

# The Gospel News

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Joy in Spring



**Blast From The Past**  
Page 2

**Word Up**  
Page 3

**Editorial Viewpoint**  
Page 5

**GMBA News**  
Page 7

**Ladies' Uplift Circle  
News**  
Page 8

**5 Amazing Facts**  
Page 9

**Children's Corner**  
Page 10

**Question of the  
Month**  
Page 11

**Blessing Bits**  
Page 12

## ***Our Youth - Seeing, Speaking, and Hearing God's Glory***

***By Patrick Monaghan***

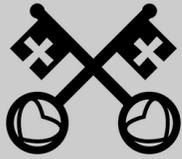
**H**ave you ever heard the old saying "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil"? This phrase conveys a general precaution to ignore or avoid any involvement with wrongdoing or bad behavior. Basically, steer clear of harmful or wicked activities. Although this phrase may seem virtuous, it does not come close to the virtues expected from our Lord. Yes, Christ calls His followers to live their lives in a manner that keeps ourselves unspotted from the world, but He also commanded us at the time of His ascension to not merely avoid evil, but to go on the offensive, when He gave the great commandment, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)

On January 10-16 of this year, I had the privilege to travel and witness of God's love to the people of Dominica. I have made several trips in recent years and have fallen in love with the work and especially the people there. This trip was particularly special to me as we were able to take three young people with us, my elder daughter being one of them.

The work in Dominica was first established in 1997 when Evangelist Richard Santilli and his wife Sister Annabel went to share the Book of Mormon and the message of the Restored Gospel with the Caribe Indians of the island, the Kalinago people. Since that time, many missionaries have gone to the Kalinago Territory where we now have a church building which is also used as a designated hurricane shelter for the locals should any have a need for shelter (natural and spiritual) in times of storm or trouble. The Dominica Missionary Field Committee had put forth much effort in recent years, yet we were not seeing the progress we were hoping for to ignite the people's hearts and move the work forward among their own people and throughout the island. A new approach was needed.

We realized a need to more fully focus on the young people within Dominica, and what better way to minister to them but to ENGAGE our own youth with their gifts and talents in this effort. We anticipated our youth would be more capable to CONNECT with their peers in Dominica than perhaps we could ourselves as ordained ministers. We began to assemble our youth team so we could CULTIVATE and mentor them in preparation for this mission trip. Our trip team consisted of five missionaries total, three of which were youth traveling to an international field for the very first time (Brothers Paul Ciotti Jr., Jackson Hamet, Joseph Gomez, Sister Carlee Monaghan, and myself).

(Continued on page 4)



BLESSED ARE...  
(see how many come naturally.)

...the poor in spirit:  
for theirs is the

-----  
-----.



...they that mourn:  
for they shall

-----.

...the meek:  
for they shall

-----  
-----.



...they which do  
hunger and thirst  
after righteousness:  
for they shall

-----.



...the merciful:  
for they shall

-----.



...the pure in heart:  
for they shall

-----.

...the peacemakers:  
for they shall be  
called the

-----  
-----.



...they which  
are persecuted for  
righteousness' sake:  
for theirs is the (a repeat)

-----  
-----.



# BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck



**Sixty-nine years ago today from April 1956 to 1958, Bro. Joe Lovalvo was appointed to head a missionary effort in the California District leading to a mission in San Jose.**

Brother Lovalvo concentrated his efforts in the Monterey area with some of his time being spent in the San Jose area where he stayed at the home of Brother Jose Campagna. The mission work in the San Francisco Bay area did not actually start in San Jose but in Berkeley, California. The first meetings were held at the home of Brother Quito Marinitte in 1954. Meetings were also held in South San Francisco at the homes of Brother Joe and Sister Lucille Campagna and Brother Tulio Lochivito. The Campagnas had moved to South San Francisco from Modesto where they had recently been baptized.

(Continued on page 8)



## 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, while working to draw Israel to Christ through efforts focused on the indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America



## Vision Statement

- Living and worshipping in unity and righteousness will result in the fullness of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, culminating in continuous growth of the Church and fulfillment of Christ's promises concerning His Kingdom on Earth.



## ***“That’s Why Yield Signs Have 3 Sides”***

***By Brother Doug Obradovich***

***“He will guide you into all truth” – John 16:13***

receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him” (1 Corinthians 2:14). We are much more aligned with the evil one’s “enticings,” making failure highly probable.

By choice we relinquish control to temptation! Example: rhubarb pie, vanilla wafers, or raspberry tarts offer no compulsion to me, while chocolate anything obliterates my willpower. Sin is empowered by our desires; else it could not persuade. Thus, we see how the natural man is built to fail. Given such bleak prospects for success, it is extraordinary when anyone overcomes and yields spiritually.

Yes, man is built to fail, but man is intended to succeed, “The spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil” (Moroni 7:16). This spark provided at birth is the means to overcome and is the only reason we can successfully interpret God’s initial prompting to accept His calling later in life. Once we do, the Holy Ghost provides the sustaining power to overcome. This explains why absolutely any spiritual success is all to the honor and glory of God, despite His being outnumbered and outweighed amongst the “enticings” presented.

The key is in the yield!

Paul understood our propensity to fail when he counseled, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God” (Romans 6:12, 13). From Adam to this very moment, without God’s sway, man’s run-rate is 100 percent failure, “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The Lord’s trusting us to behave properly appears to be quite the risky undertaking, as the evil one’s promptings are chocolate to the natural man’s desires. Oh, that they were rhubarb pie!

A yield sign has 3 sides, representing 3 distinct voices, 3 spiritual options, 3 separate choices. Choose extraordinarily, against your natural will, and listen to God. When you do, your spirit will be filled. One voice fulfills the moment naturally, and one voice fulfills your life spiritually, eternally. Each time you see a common 3-sided yield sign, let it heighten your awareness to the 3 influences vying for your soul.

Yield to God’s voice. He always knows the right way. And His way always has the right of way.

**Y**ield signs can create confusion, especially at 3-way intersections. The usual suspects include overly friendly drivers gesturing all others to proceed, indecisive drivers creating log jams with stop-and-go lurching, and aggressive drivers revving their engines and holding everyone at bay. Yielding to others on roadways proves extremely difficult. This is not unlike our spiritual lives, where misdirection, indecisiveness, and aggression can be just as debilitating. We are constantly yielding to one of three voices: God’s, that of the evil one, or our own.

The struggle is real. “The natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit” (Mosiah 3:19). Given our natural predisposition, the potential for failure is overwhelming. Apparently, we are mathematically only 33 percent likely to triumph, “The natural man



(Continued from cover)

Objective #1 was to get our three young missionaries acquainted with the young people in Dominica and to begin forming relationships with them prior to our arrival. A “meet & greet” Zoom meeting was organized to introduce our young missionaries to the youth in Dominica. After this introductory meeting, we encouraged the youth to continue meeting together weekly on Zoom with the youth in Dominica in an effort to plan a few outreach activities. We afforded them the freedom to work together, demonstrating our confidence in them to help plan parts of our mission trip while embracing their ideas and talents. This approach proved to be inspired as we witnessed new opportunities we had not previously experienced.



The youth decided to plan a cricket game, through which they would teach us their favorite Dominican sport. On the beautiful Atlantic coastline we spent the afternoon playing, laughing, and growing closer together through this shared experience. Thirty people gathered that afternoon, and following our game everyone traveled to our church building for a BBQ dinner, more fellowship, and a singspiration. The Spirit of God began to move as we sang praises to God and invited our three young missionaries to testify. Everyone felt a spirit of unity and joy as they expressed their love towards the people of Dominica and for the opportunity to attend this trip. We could see something special beginning to happen. Connections were being made. Our young people caught the attention of everyone... especially their peers and new young friends from Dominica. The youth in Dominica were intently watching, listening, and might I say were being touched by the Spirit of God they witnessed through the example demonstrated by our youth who had traveled from afar to share God’s love with them. Saturday’s events proved to be a wonderful way to encourage all to gather again with us the next morning for our Sunday service.



Sunday was nothing short of AMAZING! At the beginning of the service while we were singing and exhorting the congregation prior to opening prayer, Brother Jackson had a vision where he saw Jesus standing in the doorway with His arms extended.



We were directed to have our two young ordained teachers take the lead in speaking. Bro. Jackson opened using Colossians 1:16, “...all things were created by him, and for him.” He spoke about our responsibility to serve God and extended the call of God to all in attendance. Brother Joe Gomez followed on this topic and asked, “Who will take up the mantle?” Both brothers were inspired, and the power of God was felt among us all. The testimonies were blessed as most of the 23 in attendance took time to praise God.

(Continued on page 6)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Carolynn O'Connor

gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org  
734-260-0213

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Chuck Maddox, Jr.

chuckmaddoxjr@thechurchofjesuschrist.org  
937-266-2506

**CONSULTANTS**

Paul Libertio

Leonard A. Lovalvo

Anthony Scolaro

Cathy Gentile

**CIRCULATION MANAGER**

Dianne Maddox

**DESIGN & LAYOUT**

Ken Lombardo

**COPY EDITOR**

Anthony Scolaro

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Shannon Hamet

**QUORUM OF 70 EDITOR**

Q70 Communication Team

q70team@gmail.com

313-820-4503

**GMBA EDITOR**

Sydney Lovalvo

sydlovalvo@gmail.com

248-872-5078

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

LuAnn Carson

uannie@comcast.net

724-518-0491

**REGION EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**

Michael Zaino

michael.zaino@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

732-289-4191

**GREAT LAKES**

Kim Komjathy

komjathy1976@gmail.com

313-461-3176

**MIDWEST**

midwest@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

**PACIFIC**

Jody Greger

cjcsldr@yahoo.com

209-810-4880

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**

Ray Intriery

lemans65@gmail.com

724-622-7249

**SOUTHEAST**

Mandy Griffith

mandygriffith324@gmail.com

727-264-7905

**SOUTHWEST**

Anthony Scolaro

anthony.scolaro@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

732-259-3861

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$30.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: 6899 Bayshore Dr Lake Worth, FL 33462.

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO: 6899 Bayshore Dr., Lake Worth, FL 33462.

## United by Doctrine

*...but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel. (3 Nephi 27:8)*

**By Evangelist Mark Kovacic**

April is a time for reflection and renewal. Trees turn green, flowers bloom, and winter winds subside. It was on such a spring day, April 6, 1830, in western New York, when six men gathered to establish The Church of Jesus Christ. The authority of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ had been restored a year earlier, May 15, 1829, by a messenger of God, who said he placed the priesthood authority of Jesus Christ on his fellow servants, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

The purpose of this organizational meeting was to set in motion the restoration of Christ's kingdom on Earth, ushering in the final call to the Gentles, the gathering of Israel from their long dispersion beginning with the House of Joseph, the establishment of the Peaceful Reign, and the eventual building of the New Jerusalem.

Our published Faith and Doctrine<sup>1</sup> tells the world what, why, and how we believe and practice the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a portal into the Kingdom of God. And for all our differences (nationality, age, education, previous affiliations, etc.), we are one people. Our Faith and Doctrine is like our constitution and creates a 'oneness'. As the Apostle Paul wrote: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

By our Faith and Doctrine, we are bound to the Church and to each other in Christ Jesus. So why is this important? First, we show respect to our God, His sacred word, and commandments. As well, we are willing to be obedient and do the things He wants us to do, not what we want, putting aside our personal ideas and interpretations and focusing our attention on the divine commission of the Lord.

Second, we show our love of Jesus Christ, and that we recognize the sacrifice He made for all mankind. Jesus simply said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." The greatest of these is love God and your neighbor. Also, we recognize that the only king we have is Jesus Christ and we are willing to labor for Him and with Him.

Third, we are united in actions, spirit, and purpose. We have no reason to question each other as we are one body, marching forward, performing the work the Lord has laid upon us with the promise that we will either enter into the Peaceful Reign or enter into the Paradise of Christ.

Speaking of united, the United States of America will stand as long as its citizens are united in respect for, and adherence to, our federal Constitution and the Judeo-Christian theology on which it was built. If we lose that respect, we will follow in the path of some Ancient Native Americans, as reported in the records of the Book of Mormon. (See Alma 46:3-8; Alma 51:5-8; Helaman 2:3-8; and 3 Nephi 7:1-14.)

These examples of retrogression from democracy and the attempted establishment of kingships occurred more than 2,000 years ago and remind us of why we put God first. As Moroni wrote: "In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives and our children." He called it the Title of Liberty (Alma 46:15). There is only one King in America, our Lord Jesus Christ!

Have we learned anything from these records? We hope so, but take a few minutes to read and meditate on the four referenced scriptures and pray we can head off the coming judgment. God has clearly stated that whosoever possesses the lands of the Americas must serve His Son or be swept off (Ether 2:8-12). Therefore, let us keep our shoulder to the plow, maintain our commitment to our Lord, and keep the fellowship of the Saints while we welcome those seeking refuge from the iniquity and wickedness surrounding us.

<sup>1</sup> <https://thechurchofjesuschrist.org/wp-content/uploads/Dissertation-on-the-Faith-and-Doctrine.pdf>

(Continued from page 4)

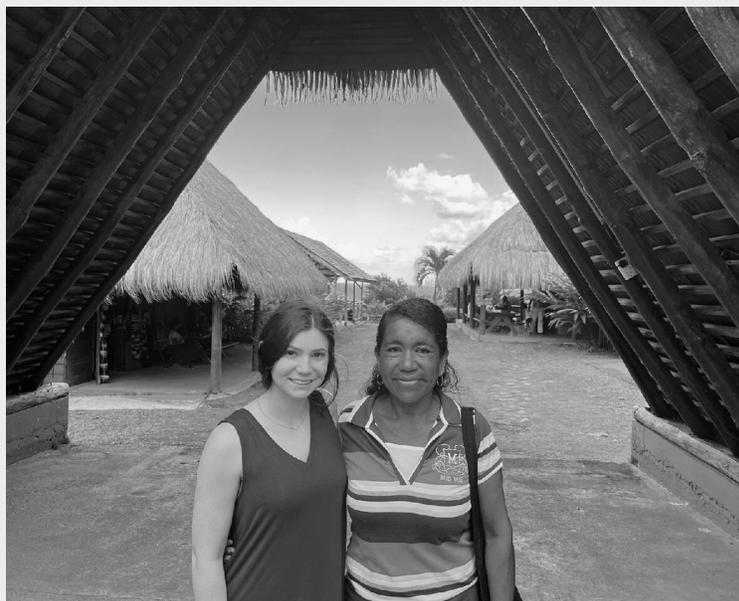
Ten individuals came forward to the chair for anointing or prayer, most of whom were young people having a desire to draw closer to God in their lives. Jefferson Viville asked for his baptism during this time. The entire meeting was blessed: preaching, singing, testimonies, prayers and communion. After the service, we went to the Concord River for the baptism. As the closing prayer ended at the water's edge, Bro. Joe Gomez spoke in the Spirit as follows, "I am well pleased, I am well pleased, saith the Lord".

Later that day, Sis. Carlee asked if anyone else had heard the loud clap of thunder from the sky as Brother Joe spoke in the Spirit after closing prayer? We all answered, "No." No one else had heard the thunder. Our Sister was the only one to hear the thunder from Heaven, a confirmation of the Word of the Lord spoken at that moment, "I am well-pleased!" and representative of the Power of God.

As our team rehearsed all of the day's events, the Spirit washed over us and confirmed that the Lord was indeed pleased with everything we did, from the opening prayer at church to the closing prayer at the river. That same evening, we were able to serve communion to our new Brother Jefferson. We gave him a Book of Mormon and everyone there offered encouragement and advice in his new walk with the Lord.

The gifts of the Kingdom were abundant with us on this trip. Our young people experienced visions of angels and of the Lord Jesus Himself. They spoke under the Spirit and preached with the Authority of God. Their ears were opened to bear witness of God's mighty power. Their hands and their feet were moved to minister to those in need. And all of this culminated in a soul being saved! Brother Jefferson's baptism was the first baptism in Dominica by The Church of Jesus Christ in 12 years. Is it a coincidence that the first baptism in 12 years happened to be on the same trip we ENGAGED three of our young missionaries? I think not. Truly, including our youth on this trip bore evidence that they have much to contribute to the Work of God in these latter days. We as a Church MUST connect with them. We as Brothers and Sisters MUST cultivate them. And we all as Missionaries for the Lord Jesus Christ MUST engage them along with us in our branches, missions, and missionary efforts. Let us rally behind our youth, seeking their assistance as we all march toward Zion, the beautiful City of God. Great blessings, miracles, and deliverance await us.

***And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. (Joel 2:28-29)***



## ***What Does Communion Mean to You?***

***By Sister Sydney Lovalvo***

**A** group of young people throughout the Church were asked to write a small response on what the ordinance of Communion means to them. Here are their responses:

“Communion is a time where I am truly focused on what God has done for me. It’s a meaningful reminder of how much God loves us, that He was willing to sacrifice His son Jesus, and that He will never forsake us. I enjoy that I feel a very personal connection with God during this part of the service, but at the same time, I get to share these blessings with the members of my branch and the Church alike every Sunday. I always feel grateful that He’s given us the opportunity to partake in this ordinance because it gives me the strength I need to get through each week.” – Sister Grace Gibson, Detroit Branch #1

“Communion is a part of our service to the Lord where we remember our oneness with Christ and each other. Communion is a unique time where everyone sincerely focuses on Christ’s sacrifice for us, and the overwhelming love He had for all of creation. His love even reminds us that we are perfect in His image, and the only scars in heaven will be His. I was at an ordination service recently. Although the candidates being ordained do not seek in any way for attention, you could say it’s easy to focus on them and their support. After the ordinations, I was touched by the ministers preparing communion who reminded us that this ordinance, of communion, is the main reason we gathered that day: in the name of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us all. Let us not forget why we attend Church weekly: to commune with Christ and each other, and let Him vibrantly live within us.” – Brother Andrew Tenorio, Edison Branch

“Communion is definitely one of the most important, if not the most important part of the meeting. For me it’s a time to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and to personally reflect on what He has done for me in the past week, big or small. If I miss a meeting, the first thing I think about is that I didn’t get communion for the week. A unifying feeling is also a big part of why communion is important to me as well. Being able to participate in such a sacred ordinance with the family of God is a blessing in itself. It’s a fulfilling feeling everyone needs, no matter if they’re on top of the mountain or in the valley.” – Brother Luke Giannetti, McKees Rocks Branch

“Growing up in the Church, I have been exposed to the beauty of the serving of communion. As a kid, I thought it was so cool and wanted to be a part of the ritual myself. This was way before I knew the true meaning of it of course, but even then, I knew it was special. Communion, to me, has always been a meaningful part of my Sunday service. It allows me to remember not only the commitment I have made with the Lord when I asked for my baptism; it allows me to remember what a sacrifice Jesus Christ made and God giving His only begotten son for all of us. With this in mind, when I am able to be surrounded by my spiritual and physical family partaking in communion, it makes it that much sweeter that they also know of the love Christ has for us.” – Sister Kacy Paxon, Detroit Branch #1

“What the ordinance of communion means to me is an opportunity to remember and truly reflect. Communion reminds me of the promise and sacrifice that God made through His Son Jesus Christ. God sent His only Son so that I could have everlasting life. This sacred ordinance is one that I don’t take lightly, and every week I’m so thankful for the opportunity to take part in it. Every week I am reminded of that gift of Salvation that He not only has given to me but to each and every one of us. I thank God for that new hope and opportunity to start over. The ordinance of communion to me means everything, because our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is everything.” – Sister Sabrina Liberto, San Diego Branch

“To me, communion is a time to put aside all distractions going on in my life and focus on my personal relationship with Christ. Partaking of the body and blood of Christ is a reminder that He died on the cross just for me, so I could have the ability to be forgiven for all my faults—and trust me, I have many— as long as I approach the Lord with a contrite spirit. I can’t even count the number of times I mess up ever so slightly and beat myself up about it. But that’s the mercy and love that our Creator has for us. We can mess up again and again but He will always be standing there with open arms to welcome us back. So, when I sit in the pew waiting for my turn to eat the Lord’s supper, the question I always ask myself is, “Why me?” And I will never truly understand that. But all I know is that God loves me, and I’ll stand on that.” – Brother Noah Draskovich, Forest Hills Branch

## A Blessed Gathering in San Carlos

By Sister Kathy Palensar

We, the sisters of the Southwest Area Ladies' Circle, greet you in the love of God! We want to tell you about a special gathering we had back in 2020 in hopes that it inspires you with ideas for Ladies' Circle activities in your own areas. In 2019, we decided that it would be nice if once a year each local would take a turn hosting a Ladies' Circle event that all the sisters in the region were invited to attend.

The purpose of the event would be to gather together, so we can support and uplift each other. It's so easy to let time pass without connecting as sisters, and we didn't want to grow apart from each other. We wanted to carve out time for spiritual blessing, fellowship, and working together.

For our first event, the Lakeside Branch decided to host a Ladies' Circle gathering in San Carlos, a local Mission in our area serving the Apache people. The San Carlos Mission does not have an active Ladies' Circle, but we thought it would be a blessing to the resident deaconess, Sister Delores (Dee) Picciuto, and the other sisters if we came for a visit. We asked Sister Dee to make a list of things that the visiting sisters could help with around the mission.

We started the day off with a devotional presented by some of the sisters from the Lakeside Branch. Then, lunch was provided by the Lakeside sisters, as the hosts. Once we finished with lunch, we spent the afternoon doing many different jobs around the mission.

Some women cleaned the bathrooms, and some cleaned and reorganized the kitchen. Others put copies of the new

*Songs of Zion* songs into folders, and some sisters sat and visited with Sister Dee, providing much-enjoyed fellowship. It was a wonderful day! Everyone talked about the beautiful time they had. We left so uplifted and with our hearts full. But isn't this what the Ladies' Circle is all about?

### "We pledge ourselves to read and search the scriptures"

— we strove for that during our devotional time.

### We will "be a help to each other and help others to the best of our ability"

— we tried to do that as we completed needed chores on the mission compound.

### "Whenever members of the Circle work together, a richer fellowship with greater unity of spirit and purpose will result"

— we can testify that this is true!

Serving one another, drawing closer to each other and God's word, and supporting the missionary work of the Lord...the Sisters from the San Carlos Mission were so grateful and blessed for the time we spent with them, and the rest of the sisters were blessed in turn.

Little did we know that just a few weeks later, the coronavirus pandemic would shut down the world. We are very thankful that the Lord allowed us this wonderful time to reconnect before a season of isolation.

---

(Continued from page 2)

Later on, Brothers Tulio and Quito returned to the East and the Campagnas moved to Santa Clara, which is adjacent to San Jose. In 1956 at Stevens Creek Reservoir, Brother Joe Lovalvo baptized Domonic Degenero. This was the first baptism in the San Jose area. Brother Nunzio Giordano was baptized in the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz. The brothers and sisters drove approximately 30 miles on a stormy day to witness the baptism. This brother became a pillar of the San Jose Mission. Brother Giordano passed on to his reward on

December 24, 1973. During his 13 years in the Church, he read the Book of Mormon 40 times in three different languages.

Excerpts taken from "A History of The Church of Jesus Christ in California, Mexico, Arizona, 1940-1980". Compiled by many brothers and sisters and edited by Brother Del Carneval. Wedding picture of Nunzio and Mamie Giordano from ancestry.com public tree.

## Here Comes the Son/Salvation

By Brother Dean Longrie

Many life-changing “miracles” happened in a relatively short time surrounding the resurrection of Christ. These are life-changing events for all mankind, believers and non-believers. The following 5 amazing facts reveal some of these “miracles.”

**1** On the way up to Jerusalem Jesus told His disciples that He would be betrayed unto the scribes and chief priests. That they would condemn Him to death (Matthew 20:18-19) and that He would be crucified, buried, and rise again on the third day.

**2** At the Passover supper, the Last Supper, Jesus tells the disciples that one of them will betray him (Matthew 26:21). At the same time, Christ introduced the Sacrament, the bread and wine, as a representation of His body and blood. His blood was shed for many for the remission of sins.

**3** At the same time, Christ introduces the ordinance of feet washing. He gave this as an example of what we should do (John 13:4-17). He said the servant is not greater than his lord, neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. Knowing this, we will be happy if we do them.

**4** After the Passover supper Jesus led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. There, Jesus prayed to the Father, first that He would remove this cup if possible, and then that not Jesus’s, but God’s will be done. In agony, He prayed more earnestly and His sweat was like great drops of blood. Soon a multitude including Judas, Chief Priests, Captains of the temple, and Elders came and took Him to the high priest’s house (Luke 22: 39-54). The council of Jewish leaders falsely accused Him and brought Him to the Roman leader Pilate. Pilate found no fault in Jesus, but to please the Jewish leaders he sentenced Jesus to be crucified at Calvary. It was there that Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23: 1-34).

**5** Jesus’s body, following His death, was placed in a sepulchre. He was buried there for three days. The women who

came with him from Galilee, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, beheld the sepulchre and how His body was laid. Three days later they again came and saw the stone rolled away from the sepulchre and Jesus’s body no longer there (Luke 23:55; Luke 24: 2-3). They were told by two men in shining garments that Jesus is risen. Jesus appears to the Apostles, shows them His pierced hands, feet and side, saying you believe because you see, more blessed are those that believe and have not seen (John 21:29). He tells them to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Ghost is given to them. He then is carried up to heaven.

So it is in a relatively short time that the promises given since creation, the plan of salvation, are fulfilled. How great Thou art, our Lord!

God almighty. We praise you forever.

Scan the QR code to complete a survey about our General Church mentoring program for ages 13-25.



THE CHURCH OF  
Jesus<sup>®</sup>  
Christ



## Our Words Have Great Power

We forget all the mistakes we have made too. Sometimes we're embarrassed about something we failed at so we point out the mistakes of others to make ourselves feel or look better. Don't do it anymore. Stop. Say something nice about them instead.

Figure out the best way to handle things. Hopefully it will be peaceful too, but sometimes we have to stick up for ourselves.

Dear Friends,

Last week my friend told me about a really exciting basketball game he'd just had after school. The two teams were fighting point by point, basket by basket, each to win! It was the last few minutes of the game. His team had a free throw. But the player missed it! They lost. Everyone on his team was disappointed; some were mad.

Meanwhile, as you go your way you have a lot of power to help others with your kind words. I knew a wise lady once who told us, "Go and make three people smile today!" It was fun to try. And when you see something good, praise it. If you think about it and it is positive, say it. When we do good, it's like a light that shines in a dark place. You may say the only kind or good words someone hears today. You can shine the light of Jesus!

Then, people started up on their cell phones. They were criticizing the guy who missed the shot. Others responded by blaming every move the guy had made! My friend said that all of a sudden the Coach was online and joined the discussion. He pointed out that any one of them could have missed the shot. It was true. He made peace. The mean messages stopped.

With love,  
Your friend and Sister in Christ,

Are you still feeling bad about some mistake you made? Quit hiding and tell God. He already knows what's going on anyway. Ask Him how to make it right. Ask Him to forgive you and help you stop making that mistake again. Pray about it. Ask if there is anything you can do to fix it. Do it. Change. Learn to say "I am sorry" to people and to God. When you do, this is called repenting. Pray about it and mean it. Do it again if you have to. That way you can stop worrying about it.

# Sister Jan

Can you be a peacemaker like his coach? Can you speak up even if mean people or liars make fun of you when you are kind? Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called children of God" (See Matthew 5:9). Into a world full of people needing love, Jesus sends us as peacemakers. And in a world that is sometimes ugly with violence and hate, peacemakers are needed. Don't be afraid, God will tell you how to be brave and kind. He will give you the right words to speak also.

Remember, your words have power. Did someone else's mean words hurt your feelings or make you feel horrible and worried inside? Tell someone you trust who is kind and smart.

We do have a special tool. It is faith in our living God. That means we can pray in Jesus' name in our hearts for those right words or things to do. When we do, God will show us how to handle the situation.

Many people like to blame others.

N H F  
E K Q H F S H Z G  
B O W R Z I S A J F W S B  
U P T L Z M P B T N S X E U S S F  
S A N B W E G L Z H R C A F P U C D C  
S J P P L I N S Q X E V N R H P X T A L L  
D H Y K W C T T S Q Y C I E D H R Z L S N  
D D U K H V Z P S H E M T I L T O A J L T T M  
T G Y B T S E E F C G D X G Y A P D P G U T R  
V D O W E Q U E A B S W U U V C Z E Q M H A O F J  
G E G N N G W X C Q A W F S S K L G I S O P Z J Y  
U A J E Z J E R E A V N T Z I L G S E B I R G F V  
Y A F B J Q D L R M Z Y G I C A Q X Z C N X S K D O A  
T E C E H T I C B A S Q Y O C M K A S B I I T Q T C E  
D Y O B M G R E L K E O X B D O Q A D R G X H C K O T  
B S K Q C X A X E U Y X V T X W Y R I M M O S X L  
W I L P P B D B R X R H V Q O H K Z S Y K M K K Y  
M F H J Y K X N S H V K J I X F A T E N S O G W G  
F D N E R D L I H C N Y P P C U J W O C R J Q  
H A R V U C B L K R D I T Z A A T I M K K E X  
K O O X C Q Z A Y O D H L Q P M K B X O Q  
F F G G F Z K O H W U E K U M W K J A R J  
L I M D B R P H S B U W O Z H F D S O  
Z H U R V Y A Q R X C F A X Y Q G  
Z D Z T J T H G I L M D T  
Z B X E N U L C U  
Y B C

BLESSED  
ARE  
THE  
PEACEMAKERS  
FOR  
THEY  
SHALL  
BE  
CALLED  
CHILDREN  
OF  
GOD  
SHINE  
YOUR  
LIGHT  
KIND



THE CHURCH OF  
**Jesus<sup>®</sup>  
Christ**

## SAVE THE DATE

### GMBA CAMPOUT 2024

### JUNE 22-28

@ PENN WEST  
UNIVERSITY,  
CALIFORNIA PA

### REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON!



## ***Camp 2024 will be here soon! If you could only bring 5 things to camp what would they be?***

"Bible, Book of Mormon, clothes, more clothes, and paper to write names and phone numbers on." -Sister Joann Cotellesse, Pinetop, AZ Branch

"Bible, Book of Mormon, cell phone (to take pictures), walking shoes, and a spirit of praise." -Sister Kathy Natoli, Detroit, MI Branch 1.

"My Sticks (The Bible and The Book of Mormon), Notebooks, Pens, and Fruity Pebbles Protein Powder." - Brother Antonio Palmieri, Creekside, MI Branch

"A prayer, a testimony, a loving heart, a singing spirit, and necessary items for comfort." -Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"I would bring blankets, deodorant, snacks, comfortable shoes, and my own pillow." - Sister Sydney Lovalvo, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"If I could only bring five things, they would definitely be my Bible, Book of Mormon, pen, notebook & a TCOJC hat!" -Sister Heather Escobar, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"iPhone (access digital scripture and communicate), glasses, toothbrush/toothpaste, snacks, games." - Sister Darlene Lovalvo, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"1. My Two Sticks that are one in my hand, 2. An open heart for meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ, 3. Plenty of handkerchiefs for spirit-filled meetings, 4. willingness to learn from great seminars, 5. high power protein snacks!" -Brother George Kovacic, Middle Tennessee Mission

"A coffee maker, shower shoes, a blanket, a water bottle, and my family." -Brother Chuck Maddox Jr., Forest Hills, FL Branch

"1. Comfortable shoes, 2. pillow, 3. Clothes, 4. snacks, 5. toothbrush" -Sister Sophia O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch



# Blessing Bits

**BB A NEW Client The Lord Already Knew!** - As a home inspector I meet new people everyday. On this particular day, as I walked in to meet my new clients, I realized I had met them before. Here standing before me was a friend of a friend that had visited the Erie Branch in 2018. She smiled and said "Pastor!!! I know you! The Lord has blessed us!" It was a great reminder that we need to be ready in season and out of season for when the Lord wants to use us! She was a new client of mine, but the Lord already knew her! - Brother Owen Wilcoxson, Erie, PA Branch

**BB What Better Place to Be -** A week after being hospitalized with blood clots in my lungs, an incident occurred in Church. During the meeting my head fell to the right and I couldn't speak or move. I kept trying to say I need anointed, then I heard a goblet fall getting everyone's attention, and

several members came to my aid. I was anointed by the ministry and felt safe in my Father's arms. After arriving at the hospital, I was given medication for the CT scan. It felt like red hot coals were in my body, lasting a good five minutes. The Lord let me know He was cleansing my body. The scan showed that all the clots, even ones in my pulmonary arteries, were gone and no stroke had occurred. The doctors were baffled. I wasn't. God had come to my rescue again. -Sister Terri Nath, Mono

**BB He Answered My Prayer -** I incurred some unexpected expenses during the past month, and when I sat to figure out my bills, I was \$100 short. I turned to God and said, "Father, What am I going to do?" The next day in the mail I received a check for \$100 - exactly the amount I needed! Praise God! He is so good to me both naturally and spiritually!- Sister Sharon D'Amico, Simi Valley, CA Mission

Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Elizabeth McDonnell at [eksanchor@gmail.com](mailto:eksanchor@gmail.com). [in approximately 150 words]. Answers to Question of the Month to [gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org](mailto:gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org).



**Question for this month:** **Mother's Day is a special time we remember our natural and spiritual mothers. What advice would you give a new mother?**



**Answer from last month:** **Camp 2024 will be here soon! If you could only bring 5 things to camp what would they be?**

Turn to page 11 for answers.



*For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! — Zechariah 9:17*