

The Gospel News

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"The Righteous Need Not Fear"

While the theme of Mother's Day typically fills the pages of the May issue, our focus is split this month as we also share the Church's response and some thoughts of hope and encouragement for the challenging times we have faced during the Global Pandemic, COVID-19. Never before have we all been so affected by the same trial at the same time. This unifies our efforts to rise above the fear, concern, or loneliness that may come. There is great freedom in knowing that we serve a living God that loves and cares for us and will be with us through this and every single other challenge we will face, together or alone. During this time, the Church increased communication and offered meetings through livestream or teleconference. Some of these meetings were offered by individual branches, the auxiliaries, and the General Church and were well attended by members and many visitors. Below are segments of correspondence received from the apostles to do the very things that serve as our mission at the Gospel News; to educate, uplift, and unite the membership.

Excerpt from the letter dated February 25, 2020

We greet you in the Love of Christ and urge you to take a moment to read these inspiring words from 2 Nephi 31:20:

"Wherefore, ye must press forward with steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold thus saith the Father ye shall have eternal life."

Clearly, this is a timely message for The Church in these latter days which have been prophesied in the scriptures: Wars, rumors of wars; natural destructions; spiritual decline; and many other reasons for concern. This is a time where we must be diligent in living closer to God and following His commandments as we endeavor to take the Gospel to the lost and dying souls of all mankind.

We are thankful that God continues to remind us we are His children and speaks to us as our Heavenly Father. At our General Church Conference, in October 2019, the priesthood of The Church approved two revelations from God that remind us to guard against distractions that keep us from doing our best to serve Him. Perhaps you have already read these experiences and discussed them in your Branches and Missions, or will be doing so soon, but it is our desire to reinforce what God has given us. In summary, God is reminding us not to be distracted from our service and the Quorum of Twelve Apostles is asking that all members of The Church take some time to analyze our daily lives, identify activities or situations that distract us, and then implement ways to remove such distractions from our lives.

Excerpt from the letter dated March 8, 2020

(Continued on page 4)

	<p>So the world as we knew it changed last month. Go grab an SOZ book and sing #19 "God's Still On His Throne."</p>		<p>Great thought for this time while we stay indoors. "Don't hibernate spiritually!"</p>
<p>"With blessings briefly laid aside, and reasons never known, One sweet thought consoles my mind..."</p>		<p>New phrases popping up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abundance of Caution • Zoom Church • Social Distancing • Pandemic • Flattening the Curve • New Norm 	
	<p>"So many times caught unprepared, when sights unreal are shown, One thought brightens dark dismay..."</p>		<p>May it be so that by the time you read this, our lives would be back to the "Old Norm!"</p>
<p>Isaiah 26:20. Could this be the first self-quarantine scripture?</p>		<p>Everybody sing! "...For I'm sheltered-at-home in the arms of God..." Ain't it the truth?</p>	

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

BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

Eighty-five years ago on May 19, 1935 Brother George Nicholas, a native of the Muncey Mission, was ordained a teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother George was the Muncey Mission's first resident teacher. Within four years, he was ordained a minister in October 1939. His daughter Faye wrote, "The Indian members were brought to many conferences. It helped us understand more of the Church, it gave spiritual uplifting, and the Love of God was felt between the Indian people and the Gentiles. To get to go to conference was like something out of this world. At the time I only felt happiness because it was something different, but as I grew up I realized how important it was... April Conference, 1934, was a time mom had been praying for. My father, George Nicholas, asked for his baptism. His conversion was so complete, he was so filled with the Spirit of God, he was assisted to the waters, as he could hardly walk. This made much difference in our home; it was now united. Prayer was now offered together as a united family. The Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon had now entered my dad's life. Night after night I can still picture my parents sitting at the table studying together, and many times other Church members or friends would be there."

The old log home of Chief George Nicholas, Muncey Reserve ▶



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



“For I Believe God” *By Elder Doug Obradovich*

“Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?” (John 11:40)

Paul the Apostle had lived much of his early life as Saul of Tarsus and was no

friend to the church. In fact, he was a terror to the believers in Christ. Following his dramatic calling, Paul brought the same level of dedicated commitment to build up the very same church he had worked to destroy pre-conversion. We learn in Acts 27 what happened next.

After much success, Saul's band of evil-doers were now threatened by Paul's proselytizing. They attempted to stop him through his arrest, sending him before the men of power (ex: King Agrippa, Caesar, etc.). As a prisoner, Paul was shipped off (literally) to stand before his accusers in Italy. He told those in charge they would meet up with much danger (“I perceive this voyage will be with hurt and much damage” – v. 10) and as prophesied, they did. Their travels were interrupted, disturbed and redirected by great storms; finally a Euroclydon (cyclone) lasted many days (“neither sun nor stars in many days appeared” – v. 20) and ultimately drove them into dangerous waters near land. The threat of sinking was imminent.

As the storm's waves crashed against the ship, the wind pushed Paul and the other 276 travelers shoreward. Thoughts of death and drowning were overcoming them just as the waves were, so Paul made his way up to the top of the boat for the first time in days. He boldly addressed the men in charge and reminded them of his warning (“Ye should have hearkened unto me” – v. 21). Then he informed them they would survive (“Be of good cheer” – v. 22). They may have entertained

similar thoughts to when he originally warned them, “Who does this guy think he is?”

He explained his confidence (v. 22-25), “For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: FOR I BELIEVE GOD, that it shall be even as it was told me.” Paul didn't say, “I believe IN God.” He said, “I believe God!” This statement revealed a much deeper commune with His God. While, “I believe in God” is a wonderful affirmation, Paul expressed a wonderfully powerful intimacy! Jesus had established this standard of belief earlier, when He told Martha just before raising her brother, Lazarus, from the dead, “Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”

Do you want to see the glory of God in your life? In the midst of whatever you are enduring, imprisoned in the middle of your trial, in a time when weakness and fear might normally drag you down, stand up on the bow of your ship. Once you are courageously standing while withstanding the winds and waves of your predicament, make your statement to those witnessing all you are enduring, “For I Believe God!”

We are they who have wonderfully powerful intimacy with our God. We are they who are called to stand up in the midst of the cyclone. We are they who have the full attention of others. Make your statement of courageous confidence, “For I believe God,” and then watch for the glory of God!

The Righteous Need Not Fear

Continued from cover

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles is sending this message to reassure The Church of Jesus Christ that God is in control of all things. As the world is in the midst of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) epidemic, we feel it is important to remember the scripture instructs, “the righteous need not fear” (1 Nephi 22:17), and that as a Church we must not panic. Clearly, the world is still in the beginning stages of this epidemic, and we do not know the impact or severity of what might happen in the coming days. However, individuals should use wisdom in applying basic precautionary measures to avoid contracting the virus (as recommended by various health agencies) – and most importantly, rely on God’s promises that He will protect His people.

Let us remember that while we are in the flesh, illnesses, natural disasters, wars and rumors of wars, have always been with us and we should not be surprised by such events. As a Church, let us pray that God will move His hand to quickly end this present threat and cover the people of God with His protective spirit – even as we pray for those who are now, or will be, touched by this virus.

May we be comforted in knowing that God has promised never to leave us, and we should remain focused on the abundance of His blessings in our lives.

.....
Excerpt from the letter dated March 13, 2020

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles is sending this message as a follow-up to our recent communication on this subject. As you know, the coronavirus epidemic has intensified into a worldwide pandemic, and new governmental healthcare information is coming out on a daily basis. This will no doubt continue to be the case for some time to come.

The purpose of this message is to provide continuing spiritual direction from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles as we navigate the uncertain days ahead and to answer questions we have received from various local and regional leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ.....

Spiritual Direction

The Lord has instructed the ministry and His Church to be spiritually prepared. For the past several years, we have been reminded that great changes were coming upon the world as the Lord brings to pass the latter day promises we have desired to see for many years. As a Church we know perilous times will come before the Lord establishes Zion. The coronavirus (COVID-19) is causing widespread physical, emotional, and financial hardship. Fear is rampant. However, The Church of Jesus Christ is called to be the Kingdom of God upon the earth. We must be the light of the world and fearlessly demonstrate the Spirit and Power of God we have been given.

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles is confident that the Lord will be with us and we are requesting a worldwide Fasting and Prayer day on Sunday, March 22, 2020, to ask for Spiritual strength, protection, and direction. Please encourage all members to spend the day in Fasting and Prayer to the Lord for the following:

- A greater portion of the Spirit and Power of God upon The Church of Jesus Christ
- Spiritual and physical healing upon the people of God throughout the world
- Wisdom and Discernment to be given to the Church as we face perilous times, now and in the future
- That the Church will be a beacon light for the salvation of people around the world.

Additionally, the Quorum of Twelve Apostles is requesting the worldwide Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ, along with their congregations as desired, to continue Fasting and Praying every Wednesday until further notice.

In closing, we encourage all members and visitors of The Church of Jesus Christ to have confidence that the Power of God will carry us through this time of trial. We also want to make it clear that no member is expected to attend meetings or participate in communion if they have personal concerns for the health and welfare of themselves or their family members during this virus outbreak. Should any member have further questions for the Quorum of Twelve Apostles please direct them to your Presiding Elder for follow-up.

.....
Excerpt from the letter dated March 16, 2020

Effective today through March 31st, the Quorum of Twelve Apostles is directing that all Church meetings of any kind (services, ministerial meetings, committee meetings, auxiliaries, quorums, etc.) be cancelled.

Since our previous message, sent out March 13, 2020, direction to the general public from United States governmental and health care agencies is requiring specific actions that affect all organizations throughout the United States. Specifically, government officials are now asking that no gatherings be held that involve 10 or more people.

This unprecedented action is not a question of acting out of fear but of responsibility. While we, The Church of Jesus Christ, have faith that God’s protection is promised to us, we believe that the Church is obligated to obey the laws and edicts of local, state, and federal agencies throughout this health crisis and to cooperate with our fellow United States citizens in an effort to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

During the temporary closure of Church services, for however long, we have directed Region Presidents and Presiding Elders to minister to

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Strong Women! *By Evangelist Mark Kovacic*

*And so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us...
our women... were strong, yea, even like unto the men (1 Nephi 17:2).*

Normally we share experiences where we are impressed with the spiritual gifts of men and women, but often it is their natural accomplishments that reflect their faith. For the last ten years the Church has been sending missionaries to Oklahoma to share our message with the Native Americans living there. While performing this activity we have met some strong women that we would like to introduce to you. Note: we did not use their names or tribes as a matter of privacy.

There is one who, although in her eighties (yes, that's 80s), serves as chief of a tribe that was almost eradicated. Culture and language restoration is an important part of her administration. Another one, in her late 70s, is a former instructor at Stanford University and serves as chair of the grand council of her tribe in Oklahoma and in the Great Lakes area.

One mother, a high school teacher, decided she could do more for her tribe and became the first woman ever elected Chief and then won re-election. We have spent many hours with a Second Chief of a nation. She not only serves her tribe, but the community in general by volunteering to sit on boards and committees.

Several mothers are involved in their tribes and communities. One operates a store and runs community-oriented projects to help her people. Another is an environmental engineer and has opened her doors and heart to her tribe and to us. One grandmother is getting her education to help abused women while raising her grandchildren.

Some of these women enjoyed our discussions and our willingness to pray for them. Some felt to offer prayers in their native tongues on our behalf, that God would bless our work among their people.

I mention these women as descendants of Lehi's family who carry the load to show what happens when God is in the matter. One of the reasons I enjoy our Church history is to read the inspirational testimonies of those who have come to Jesus Christ and labor for their families and people. I thank God for the strong women who have gone before us and are among us today. **Happy Strong Mother's Day.**

HAPPY
*Mothers
Day*

*To all of the mothers and
amazing, strong, spiritual, beautiful,
women in our lives.*



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Prayer (February 1969)

By Joseph Calabrese

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray as John had taught his followers. He replied, as recorded in Matthew 6:9-13:

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

You will note that Jesus started by giving His father due reverence first, “Our Father...Hallowed be thy name.” God cannot hear us unless we call on Him first. This must be done sincerely and clearly, so there will be no question about our desire to communicate with our Creator.

In the next statement, our Savior iterates that His father's kingdom should come to Earth, as it is in heaven. It is our prayer that this will become a reality someday. That is His promise. Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” If men will believe and obey the Gospel completely, His kingdom will grow on earth as it is in heaven.

DAILY BREAD

Next is the necessity to ask Him for our daily bread, our basic need for survival. In bread is found the ingredients which strengthen our bodies so we can serve Him. It is difficult, for example, to talk to people, asking them to serve God when they are hungry or in need of clothing and shelter. James 2:15-16 stipulate, “If a brother or a sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” It is obvious that man cannot survive without daily bread (food), so requesting it is unquestionable.

Notice that He now continues His prayer by telling His Father to forgive our

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GOSPEL NEWS FACTS 1960S - Did you know...

1. In January of 1968, a special meeting was held in Ft. Pierce, Florida for all Church members in Florida to promote the work of the Church there. Brother James Lovalvo from California, Brother Rocco Biscotti from Ohio, and Brother Nick Pietrangelo from Michigan were the guest elders.
2. A list of Ten Commandments for Teenagers was included in February of 1968. They included directives like, “Don’t let your parents down - they brought you up” and “Choose only a date who would make a good mate.” One of the cheekiest ones is “Don’t be a show off when you drive – drive with safety and arrive.”
3. The GMBA held their semiannual conference in Michigan on November 10, 1962. There was a panel discussion which posed the question, “What can be done to stir up interest in the MBA?” To summarize the panel’s suggestions, one must have the desire and love of God, one must have a non-defeatist attitude, one must be active, and there must be an objective in the local and GMBA meetings.
4. In 1960, the Gospel News cost only \$2 for an annual subscription. This letter to the editor, printed in August 1960, gives us more information: “Enclosed find two dollars for the Gospel News. We have been enjoying the Gospel News for many years now and want to continue to read it. We have been blessed many times in reading it and also have learned of the different happenings throughout the Church and elsewhere.”

The Righteous Need Not Fear.

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their Regions and Branches/Missions as follows:

- Keep in contact with all members via Region/Branch communication systems already in place (telephone trees, email distribution, etc.) and respond to requests for anointings expeditiously.
- The GC Presidency and Quorum of Twelve will work to coordinate implementation of on-line computer services and other technology platforms to keep the Church updated with messages, sermons, lessons and other contacts to keep us connected as The Church of Jesus Christ.

In closing, we again encourage all members to remember, "the righteous need not fear" (1 Nephi 22:17) and that we must not panic. We are responsible members of society who show the light of Christ

at every opportunity. Part of this is to use wisdom in applying basic precautionary measures recommended by various governmental health agencies to avoid contracting the virus – and most importantly, rely on God's promises that He will protect His people. God is faithful and He will carry us through.

In the love of God,
The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

James Crudup, Joel Gehly, John Griffith, Paul Liberto, Thomas M. Liberto, Leonard A. Loyalvo, Frank Natoli, Paul Palmieri, Paul A. Palmieri, Peter Scolaro, Jerry Valenti

-The Gospel News staff

What is the best lesson your mom ever taught you?

Continued from back

"My mom taught me as a young child to pray over everything I need in my life, no matter how small or how big it may be." -*Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch.*

"Spiritual Lesson: If you're going to pray, don't worry. If you're going to worry, don't pray.

Natural Lesson: How to take a little something and make a lot when cooking." -*Sister Sharon Sloan, Atlanta, GA Branch.*

"Naturally, my mom taught me that you're a lady and you carry yourself as such. Spiritually, mom taught me to always look to the hills from which cometh my help and that prayer changes things! I love you, mom!" -*Sister Stasha Chaires, Quincy, FL Branch.*

"She taught me to always put God first in my life." -*Sister Kathy Golling, Monongahela, PA Branch.*

"To always remember to be who He wants me to be and to whisper a prayer before choosing a card to send to someone in need of a blessing. Even Hallmark isn't off limits to the Lord!" -*Sister Natalie Shawver, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission.*

"My mother taught me to remember the good in people, not the bad. God teaches us to forgive and not judge others, which is what we follow." -*Sister Lorraine Rose, Leesburg, FL Mission.*

"I thank God for being born of godly parents. I look at my mom with my spiritual eyes and see her faith in God not only what she had shown but what she exemplified, like our spiritual parents in the scriptures. My mom exemplified it in sickness and in health and even on her deathbed, she never lacked faith. She always told me to trust in God and if I needed answers to a question, have no fear, ask God with faith believing, never wavering, and He will hear you and give you the answer to your questions." -*Brother Michael McGuire, Cape Coral, FL Branch.*

"My mother always told me 'loving your potential spouse is easy, but make

sure you like them too." I am so grateful for her advice because I really like, totally love, and am absolutely in love with my husband Rob. We've been married almost 28 years. So blessed. Rob introduced me to this Church that I like and love." -*Sister Suzanne Beeman, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch.*

"That you have a duty to try to help people. Even when they're standing on your cape." -*Sister Jullian Peet, Omaha-Bedford, NE.*

"To always be kind, keep love in your heart always, and to say my prayers every day." -*Sister Karen Pezzenti, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission.*

"Our mom had the Bible and Book of Mormon on the table daily and read them before eating breakfast. She always taught us to put God first in our daily lives. She was one of the pillars in the Church." -*Sister Mary Perri, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch.*

"Unwavering faith. No matter what she faced in life, her faith was in knowing that God would see her through. Even at 95, her faith never wavers." -*Sister KarenJo Pandone, Detroit, MI Branch #2.*

"To always treat people with kindness and to offer to help others in a time of need. To put others' needs first, and with doing that, you will be blessed!" -*Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA Branch.*

"'Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord.' That's what my mom reminded me of when we were really upset over a dispute with a business over which we felt we were getting severely mistreated. She reminded us that it wasn't for us to try to respond the way the world would expect us to, and that God would take care of the matter. It took a while, but He did!" -*Brother Luke Smith, Yucaipa, CA Branch.*

"I was raised in a different church; nevertheless, my mom marched 3 little girls to the front row of the church every Sunday, so I would have to say she taught me both determination and respect for the house of God. We brought no toys, and were held accountable for any noise we made!" -*Sister Lori Kimmel, Lake Worth, FL Branch.*

Finding Peace

What are you doing to stay peaceful or keep focused during this challenging time? Are there certain scriptures that give you comfort? How are you shining the light of Jesus to others?

"I'm choosing to embrace the slower pace of life (and am quite thankful for it!). My focus verse for the year rings true for the current situation we are living in and helps me to remember that God has a plan and is in complete control: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Philippians 4:11) -*Sister Natalie Shawver, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission.*

"Jesus is my peace through all this. By reading the scriptures daily, I stay focused on the bigger picture that is God is in control of all things. I try to be as much of an encouragement to others as I can by living a Christian life and reminding them that nothing happens without God being in the matter. He will never leave us nor forsake us. I believe this is an awakening for us and God is reminding us that our redemption is nigh. My favorite scripture I rely on in all things is Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God..." - *Sister Connie Rossi, Charlotte, NC Branch.*

"Reading the scriptures and listening to Church songs/sermons. A scripture that gives me strength is Joshua 3:5 - "Sanctify yourself, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." I am telling my co-workers that my complete faith is in God and I have no fear." -*Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch.*

"I am trying to focus on helping others. My neighborhood has an app and through the app I am reaching out to the elderly in my community who need help with groceries, prescriptions., etc. Also, I contacted lots of

elder church members offering the same help. When I focus on others, I don't have time to worry." -*Sister Linda Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch.*

"Scripture - Isaiah 26:20. We are instructed to stay in our homes, even as the Israelites were told to do. During this time, I am staying connected by phone calls and cards. It is giving me time to reflect on the blessings of God." -*Sister Sylvia King, Vanderbilt, PA Branch.*

"I pray for God's peace and read scripture, which keeps me focused on God's promises.

The Psalms give me comfort because they are both prayers and praise. I have a morning conference call daily with my daughters and nieces as to what we can do better today than we did yesterday." -*Sister Sharon Sloan, Atlanta, GA Branch.*

"At any time I have fear, the words of my Heavenly Father, "Be still and know that I am with you" always come to mind. It is mentioned several places in the Bible, but I am reminded He is in control. His Spirit is within me and my faith and trust will never cease. He has been my guide and companion throughout my life, and I know He is still guiding me each day. No matter what is put before me, He is there. Praying everyone stays safe. God bless you all." -*Sister Lorraine Rose, Leesburg, FL Mission.*

"During this time I have found solitude and am able to cope with this situation by staying focused. By that I mean focused on holding fast to the rod of iron firmly and not losing my grip: my grip on life, my grip on my salvation's goal, and my grip on the hem of Jesus, garment. Having all faith, hope, and the charity of love. I have found myself reading more, praying more, and listening to the *Songs of Zion*. I encourage everyone to not only listen but sing the *Songs of Zion*. Read the messages given. The Lord has given us messages in the songs to prepare us for this moment in time we are going through. God is speaking to us all like a father to His children because He loves you and me. God bless you all!" -*Brother Michael McGuire, Cape Coral, FL Branch.*

"To stay peaceful and focused, I just tune into as many virtual meetings as possible. For me the first step is as simple as opening the Bible/BOM app and reading the verse of the day. A few scriptures that have been getting me through this tough time are Colossians 4:3, Isaiah 43:2 and 49:16. I am shining my light by just telling others that He has this situation in His Hand and that He will take care of us and those who stand steadfast in the glory of God shall flourish in the courts of God. I am just simply praying for the people of our modern-day society." -*Giovanni Lind, Lake Worth, FL Branch.*

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Facing a Plague *By Apostle Jerry Valenti*

In recent months, we have all been affected by a condition that has been a form of plague to the world. In the Book of Exodus, a series of plagues came forth, with the final one threatening to bring death to every household. Specific instructions from God were delivered by Moses in Exodus 12 as to how they could be spared from the deadly plague. Here are 5 amazing facts as to how these instructions apply to us today when facing a plague.

1 Recognize that life began again –
The Israelites were told, “This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you” (Exodus 12:2). Remember that our lives began again on the day we gave our lives to Christ—many of us recall this day as our spiritual birthday. Now, we are part of the family of God with the confidence that God cares about what happens to us.

2 Bring a Lamb into the household –
The people were told to bring a lamb “without blemish” into their households. Today, we need to bring Jesus Christ into our households—a “lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:19). Jesus is the answer for any condition that ails us.

3 Partake of the Flesh of the Lamb –
After bringing the lamb into their household, the people were instructed to partake of the flesh of the lamb. We partake of the flesh of the Lamb of God whenever we participate in the Lord’s Supper and whenever we recall the sacrifice that Jesus made for us—going through considerable pain, torture, and an excruciating death in order to purchase our salvation.

4 Apply the Blood of the Lamb – In the most memorable instruction of this event, the people were instructed to apply the blood of the lamb to the doorframes of their houses such that the angel of death would pass over their houses and nobody in the house would die. Today, we are called upon to

apply the blood of Christ to our entire lives—His blood washed us clean from our sins and transgressions and the way we live our lives should reflect a thankfulness to God that we have been forgiven and placed on the path that leads to eternal salvation.

5 Always Remember What God Did – The Israelites were told that this day of salvation would stand as a memorial throughout their generations—the Jewish celebration of Passover is that memorial. Likewise, we should always remember what God did for us, sending His Son to die for us and enacting a plan of redemption such that we can look forward to eternity in a heavenly home. The knowledge that God is in control and the hope of a better day should help us to weather any plagues that come our way.



Ladies’ Uplift Circle News

By Sisters LuAnn Carson

I love puzzles of every kind. This picture shows a giant sudoku, a little more challenging than just a single block Sudoku. You might think that the number you write in the square all the way up in the left top corner couldn’t affect the furthest square down to the right. But it does. Each single square matters. Each number has an impact on the entire grid.

So, what does all this matter to us? We are each an individual number, but we are able to affect not only those we touch daily. We also affect the squares way up in the corner and the ones on the other side.

Of course, it may be easier to have an impact on the squares next to us, on those we encounter daily or weekly. That would include our coworkers, our brothers and sisters in Church, our families and friends.

But can we impact those who live across the country, strangers, or those missionaries in the field? Yes, we absolutely can! When you hear a prayer request at Church, pray for that individual. Maybe send a card, reach out and text or call them. Let them know you’re thinking about them. The missionaries can always use our prayers. We can donate money to their cause. Again, reach out with a card or text or phone call. Maybe the sister who is sick across the country doesn’t really even know you. That doesn’t matter. She is still your sister. Reach out, let her know you’re thinking about her. That missionary will love knowing he’s in your thoughts and prayers as he does God’s work.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body....For the body is not one member, but many.” (I Corinthians 22:14&4)

(Continued on page 11)



Dear Boys, Girls, and Friends,

When is the last time you had to try something new, think about a new way of doing things, or go to a new place? Of course, in school or a new job we are each challenged to keep going, keep trying, and even work hard so we can become experts at the new thing.

Our Book of Mormon and Bible are full of exciting and amazing stories of people who started over and made good lives. From Adam and Eve who had to leave the comfort of the Garden of Eden (See Genesis chapter three.) to Noah who started a whole new life with only his family in a world that had been flooded and destroyed.

Then there had been the descendants of Noah who wanted to build a tall tower reaching to heaven. God changed all their languages until it sounded like a confused babble and so they separated. A good man named Jared, his brother and friends begged God to let them understand each other and to take them somewhere else, to a land that was the best of all lands (see Book of Mormon: Ether Chapters one and two.) That is how the Jaredites came to the Americas where they built incredible cities and had wonderful lives for many years.

On to the beautiful girl Esther. Her parents had died (what a change for her.) and her uncle raised her. But she was taken away from her uncle and her church to the palace because the greatest ruler of the land wanted a new wife. (See the Bible: book of Esther.) No one knew she was Jewish. But her people had an evil enemy who planned to destroy all Jews and steal everything of any value. She prayed and fasted to God for direction then went to the throne room without permission. Her husband listened to her and her change saved a multitude.

Another young woman named Ruth married a Jewish husband who died along with his father and brother. Ruth stayed with her husband's mother and they changed their home and her country and returned to Israel/Judah. They were hungry so Ruth gathered left over grain from rich Boaz's field. He fell in love with her goodness and became her second husband. After this big change, they had a son. Their grandson, Jesse, was the father of King David. Such greatness descended from this girl, Ruth, who was able to change.

In Israel, God's prophets warned the people to start doing right or He would let enemies destroy their city. A good prophet named Lehi believed. He took his family and other brave followers who left their riches behind and followed God's commands to leave. They crossed the wilderness, built ships and sailed to the Americas. (See 1 Nephi.) These were the families of Lehi, his sons Laman, Lemuel, Nephi, Sam, Jacob and Joseph, and friends. Over the centuries, these amazing people who were able to change, spread out across South America up into North American and became great nations we call Native Americans, or First People (used to be called Indians.)

Then, in The Church of Jesus Christ, we have had all kinds of people who immigrated here leaving behind their families and cultures in Italy, Mexico, South and Central America, and many other places. Ask your grandparents and friends whether they can tell you how your

family came to this country. When did they make the change? Did they come by a ship? Did they walk? How did they make the change? Where did they work to buy food and a place to sleep? How did God take care of them?

All of the people I mentioned here were all guided by God. And God protected them, taught them, and comforted them as they changed. Often He fed them. When they were in the wilderness and needed to figure out how to make a bow (See 1 Nephi Chapter 16 & 17 in the Book of Mormon.) God showed them. When they needed direction, He gave them a mysterious compass-like instrument called the Liahona. Or if it was Ruth, He helped her find much grain in the fields for her and her mother-in-law. God takes care of His people. God brings them through hard and even scary times. Think of all the changes you have already gone through! God watches over us if we call on His name.

The scriptures promise us "God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." He will not forget about us. He will always help us each when we pray in the name of Jesus and call upon His name. Pray and look around you to be grateful to God for all He is already doing for you. Do you have food, a place to sleep, toys, and people who care about you? Have gratitude for the living, unchangeable God and His son Jesus who love you.

With love, your friend, *Sister Jan*

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LIFE	GROW
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FULL	PROTECTS
OF	HIS
CHANGE	PEOPLE
THERE	IN
SEASON	EVERY
FOR	WAY
ALL	PRAY
THINGS	TRUST
WE	HIM
LEARN	

Prayer

Continued from page 6

debts, as we forgive our debtors. If we want forgiveness, we must ask God to give us the strength to forgive others. This effort works both ways. If we forgive men their trespasses, our Heavenly Father will forgive us. Otherwise He will not.

Understandably, it must also be requested that we be not led into temptation and that we be delivered from Evil. Today, temptation and evil are on all sides of us. In particular, young people must be careful, because Satan has his agents working overtime in our society; in schools, and in the colleges of our day, drugs, intoxicants, and immorality are great temptations. Young people say they are not accepted by others if they do not participate in these objectionable activities. Asking young and innocent people, male and female alike, to sin in order to belong or to be noticed is about the most deteriorated condition possible. If there ever was a time

needed to pray for our youth, it is now! It is essential that God give them, as well as the rest of us, that overcoming grace to yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin.

"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." It must be realized that all we have and enjoy belongs to God, both naturally and spiritually, He can and will strip us of all our belongings if we do not give Him the honor and the glory. Have you ever tried to go at it alone? Sooner or later you will have to answer to God, whether one lives to be old or passes on at a young age. Everyone will have to give an account of his actions. The best way known to inherit the kingdom is to pray and to observe all teachings of the Lord.

MUST BELIEVE

Prayer is the key to Heaven. While you are in

this stage of life, pray and ask God what you can do to help build His kingdom. What part does He want you to play? How can you fulfill your promise to serve Him? You will receive the answer from God because He said, if we pray believing, He will answer. He may want you to preach. He may want you to teach. He may want you to serve in the Sunday School, the Missionary Benevolent Association, or the Ladies' Circle. The Lord has many things that He would like us to do; but we must first ask.

In conclusion, let us remember the method, purpose, and expectations for our prayers. Our words may not be the same as Jesus in His model prayer, but our intentions will be the same and our Creator will understand our desires. Then let us be prepared to acknowledge and act for God when we receive our answers.

Ladies' Uplift Circle

Continued from page 9

Daily acts of kindness are another way to impact others. Hold a door open for someone, smile at people, bring a sick friend or neighbor some chicken soup. Visit widows. Phone calls, texts, prayers, cards, the list is endless.

Sometimes when I'm doing my sudoku, I make a mistake. One little mistake can't matter too much, can it? Well I may end up with two threes in one block, a couple of nines in a row. Then I realize I can't go on from there. The whole entire puzzle will be wrong. I must go back to the beginning and start over. Unfortunately, I'm a bit obsessive. If I try to erase, I end up with traces of pencil marks and a messy grid. So, I usually draw my own

brand-new grid and start over completely.

When we make a mistake in our lives, it's hard to move on without correcting that mistake. How can we get a clean slate? First and foremost, repentance and baptism. "But as oft as they repented and sought forgiveness, with real intent, they were forgiven." (Moroni 6:8)

As we take communion, testify, pray, we have opportunities to start with a clean slate, no traces of pencil marks. Only then can we move on and try to be perfect as God asks. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

Life is like a Sudoku: you just must allow God to direct you to the right place at the right time and things will fall into place.

GOSPEL SUITE News You Can Use...

CALLING ALL ELDERS, TEACHERS, BRANCH SECRETARIES...

You may have seen announcements of the New Gospel Suite accounts. These "Your.Name@thechurchofjesuschrist.org" accounts are available for you now. Please reach out to Brother Bret Gensburg (bret.gensburg@thechurchofjesuschrist.org) to make an appointment to get into your account. Our goal is to have all Elders, Teachers, and Branch Secretaries in your account before the end of summer.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT OUTREACH...

Do you have experience and/or certification in Google Apps?

Or

Do you have audio visual experience and/or run the audio visual equipment at your local services?

JOIN OUR GROWING GOSPEL SUITE SUPPORT TEAM OR OUR GOSPEL AV TEAM..

Find out more on how you can support others throughout the Church by contacting Brother Bret Gensburg (bret.gensburg@thechurchofjesuschrist.org).

Blessing Bits

BB He Heals the Sick

The week leading up to the GMBA Youth Camp, I was praying that God would bless us with a miracle like the ones we read about in the book of Matthew. After the day's activities, some of the other girls and I headed to the bathroom to start getting ready for bed. On our way, we ran into one of the younger girls who was covered in hives. We located a couple ministers to anoint her and within minutes her hives were almost gone, if not completely. I thank God for the opportunity to attend the youth camp and witness this miracle, but above all else that she was okay and able to enjoy the rest of the weekend. - *Sister Hallee Ivey, Mesa, AZ Branch*

BB He Demonstrates His Power

We were invited to a church wedding at an outdoor venue which had no covered area suitable for the wedding ceremony, just an open meadow. The weather forecast was non-stop rain for the entire day, and it started out that way, so we prayed that God would stop it to allow the wedding to take place. We shared with some non-believers who

were also to attend that God would hear our prayers and take care of the situation. Sure enough, with just enough time to dry off the seats before the wedding was to start, the rain stopped, the clouds parted, and we enjoyed beautiful weather for the ceremony. Minutes after closing prayer, the rain resumed, which was okay as the festivities moved to an indoor reception. In addition to reinforcing our faith, this was a blessing to all attending and a great demonstration of God's power for all the non-believers present. - *Brother Timothy Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch*

BB Moving the Hand of God

When I was twenty years old, I was in an emergency room being tested due to symptoms of neck pain with sensitivity to light and sound. My family petitioned the Church to pray for me. A sister knelt by her bed 1,100 miles away and prayed for me. When she finished praying, the gift of the Word of the Lord was given to her saying "Bethany has been healed of viral meningitis because of the prayers of the saints." I technically wasn't diagnosed yet. We were waiting for the results of my lumbar puncture when my mom received the call relaying the

experience. Soon my attending physician shared his frustration because my test results were all negative although, according to him everything had pointed to me having meningitis. My brothers and sisters moved the hand of God on my behalf that day. - *Sister Bethany Dyer, 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

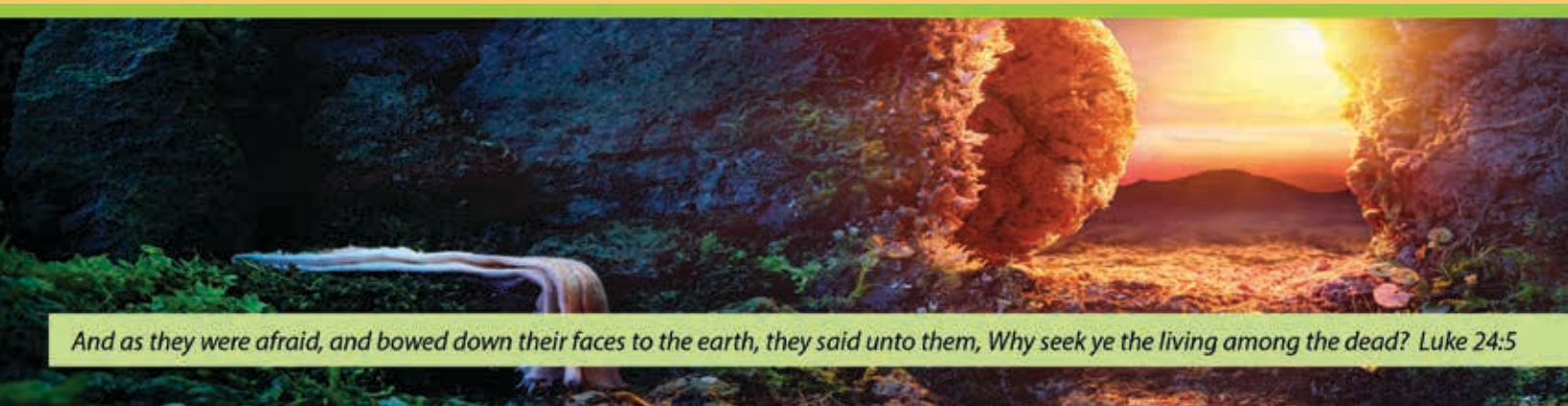


Question for this month: What is the best lesson you learned from your father, grandfather or someone who was a spiritual father figure to you?



Answer from last month: What is the best lesson your mom ever taught you? "My mother, Sis Angela Scolaro, taught me so many things. She would be the first to say she had a truly blessed life (though not always easy) and her joy in the Lord was abundantly evident. But her greatest lesson to me was in her later years as she dealt with the pain of losing her companion, her hearing, her mobility, and finally her independence, she continued to demonstrate great spiritual strength, faith, and peace. She taught me how to trust my Heavenly Father always...on the good days but especially in the storms. Her praises to Him never failed. I am so thankful to have had such a great spiritual role model!" -*Sister Rosanne Champine, 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