

The Gospel News

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*Thank
God!*



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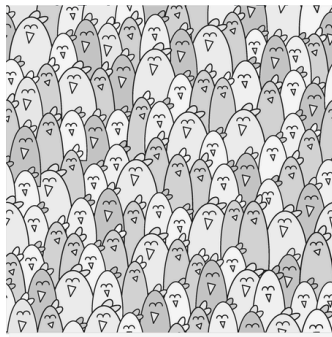
By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

The Great Lakes Region gathered together the weekend of September 20 and 21 for an unusual and exciting Region conference. In addition to the great turnout by our region, there were many visitors from other regions as well, including a large number of young people. On Saturday, the elders and teachers met with the region apostles in the sanctuary of the Farmington Hills Branch while the children, young people ages 13-25, and older members gathered for their own seminars. The seminars were focused on the theme of the weekend which was, "What You Do for Jesus Christ Is Not in Vain" taken from I Corinthians 15:58. Following the seminars and elders and teachers' meetings, we gathered together for a Fall Fest and enjoyed some food, fellowship, and kids' games.

On Sunday, we met at Branch #1 for continued blessings. Brother Cameron Staley opened our meeting speaking on the theme and adding to the fact that it is not in vain, that "it is worth it all." Every little thing that we do is worth it. He gave examples of times when he attended smaller branches, and they would meet in the saints' homes mid-week, sometimes being as few as ten people, or in the basement of a wedding chapel on Sunday mornings with a lot of distractions. Despite the circumstances or the small group, their efforts brought forth fruit many years later as their families and others were brought to the knowledge of Christ and are now members of the Church. He also spoke about how in August 2021, one young woman stood up praising God even though she had a life-long struggle with extremely severe allergies. Before the end of her testimony she asked for her baptism. And through that act of courage, six more young people asked for their baptism that day and throughout the week.

The meeting was turned over to the Branch #1 ministry as we were also there to witness the ordinations of six brothers: Brothers AJ Cuerrier and Brad Everett as Elders, Brother Marcus Natoli as a Teacher, and Brothers Kyle Chambers, Kris Shovan, and Jeff Paxon as Deacons. Before the brothers' feet were washed and they were ordained, Elders from Branch 1 came forward and talked about the duties of each calling. It was a beautiful moment to watch the brothers come forward to take on these new responsibilities and be ordained.

(Continued on page 4)



Grateful hymns quiz:

When upon life's billows
you are tempest tossed,
do not be discouraged
thinking all is lost...



We thank you
for your kindness,
we thank you for your love.
We've been in
heavenly places,
felt blessing from above...

The world was lost
in sin and shame,
Mankind was lost
and then Jesus came.
He carried our sins
to Calvary's tree
He hung there and bled there
For you and me.



Mine is a story
of infinite love,
Mine is a story
of measureless grace...



So I will thank Him
now and forever;
my songs of praise
will never stop...



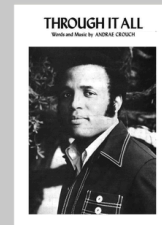
So let me praise Him,
for I adore Him
And I will sing it
forevermore...

----- !

My sin — oh, the bliss
of this glorious thoꝛt —
My sin, — not in part,
but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross
and i bear it no more...



I thank God for the mountains
and I thank Him for the valleys;
I thank him for the storms
He brought me through.
for if I never had a problem,
I'd never know that God
could solve them...



BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

Seventy-six years ago this month, in 1948, an article entitled, "Thanksgiving Day" by Sister Sadie Cadman appeared in The Gospel News.

"For many years it has been the custom of our Nation in the autumn season after harvest-time to observe a day known as Thanksgiving Day and turn to God in which to praise the Great Giver for all His goodness and bountiful blessings to the children of men. And this year should not be an exception. This has been a year of full and plenty for all. While the threat of war is continually falling on our ears, and many homes are being broken-up with our young men taken to different places – yet we must not fail to be thankful, and continue to trust Him who has been so mindful of us all, and like the Psalmist say: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." On this day many have cause for gratitude only for the material benefits of life, nothing else; yet all of us should ever sing praises to God for all things and in everything give thanks. Let us with David in Psalms 116:12 ask ourselves this question: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?"

(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.



"If Just One More Snip" By Brother Doug Obradovich

"The kingdom of heaven IS AT HAND: Repent ye" (Mark 1:15)

many events in life can affect us in just an instant. For me, for our mission, if just one more snip.

Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven IS AT HAND" (Matthew 3:2) and "The kingdom of God IS AT HAND, repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:5). "At hand" is a figurative phrase referring to something within reach. Jesus was articulating salvation is urgent and too valuable to risk by our delay. Timothy spoke with similar resolve, "BE READY in season and out of season" (II Timothy 4:1, 2). Consider a professional athlete who may get into trouble after their season ends, when focus and purpose is lost. Timothy knew, in spiritual terms, it's always game time!

Paul knew when he said, "NOW is the day of salvation" (II Corinthians 6:2). He knew when he said, "It is already the hour for you to AWAKEN from sleep" (Romans 13:11). He was warning us not to sleep through the game; it's game time right now! He knew we must remain readied, "The Lord will come just like a thief in the night" (I Thessalonians 5:2).

If you've found salvation, death should not scare you ("Death, where is thy sting?" – I Corinthians 15:55). However, your complacency can jeopardize your relationship with God, His intended blessings for you, and someone else's salvation. All of this frustrates God's divine plan. When you lose focus on Him, you may miss God's opportunities. An opportunity lost may involve someone searching for salvation, which can endanger their urgent quest for redemption. That should scare us!

Don't simply repent because you fear for your soul, but extend your care to the souls of those who may look to you for their deliverance. Embrace the urgency in your calling and accept your role in God's plan. Sitting on your hands when salvation is so close restricts your reaching what is "at hand." Don't wait one more moment; but don't do it because of a hurricane, flood or tornado. Do it because your complacency disappoints God and disrupts His game plan. Do it because someone is depending upon you. Do it because we can lose these opportunities as quick as a snip!

At the September, 2017 Midwest Conference, discussion centered upon recent hurricanes and earthquakes. Brothers Joel Gehly, Jim Crudup and Frank Natoli wondered aloud concerning how they could help us embrace these as God's warnings, along with His recent revelations to The Church. Hmmm....

One of Martin Luther King, Jr's most famous sermons, "If I Had Sneezed," addressed an attempt upon his life, when he was stabbed near his lungs. His physicians reported that had he sneezed, Dr. King would surely have died. A few years ago I underwent a procedure that required 8 biopsies. Because my doctor was certain I had cancer, he more than doubled the process (18 biopsies). None of them confirmed his suspicion, but what if he did a 19th biopsy, and it proved him right? If just one more snip.

I wonder who within our mission has readied themselves to accept more responsibility. Hurricanes needn't be utilized to gain any of our attention as

(Great Lakes Region Conference - continued from cover)

After the ordinations, a prayer was held for those who were planning to travel soon to the mission fields in Italy, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Brother Joe Giannetti, Region President, then closed the meeting encouraging us to be uplifted, energized, and do the work of the Lord, knowing that nothing we do for Him is in vain.

Branch #1 provided lunch after the meeting, giving us one last opportunity to fellowship before heading home.

From the overflowing sanctuary, to the beautiful music, and educational seminars and speaking, the spirit of unity was felt through the entire two days together. It was great to be a part of this very blessed weekend!



Gospel News Testimony

Every month when our paper copy of the Gospel News would come in the mail, it would disappear for a few days and then suddenly reappear on the kitchen counter. It turns out our teen-age daughter would take it into her room as soon as it arrived and read it cover to cover before putting it back. This occurred all through middle school and high school. We certainly didn't mind!- Brother Anthony and Sister Linda Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carolynn O'Connor

gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org
734-266-0213

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Chuck Maddox, Jr.

chuckmaddoxjr@thechurchofjesuschrist.org
937-266-2506

CONSULTANTS

Paul Liberto

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

Marty Jumper

Becbogmart@comcast.net
724-302-6599

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Andrew Tenorio

altenorio38@gmail.com
908-405-8323

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 Intrieri

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

Songs of Deliverance

By Brother Anthony Scolaro

Throughout the scriptures we read of songs, prayers, and even sacrifices being offered in thanksgiving by God's people upon reaching the end of an arduous journey. In just the first few chapters of the Book of Mormon we see thanks being offered time after time as Lehi and his family leave Jerusalem, obtain the brass plates, capture food in the wilderness, and arrive in the promised land.

These accounts and similar ones in the Bible, such as when the Israelites safely cross the Red Sea ahead of their would-be captors, or later when their children enter into the land of Canaan, confirm what we already know: People tend to be more instant—and more fervent—in expressing gratitude, after a near-accident, an extended tribulation, a season of want, or a near-death affliction. Conversely, in times of prosperity and abundance, of peace and safety, we forget to acknowledge God as the Provider and the Giver of good things. As explained so eloquently in 2 Nephi Chapter 2, without adversity we don't appreciate the good times.

The Lord has told His Church that we are entering into a new dispensation of time. He's reminded us on several occasions to prepare ourselves as the things that we have read about, spoken about, and sung about for many years begin to be fulfilled. Mercifully, He has given us this direction prior to us entering into this new era.

How should we prepare? Our apostles recently wrote, "The people of God must reprioritize and rededicate ourselves to make our service to the Lord the single most important aspect of our life." They aren't talking about something we can merely claim to be doing; we must actually do it, to the point where it is reflected consistently in our actions. We cannot predict the future, but we can be assured that if we're in a proper state of spiritual preparation, we will be able to face—with the Lord's help—whatever we may encounter on the way.

A familiar chorus that can be interpreted as a hymn of thanksgiving, gives some indication that the journey to Zion could involve some challenges:

And they cried, "Ah, we knew the day would come..." —Believing, or even better, knowing—regardless of every indication to the contrary—that God would be faithful to His word, and holding onto our own faith through a long period of waiting;

And "Praise the Lord, He kept us through the night..." —Expressing gratitude for being preserved through a time of extended darkness; living by faith while not able to see what lies ahead;

And "God is good—He brought us through the wilderness..." —Acknowledging God's protection and deliverance through what turned out to be an expansive, wild, and desolate place;

And "Let's all thank the Lord that we're alive to see the morning light." —Recognizing it was by God's grace and power that we survived the ordeal and emerged victorious. With the same breath that God breathed into our first parents, we can return thanks to Him for His Son and the gift of eternal salvation.

Advanced Gratitude Attitude *By Sister Carolynn O'Connor*

"Thank God." Two words that can have a big impact. I often use these words when someone shares good news. "I was in an accident but was not hurt." "Thank God!" I reply. "I was sick but am feeling much better"— the same reply: "Thank God!" "I got an A on my test." Again, I reply "Thank God." When I go through my texts, I see where I have used this expression frequently. I suppose it could be taken two ways — I am thanking God, or I am telling them to thank God. Either way, it is a fitting response.

Maybe some think I use it too often. But scripture tells us "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" This verse, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, reminds us to thank God for ALL things. We know that all good things come from God, so if not Him, who should we be thanking? "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." (James 1:17)

I don't just say it when I am talking to family or brothers and sisters, I say it when I am at work or with friends or family that are not part of the Church. Some may think it is just an expression, but I see others take a moment to think about or acknowledge that I have said it. It is like a mini testimony that allows them to know my beliefs and where I give honor and glory with just two words. This is one way I try to stay focused on having a thankful and grateful heart.

What I realized recently, though, was that I was thanking God in a reactive way more often than proactively. I was waiting for the opportunity rather than being thankful constantly.

We put up a grateful tree in our overflow area a few years ago at the Farmington Hills Branch. This was a proactive exercise for us. Every time we came to Church, we wrote down something we were thankful for on leaves and added them to the tree. Soon the tree was filled with so many beautiful thoughts. I was surprised at some of the things the brothers and sisters chose to put on their leaves. Some were things I had not thought of before but by reading them, I too became thankful for them. Others were more common, like being a member of the Church, but in reading them, I was reminded that repeated expressions of gratitude were often things that unite us the most.

It is so easy to be caught up in everything around us. From political unrest to differences, to financial challenges, illness, grief, worry.... It is easy to get stuck in a place where you feel hopeless, or even a victim, and begin to wonder "Why?" or "Where is God?" But honestly brothers and sisters, are we not so tremendously blessed?!

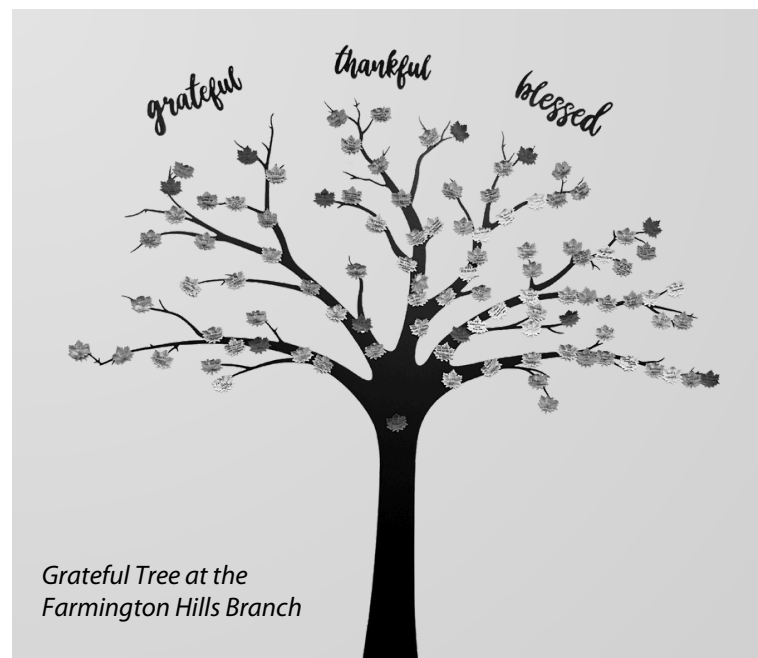
Not to minimize our challenges; I deal with severe health issues on a daily basis and I know many of you have similar and different challenges in your life, too. None of that matters. Whatever your lot, He has taught us to say, "It is Well with my Soul." That acceptance comes through acknowledgment of the bigger things in life than our trials, it comes from an

understanding that regardless of where you are now, your soul is saved and someday you will enter His Kingdom. This realization is more proactive. It does not require something good to happen today in order for us to give thanks.

In past years we have talked about ways to practice gratitude, and I would say that proactive gratitude is the advanced course. It's about being able to praise God on a rainy cold day, or for your health as you suffer through the last round of challenges, or for your job when you struggle to get there or stay motivated, or for your family even if your relationships are in crisis. It is being content with what you have, praising Him in the middle of your trials, and having a grateful open heart when things seem to be crumbling around you. Whoa! It was even hard for me to type that last sentence. Seems impossible to get there, but the Word would not tell us to do something that is impossible, so stepping out on faith here, I am hoping to adopt this Advanced Gratitude Attitude!

The Grateful Tree prompted us to be thankful without a situation, or at the very least reminded us about situations that happened in the past where we were grateful. You can make a grateful tree in your own home. Journaling your gratitude every day is another simple yet very effective way. Sometimes starting small and reminding yourself to be grateful for the little things in life that bring you joy helps to set the tone and allows you to build on it. With that in mind, turn the page and try our 30-day Gratitude Challenge, and fill in one prompt each day. Keep it going the next month and the one after that until practicing proactive gratitude becomes part of who you are and your day-to-day mentality. Only then can you be ready or prepared to praise Him during the storm with your Advanced Gratitude Attitude.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20)



30 Day Gratitude Challenge

I AM THANKFUL FOR...

Something about Fall:

A favorite childhood memory:

Your favorite hymn:

A talent you have:

A family tradition:

Something about Summer:

A brother or sister that has passed:

A trial you overcame:

Something about the way you look:

A past time you enjoy:

Someone in your extended family:

Someone in your branch:

Your favorite part of the Church service:

Something about your job or school:

How your favorite piece of scripture makes you feel:

A place that brings you joy:

Your pet or a past pet:

An answered prayer:

Something about Winter:

Whatever brought you to join the Church:

Something that someone did to help you out:

Your favorite musical performer:

Something about Spring:

Your favorite place to vacation:

Your favorite event of the year at Church:

A family member you have learned from:

A favorite food:

A friend that has made an impact on your life:

A child that you enjoy spending time with:

A story about your parents or grandparents:

My Thankful Heart ***By Sister Sydney Lovalvo***

Have you ever felt bogged down and overwhelmed? Feeling stuck in the mundane, ritualistic habits of your life that you wait to get better? Or even wonder when something good will happen? I've stated this in many articles over the last year, but as young people, there are so many things in life that can make you feel overwhelmed: school, work responsibilities, stresses at home, friendships, and so much more. Sometimes there isn't even a big life event happening, but one little thing can throw off the whole day and change your mood.

I am here to admit that I was feeling many of those feelings not too long ago. I had just moved back home to Michigan from Pennsylvania, where I had lived for nursing school. I was starting a new job as a registered nurse at a big hospital, adjusting to living back at home with my family instead of living on my own, and learning how to navigate this new chapter of my life. The things in my life were positive and wonderful; they were moving me forward, but something felt "off", and I couldn't quite put a finger on it. I felt myself just going through the motions day-to-day, and not focusing on much else.

I had loved the season of my life in Pennsylvania. I was proud of my accomplishments in nursing school, and beyond thankful that the Lord had led me there. I got to spend so much time with wonderful Saints of God who I know will be in my life forever. On the other hand, I was also excited to be back home with my family and finally start my career. There were way more positives in my life than negatives, and despite recognizing my life was full of God's blessings, I only felt overwhelmed. While I was able to recognize good things in my life, I seemed unable to feel thankful or grateful for them in my heart. These feelings went on for several months.

On a particular tough night, ruminating and feeling frustrated, I offered quite a candid prayer to God. I don't remember the whole prayer, but I know that I prayed for peace, and specifically asked the Lord to change my heart to a heart full of thanksgiving. I wanted to feel thankful, instead of overwhelmed, for the things in my life. I went to bed that night with a sense of relief that I finally offered my feelings and prayers towards the Lord, but I can't say I felt any different.

The next morning, I didn't feel like this grand new person, but I felt lighter. The weight of feeling "off" and overwhelmed had been lifted off my shoulders. I had a new sense of thankfulness for my current situation in life. Instead of focusing on my big life changes and how stressful they could be, I was able to focus on being thankful for moving forward. I could now drive to work with a sense of gratitude for my job and for how God provided me employment with wonderful bosses, coworkers, and patients. When I went to church I felt thankful to worship there again with my brothers and sisters, instead of sitting in the pews wondering why I was feeling different. Most importantly, I was extremely thankful for this new chapter in life, instead of frustrated that the last chapter had ended. I realized that I was now feeling gratitude and deep fondness for the past, without being bitter about the present and future. My mind also changed; I would practice speaking thankfulness and gratitude outwardly towards the Lord, because I wanted to praise Him for my changed heart. I have woken up each day feeling thankful, which was ultimately the greatest answered prayer!

As I write this, I am acutely aware that sharing my thoughts and the deep feelings of my heart makes me extremely vulnerable. I would be lying if I didn't say that it is nerve-wracking. However, with it being Thanksgiving, and the Lord answering my prayer to help me develop a more thankful heart, I couldn't not write about this miracle. It also gives me an opportunity to publicly thank God and give my testimony of this amazing, answered prayer in my life.

Most importantly, I hope that this can help someone, maybe a struggling young person, know that they can go to the Lord with all things, especially their burdens. My heart is full of thankfulness because I asked the Lord to help change it—how wonderful is that?

This Thanksgiving, I know we all have something to be thankful for. I want to encourage everyone to enter this season with an open and thankful heart. I know that I will, as it is all because of His love and mercy towards me.

(Blast From The Past - continued from cover)

Not just to praise Him this day for natural blessings and happiness, and prosperity; but for that freedom of religion and the inner peace of heart, without which all is naught. God's word is full of exhortations to praise Him—David says, "Praise the Lord all ye Nations: praise Him all ye people – Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." So let us recognize with thanksgiving the Great Giver – and as we sit

in the family circle this Thanksgiving Day with our loved ones, enjoying fellowship and the good things to eat, may we not forget those less fortunate, who do not have freedom of home and religion – and give thanks always for all things both great and small, overlooking nothing and remembering always – to Praise God from whom all blessings flow, and let us give thanks. Sincerely, Sadie B. Cadman."



A Thought

by Sister Marty Jumper

We know that there is an order in life; night follows day, summer follows spring, and Thanksgiving comes before Christmas. Except this year, the Aliquippa Ladies' Uplift Circle brought Christmas to July. Seeing pine and poinsettias before we see the leaves change colors was definitely out of order, but it began as a thought. Just a thought with a desire to have the Aliquippa Ladies' Uplift Circle do a fun activity, not just for the Circle, but for the branch as well. As I explored possibilities, I decided to present to the sisters a "Christmas in July" celebration with dinner and a movie. The sisters agreed, but we discussed it no further since it was a Circle meeting in February, and we would have plenty of time to think about it and make plans. Time passed, and suddenly I realized that no ideas had been presented for our dinner. Just before Father's Day, which was June 16, 2024, we met and made plans for the breakfast we were having that Sunday in honor of Father's Day, and thankfully we also decided on the menu for our "Christmas in July" dinner. It was agreed that we would do a fundraising dinner for the Special Projects of the Penn-MidAtlantic Area Ladies' Uplift Circle and the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. The Circle sisters felt that we should invite the Imperial and McKees Rocks branches to share the evening with us.

Brother Dan Tamburrino often used a quote when you were trying to do something good and things started to go wrong, "opposition in all things" he would say (2 Nephi 2:11), and Sister Ann Progar's most memorable line was "the devil dances." Well, both were appropriate as our plans continued. We created an invitation to be sent to the other branches, but, due to technical difficulties, it never went out. Praise God, I realized the branches had not received it and I sent texts to the Presiding Elders, understanding it was short notice for the brothers and sisters to make plans to come.

Because we wanted to make the evening special, ordering some Christmas items was necessary, and we held our breath as some

of the items we ordered were delivered at the last minute and some never arrived.

We pushed forward, and the evening of our dinner came. Each table was decorated with an arrangement including pine, holly, poinsettias and a "lion and lamb," our theme of peace. The Lord truly blessed us as the Saints, friends and family members came together. The dinner, consisting of stuffed shells, meatballs, chicken, green beans, salad and dessert was enjoyed by all. Our dessert table turned out to be a Christmas feast with cookies of all kinds, cakes and pies, nut rolls, brownies and candy. One of the Sunday school rooms, also decorated with a Christmas theme, displayed beautiful crochet articles made and being sold by Sister Earleen Hunt as a project she is doing for the Ladies' Circle.

The movie was a delightful video from the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. It was a musical compilation of secular and sacred Christmas songs and Christmas stories from different eras of time. The video finished with a choir singing the Hallelujah Chorus. What a wonderful way to end the evening!

Our sisters were disappointed that our evening had passed so quickly, but thankful to see happy, smiling faces as each said their good nights. The Lord blessed our gathering in so many ways: tasty food, wonderful fellowship, and due to the generosity of all who attended, the Ladies' Circle raised one thousand dollars to donate to the Special Project Funds of the Ladies' Uplift Circles.

The blessings we shared that evening started with one simple thought. The sisters worked hard, and we faced some challenges, but, praise God, we persevered, all to the honor and glory of God. When the Lord inspires with a "simple thought," act on it. The windows of heaven will open, and His blessings will flow.



Tell us what you are grateful for in your life and share with us what helps you stay in the Spirit of Gratitude especially when times are tough.

"With all the blessings I have in my life, it's hard to tell of one for which I'm thankful. When times are difficult, and I'm in need of direction or comfort, the Lord will give me a hymn that puts me on the path He wants me to take. I'm thankful that He is aware of our individual needs." -Sister Marty Jumper, Aliquippa, PA Branch

(Continued on page 11)



Be Thankful Constantly

Dear Friends,

Are you aware we have a living God who sends us help whenever we need it or are in trouble? Years ago when I had moved hours from home to go to University, my older Sister Sue drove down to pick me up to go home. Her car was older but worked.

We were in Kansas, which is flat with rolling hills. We left my school and were down the highway at dusk when the headlights flickered and the car died! We'd just come over a small rise and now the road was flat!

We prayed, quickly and frightened. If a big semi-truck came over the hill we would be smashed into. After we prayed, the car started to gently roll! On the flat road! We guided it over to the side and prayed thankfully.

This was before we had cell phones. We were stuck on a lonely highway except for prayers. As we prayed, a nice couple came by. The husband told us the battery looked dead. They took us back to town with the battery and a friend re-charged it. We were so thankful to God. We called our mother to tell her we'd be late and asked her to pray as well.

We left the next morning with the heavy battery and no idea how to install it. We were praying again for God's help. Plus, we knew our mother was calling on God as well.

Right away a pickup with a young man and his shaky old grandpa stopped to ask if we needed help.

He went to get his gloves and told his grandpa not to lift the battery, but as he got in the truck, the grandpa quickly limped to our open trunk and lifted out the battery with shaky arms. "No Pop!" the young guy yelled as the battery tipped over and stinging battery acid liquid poured down his coveralls and on his arms. He yelled!

We quickly gave him a towel to blot up the fluid. The young guy was so upset. None of us had any water and we were at least sixty miles away from the next gas station. We were going to have to drive with an empty battery! So we did. We prayed as we cut across the lonely prairie, praying all the way.

We finally found the one gas station. The attendant came out and we told him the problem. He got a water holder as we lifted the hood. When he pulled off the battery cap he said, "You don't need any more water, girls. You're full to the top!" We were shocked.

I pulled out the towel, now eaten with holes in it from the battery acid.

We pointed out where there was still splashed water around the battery. He shook his head and told us the battery was full.

We jumped in the car and took off, joyfully praising the Lord every mile of the way! Does God hear our cries? Yes! Does God send good people to help us? Yes! Does God refill dry car batteries? Yes! Can we trust Him? Oh yes! Does He love us? For sure!

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Trust Him. Remember He sees us; He hears our cries! The Bible teaches us in Isaiah 41:10, "Fear thou not; (don't be afraid) Yes, I will help thee (you). I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness!" Remember what He does for us! Tell others. Tell them how God has blessed and protected you! Be thankful you know how to do what's right and follow God's laws.

With Love,

Your Sister in Christ and Friend,

Sister Jan

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D U F Z Y P W C R O N S O G Q
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GOD ANY
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FRIEND SCARY
HE THING
ALWAYS THANK
READY HIM
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FROM

(Question of the Month: Tell us what you are grateful for in your life and share with us what helps you stay in the Spirit of Gratitude especially when times are tough. Continued from page 9)

"I am thankful for a change of heart. It is a very broad thing to say, but as I heard the theme of SWAMBA campout, "The Change," from Alma 5:26, I was excited because this year has been full of changes: a new job, attending three church events, a new heart & mind, and to living on my own for the very first time. As Alma 5:26 states, I want to sing from the rooftops and spread God's love to everyone I come across. So when I do feel overwhelmed, I read the word, pray, and talk to God. I also have a gratitude journal. I am incredibly blessed to be part of this Church and to be closer to God than ever. -Sister Emelen Sanchez, Fort Worth, TX Branch

"I am grateful for my husband and our family, who share Jesus with one another. That unity of love and spirit gives me comfort in knowing when things get tough we know we have the Lord we can go to for support and prayer." -Sister Kathy Natoli, Detroit, MI Branch #1

"Both my boys have been involved in an active shooter situation where they had to shelter in place. My son Kevin was at MSU when a shooter entered campus and students were killed. My son Brian was working when two boys were fighting and one was killed. Both times, the Lord sent His protection over them. God is so good, He is real and hears the prayers of His children. I can't thank Him enough." -Sister Janice Frammolino, Detroit, MI Branch #1.

"I am grateful for having a solid marriage and a peaceful home. I stay in this spirit by looking around me and seeing how the world shows less and less respect each day for marriage. Also, when the enemy tries to remind me where I came from, instead of feeling ashamed, I say YES! I have been there. I grew up with divorced parents, and I grew up in a toxic, violent environment, but CHRIST RESCUED ME! I am and will be forever grateful." -Sister Cinthia Calvillo, Modesto, CA Branch

"Being in my first year of college and living in a different state than my family, I'm thankful to have brothers and sisters who love and care about me no matter where I am! It means so much to have support from the family of God from all around the country!" -Sister Lola O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"The everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, my beautiful wife, and my wonderful children." -Brother DJ Parry, Inner City, MI Mission

"Where do I begin? Spiritually, having a believing mother who took the time to teach me and my siblings by her testimony and life. A grandfather who set an example of a moderate lifestyle, love of the restored gospel, and commitment to the divine commission of the church. Temporally, I am thankful for how the Lord guided my life with school and work and a multitude of decisions." -Brother Mark Kovacic, North Georgia Mission

"I am thankful that November 5th of this year will be 20 years since I received my liver transplant. I am so grateful that God gave me a second chance at life!" -Sister Marissa Hamet, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"I am thankful to be raised in a family that believes in treating others with respect and compassion. I love my family; they raised me in this Gospel, and they have given me more than I could ever ask for. I am thankful for this Church, the integrity in which we serve Christ, and the love we show not just to one another, but to all of those we meet." -Brother Antonio Palmieri, Creekside, MI Branch

"Among so many other things, I am thankful for the sense of purpose my life has because of the salvation purchased for me by the blood of my Savior Jesus Christ. As I learn to surrender more fully to His will and yield myself more fully to the enticing of the Holy Ghost, I see more opportunities to be used as an instrument in God's hands. As I try to devote more of my time to Him, studying His word and applying the gifts, abilities, and talents He has blessed me with to furthering His kingdom, I find that my life is both full and fulfilling. Life's distractions become crowded out and are less alluring. As a human, I stumble from time to time in pursuing these things, but I am thankful for God's grace and patience and the example He has set for all of us." -Brother Anthony Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch

"I am thankful for the wonderful life the Lord has blessed me with and how much HE loves me." -Sister Denise Bodo, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"I am thankful that Lucas, Sofia, and I will get extra family time with both of our families over the coming holidays!" -Sister Christine Martorana, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"It is very hard to give one answer, but most importantly, I am thankful for the HOPE God has given us for eternal life, if we prove faithful." -Sister Susan Scime, Treasure Coast, FL Branch

"I am thankful for music. God speaks to me through music, and it truly redirects my focus on Him throughout the day." -Sister Alyssa Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"God's intentionality of family and the love and support reflected in that ideal both spiritually and naturally." -Brother Bryan Champine, McKees Rocks, PA Branch

"I'm thankful for an almost empty medicine cabinet, an almost full refrigerator, a solid roof, a loving family, a warm bed, running water, lights that come on at the touch of a switch, air conditioning, good friends, spiritual brothers and sisters, and a loving God who makes all these things possible and who gave his son Jesus Christ to die for my undeserving soul." -Sister Dianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"I am very grateful to God because since I was a child, I have been part of the Church of Jesus Christ, but since I was baptized and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit entered my heart, my life has changed completely. I have gone through very difficult situations in my life, but I have managed to emerge victorious, thanks to Jesus Christ, who has not left me alone and never will. I am proud to be part of the Church of Jesus Christ." -Sister Jessica Subuyuj, Guatemala City Mission

"My Grandpa, Leonard Lovalvo, being able to live close to my house. A short drive is a huge blessing!" -Brother Jack Lovalvo, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"I am thankful for so many things in my life like my family, my job, my health, but most importantly that Jesus is always with me no matter what I am doing." -Sister Sophia O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"I'm thankful for being raised in this Church." -Brother Robby, Pinetop, AZ Branch

Blessing Bits

BB I Glory in the Lord

As I was driving home from work late one night, I was listening to a sermon in my car. The brother was preaching from The Book of Mormon and as he spoke, a line from Alma 26:16 caught my attention, "Behold, who can glory too much in the Lord?" Shortly after hearing those words, a deer appeared in front of me from out of the woods. I hit it head on, going at least 50 MPH. God spared me from a major disaster with just some minor damage to my car. I can truly repeat those words: Who can glory too much in the Lord! -Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch

BB The Lord Heard My Call

Back in August, my car battery died at our MBA Campout, but we were able to jump it. I got home safely, and my car worked fine for a few days. Thursday came around and the battery died again while I was at work. My car was parked between a truck and a curb, so I needed

to push it to a different parking spot so we could jump it again. I started pushing alone with some ease from the front bumper. Then I started from the back bumper; it was easy at first, but then I needed to go up a slight incline. The car is obviously very heavy and its weight even started to swing back towards me. At this point I was using every muscle of my body and still not getting anywhere. I said the simple words, "Lord, help me" in my mind. Still pushing uphill, my car instantly felt lighter, as if several people started pushing alongside me. God is an active God, and He wants to reveal His power to us. We must find ourselves watching. -Brother Andrew Tenorio, Edison, NJ Branch

BB Gratitude

God provided everything I needed for my trip to Zambia. I am so grateful for His love.- Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch

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

Q

Question for this month:

What do you look forward to the most or what brings you the most JOY at Christmas time?

A

Answer from last month:

Tell us what you are grateful for in your life and share with us what helps you stay in the Spirit of Gratitude especially when times are tough.

"Everything. I'm thankful for the church, my family, and the hope of salvation." -Sister KarenJo Pandone, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

Turn to page 9 for more answers.



Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever. Amen. — Alma 26:37