palpable as the American and Guatemalan Saints and friends greeted one another; some for the first time and others reuniting after many years. The first order of business was to eat lunch as a group. What better activity is there than to break bread together to seal and develop relationships?

After a hearty meal and getting settled into accommodations, the group gathered for an orientation meeting and a brief seminar facilitated by visiting Teacher, Brother AJ Cuerrier. Each attendee was presented with a Spanish version of The Church of Jesus Christ Membership Guide to keep for their personal study. Brother AJ then presented a lively and interactive lesson on 'Unity' taken from Section 3.6 of the Guide. In the evening,

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He Is Risen! *By Elder Duane Lovalvo*

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Early in the morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene stood outside of Christ's sepulcher weeping. She had just learned that the body of the Son of God was missing! Was it stolen? As Mary turned to walk away in sorrow, a man suddenly appeared standing there in front of her. It was Jesus! (John 21). Three days after the Crucifixion of Christ there was a feeling of anticipation in the City of Jerusalem. A great change was soon to take place in the hearts of the disciples. Sorrow and despair were about to be transformed into joy and thanksgiving. This appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene was the first of many appearances after the resurrection that would prepare the Apostles and the Church for their mission to bring salvation to the world.

That first Sunday, after Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, He showed Himself to other women who had gone to the tomb. Christ told them to go and tell the disciples that He would meet them in Galilee (Matthew 28:9).

A lot was happening. Rumors were beginning to spread around Jerusalem. An earthquake had occurred and the great stone was rolled away from the door of the sepulcher, Jesus' body was gone, angels had appeared to a number of people, women were reporting that Christ had risen and now Christ Himself had appeared to a few individuals. It was only a matter of time before the news reached the chief priest of the Jews by way of the city guards. The Jewish leaders quickly manufactured lies to cover up the story (Matthew 28:11-15). And all the while, "the eleven" disciples remained skeptical that the Lord had even risen at all.

Even though the women had indeed seen Jesus, the apostles refused to believe their report. Things began to change, however, that Sunday afternoon. Two disciples, one being named Cleopas, while walking on the road to Emmaus, were pondering all the rumors they had heard about Christ rising. They didn't notice that a man had caught up to them until he began to quote the scriptures about

the resurrection. It wasn't until later that afternoon during a meal that they realized who this man was. Suddenly, Jesus disappeared from their sight. The two disciples quickly hurried back to Jerusalem to tell "the eleven" apostles.

That evening, these two disciples arrived back in Jerusalem. They found ten of the apostles and others

“Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.” Luke 24:33-37)

assembled in a house with the doors closed for fear of the Jews. The two disciples from Emmaus reported that they had seen Jesus. The apostles admitted that the Lord had appeared to Peter as well. In that instant, **“Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit...”** (Luke 24:33-37),

In order to convince them that He wasn't a ghost, Jesus showed them the scars on His hands and feet and on His side. He also asked for something to eat. Upon recognizing the Lord in the flesh, the disciples were filled with joy. At this meeting He even breathed upon them the Holy Ghost (Luke 24:38-39, John 20:22).

Jesus would appear to His disciples many more times over the course of several weeks. Before He ascended into Heaven, He met them in Galilee and left them with a great commission:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19-20).

With No Exception *By Sister Carolynn O'Connor*

Jesus died for all of us. Not one of us or some of us, He died for all of us. For the vilest sinner and the most righteous saint. He died for the strong and prominent, and the weakest among us. No one is more worthy of His love than you. No one is less worthy, either. If we have worked every waking moment of our lives trying to prove our worthiness, it is no more or no less than those who are learning of His Mercy just moments before their passing.

Christ's Love is the great human equalizer. He does not love men more than women, nor children more than adults. He does not love us more or less based on the color of our skin or any other part of our appearance. He does not love the rich more than the poor, or the most faithful devoted Churchgoer any more than the person addicted to drugs living on the street and cursing His name. Our value to Him is the same—He loves us all. He died for us all. He has given all of us the opportunity to love and serve Him and the opportunity for eternal life with Him.

The Bible makes this very clear in many scriptures, including:

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (1 John 4:7)"

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female:

for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)"

Why then, is it so hard for humankind to feel the same way? Why do we place value on people's lives based on their gender, race, prominence, and financial status? Why is it so easy to look at the weak, sick, or poor and think that they have less worth?

I started a challenge 45 days before writing this, "100 Acts of Kindness in 100 days." I have learned so many things about myself and other people already. People just want to feel goodness and love. They react so positively to simple acts of kindness, and I have even witnessed them extending an Act of Kindness upon receiving one from me. People are desperate for positive attention and interaction. At a time in this world where it is acceptable to criticize, judge and persecute people outright, in person and on social media, for all sorts of reasons, a little bit of attention, kindness and love go a very long way.

This Easter, let us remember that the message is not that He suffered and died a humiliating, painful death on the cross, giving His life for some of us, or that He rose from the dead leaving the tomb behind that just WE might have eternal life, but rather that He did this out of great love and kindness for each and every person, each soul, **With No Exception..**

It's Springtime! What excites you most about the Spring Season? Continued from back cover

"Seeing the buds on the trees change to leaves and seeing flowers and plants start to bloom."
-Sister Dora Armstrong, Lorain, OH Branch.

"Flowers! Seeing the landscape come alive with crocuses, forsythia, daffodils, tulips, fruit trees and the bright green leaves of trees and bushes. Love love love driving around the back roads of Northern Delaware and Southeast Pennsylvania and admiring God's beauty."
-Sister Suzanne Beeman, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch.

"Every time I hear the words, "Spring season," I think immediately of renewal. We in the midwest anticipate the bursting forth of blossoms and new births. Our souls also feel refreshed as we anticipate hearing and

celebrating the springtime and Gospel messages that reaffirm the love and hope that God has for all those who love and serve Him."
-Sister Sandra Cardillo, Liberty, OH Branch.

"This spring is the anticipation of finally completing my degree and graduating in May. Only with God's help have I been able to finally reach the last class. It's a tough capstone, but I have always relied on God for strength and He has never failed me. Just like the flower in the garden will bloom so will we if we trust in Him."
-Sister Kathleen Pastorelli, Lake Worth, FL Branch.

"Not running out of hot water." -Brother Jared Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch.

"How God makes these things happen year after year. Trees regrow leaves, flowers start to bloom, grass turns from brown to green, and the temperature starts to get warmer. What beauty! What an amazing God we really serve!"
-Brother Aaron Nolfi, Clairton, PA Branch.

"Flowers are in bloom. There's something about fresh blossoming flowers on tree-lined streets or peeking out of a field of grass that makes us happy. Thanks to spring showers we get beautiful flowers." -Sister Nancy Plahovinsak, Edison, NJ Branch.

"I look forward to spring because it reminds me

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Campout in Guatemala

Continued from page 4

the visiting brothers and sisters from the U.S. presented each in-country member/visitor with a keepsake gift of a white handkerchief, the ones for the sisters having tiny embroidered flowers on them. The ministry then showed the IMOC video of The Church in Mexico (previously presented at the October General Church Conference), to introduce and connect the Church in Guatemala to their brothers and sisters just to the north. Brother Nery Castellanos had a vision during the video of a large congregation of heavenly angels with several diverse instruments of praise, discerning that we were going to be greatly blessed throughout the weekend. The first evening concluded with refreshments and a fun-filled ice-breaker activity including sharing testimonies, favorite hymns, favorite scriptures, and even enjoying a few laughs.

Our first full day of the Retreat began with an early morning prayer service. Several participated in a beautiful season of prayer, including the young people. Initially there were some distractions but as we began to pray one of the young people had a vision of a giant angel standing at the doorway, as if keeping the enemy out. During the prayer service, Brother Bryan Griffith had a vision of a choir of angels surrounding the participants as one blew a trumpet (a representation of a call—Awake and Arise!). Various others present related experiences, feelings, and dreams all representing the presence of God's Spirit and a sense of revival among His people. The morning seminar was presented by Brother Miguel Bicelis on 'The Value of our Soul.' Brother Miguel asked the group whether we would neglect or protect our most precious thing. Through myriad scriptures, our brother built the case that our soul is our most precious thing, and we are to protect it. He taught that we need to have a plan, to be intentional in our service; we must be focused and proactive, and anticipate the enemy. The Lord wants us to grow in Him.

Following lunch and free time, the young people (and young at heart) gathered to play the inaugural Team USA vs. Team Guatemala soccer game. Language may have been a barrier, but the language of soccer (fútbol) was universal, and it provided the youth an opportunity to connect better and have a lot of fun. Congrats to Team Guatemala on the hard-fought win! Afterward, the men and women split up to engage in separate scripture discussions focusing on Romans Chapter 12, with an emphasis towards Leadership. The visiting Sister Deaconesses from the US led the sisters' discussion. All of the sisters



agreed that the discussion helped them to unite and recognize that the struggles they all face as women are universal.

Our Saturday evening service included the ordinations of Brothers Nery Castellanos (Minister/Elder), Lorenzo Subuyuj (Teacher), and Cesman Castillo (Teacher). It was truly a momentous occasion as God's authority was re-established in the land of Guatemala with the calling of in-country ministry/leadership for the Church. Our brothers are very eager to get to work. It was beautiful to witness the joy and excitement of the Guatemala members realizing the tremendous blessing that they would be able to participate weekly in the ordinances of The Church, something they had been lacking for many years. The prayers offered at the early morning prayer service were heard and granted, as there were three requests for baptism: Brother Rafael, his daughter Sister Marajir, and Sister Fidalina (16-year-old daughter to Brother Cesman and Sister Amarilis). The level of spiritual maturity of our young sisters as they expressed their desire to commit their lives to Christ was impressive. Preparations were begun to complete the baptisms early the next day; however, the only eligible site was a cold, narrow, shallow stream running through the middle of the Camp.

Early Sunday morning, the Ministry was advised that there was a level of concern among the candidates regarding the conditions and potential health risks of the baptismal site, since Marajir was recovering from a serious pancreatic illness, and they were considering postponing their baptisms to the following weekend in San Mateo under more favorable conditions. While Brother Rafael was praying about the matter, he spoke in a native tongue and the Word of the Lord came forth following, stating, "Fear Not... Fear Not, My son." That was enough to convict our brother and two sisters to be baptized at the Camp. Our Sunday service was full, observing almost all the ordinances of the Church. We began with the Bestowal of the Holy Ghost for our three new converts followed by the blessing of three children, two anointings, communion, and even feet washing. It was a miracle and a great blessing to witness the unplanned reinstatement of two young people from the Church in Guatemala, Brother Erik and Sister Jessica, children of Brother Lorenzo and Sister Ana Subuyuj. Brother Lorenzo shared with the group that he recently had a dream where Brother Bryan and another unidentified person appeared to him two nights in a row knocking on the room of his door saying, "Awake and Arise!" He was given the understanding later that the two knocks represented the reinstatement of his two children.

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BECAUSE CHRIST AROSE: An Easter Quiz

By Sister Flo Perri and Sister Christine Martorana

Two thousand years have passed since the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yet, no historical event has ever had greater meaning or impact. Jesus's resurrection opened the door to salvation – a beautiful gift that any person, regardless of gender, ethnicity, culture, language, age, or physical ability, can choose to accept. Still, it can be easy to lose sight of the magnitude of this gift – to categorize it as just another moment in history that we read about in scripture. The challenge this Easter is to really think about what Jesus' resurrection means to you today. To help you with this, we've designed a little Easter quiz for you. Good luck!

“What does Easter mean to you today – in the year 2020?”

1. BECAUSE JESUS AROSE, YOU HAVE...

- a. Pink, blue, and purple Easter eggs
- b. A guarantee that you will never be sad

Scripture hint: Jesus said...“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:25-26)

2. BECAUSE JESUS AROSE, YOU HAVE...

- a. The world's best Easter egg hunt
- b. The answer to life

Scripture hint: “...As Christ was raised up from the dead...even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

3. BECAUSE JESUS AROSE, YOU HAVE...

- a. Chocolate bunnies
- b. The answer to history

Scripture hint: Without Jesus the events in this world do not really make much sense. But we understand that God is in control and that all of history moves toward the reign of Jesus Christ – the Alpha and Omega, Who is, Who was, and Who is to come. (Revelation 1:8)

4. BECAUSE JESUS AROSE, YOU HAVE...

- a. Easter baskets overflowing with jelly beans
- b. A foundation for truth

Scripture hint: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

5. BECAUSE JESUS AROSE, YOU HAVE...

- a. Marshmallow bunnies
- b. A purpose for your life

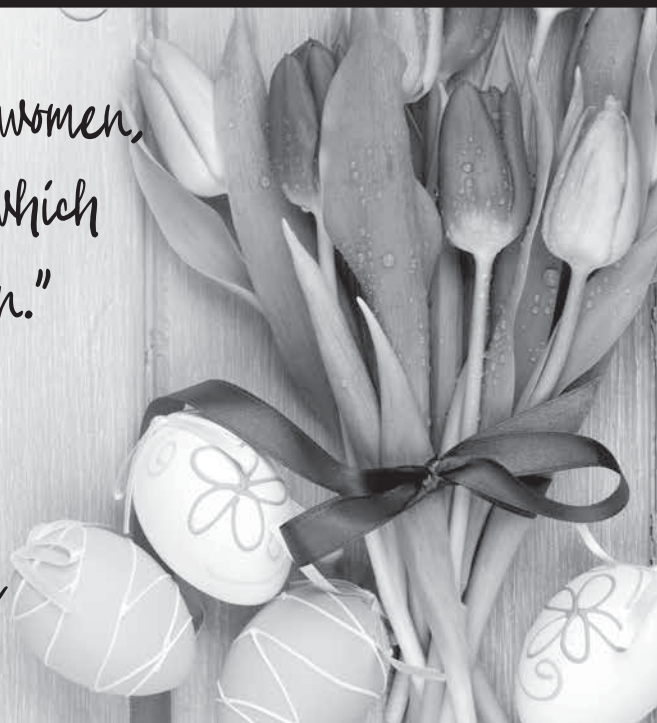
Scripture hint: For those who live for the Lord, “labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

“And the angel answered and said unto the women,
Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which
was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen.”

(Matthew 28:5-6)

We wish you a blessed and joyful Easter.

With Great Love- From the Gospel News Team



The Power of the Resurrection By Apostle Jerry Valenti

In celebrating Easter Sunday, we are recognizing the day that Jesus resurrected from the dead. This is not just a happy ending to a story, but rather a powerful event that brings about a resurrection for each and every one of us. Here are 5 amazing facts related to the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Christ was the very first to resurrect – Until the resurrection of Jesus, nobody else was able to resurrect. The grave held everyone captive. But afterward, it could be said that “now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

2 Because of Christ’s resurrection, all must resurrect – It’s not accurate to say that people have the opportunity to resurrect – now that Jesus has resurrected, everyone WILL resurrect: “Death and hell must deliver up their dead, and hell must deliver up its captive spirits, and the grave must deliver up its captive bodies, and the bodies and the spirits of men will be restored one to the other: and it is by the power of the resurrection of the Holy One of Israel” (2 Nephi 9:12).

3 All who died before Jesus resurrected with Him – The very first resurrection occurred at the time of Christ’s resurrection as all who had previously died came forth. Some of them were even seen walking the streets of Jerusalem. “And there cometh a resurrection, even a first resurrection; yea, even a resurrection of those that have been, and who are, and who shall be, even until the resurrection of Christ” (Mosiah 15:21). “And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many” (Matthew 27:52-53)..

4 Souls who died after Jesus are waiting for the next resurrection – “The spirits of those who are righteous are [in] a state of happiness, which is called paradise” (Alma 40:12).

“The spirits of the wicked...[have been] cast out into outer darkness...they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, until the time of their resurrection” (Alma 40:13-14).

5 Resurrection brings about the restoration of the soul and body – When someone resurrects, it “bringeth about the restoration of those things of which has been spoken by the mouths of the prophets. The soul shall be restored to the body, and the body to the soul; yea, and every limb and joint shall be restored to its body; yea, even a hair of the head shall not be lost; but all things shall be restored to their proper and perfect frame. And then shall the righteous shine forth in the kingdom of God” (Alma 40:22,23,25).

This is the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ – something to celebrate not only on Easter Sunday, but every day of our lives!



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Hero By Sisters LuAnn Carson

When I was a kid I liked to watch the TV show “The Incredible Hulk.” In the show, Dr. David Banner appears in no way to be a superhero. As a short, physically unremarkable guy, he tends to just blend in with society. But when he experiences strong emotion, he abruptly emerges as a towering musclebound Hulk, hero to those in need.

My friend Pat, who suffers from a rare heart dysfunction, told me last week that I’m her hero. Amused, I asked in what way? Pat, knowing I’d fasted and prayed for her, said she’d gotten a good report from her doctor. “Your prayers worked! You’re my hero.” Now obviously, as a shy, backward person who goes unnoticed in a crowd, I was surprised to be touted as a hero. How difficult is it, after all, to pray for someone in need?!

David, a humble shepherd boy, didn’t even qualify to be a part of the Israelite army. “And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war



from his youth” (1 Samuel 17:33). But David knew “the battle is the Lord’s,” and he was able to defeat an experienced, armed champion with just a sling and a stone.

Moses said, “I am not eloquent ...but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue” (Exodus 4:10). With God’s help, Moses freed his people from slavery and then parted the sea to save them.

Nephi was the youngest of four sons, not even respected but rather, often abused by two of his older brothers. But he knew. “If God had commanded me to do all things I could do them. If he should command me that I should say unto this water, be thou earth, it should be earth; and if I should say it, it would be done” (1 Nephi 17: 50).

Saul of Tarsus was a persecutor of Christians, but later, as Paul, risked his life to spread the Gospel.

Peter denied being a follower of Christ more than once, yet he had the faith to walk on water.

(Continued on page 11)



Have You Ever Seen An Angel?

protection for granted. Yet, God spared His people once again.

We had been in the presence of an angel without realizing it. How many times has the Lord saved you and your loved ones? How many times?

Most angels in the Bible appear like men, without wings. However, those who meet them feel their amazing power. Our angel was invisible to us as it stopped the car from crashing over the edge. But we were saved. Sometimes angels fight for God's people (See 2Kings 6:14-17). They also bring messages from God.

The angel Gabriel visited Mary, the mother of Jesus, with the message she would bear a child (Jesus) who would be the Son of God and rule over a kingdom which would never end. She had not been with a man and she was told she would be pregnant by the Holy Ghost (See Luke 1:26).

Joseph, Jesus' father, was visited by an angel and told not to be afraid to marry Mary, that the baby was from God (See Matthew 1:18). After baby Jesus was born, an angel came in a dream and warned Joseph to quickly leave because wicked King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus. When Herod died, another angel came and told Joseph it was safe to return to their homeland.

When Jesus began His teaching, angels came. They comforted Him, stayed with Him. When the devil tried to tempt Him, Jesus did not fail. Afterwards angels came and ministered unto

Him (See Matthew 4:11).

The Bible tells us that when it was time for Jesus to allow Himself to be put on the cross, His disciples fought against the soldiers who came to take Him. Peter grabbed his sword and sliced off the ear of one attacker.

Jesus picked up the ear, placed it on the man's head, and healed him (See Matthew 26:47-56). Then Jesus told Peter, "Don't you know that if I prayed to the Father (God) He would give me more than twelve legions of angels? (A legion in the Roman army then was 3,000 to 6,000 men). So Jesus could have called up an army of thousands of angels if He chose. "But I have come here to fulfill all the prophecies [since the beginning of the Bible]." He told Peter that He was willing to go. He chose to be the last sacrifice. Jesus showed us a new way of loving, forgiving, and serving God. He was proof that there was heaven, that we have souls, and that there is life after death.

When we have worries and concerns, Jesus hears our cries. He will guide us, bless us, teach us, and change our hearts from hating to forgiving. He will help us find jobs, food, know how to help others, and guide us every day. Sometimes he may send an unknown angel to rescue us. He will always help us. He is the living God we serve. Trust Him. Tell Him your secrets and problems. He loves us.

With love, your friend, *Sister Jan*

When I first moved to Michigan many years ago, I met and loved the saints up in Canada on the Muncey Native American Reservation. Brother Mario Coppa, his wife Sister Mary, and their young children drove over two and half hours every Sunday to hold Church with the Brothers and Sisters. I got to go up in the Church van to teach the children.

Every Sunday at 6:30 a.m. we would meet Brother Mario and different drivers at the tunnel to cross the river to Canada. It was a long drive, so "don't be late" or the van would leave you. We went no matter what—rain, sun, snowstorms, and ice. And we were greatly blessed. Every week we stopped in a town called Chatham to pick up Doris, a sister from England. We would pray, often sing, and carefully drive.

One grey and sleety winter day, as we exited the highway to pick up Sister Doris, we crossed over the icy bridge overpass. Right in the middle of the bridge our car hit ice, swirling around in a huge circle from side to side. Once, then twice, we could see the highway below us. Then the car just stopped! Our driver straightened the wheel and we carefully continued on with grateful hearts.

That night on returning to Michigan, the Coppa family went to a Singspiration at their home branch. A smiling older sister who had the gift of visions came up and said, "Brother Mario! Tell us about the angel today!" He was surprised and asked her what she meant. She replied that the Lord had shown her the Church van spinning out of control over the icy highway. As we spun from side to side, all of a sudden an angel of the Lord appeared at the front of the van and stopped the car!

We were all so grateful! But we had not seen the angel. In many ways we just took God's

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It's Springtime! What excites you most about the Spring Season? Continued from page 6

of Jesus' rising from the dead after three days. We see God's handiwork all around us with new life after a period of everything being cold, with some days not even having sunlight. Trees budding, flowers blooming, birds singing, and other wildlife are active again. I look forward to it every year." -*Sister Idamaria Rosenberg, Chicago, IL Mission.*

"My birthday! Also, warm weather. I can't wait for the warm, sunny days." -*Sister Brenda Jones, Imperial, PA Branch.*

"About thirteen years ago at the age of 57, my second wife, Alice (the mother of my son Daniel) passed away on a Thursday evening in spring. The following Sunday morning, the day before her funeral, I had an experience. Having also lost my first wife, Nancy, in the spring at the age of 31, (the mother of my daughters Bonnie, Robin, and Tamara and my son, Bob, Jr.), along with a daughter who died with her, in 1968, and with the passing of my mother also in the springtime, as well as some other loved ones, this was not one of my favorite seasons. As I walked out on my porch, I gazed down the steps and saw the flowers starting to break through the ground. This brought many sad memories to mind, on top of losing another loved one at this time of the year. I said to myself, "SPRINGTIME—I HATE IT!" Immediately, I heard a voice saying, "MY SON, MY SON, SPRINGTIME IS THE BEGINNING OF LIFE." Rest assured, I will never repeat those thoughts again. I heard the voice of the Lord in the springtime, and He called me His Son! May God bless all of you and remember, when our graves open up and we come forth on that glorious morning, when the trump shall sound, it will be the beginning of a new season and all the beauty will come forth." -*Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr., Monongahela, PA Branch.*

Campout in Guatemala

Continued from page 7

Other young people had expressed a desire to return to the Church as well, and we anticipate a great renewal soon.

The Retreat ended with a Group prayer circle, lunch, and a Group photo. There was sadness to leave one another, yet there was rejoicing and gladness that the two groups in-country felt a united spirit and promise to help one another. The group from the US all left a piece of our hearts with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala, and our children now have a broader perspective of the Church and the world in general. Although there was an expense involved in conducting these events, the committee was able to bring many local people at virtually no cost to them, due to fundraising and generous donations from our Saints in the US. The prayer of the Guatemala Committee is to continue these retreats, seeing the benefit of continued fellowship toward the unity and growth of the work.



Hero Continued from page 9

Mosiah's sons were "a great hinderment to the prosperity of the church of God; stealing away the hearts of the people; causing much dissension among the people; giving a chance for the enemy of God to exercise his power over them" (Mosiah 27:9). With a total change of heart, they traveled, "zealously striving to repair all the injuries which they had done to the church. And thus they were instruments in the hands of God in bringing many to the knowledge of the truth" (Mosiah 27:35 & 36).

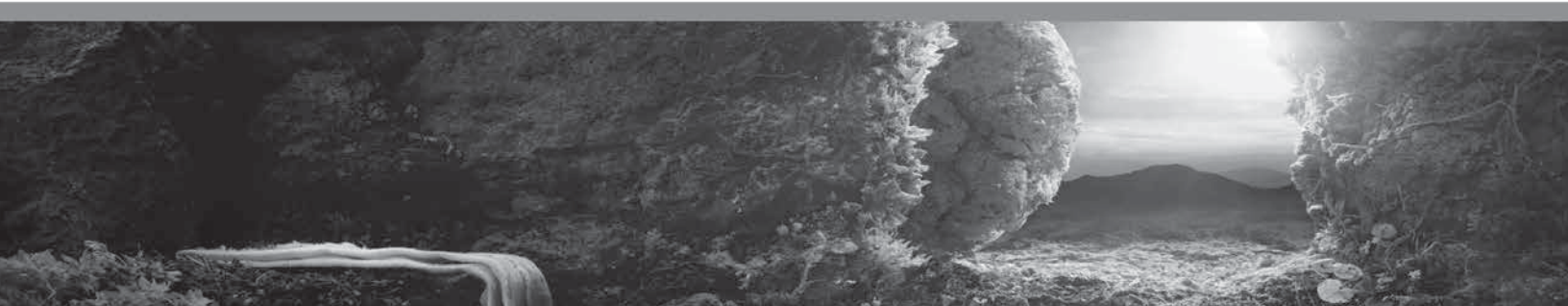
Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were prisoners in a foreign land. Refusing to deny their God, they risked being thrown into a den of hungry lions and a fiery furnace, respectively, to prove their commitment.

None of these men were born heroic. Yet their achievements surpass

the feats of those we know as superheroes like The Hulk.

What qualities made these ordinary men heroes? Trust in God, Faith, Looking beyond their natural desires, and allowing God's will to overcome their humanness. Simply put, we too can be heroes in our everyday lives, just like the ones we read about in the scriptures. Even as children, we knew, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). By praying for the qualities David and Nephi possessed, God will help us to become superheroes too! II Timothy 2: 20 reads, "If a man therefore purge himself ... he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

'Jesus use me, and oh Lord, don't refuse me. For surely there's a work that I can do.'



And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? Luke 24:5

Blessing Bits

BB The ordinations for Bro. Luke Smith and Bro. Emil Palensar as teachers took place the weekend prior to project deadlines for two of my college classes. Despite this, I decided to make the out-of-town trip. After a blessed ordination weekend, despite my best efforts, one of my projects was behind and I was not well prepared when the presentation day arrived. However, by chance, I was selected to present last. Just before it was my turn to present, class ended, and so my presentation was moved from Friday to the following Monday. Thank God, I was the only student to be granted an entire extra weekend to work on the project. - *Brother Jonathan Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch*

BB God has always had his hand upon my oldest son, Jacob. He was born at 27 weeks and the doctors said he could have several physical and mental disabilities. A minister came and anointed him and by the Grace of God he was healthy with no such issues. Years later, he experienced two seizures and tests revealed he had seizure activity in his temple. The doctor prescribed seizure medication but feared the side effects. The following Sunday, we had him anointed and the following test results came back with no

seizure activity. It is rare for people to have a single seizure in their lifetime, let alone two in an hour with confirmed seizure activity. The only explanation is that God preformed a miracle. Jacob is now almost 11 and has been seizure free for 5 years! Praise God! - *Sister Adoni Martinez, Modesto, CA Branch*

BB Years ago, a terrible snowstorm struck New Jersey causing everyone, it seemed, to leave work early. Traffic was extremely heavy, and to see, I had to drive with windshield wipers, the defrost fan on full speed, rear window defrost, and lights on, plus the radio tuned to traffic and weather updates, clearly taxing the car's electrical system to its limit. After more than three hours, as I reached my exit, my car died completely. I prayed and turned everything off, hoping that with God's help, I might be able to crank the engine if I waited a few minutes. With the snow still coming down, I had to hop out a few times to quickly wipe the front and back windows with my sleeve, so they didn't freeze over. Then, another prayer, and the Lord allowed the car to start! Thankfully I made it home that night. - *Brother Anthony Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch*

Send us your Blessing Bits [in approximately 150 words] and answer the Question of the Month by contacting us at gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

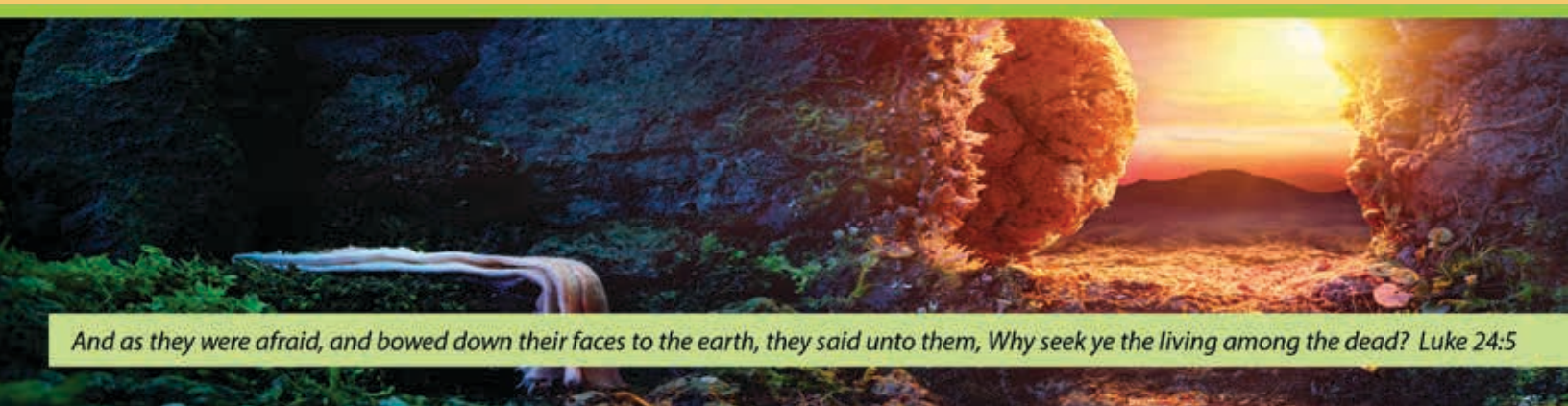


Question for this month: What is the best lesson your mom ever taught you?



Answer from last month: It's Springtime! What excites you most about the Spring Season? "As the snow melts and the temperatures rise, what great joy there is in seeing the work of God's hand. The blossoms pop from the trees and the perennial flowers explode with color. A rebirth of those things set dormant are alive, just as we are to witness them once again. A yearly reminder that Christ is alive. We marvel at His hand at work in nature and in us. He Arose!" - *Brother Wayne Conti, Detroit, MI Branch #1*

Turn back to page 6 for answers to this question.



And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? Luke 24:5