

The Gospel News

Tanzania Missions Report

By Brother Randy Lee

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A Season of Growth



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Following approval from the Quorum of the Twelve, the Quorum of Seventy, and the International Mission Operating Committee, a new missionary effort in Tanzania moved forward with prayerful planning and great anticipation. Throughout the preparations, the Lord confirmed this work through a powerful revelation of seeing a herd of mighty elephants thundering from the north through Tanzania, symbolizing that the Gospel was advancing across the land. This gave us confidence that God had wonderful things in store for Tanzania.

The foundation for this work had been laid over many years through regular visits from the Kenya Mission. Since 2016, the Lord has steadily blessed the efforts in northern Tanzania, growing the work from a handful of believers into six established mission groups, including the construction of a small brick church. Brother Paul Kibere, Tanzania's faithful elder, in an outright miracle recovered from prostate cancer to become mighty in these labors. He tirelessly answered many requests from villages longing to hear the Gospel. A visit by brothers from Malawi in late 2024 further strengthened the work and inspired even more effort as we were invited into many villages.

Our journey began in northern Tanzania, where we visited the mission in Lamadi. We were blessed to preach, teach, answer questions, and fellowship with members and visitors, including local pastors and community leaders. During a powerful service, more than 30 people came forward for prayer and anointing. The Spirit of the Lord was richly poured out as lives were touched, prayers were answered, and hearts were changed. Two individuals requested baptism and were joyfully baptized in the waters of Lake Victoria. We left encouraged, committing to continue supporting this growing mission.

From there we traveled to southern Tanzania, where we entered new areas with few existing contacts, mostly an investigation effort. Meeting in homes and village halls, we shared the gospel with many hearing its message for the very first time. Although we briefly faced opposition from local authorities, the Lord opened doors and strengthened our witness. The Spirit moved powerfully as 12 people were baptized, including 91-year-old Brother Dixon, whose joyful decision to follow Christ was an inspiration to all. Brother Juma was ordained to serve as a teacher, many children received blessings, and numerous individuals were anointed for their needs.

(Continued on page 5)

(Seven-year-old calendar brought back to living color. Enjoy!)



Pray for the ministry traveling to and from conference this month. In fact, pray for anyone traveling to and from.

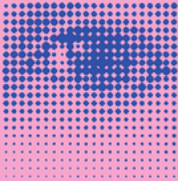


Our two quorums meet on Thursday (8th) to discuss the affairs of God and His Church and the future. You know what to do.

General Circle meets on Friday, the 9th. Where would we be without our sisters?



More autumn color this month than any other. Take some time to walk in the leaves. Bring your camera.



Word Challenge: Find that scripture about vision quoted to the right. Hint: Holy Bible



"Where there is no vision, the people perish;..." (you know the rest of it?) "...but he that keepeth the law, _____ is he."

Monday the 12th is Columbus's Birthday and also National Dessert Day. Have a cannoli on Chris. (He's holding one.)



Sunday, October 25th is World Pasta Day! Coincidence? We think not.

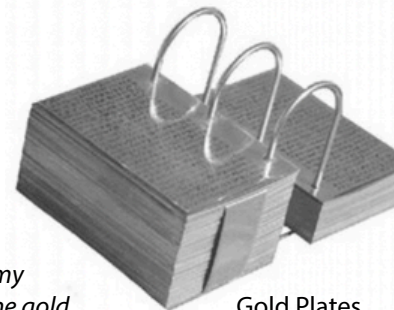


B-TIP Blast From The Past

By Brother Daniel Stone

Shortly after her baptism on October 1, 1961, Sister Lillian Quasada from the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation received a powerful dream pertaining to the divine commission of the Church:

I dreamed I was in our Church building in San Carlos. There were just a few of us in the building. In front of the pulpit, lying in a casket was the body of an Indian lad. On the rostrum were elders from different places. I recognized some from California. Outside the Church [there was] a large number of people from other churches on the reserve. A voice kept telling me to go up to the casket and give gold plates to the boy. I did not go up at first but the voice kept telling me to give gold plates to the dead boy. Finally, I gathered enough strength to begin walking up the aisle towards the casket. A figure I did not recognize put the gold plates into my hands as I walked up the aisle. I thought the dead boy looked like my nephew as I approached him. I placed the gold plates into his hands and immediately the boy came to life. His face became beautifully illuminated. I no longer recognized him as I looked on his shining face. He began waving the gold plates in front of him. Then the Indian boy spoke, "These plates are a record of our people and this is The True Church of Jesus Christ!" All of a sudden, the people who were standing outside began to come into the Church and quickly filled up the building. As they came in, they kept saying, "Now we know that The Book of Mormon is a record of our people! Now we know this is The True Church!"



Gold Plates

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.

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ

Wordup



"While in the Struggle"

By Brother Doug Obradovich

"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me." - Luke 22:42

Bill explained he had little or no money early in his life, so he would hitchhike for transportation. His friend could not comprehend choosing such a dangerous means of travel. Bill further baffled his buddy by saying he missed those times, "Everything was hard back then. But I could never know what I could handle without those struggles." His friend asked, "But why would you want to go back to such hard times?" Bill smiled knowingly, "All of our best stories come while in the struggle."

"While in the struggle" would seem no one's first choice, as the challenges surely disturb our peace, or even destroy us. But they can also define us. They test us, try us, and if we're wise enough, teach us. Jesus Christ was tested, tried, and defined by a life spent "while in the struggle." The Word clarifies this, "Being in an agony, He prayed more earnestly: His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). Clearly this was confirming Jesus' "best stories come while in the struggle." He could have succumbed to the flesh. Instead, He surrendered to God.

The Word highlights another who battled. He was deemed by God, "perfect and upright," and who "feared God and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1). Because the Lord trusted Job, He permitted him to be thrust into "the struggle," in his case defined by lost cattle (7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 oxen, and 500 donkeys), lost personal protection (homes, barns, etc.) lost employees (multiple farm hands), and finally, even lost family (seven sons and three daughters). After all of this, the struggle compounded: Job's wife and close friends tried to coax him to "curse God." But Job overcame all, "while in struggle."

We're all familiar with "the struggle," as maybe you've lost a loved one, a home, a job, or been diagnosed with a health situation. These define "while in the struggle" for each of us. These are the days. We learn that Job's challenge was precipitated by the evil one's affirming and confirming his daily search to attack and destroy each of us individually, "The Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, 'From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it'" (Job 1:7).

We are his targets and subject to his "fiery darts," which can result in either

trepidation or preparation on our part. Fear comes naturally; courage comes spiritually. "Father, if it be thy will!" is a choice borne in both courage by submission, and humility by acknowledgment. It can be our statement of surrender to God and in alignment with God. Wisdom leads to confessing our inability to do anything without God, and our ability to do everything through God by praying for His intervention. Job-like struggles, purposed in destroying us, can be processed as opportunities to be restored by the power of God's love.

The struggle brings choice: "My will" brings failure, "Thy will" brings success.

Maybe life is spent, "while in the struggle." Maybe each struggle brings differing degrees at differing times. Our struggles are both real and personal and can be physical, mental, emotional, financial, spiritual, or any combination of these. They are specific, yet universal. They are individually different, yet generally alike. The saints of God are defined not by easy periods, but rather by the difficult times. The wisest draw closer "while in the struggle." Maybe because the spiritually wise have already discovered, "All of our best stories (testimonies) come while in the struggle."

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sabrina Fisher

gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org
226-238-2305

ASSISTANT EDITOR

David Tenorio

dtenorio9897@gmail.com
908-205-9397

CONSULTANTS

Paul Liberto

Leonard A. Lovalvo

Anthony Scolaro

Carolynn O'Connor

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Shannon Hamet

sis.shannonhamet@gmail.com

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

andrew.tenorio@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

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 Intriери

ray.intriери@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

724-622-7249

SOUTHEAST

Mandy Griffith

mandygriffith324@gmail.com

727-264-7905

SOUTHWEST

Anthony Scolaro

anthony.scolaro@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

732-259-3861

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25565 Gibraltar Rd.
Flat Rock, MI 48134

Abide in the True Vine

By Brother Anthony Scolaro

Most readers of this publication are aware that The Church of Jesus Christ holds a General Conference in Greensburg, Pennsylvania every April and October. While for many years October has been the business and organization conference, our priesthood sessions (meetings limited to ministry and teachers) have become shorter and increasingly focused on spiritual matters, thanks to dozens of volunteers laboring in between conferences. We have been privileged to experience the Lord's presence and direction in our meetings, and have come away, especially recently, feeling like each conference was the most blessed we've ever attended, as we see prophecies being fulfilled.

Our apostles and evangelists, Presidency, and too many committees to mention here—as well as our women's and youth auxiliaries—are responsible for overseeing the spiritual, operational, logistical, communication, and financial aspects of the Church, all with a common eye toward carrying out the Purpose, Mission, and Vision statements that appear on Page 3 of every Gospel News.

While the call for laborers is as great as ever, the Lord's instructions to His followers apply to everyone, whether or not we individually fill a "front line" position. Christ's teachings in the 15th chapter of John (vv. 4-12) remind us of the importance He places on our connection to Him. With that connection, we're more than flesh and blood; without it, our efforts are fruitless:

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Our Church's Vision Statement begins, "Living and worshipping in unity and righteousness will result in the fullness of God's Spirit and power among [us]." As we anticipate and gather for the October General Conference and seek to advance the Great Work of the Lord, let us truly abide in the True Vine, uniting together in doing these things, while not leaving the many other important aspects of the work undone.

More Than a Summer Faith

By Sister Sydney Lovalvo

As the school year has started, it always fills me with feelings of nostalgia. Because of this, lately I have found myself thinking back to my teenage years and being new to the Gospel. I was hungry for the Lord and whatever He had to offer in my life. While I was obviously in school throughout the year, spring and summer were filled with church events that always filled my cup. I took every opportunity to go wherever or do whatever that was involved with church and loved spending time with the saints. Then, once school started, I would feel a sense of dread, realizing my time for church events was coming to an end. To me, it felt like the end of summer was almost the end of my favorite, constant time with God.

Now as I have gotten older, I have started my career and have quickly realized that I do not have the summer freedom I once had. However, I also have realized that I don't need to depend on my summers to be filled with the love of God and to be surrounded by His people, because He, and the wonderful things He provides in my life, are constant and everywhere. I have always loved Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." While church events were fun and a great opportunity, I didn't need a calendar full of church events to know that God was with me in all aspects of life.

I wanted to write about this because as most of our young people have gone back to school or jobs, that sad feeling of summer and church events being over can be hard to accept. The feeling of always wanting to be together with the saints and craving quality time with them is truly a wonderful gift from God that has been such a blessing in my life. The relationships with my loved ones that the Lord has provided me with in my life are something that I will forever be grateful for, but I had to realize that I can still feel blessings and be close to the Lord without being with the saints 24/7 or at church events.

As I have grown, it has been easy for me to see that God is truly involved in every single moment of my life, good or

bad. His Spirit can fill my heart at any moment, wherever I am. And while I knew that when I was younger, I will admit that it did not fully hit me until I entered my twenties. I see the Lord involved in all aspects of my life, whether I am at home, at work, at church, or at the grocery store. I feel a sense of peace knowing that I have Him with me wherever I go.

With that being said, I want to encourage everyone who is reading this, especially the young people who are back in school, to know and recognize God in your daily life, not just at church. He can provide you with peace, strength, and confidence this school year in whatever you do. He will be there when you need Him and rely on Him, but He will also be there during the good and celebratory times. Knowing God is with me throughout every step and season of my life keeps me at peace and gives me the confidence to hopefully tackle whatever is in store for me. I hope it can for you, too!

(Tanzania Missions Report - continued from cover)

Throughout both the north and south, the Lord has blessed the work abundantly. We witnessed conversions, baptisms, healing, renewed faith, and a deep hunger for the truth of the Gospel. New friendships were formed, faithful leaders were strengthened, and many seeds were planted for future growth.

We returned home humbled and grateful for all the Lord accomplished. We ask for your continued prayers for the saints and friends in Tanzania, that God will continue to establish His Church, strengthen His servants, and bring many more souls to Christ.

We are happy to report that in the last few weeks of June 2026, the Church in Tanzania continues to grow with approximately 30 baptisms and several more missions.



A Circle Aim Fulfilled

By Sister Marty Jumper

Circle Aim #1: To assist the Church with missionary work, especially among God's Covenant People, the Native American, and also among the Gentiles.

In March 2026, at the Penn Mid-Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend, Brother Panfilo DiCenzo, an elder from the Penn Mid-Atlantic Region, asked to address the sisters for their help concerning a newly contacted Native American group in Utah. Brother Panfilo, while on an ROC mission trip in Utah, always being mindful that there are Native American tribes which the Church has yet to meet, did some research and discovered that there were people of the Shoshone Tribe living in Ogden, Utah. He contacted the group and set up an appointment to meet with them on the next trip.

One of the contacts he met, Patty, runs the children's library for the Shoshone Band. She was looking for donations of new or gently used books for children aged 1-13.

Sister Jacqui King, president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle, opened this project to the General Circle, asking each Local Circle to consider collecting and donating books for this venture. I do not know the total number of books sent by all the Circles, but after Patty purchased the first set of bookshelves for the library, she told Brother Panfilo that she needed to purchase more shelves. Sister Donna Bogle volunteered to take charge of the books for the Aliquippa Circle, and reports that we have sent 150 books so far.

To the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area Circle, Brother Panfilo also proposed a "crocheted scarf project" to send much-needed winter weather protection for many of the missions serviced by our brothers. His sister, Sister Nina DiCenzo, offered to teach crocheting to anyone at the fellowship weekend who wanted to learn. Many of the sisters came prepared to start that evening and Sister Nina also provided yarn, crochet hooks, and knitting needles. At the end of the weekend several scarves were already finished and ready to be sent.

The project was intended to be ongoing, so on May 30, 2026, the Aliquippa Ladies' Uplift Circle held a 'Native American Outreach Event,' continuing the excitement for the project. Those of us who do not crochet made "no sew" (knot tied) fleece blankets and scarves. The blankets are beautiful and warm, and we know they will be appreciated.

Two more events were held, all three having 12 to 14 sisters, friends, and neighbors attending. Sister Teri-Lyn Tunno, the Aliquippa Circle president, reported the events have been a true blessing, resulting in having sent 71 crocheted scarves, 4 fashion scarves, 4 no-sew blankets, and a donation of 4 shawls and 2 child's sets of a crocheted hat, scarf, socks, and picture book.

Of course, an event cannot be complete without a light snack being provided by our sisters and friends. That supplied a sweet ending to the even sweeter fellowship we all enjoyed.



What Do We Do When We Are Afraid?

Dear Friends,

There are going to be many times when we are afraid and do not know what to do. Sometimes someone kind and smart may give us directions. But many times, we will have to figure it out by ourselves with God's help.

One time, I was at a meeting in a big old, dark school I did not know. There were many hallways, even one that went to a swimming pool. But it was late and I was rushing to get out and go home. Finally I saw a huge school door down an empty hallway. I walked quickly, pushed it open, stepped out, and crashed to the ground! There were no signs, no steps, and this dark hallway and door was located in a place where another building was added outside!

No one could see me and my knee was bent oddly. It hurt so badly. How was I even going to get up to walk around from the back of the building to the parking lot? However, I was not alone, was I? I serve The Living God! So I began to pray, asking God what to do and how to get up! I saw an old abandoned bike rack and started scooting along the ground to it. When I reached it, I took my computer case out of my bag and piled it on the jacket I had pulled off. Then, trying not to cry and praying very hard, I twisted around, knelt on the soft fabric, and got up. It worked! My knee let me move! I hobbled around that old building and got in my car while praising our God who helps us solve problems, loves us, and delivers us! Later that year, I did get my knee replaced. However, on that day, God still got me up and home safely!

In the Bible there are so many amazing accounts of how God protected His followers who called on His name! There were no airplanes, bombs, or guns invented yet. Yet huge armies of soldiers fought and killed each other with spears, bows and arrows, or even stones or starvation.

King Hezekiah was the 13th king of Jerusalem. He was related to King David who had loved and served God. But in between those rulers were other evil kings who turned away from God. Many worshipped statues, did many evil things, and even sacrificed little babies. God was not pleased with them. They knew better! (see 2 Kings Chapters 18-20). The people were turning against God's Word, but King Hezekiah was different! He got rid of the idol worship and restored his country to the true religion. When a huge army came to,

surround and destroy God's people they were afraid, but they turned to God! They stayed behind the huge city walls. They all fasted, prayed, and begged God for deliverance and forgiveness. God heard their prayers and saw their tears. He defended the city and delivered them!

The King also had smart engineers dig an underground tunnel for the only fresh water around. It poured under the city to a pool inside the walls. Now no enemies could cut off the water when they surrounded God's people! (see 2 Chronicles 32:2-4 and 2 Kings 20). This ancient tunnel with water is still there in Jerusalem! It is called Hezekiah's well where you can still go and explore it. God had given them such a good idea! They were saved from total destruction.

God can constantly guide and direct us in what we should do in every situation. Are you looking for a new friend? Ask God to help you. Are you having trouble learning something hard? Ask God how to figure it out. Have you fallen on hard cement, hurt yourself badly and it's getting dark outside? Call on God to help you figure out what to do and how to do it. He will help you!

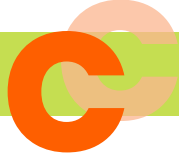
Sometimes our answer from God may be "No." Someone we love may die, we might get really sick, or something we truly want may not always come our way. But trust in God and He will help us through. He knows the reason why we did not get something we thought was really important. God has a perfect plan, and it may have been time for someone we love to leave this earth or He has something better for us than we can even imagine for ourselves. We may feel afraid and lost when we lose our loved one or not receive what we asked for. We just need to call out to God to comfort and help us while we trust in Him!

In the Bible, the great prophet Isaiah told us in Isaiah 41:10, "Be not dismayed (discouraged and afraid); for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee (you); yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." We are not alone. We are loved and cared for by our God that knows and sees everything. Our lives will work out and we will be blessed, even through the days that are sad or scary. Just remember that God loves us.

Sister Jan

With much care,
Your friend and Sister in Christ,
Sister Jan





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What advice would you give someone just starting their walk with Christ?

"Read the Gospels first. You can't go wrong by reading the words of Jesus Christ! Then make it your lifelong mission to read the Bible and Book of Mormon from cover to cover. Finally, be not only a hearer of the Word but a doer."

– Sister Cathy Genero, Forest Hills, FL, Branch

"Practice giving all your concerns and problems, big or small, to the Lord daily. He wants to be involved in all of it!"

– Sister Alanna Wiktorowicz, Mesa, AZ, Branch

"You need to forgive the individuals that interfere with your walk. They do not understand what they are doing."

– Brother Sam Impastato, Detroit 1, MI, Branch

"To always trust in God and know that there will be times when you don't understand why things are happening in your life but that God does and He always has a plan"

– Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA, Mission

"Wake up every morning with a prayer. Thanking God for another day. Reading the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Leaning on your brothers and sisters for guidance. Singing the songs; this helps me all the time. I have been in the Church for 49 years on September 11, I still need the songs and prayers to get me through the day."

– Sister Judith Peyton, Coastal Carolina, SC, Branch

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2



BB God Healed Me

I want to praise God for His goodness. We had such a blessed service in the Columbus Branch, and the Spirit was felt very strongly in the room. I asked for prayer for the pain in my ears and felt the Spirit again, and it gave me much peace. That was a confirmation for me that God hears my prayers and is working on things in my life. The ringing in my ear went away and, as far as I can tell, I believe I can hear better! God is so so good and I thank Him for His love, and thank you all for praying for me.

-Brother Gabe Moore,
Columbus, OH Branch

BB God Is Good

On July 28th, we received alerts about flash floods and severe storms. Throughout the day I kept looking out the window to see how the weather was changing, but nothing much had changed. The next thing I knew, our neighbor was at our front door to let us know that his tree fell on our property. A strong gust of wind had come out of nowhere and pushed it down. The Lord placed the tree perfectly between our house and my father's car that was parked in the street. Nothing was hit or damaged. If the tree had fallen in any other direction it could've caused major damage. Thank you Lord for your constant protection!

-Sister Lydia Tenorio,
Edison, NJ Branch

BB When God Hears, He Answers

Before my relationship with God, I couldn't keep a job. From ages 18 to 23, I worked approximately eleven different jobs (that I can remember) and on average kept each job for about one month before quitting or getting fired. Then one day, I had enough and decided to pray before my shift waiting tables. That day I had confidence and I performed like I never had before. I'm 30 years old now and from that day on I have prayed before every shift and I've knocked it out of the park every time.

-Brother Javier Alverson,
Spartanburg, SC Branch

Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Elizabeth McDonnell at eksanchor@gmail.com.

(In approximately 150 words). Send answers to Question of the Month to gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org.

*Got a blessing?
Share it here!*



Question for this month:

What are you thankful for?



Answer from last month:

What advice would you give someone just starting their walk with Christ?
Turn to page 9 for answers.

