

The Gospel News

Apostle Philip Ray Jackson

December 30, 1952 – June 1, 2015

By The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

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Our Brother in Christ, Philip Jackson, age 62, was called home to his heavenly reward on June 1, 2015. His passing was unexpected and sudden as a building structure collapsed on him at a job site. His natural family, his spiritual family of The Church of Jesus Christ, and all who knew him well, are left to wonder, "why now?," when he was so vibrant, so needed, so effective as a husband, father, grandfather, minister, friend, and brother. However, Jeremiah the prophet wrote, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Our brother's passing was not a surprise to God and we take comfort in knowing that when our time on earth is finished He will call us home. Brother Phil worked diligently to complete his journey on earth. He requested that his family remember Christ's parable of the laborer in the vineyard written in Matthew 20, and bury him with a penny in his hand. It was a poignant reminder for all of us that we must answer the call of Christ to labor, whether many years or few, and that when our work is done, we will also receive a penny.

Brother Phil was born in Warren, Ohio, December 30, 1952 to Sister Anna and the late Brother Howard Jackson. He married Sister Francine Ciccatti on May 26, 1979. He had two sisters, Rosalie (Fred) Mott and Mary (James) Else, both members of the Church. Brother Phil and Sister Fran were blessed with four children, Zachary (Emily), Megan (Eduardo) Garcia, Andrew (Rochelle) and Tyler. Brother Phil felt very blessed that all his children were faithful and active members of the Church. He also had six grandchildren who were a joy and blessing to his life: Dalving, Iliana, Adriana, Yannel, Kaled, Alaina, and an unborn granddaughter who is expected in September. Brother Phil was preceded in death by his father, Brother Howard Ray Jackson, on May 16, 2015. His loving family, The Church of Jesus Christ, and many other dear friends remain to mourn his loss and celebrate his life of love and service.

He was raised in the rural farming community of Kinsman, Ohio and was a faithful and dedicated member of the Kinsman Branch for most of his life. He met the love of his life, Sister Fran, of San Diego, California, at a GMBA Campout in 1974. Not long after that eventful meeting, Brother Phil traveled west. He served the Church in Tse Bonito, New Mexico and San Diego, California for several years. After his marriage to Sister Fran the couple returned to Kinsman, Ohio where they raised their family and remained until his death.

Brother Phil enjoyed spending time with his sons hunting, four wheeling, and snowmobiling. He loved baking bread, sticky buns and his famous cinnamon rolls, as well as cooking various meals for his family. He was noted for his love of cookies and cakes. He dearly loved his children and grandchildren. Time spent with family, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ was precious to him. Brother Phil always loved being with the young people of the Church and attended GMBA conferences and campouts as often as he could.

Brother Phil's spiritual roots came from his great grandfathers who were apostles in the Church. His grandfather, Brother Philip Dreer, was a great influence in his spiritual development and dedication to the Lord. Brother Jackson was baptized into the Church on May 21, 1972. He was ordained an elder on

(Continued on page 6)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2015 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2015 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28	29	30	31	1 Spend your summer in service to the Lord
2 Invite the saints over for a summer bonfire or picnic after Church	3	4	5 Pray for the Lindsay Branch- pg 4	6	7	8
9 Hug your family today before Church	10	11 Smile- God loves you!	12	13	14 Are you traveling? Add a trip to visit the saints	15
16 Visit another branch today	17	18 Send a card to someone just baptized	19	20 Send a card to someone who lost a loved one	21	22 Pray for your Branch or Mission today
23 Invite the saints over to sing hymns tonight	24	25	26 Share your love with someone new today	27	28	29
30 Tell the brothers and sisters you love them when you greet	31	1				

August 2015

"And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard"
(Matthew 20:2).

B-T-P Blast From The Past

Brother Dan Picciuto

In a letter penned to Brother William H. Cadman dated August 6, 1962 – fifty-three years ago this month – Brother Dan Picciuto wrote of a marvelous experience had by George Phillips, a ninety-three year old Apache man from San Carlos. Without ever having met Brother Dan or the Church, George dreamt of a group of ministers of varying religions struggling in a field to reach their destination of a "dazzling, silvery, white line." But when one minister reached the line, George was told, *"This man is my servant. He will give you the truth of God's word. He will also tell you the truth about your people."* The man proceeded to lead George to a small church building where suddenly a bright shaft of light shone upon the church, and within the light was written *"The Church of Jesus Christ."* Upon awakening, George was later informed by his daughter that indeed the Church was located in the place he saw in his dream. Finally, in meeting Brother Dan for the first time, George exclaimed, *"You're the man from The Church of Jesus Christ!"* More of this experience can be read in the October 1962 *Gospel News*, pp. 7-8.

Did you know that over 60 years of the *Gospel News* issues are accessible online at <http://www.the-churchofjesuschrist.org/index.php/resources/gospel-news/>? The PDFs are text-searchable so you can find a particular name or topic relatively easily.

Picciuto Family ►



August 2015

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.

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ

GOSPEL NEWS QUIZ

Search through this issue for answers to these questions:

- When was the Lindsay Branch founded? (Page 4)
- Why was the Native American man running? (Page 5)
- How many people were baptized in Colombia? (Page 7)
- What does the scripture caution us to do? (Page 7)
- How are Sister Josie's experiences different from most branches today? (Page 8)

Wordup

The Case For Christ: Holding The "Word Up" By Elder Doug Obradovich



*Is reading scripture difficult for you?
Do the "thees" and "thous" make Christ's words seem irrelevant,
even losing their potency in translation?
Let's take a deeper dive into Jesus' message and see if we can make sense of it all.
If successful, let's agree to hold the "Word Up"!*

"Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:1).

Every month I would pedal my bicycle to Southdale Shopping Center to buy the newest edition of Mad magazine with each cover featuring their mascot, Alfred E. Neuman. His three-word mantra, "What, me worry?" seemed misguided given such troubling times, which included the Vietnam conflict, three national assassinations (JFK, RFK & MLK), numerous protests, and general unrest. Was his method an enviable position?

He appeared to ignore his surroundings, but maybe he wasn't completely wrong. However, his cavalier attitude offered little or no relief for others. Jesus seemingly had a similar approach "Let not your heart be troubled" (stated differently, "Don't get taken down by your present situation"). But he immediately added the needed balm, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Jesus' supplement seemed oddly misplaced, but proved the perfect complement to soothe a troubled spirit, as He highlighted what was most vital. He understood that our concerns seem so important to us in the moment, but knows they are never as critical as we may believe them to be. Often they are simply a means to hijack our focus from what is most significant, resulting in our becoming uneasy or "troubled." If Jesus had simply said, "Don't worry, be happy," it would have lacked substance and left us unfulfilled (just like "What, me worry?"). By directing our focus to what mattered most, He raised our eyes from temporary earthly problems to permanent heavenly rewards. His startling transition originally may have seemed disjointed, but He utilized this dramatic tactic to abruptly draw our eyes and hearts to what awaited us later versus what tormented us presently.

During my own father's final hours, he began flailing his arms in the air. My mother tried to calm him, but he wouldn't be dissuaded. Finally he offered, "Don't you see Him, Letti? Don't you see Jesus standing on the mountain?" He continued his climb towards his Savior. Because of this, for many weeks after his passing, my sermons centered on one theme, "Soul salvation is all that matters!" My eyes had been guided heavenward and by doing so, my temporary ache seemed less painful.

Alfred E. Neuman failed in his attempt to capture what Jesus Christ accomplished with, "Let not your heart be troubled." Our temporary problems become insignificant when viewed alongside our permanent reward. So, don't worry, be JOYFUL!

Do you have a favorite verse you'd like us to dissect? Please send it in to: "Word Up"

Meet the Branch

Domestic Church — Lindsay, California Branch



Lindsay, California is located in the Central San Joaquin Valley, very closely centered between Bakersfield and Fresno, approximately 140 miles from the California coastline.

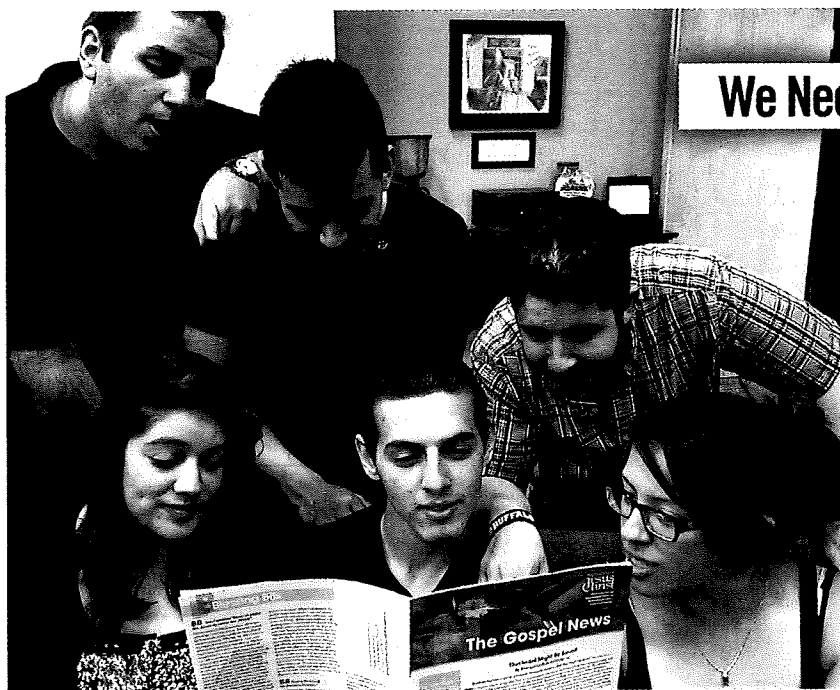
The Lindsay Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ had its beginnings in the late 1950s. Brother Cosimo and Sister Mary DiChiera and family moved to the Lindsay area from the San Fernando Valley. During this time period, Sister Catherine Carneval, her son Del, her daughter Theresa, and her husband moved to the area as well. By the mid-1960s, Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Picciuto, along with their children, moved to Lindsay from Ohio. The next family to arrive was Brother Alex and Sister Lydia Cavallaro. They also came from the San Fernando Valley with their two children, Alvin and Lucy, along with Sister Lydia's mother, Sister Josephine Genaro and Brother Alex's father, Brother Alessandro Cavallaro.

Through the next decade, others moved to the area including Brother Jim and Sister Mary Lovalvo and their daughter, Sister Penny Carneval. At one point, the branch had somewhere around 30 members.

In 2015, the branch is still strong in spirit and conviction, but our membership is very small. Several have passed on to their reward and others have moved away. We still meet in the building that our group purchased and remodeled in 1976 under the direction of Brother Tony Picciuto.

Our elders are Brothers Greg Baer, Tony DeCaro and Jesse Guerrero. We have two deaconesses: Sisters Shellie Baer and Lucy DeCaro. At this point, we have no deacons or teachers.

We thank God for His continual blessings in the Lindsay Branch. May we grow and prosper in our service to Him.



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Running for Peace By Evangelist Mark Kovacic

"And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order; for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength. And again, it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize; therefore, all things must be done in order."

Benjamin, Native American King, about 124 BC (Mosiah 4:27)

One beautiful autumn day I was driving home from a ministerial meeting. As I live about 50 miles from the church building where we had the meeting, I had an hour's drive home. I decided to take the back roads. I opened my sunroof and enjoyed the slightly cooler air and sunshine. In our ministerial meeting we had discussed outreaches to those in our neighborhood, especially Native Americans.

About 20 minutes into my drive I saw a young man jogging on my side of the road. As I passed him I saw that he appeared to be Native American and he was carrying a long staff with feathers attached to the top end. I watched him in my rear view mirror and decided I should go back to see him again. I turned my car around as soon as I could and headed back the way I came. There he was, still jogging along.

I again turned my car around and passed him one more time, looking for a place to pull over so I could meet him. I parked my car and got out, waiting for the young man to reach me. As he approached I realized he had two staffs. I asked him what he was doing and he said, *"I am running for peace."* He explained that one staff was his way of representing the Native American people and the other for peace. He explained that the run was important to him and his people, especially considering their history and the events yet to come. I shared with him our beliefs that we publish in this journal and on our website.

Although it was autumn, it was still quite warm to be jogging. Fortunately I had a couple of bottles of water in my car (Matthew 10:42), which I gave him, along with some outreach material. I told him I would pray for him and his people. He was appreciative of the water, the message, and the prayers. He then continued his run.

I have thought about this man often – and still pray for him and his people. Recently, I performed an Internet search and was amazed at the number of sites that referred to 'running for peace,' especially the Shimon Peres Center for Peace, named in honor of the martyred prime minister of the State of Israel. But there is something more, much more, when it comes to real peace.

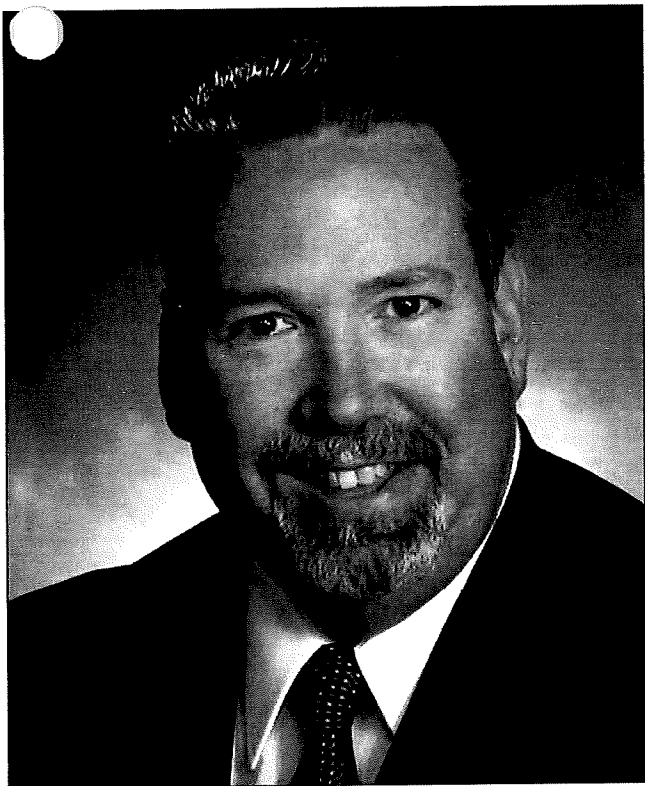
Let's start with scriptural references to peace, such as, *"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it"* (Psalm 34:14). Or, *"Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it"* (1 Peter 3:11). It is a noble and godly thing to seek peace. But there are other scriptural references that tell us peace will be elusive. *"Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none"* (Ezekiel 7:25). And, *"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword"* (Matthew 10:34).

So what shall we do? That question has plagued people for centuries. Among the Native Americans there were the likes of Deganawidah, who was known as the Great Peacemaker. Or Chief Joseph, whose famous quote is, *"I will fight no more forever."* And there were and are many others.

Near the end of World War II, a minister from our Church was stationed in the Philippines. One day he was in the peace conference room and saw an empty armchair. As he wondered who the chair belonged to, God spoke to him and said, *"How can they bring peace to the world when the Prince of Peace is absent from their conference?"* (Apostle Paul D'Amico, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, 1977). We know the Prince of Peace is Jesus Christ (Isaiah 9:6).

So how do we seek peace today? First, we invite the Prince of Peace into our lives. Second, in honor of those who were and are peacemakers, we run to and fro with the message of peace, sharing it wherever we can (Zechariah 1:10, 11 and 1 Nephi 13:37). Third, we prepare the way for a holy man of God, who shall be a deliverer for the Native Americans and the House of Israel (Genesis 49:24, Romans 11:26, and 11 Nephi 3rd chapter). When he comes, this *"American Indian Moses,"* it will be like two nations running together (2 Nephi 29:8). And let me quote one more person. *"My counsel to the Church is, that we awaken up to the opportunities that are now presented to us in preaching the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph. I give a solemn warning to us all, lest we forget the obligations we, the Church, owe to the covenant people of God."* (Apostle William H. Cadman, *Gospel News*, April 1945) Yes, it is not requisite that we should run faster than we have strength, but run we must!

Apostle Philip Ray Jackson Continued from Page 1



May 4, 1975, an evangelist on October 29, 1989, and an apostle on April 17, 2005. Over the years he also served as Midwest Region president/counselors/trustee, Foreign Missions Operating Committee chairman/India Field Committee chairman, International Missionary Operating Committee chairman, Quorum of Seventy vice president, Finance Committee, chairman of the World Operations Center Building Committee, and vice president of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Most recently he served as president of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

Brother Phil had a deep love for carpentry and chose that as his primary occupation. His passion for building was a blessing for the Church as he was able to use his skills in mission fields throughout the world. He was privileged to build and renovate homes and Church buildings from the reservations in Arizona to humble towns in Mexico and in Church locations throughout the United States. He went on to become a building contractor and owned manufacturing and service companies. He was most recently the owner of Kinsman Amish Builders.

Brother Phil was very active in the missionary work of the Church since his youth. It began when he was blessed to work with Brother Eddie and Sister Evelyn Perdue, a wonderful couple who dedicated their lives to the missionary efforts of the Church throughout Mexico. Their example played a great part in influencing him to become active and serve the Lord in the missionary endeavors of the Church. He was blessed to have the opportunity to visit and work in many mission fields around the world, endeavoring to share and spread the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Phil was given a great testimony of the goodness of God when in 1989, the Lord spared his life after suffering a severe case of spinal meningitis. He nearly lost his life, but there were many evidences of God's intervention. After he recovered, his doctor told him that he must have had someone greater watching over him because his spinal fluid was the worst he had ever seen in a person and he was truly amazed that our brother had even survived, let alone without ANY permanent negative effects.

This experience was a changing point in Brother Phil's life. Shortly after this illness, he was called to be an evangelist, and, understanding that the Lord had spared his life for this purpose, strove to use this "extended time" of his life to spread the gospel to the lost and dying souls of men and women throughout the world. Since that time he was privileged to visit Mexico, Italy, Poland, the Philippines, India, Kenya, Germany, England, Nepal, Peru, Guatemala, Spain, Venezuela, Panama, and various Indian reserves in the United States and Canada.

Brother Phil had the opportunity to witness many great manifestations of God's power through preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. He saw the lame walk, the blind see, demons cast out, speech restored, and many other miracles. He visited in mission fields where the name of Jesus was never heard before. He saw the transforming power of God upon men and women, and looked on as many souls rendered obedience unto Christ and were baptized into the Kingdom of God. He witnessed the Lord calling men into His Holy Priesthood and saw them go out and preach to their own people, bringing many souls to salvation.

Brother Phil was a strong believer in the fulfilling of all the prophecies and promises that God has made to His people in the latter days. He looked forward to the coming of the peaceful reign and the building of Zion, the coming of the Choice Seer and the gathering of the House of Israel. He said, *"There is no greater joy than seeing a soul that is lost come unto the Lord. It is of utmost importance to go and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."*

Since Brother Phil's passing the Church has received numerous experiences confirming the beauty of Heaven, God's faithfulness to us, and Brother Phil's message to the Church, *"Tell them that I love them."* These manifestations have given peace and comfort to his family and to the Church.

Let us be encouraged by the witness and example of our dearly departed Brother Phil and stand strong in the faith as we continue to work for our penny. We thank God that Brother Phil passed our way, and we know that if we remain faithful to the end, we will see him again in Heaven!

God continue to lift up the Jackson family as we move forward together.

In the love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Blessings in Colombia *By Evangelist Richard Scaglione, Sr.*

A productive missionary trip to Santander de Quilichao, Colombia resulted in a wedding and three baptisms. Brothers Juan Rivas, Richard Scaglione Sr., and Jonathan and Jared Scolaro did the Lord's work from May 9 to 19, 2015. An outdoor veranda was the setting as Brother Pedro Cuellar, assisted by Brother Juan Rivas, united Juan Carlos Dagua Lozada and Francy Velasco in marriage on Sunday, May 17. Many relatives and family friends were present. A reception and picture-taking session followed. The previous evening, a training session by Brother Rivas prepared Brother Pedro on the procedures for the wedding, including the repeating of the vows and the exchanging of rings. Thus, a perfect ceremony resulted.

On Monday, May 18, a large group traveled to a park outside the city for the baptisms. The peaceful setting included a stream with a spot deep enough to baptize the three converts, Juan Carlos Dagua Lozada, Francy Velasco, and Diego Dagua. Brother Juan reviewed the technique of immersing the candidates with Brother Pedro, and both brothers stood in the water. Juan Carlos was immersed by Brother Juan Rivas, Francy by Brother Pedro, and Diego by Brother Rivas. Afterward, the three new members were confirmed at the water's edge. Then everyone formed a large circle as the converts received their first communion. A picnic followed with food and joyful fellowship. God's peace and love was felt by everyone present.

Earlier in the week, visits were made to the homes of some relatives and friends. The brothers traveled to Cali, Caloto, and several homes in Santander. Testimonies, special prayers, and anointings accompanied the spirit of fellowship. One evening meeting was held with about 19 in attendance. Speaking,

testimonies, and singing were seasoned by God's Spirit. Some took turns playing the available guitars.

Brother Juan Rivas had made a previous trip, and the people were glad to see him again. Brothers Jonathan and Jared Scolaro won the hearts of everyone who witnessed the enthusiasm and love these young missionaries brought. Their testimonies and guitar-playing enhanced the Spirit we felt in our meetings and visits. They kept busy taking pictures and videos for an IMOC program to be used in the Church's Spanish-speaking missions.

All in all, many individuals were introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ for the first time. They witnessed God's love and felt the genuine enthusiasm of the missionaries. The Gospel message was shared at every opportunity, and many seeds were planted. In time, God will bring forth the harvest.



This Do in Remembrance of Me *By Elder David Nolfi*

It was a blessed and somber moment in the upper room as the Lord paused to place before His disciples the bread and wine sacrament. His words reached deep into their souls as they listened and observed Him bless and break the bread and pour the wine. As they ate the bread and drank the wine, the holiness of this precious deed was forever written into their hearts. Not knowing the full intent of this consecrated act yet, at this very significant point in time, Jesus Christ set into motion a most holy and sacred ordinance. It reaches down through the ages of time to be a cornerstone of doctrine celebrated by the brothers and sisters within The Church of Jesus Christ.

The bread and wine sacrament has been administered throughout The Church of Jesus Christ wherever the Gospel has been established. It imparts very sacred and serious responsibility to any and all who could receive the morsel of bread and sip of wine. We are affirming to the Lord that we have lived up to the standard of righteousness set by Him.

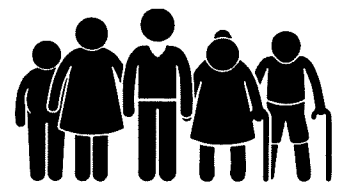
As we eat the bread we are remembering the great sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, who paid the debt of sin by His body, offered as a sacrifice for sin. The agony and shame He endured, and His most painful suffering in the body, satisfy the demands of eternal justice against a repentant sinner.

As we drink the wine, we are remembering His bleeding; profuse and flowing down upon the cross to the ground. The blood of this sacrifice, Infinite and Eternal, reaching from the beginning of time to the end of time, is able to wash the crimson stain of sin from the depths of the repentant soul of the worst sinner.

We, the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ, are permitted to receive this bread and wine as often as we gather together. Receiving and remembering our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in this sacrament conveys to us the needed Spiritual Strength to continue living a righteous and holy life. We are reaffirming our covenant to live for Jesus Christ.

Scripture cautions us to examine ourselves before receiving the bread and wine, lest we should eat and drink unworthily and bring upon ourselves the damnation of spiritual sickness, spiritual weakness, and worst—the spiritual sleep. The avenue of having the ministry lay hands upon us to receive forgiveness for our failings and needed Spiritual Strength to endure is set before whosoever will.

The time taken in our worship service to participate in the bread and wine sacrament is to be a time of solemn reflection upon Jesus Christ and His Great Sacrifice and Love for us. Although we are accustomed to Sunday being the day to receive the sacrament, it is never routine, nor is it casual. Our receiving of the sacrament is a time of respectful, silent meditation within. Some congregations sing an appropriate hymn, some a piano solo; it is a time of sacred remembrance and reverence of Jesus Christ and His Great Sacrifice for US. Let no distraction, no commotion, no frivolity, no diversion, no chatter hamper the communion we share with Jesus Christ our Saviour as we receive His body and blood by faith. He has died that we might live!



My Generation Topic Series: Yesterday, Today, and Forever

By Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr.

Hebrews 13:8 tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Take out Jesus Christ and add in a different word. Is the verse still true? This red apple is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Nope. Not true. Eventually, the red apple is going to decay and wither away. My clothing size is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Not true again. As we age, we get taller, broader, and wider. My clothing size from when I was five is very different than what it will be when I am 75.

Jesus Christ is one constant on which we can always rely. He truly is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not grow, shrink, or decay; He will always be the same. Much like Christ, the Gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ does not change. The Gospel was the same in 1945 as it is in 2015. We believe in the same scriptures. We follow the same ordinances as set up by Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

While the Gospel does not change, the way brothers and sisters experience it changes over time. Sister Josephine Jasmin, my grandmother, was born in 1933 in Brooklyn, New York, and her experience as a young person was much different than how our young people experience church today.

Sister Josie grew up going to church in the Bronx in New York City. They had two meetings on Sunday, one meeting on Wednesday, and another meeting on Friday. There was a mix of preaching in Italian and in English, depending on which minister spoke. It was much different than how Church is today because the sisters sat on one side of the church, and the brothers sat on the other side. There were not many young people there, but once the MBA was organized, she quickly became the first secretary of the MBA in the Bronx.

After worshipping in the Bronx, Sister Josie moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey and started attending there. In New Brunswick, they had two meetings on Sunday, MBA on Sunday night, and Wednesday evening services. Sunday MBA rotated between the four main branches in New Jersey: New Brunswick, Metuchen, Hopelawn, and Edison.

Much like today, the young people gathered together often to fellowship and socialize with each other. The young people in the Bronx would crowd into one of the brothers' bakery trucks to ride into New Jersey. Every Saturday night, they would go to Brother Bill and Sister Carmela Mazzeo's house for homemade pizza, singing, games, and fun. Sister Josie believes these gatherings solidified friendships with many people in The Church of Jesus Christ. She knew this was her Church as a child. She was never forced to go to meetings; rather, she had a strong desire to attend.

Although some of Sister Josie's experiences are different than how we experience Church today, like brothers and sisters sitting on different sides of the church, she still witnessed and fell in love with the same Gospel. The Gospel of The Church of Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is one constant that will never change.

I Nephi 10:18 says God is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and the way is prepared for all men from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto Him. When everything seems to be changing around you, hold fast to this joyful truth: God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Mount Zion By Brother Kerry Carlini

We read the words of Christ as given in Nephi's prophecy, "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost" (I Nephi 13:37). A beautiful and promised time of peace and harmony among the children of God (both Israel and the Gentiles), Zion is for what the Church yearns. The prophets of the Old Testament and of the Book of Mormon speak well and often of this beautiful day to come. But Zion initially had reference to another place and time – to Mount Zion. Here are five amazing facts regarding Mount Zion:

- 1** Mount Zion was initially the name of the Jebusite fortress located on the southern portion of the Eastern Hill which David conquered. Renamed "the city of David," the fortress would become the citadel of ancient Jerusalem (II Samuel 5:7; I Kings 8:1),
- 2** home to the palace King David would one day build (II Samuel 5:11),
- 3** and the site to which he would bring the Ark of Covenant (II Samuel 6:12).
- 4** But, the place called Mount Zion "wherein thou (the Lord) hast dwelt" would later name the site of Solomon's Temple, located on the northern part of the Eastern Hill. (Psalm 74:2)
- 5** However in modern-day Israel, it is the Western Hill, having the higher elevation, that is called Mount Zion.



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

General Ladies' Uplift Circle 95th Anniversary Conference

By Sister Becky Tarbuk

On April 17, 2015 the sisters of the Ladies' Uplift Circle met together in conference at the Greensburg Chapel. We were warmly welcomed by our President, Sister Lisa Champine, who apprised us of the schedule of events for the weekend. Friday we would spend the morning in an abbreviated business meeting followed by a luncheon for all the sisters in attendance at Ferrante's Lakeview Restaurant to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. Our theme: "...Her price is far above rubies." All ladies in attendance received a commemorative 95th Anniversary pin, designed especially for the occasion by Brother Ken Lombardo.

Vice President, Sister Gelsa Staley, delivered the devotion, speaking briefly of the virtuous woman and continued with Moroni 9:9 stating that chastity and virtue are our most dear and precious attributes as women. She continued with Alma 31:5, speaking on the virtue of the word of God.

Highlights from the business meeting:

- The next General Circle Fellowship Weekend will be in Albuquerque, NM from April 27–May 1, 2016. Plan to attend!
- Sister Lisa is working to create a General Ladies' Uplift Circle app.
- We voted to send Muncey, Six Nations, and Tse Bonito \$750 each for their Vacation Bible School.
- Six Nations asked for help to furnish the church/mission house with new bedding, towels, and kitchen essentials. A donation of \$2,200 was supplied by the Circle, and we hope they can purchase everything they need.
- An unprecedented donation was made to the work in Oaxaca. Our resident missionary there, Brother Abelardo Granados, had to have knee surgery and the Circle donated \$6,000 to help pay for the medical expenses per the request of Apostle Joel Gehly.
- Six Nations will be organizing as a Circle on May 23, 2015.

After a productive morning session we adjourned to Ferrante's Lakeview for the 95th Anniversary luncheon. Each lady in attendance was given a carnation with a color that represented their home Area. The food was delicious, the sisters were happy, and the fellowship was great. After lunch the sisters got a sneak peek at the presentation to be given on Saturday for the General Church. Sister Lisa spoke on the theme: "Her price is far above rubies," taken from Proverbs 31. Sister Gelsa then honored several sisters who have been in the Circle ranging from 46 to 77 years, and each was given an opportunity to testify.

(Continued on Page 11)



God Fights for the Hebrew People

Isaiah Chapters 37-39

slaves out of the survivors. They were fierce warriors who outnumbered the people of God.

One day King Hezekiah heard from the Assyrian King. He told them that he was going to come and destroy all the people unless they gave up and let him take over. The King of Assyria made fun of King Hezekiah and God (See Isaiah 36:13-20). He said, *"Do you think your God will be able to save you? I've already conquered all these other places (who served statues), and now I will conquer you all!"*

King Hezekiah and all the people began crying, praying, and calling unto God to save them. King Hezekiah called Isaiah, God's holy prophet (See Isaiah 37:26-36) to ask him what they should do.

Isaiah told him, *"...thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields"* (Isaiah 27:33). He said that the King of Assyria will return to his country and that He (God) would defend the city!

Then the angel of the Lord went forth to where the Assyrian enemies were camped and he killed one hundred eighty thousand enemy soldiers of the people of God. We do not know just how God did this great miracle, but His people were safe!

In the morning the enemy army was dead! All of their equipment, gold, horses, weapons, and belongings were just lying there. Their owners, who had come to destroy God's people, were now destroyed. The King of Assyria turned around and ran back to his own country. When he got there, a fight happened and he was killed.

God had shown a great sign to the world and no one could doubt His power. His people were protected. This is the God that we serve. In the Book of Mormon, Nephi tells us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and the way is prepared for all people from the time

the world was made that we might each repent of the things we have done wrong and come unto Him. In the Bible, in Hebrews 13:8 we are promised, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."* If the Lord fought for godly King Hezekiah, and saved the nation who prayed, He will fight for us. Do not fear, just pray and trust.

With love,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

GOD	HIM	IN
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WONDERFUL	HIS	OF
PLAN	LAWS	HIS
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R	S	O	N	E	B	O	U	U
V	C	A	R	E	S	F	S	F
E	N	O	J	I	R	O	W	R
N	F	T	H	E	A	R	A	E
A	G	O	D	A	N	D	L	Y
L	I	N	W	C	S	I	H	A
P	O	F	E	H	I	M	N	R
W	O	L	L	O	F	U	J	P
J	E	S	U	S	I	H	U	S

We know that God is the one and only Creator of this world and this universe. We know that He has a special plan for each of us if we choose to think about it, pray about it, and change our own personalities when we are wrong and ask for guidance and help to change ourselves, and follow His ways. We know that when we pray, He hears our cry. He will help us.

Over and over in the Bible and Book of Mormon we learn about the times God rescued His other servants who called on His name and worked to do what was right. I enjoy reading about all the enemies of the Israelite, Hebrew nations who were bigger and stronger and wanted to wipe out God's people.

Centuries have passed since the Bible days and we can see that God has protected His chosen people, but where are their age-old enemies? Where are the Babylonians who attacked and destroyed Israel and took the people far away to be slaves? Where are the Philistines (Goliath's people) who constantly attacked King David's country? What about the huge armies of the Assyrians? They are all gone, no longer great powers. But the Jewish people from Israel remain and serve the one true God. The descendants of Joseph with the coat of many colors are the Native American people. They are alive scattered throughout the Americas and waiting with us for a great leader, the Choice Seer, to come and teach and guide us all.

God, our creator has all power. In the days of King Hezekiah, the Israelite nation was a small country surrounded by and ruled over by massive world powers. These world powers attacked other countries for their riches, killed families, and made

General Ladies' Uplift Circle 95th Anniversary Conference *Continued from page 9*

On Saturday the Circle was called upon to deliver their presentation. Sister Lisa Champine began with a few words about the origin and purpose of the Circle. *"A virtuous woman is a woman of resolution, who, having good principles, is firm and steady to them and will not turn away from any part of her duty. None of us individually possess all the traits listed in the Proverbs passage, but collectively each sister brings their gifts and talents to the Circle and in that way the Ladies' Uplift Circle embodies every characteristic."*

The presentation that was given encompassed the past, present, and future of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. To date we have 641 members, and April 17, 2015 marked the General Ladies' Uplift Circle's 300th meeting. In 95 years the Circle has raised more than a half million dollars for the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. Local Circles have been established on foreign fields, and a greater emphasis placed on the future of the Ladies' Uplift Circle by supporting Little Ladies' Circles in several Areas. Over the years the aims of the Circle have been clarified, but the ideas and principles found in our four main objectives have been consistent. The final slide focused on the sisters who have impacted our lives, and as their names scrolled across the screen the Circle sisters in the congregation were asked to come forward and sing. The song selections were *To the Work* and *God's Touch*.

While the list of names was scrolling an experience was had by a sister in attendance. The sister had not been active in her local Circle for several years; nonetheless she had a desire to sing with the group but wasn't sure whether she should participate. She said to herself, *"Lord, if You want me to go up front You have to show me."* When she looked up at the screen she saw her grandmother's name, and she jumped up and took her place with the sisters of the Circle.

While the Circle Sisters were up front our brother Apostles felt to pray for the Circle. Apostle Paul Liberto offered that prayer. In his prayer he said, *"Lord, I know you are pleased with the efforts of the Circle."* An experience was had and a brother heard a voice say, *"Yea, I am WELL pleased."* Our labors do not go unnoticed by our God.

We invite every sister, woman, and friend to attend your Local, Area, and General Circle meetings and activities. If you haven't been there in a while, come back! If you've never attended, join us! Our early sisters worked diligently to lay the foundation so that today we might have a place where our combined efforts matter. Why not support it by being a part? As Brother Alexander Cherry told Sister Sadie Cadman regarding the Circle before it was organized in 1920, *"If you can do any good, then do so."* Ninety-five years later we are still meeting together to study the scripture, still helping others, and still aiding the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ.

May we continue to do good and may the work of The Ladies' Uplift Circle continue to be pleasing to the Lord.

More Answers to the Question of the Month *continued from Page 12*

I would love to go to Italy because of its rich culture and it is my country of heritage. Italy is also where a lot of missionary work happened in the early church through Apostles Paul and Peter. —*Sister Elizabeth Azzinaro, Simi Valley, CA Branch.*

I would like to be involved with the Native American work that is currently being done. I was involved with some work for about three years down in Columbus at the Pow-Wows and really enjoyed being around the people there. They were so accepting of me right from the beginning. I also felt to be there at that time because of a dream I had six months prior to being asked if I would help out. I would like to see the ending of that dream come true in my lifetime.—*Brother Duane Werley, Liberty, OH Branch*

I think it would be interesting (although very scary) to go to a place where the saints are persecuted for believing in Jesus Christ because I'd love to not only reaffirm and strengthen them in the Lord but learn from their incredible courage. What an example it is to me!—*Sister Michelle Watson, Irvine, CA Branch*

I would go back to Guatemala. The Lord spoke to me years ago and said, *"Guatemala needs workers."* Blessed to have made one trip and left my heart there.—*Sister Linda Morle, Fort Worth, TX Branch*

India because that was my first missionary trip, and it was with Brother Phil.—*Brother Mike Nuzzi, Liberty, OH Branch*



For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return. 2 Nephi 20:22

Blessing Bits

BB Jesus Loves the Little Children

Our son Ben was diagnosed with severe apraxia of speech, a motor disorder. At the time of his diagnosis, Ben could only verbalize five words. The doctors informed us that we needed to prepare for a reality different from what we had hoped. As parents, we were very distraught, but knew God was able. That Sunday we had Ben anointed, praying that God would provide a miracle. That afternoon, as we gathered for dinner, our 5-year-old daughter Addy offered prayer for the food. As she finished, a small but assertive voice from across the table said, "Amen!" It was our son Ben! Never before had he said that word! Joy and gratitude filled our hearts as we knew without a doubt God was at work. By the end of that week Ben was saying around 30 new words and has not looked back since. We cannot keep him quiet now. God has performed such a beautiful miracle in his

To God be the glory!—*Brother Jordan and Sister Karen Champine, Detroit, Michigan Branch 2*

BB He Carries Me

Many times when I am feeling lost or looking

for an answer, I ask the Lord to bless me from His Word. Often He leads me to Luke 15: 4-5, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing." I feel His love immediately, thinking how He carries me on His shoulders.—*Sister Mary Ann Pasko, Metuchen, New Jersey Branch*

BB Let them pray over her, anointing her with oil in the name of the Lord.

In my 20s I was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. To keep the symptoms under control, I began to take medication. I knew that in the future I would want to start a family, so I was hesitant about taking this medication. My husband, Brother Kevin, and I decided that we would put things in God's hands. We had difficulty conceiving a child but continued to trust in God. My mother-in-law had a dream in which she saw my husband with two children, a girl and a boy. While we were visiting the Cincinnati Mission, I was anointed. Soon after that we discovered we were going to be parents! We were blessed with a beautiful baby girl. Even

during her birth, God was in the matter as the doctors thought the baby's arm was broken. Thank God she was born perfectly healthy. But God wasn't finished yet; in just a few years we were also blessed with a baby boy.—*Sister Angela Jasmin, Lake Worth, Florida Branch*


Send us your Blessing Bits [in approximately 150 words] and answer the Question of the Month by contacting us at gospelnewsinfo@gmail.com



Question for this month: *Share an experience you have had concerning forgiveness.*

Answer from last month: *Brother Phil Jackson visited 15 countries on missionary work. If you could go on a missionary trip anywhere, where would you like to go and why?* India. My great-grandfather, Brother Joe Calabrese, had a deep love for the work there. He made several trips during his life. One of the old customs there was the minister conducting a baby blessing got to name the baby. My grandpa Joe named every child he blessed after a member of our family. I'd love to meet them all from Victoria, Bonnie, Isaac and Bethany!—*Sister Bethany Dyer, Mesa, AZ Branch*

Turn back to page 11 for more answers to this question.



For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return. 2 Nephi 20:22