

The Gospel News

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

JESUS CARES

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Campout
2026*

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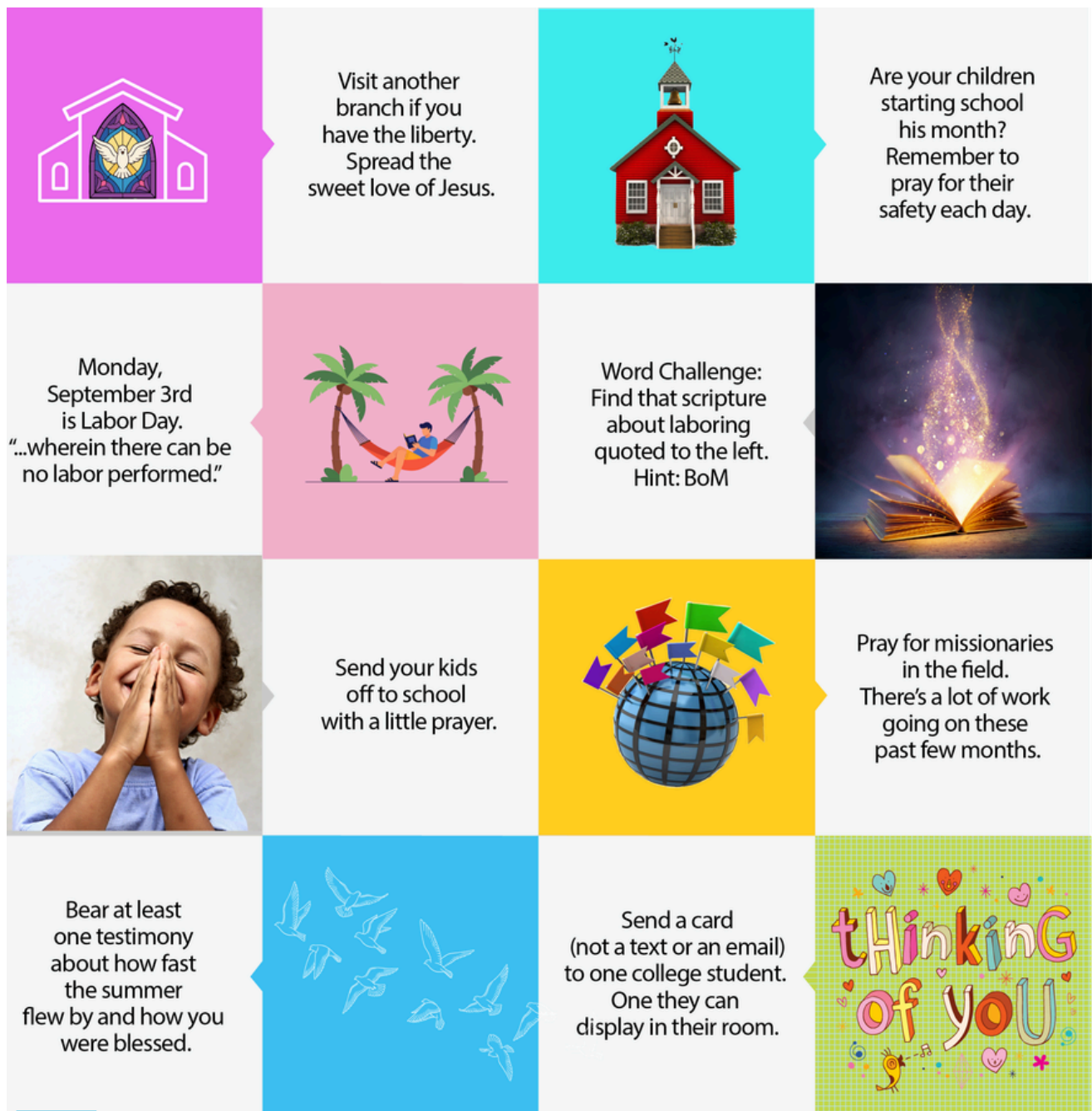
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While in the upper room just before Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, John 17 records the prayer that Jesus offered to God, His Father, for the spiritual preservation of His disciples and believers who would come afterward. Jesus' words portray His deep and abiding love for them. Reading through the chapter, one can sense His earnest plea that God would be with them as they would eventually face tremendous challenges after He was crucified. Interestingly, as we read through the chapter, verse 20 reveals the Lord is praying for us as well. It is so very gratifying to understand that Jesus would see us throughout the ages of time and consider us as His disciples.

This chapter also reassures us that He remains deeply concerned about our lives, our struggles, our challenges, our faith, and our endurance in the gospel. It is marvelous and comforting to read and absorb its full meaning:

"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

(Continued on page 4)



BFTP Blast From The Past

Set in a school yard on the Muncey-Delaware Indian Reserve in Ontario, Canada, the first GMBA campout was held 61 years ago this year. Mostly from Michigan and Canada, the small group gathered, as The Gospel News would describe, in an "opportunity to share spiritual, social, and educational experiences at one of the Church's oldest missions." The gymnasium doubled for church services and sleeping accommodations for those not in tents. The saints were treated to Amazing Grace sung by the Muncey saints in their native tongue and thanked by former chief and husband to Sister Faye, Ken Albert, who spoke of the Church as "a source of inspiration for the reservation."

First GMBA Campout 1965 - Nice accommodations! ▶



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



Make Breakfast Enjoyable

By Brother Doug Obradovich

"When thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face: that thou appear not unto men to fast." - Matthew 6:16

thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face: that thou appear not unto men to fast."

While many fasts are borne from sober causes, this doesn't necessarily require an exhibition of our seriousness, flaunting our spirituality. Fasting can be an immediate reaction to something severe (ex: a loved one's grave illness), thrusting one into urgent prayer. These frantic attempts to gain God's attention, for the sake of a congregant, friend, or family member, vault us into a certain mindset. Jesus' 40-day example was a proactive strategy, versus this type of reactive desperation. The lesson in Christ's preparation is similar to spiritual boot camp rather than a triage for the wounded. Neither approach mandates our appearing to fast.

One day, my son and I were home alone, and he asked to go to "Waffle House" for dinner. The mixture of eggs, grits, waffles, laughter, and open dialogue was both filling and fulfilling. Our evening together resulted in our feeling closer than before our feast. Ironically, it's quite the opposite consumption behavior that creates closeness with our heavenly father.

A fast is an inward sacrifice without the outward display. We willingly subdue

needs (sustenance), communicate through prayer, relinquish want ("anoint thy head"), overcome pride ("wash thy face"), draw close to God, and prepare for real life. How can we maintain an impassive expression while wrestling with pangs of hunger? Keep the end in sight through focus on the awaiting reward. While avoiding provisions and turbulence, remain prayerful and meditative, and stay fixed upon your choice of "break-fast."

These choices can include mint chocolate chip cookies, pineapple-mango smoothies, or cinnamon mocha lite Frappuccinos. Fasting connects us to God, which downsizes our spirit and upsizes His. Why should such a successful endeavor be exhibited to others as a pain-filled endurance? Like the first bite into a Cadbury chocolate egg, returning to God's welcoming forgiveness offers a delicious sip from His cup of salvation. Faith-filled anticipation of such great results (i.e., a deeper bond with God) should be celebrated.

Celebrations are worthy of triumphant feasts. So, "anoint thy head" and "wash thy face" and then sit down to a plate filled with chicken and waffles dripping in maple syrup. And that's something to smile about!

On the last Sunday of each month, the Oldham County Mission enjoys "Breakfast Sunday." Church begins with raisin bagels, fruit, eggs, hazelnut coffee, etc. I try to fast other Sundays, so this is extra special for me. I've applied the business mantra, "Start with the end in sight," to my fasting, focusing on the awaiting first taste that breaks my fast. "The end in sight" might include tropical popsicles, pepperoni on Wheat Thins, or double-dipped Oreos, as this first taste has become my focus on the finish line.

Fasting is the most powerful expression of our sincere desire to connect with God. Refusal of food and water can be further reinforced by abstaining from certain music, television, movies, internet and even harsh conversations. Once these distractions are eliminated, focus upon God becomes clearer. Consider what His son did immediately following His baptism: 40 days of focused fasting. He not only understood the power in fasting; He also recognized the value in avoiding publicly advertising one's sacrifice, "When

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:6-26)

The Hymn, ‘**Does Jesus Care**’, echos how caring the Lord is:

1. Does Jesus care when my heart is pained, too deeply for mirth or song:
As the burdens press, and the cares distress, and the way grows weary and long?

Refrain: Oh yes, He cares—I know he cares! His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, the long night's dreary, I know my Savior cares.

2. Does Jesus care when my way is dark, with a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades, does He care enough to be near? [refrain]
3. Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed, to resist some temptation strong; When for my deep grief I find no relief, though my tears flow all the night long? [refrain]
4. Does Jesus care when I've said goodbye, to the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks—Is it ought to Him? Does He see? [refrain]

This message is not limited to His ministry in Jerusalem. When Jesus later appeared in the Americas, as recorded in the Book of Mormon, we see the same care and compassion in 3 Nephi chapter 17. He looks upon the people and perceives their unspoken desire and is moved with compassion, inviting them to bring their sick and afflicted:

*“And it came to pass that when Jesus had thus spoken, he cast his eyes round about again on the multitude, and beheld they were in tears, and did look steadfastly upon him as if they would ask him to tarry a little longer with them. And he said unto them: **Behold, my bowels are filled with compassion towards you. Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are filled with mercy. For I perceive that ye desire that I should show unto you what I have done unto your brethren at Jerusalem, for I see that your faith is sufficient that I should heal you.** And it came to pass that when he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth with their sick and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with all them that were afflicted in any manner; and he did heal them every one as they were brought forth unto him. And they did all, both they who had been healed and they who were whole, bow down at his feet, and did worship him; and as many as could come for the multitude did kiss his feet, insomuch that they did bathe his feet with their tears.” (3 Nephi 17:5-10)*

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THE GOSPEL NEWS

(ISSN 0279-1056) is a monthly digital publication published by The Church of Jesus Christ, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799.

DONATIONS TO BE SENT TO:

25565 Gibraltar Rd.
Flat Rock, MI 48134

Yes, Lord, and...?

By Brother Brett Gibson

There is a growing conversational trend where rather than responding “yes, but...” to a comment, respond with “yes, **and**...”. The word “but” comes across as dismissive and self-justifying. It can make your conversation partner feel devalued, even if that wasn't your intent. Using “and” provides validation to your partner's contribution along with setting a collaborative tone.

A passage in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 19 verses 16-22, captures an exchange between Jesus and the rich young ruler (we'll call him TRYR for short). In a modern and youthful voice, here is how the exchange between the two progressed:

TRYR: “Lord, how can I lock in my heavenly crib?”

Jesus: Keep my commandments.

TRYR: “Can you like, break that down for me big guy?”

Jesus: Do numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, 5, and 10 at a minimum.

TRYR: “Low key already been doing that...like I wanna be the GOAT, no cap.” (this is the “yes, **and**” moment!)

Jesus: Since you asked—sell all your stuff, give the money to the poor, join me in my journey, and then you will have secured heavenly treasure.

TRYR: “Bruh that's unhinged, Imma crash out if I do that!”

Why would TRYR ask “what lack I yet?” when he seemingly had his answer? Should he have quit while he was ahead, metaphorically speaking? He didn't need to ask Jesus if something was missing—he knew it. He knew that he hadn't done everything that was required, even if Jesus wasn't explicit about it. He likely even knew what he needed to do; He just didn't want to admit what it was and commit to it. Such is the struggle between the spirit and the flesh.

There is keeping commandments, and then there is giving your heart, mind, soul, and strength to Him. When we choose to follow Jesus, we give Him our sins which He already paid for on the cross, and we receive forgiveness: this is the “yes.” With that should come a transformation of heart, mind, soul, and strength: this is the “and.”

Nicodemus was caught in the “Yes Lord, but...” loop. He wondered: But how can you do these miracles unless God is with you? But how can I be born again when I'm old? But how is one born of the spirit? Our human natures cause us to doubt God's power sometimes, even when it is clearly evident. The disciples themselves were no strangers to this struggle. In Mark chapter 6 Jesus sent them out two by two, giving them power over unclean spirits (v. 7). Three chapters later, they could not cast out a certain spirit. After Jesus cast it out, they asked, “[but] why could we not cast him out?” It wasn't enough for them to just be ‘the disciples of Jesus’. The “and” is recognizing that they needed to fast and pray to have even greater power given them by God.

We are no different. Jesus promised in John 14:12-14 that: “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Let's be open to less of “Yes Lord, but...” and more of “Yes Lord, **and**...!”



"From a baby kangaroo and cute puppies, to Aaron's shoes and an interesting dining experience, another GMBA Campout has come and gone. Celebrating our nation's 250-year anniversary at the annual 5K and our very own Brother Jerry as Dr. Seuss was great, but the best experience at Campout was learning more about God as our "I AM" and lifting up Jesus Christ. We praise God for all the blessings and connections or reconnections we made with Jesus. These experiences and memories will last a lifetime. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support. Now we are already planning and expecting great things in Saginaw in 2027!"

- Brother Chuck Maddox, GMBA Chaplain

"This past GMBA Campout was an immense blessing. The sermons and seminars gave us the opportunity to reflect on the great "I AM" and to learn more about our own identity as children of the King. Thank you to everyone who supported the Campout in any role. We are already looking forward to next year!"

- Brother Ryan McDonnell,
GMBA President



"We were very blessed at Campout this year. We praise God for the souls that started a new life in Christ and for those that strengthened their relationship with Jesus. Thank you to all who supported and attended. We can't wait to start preparations for next year!"

- Brother Aaron Palmieri,
GMBA Vice President



"Campout was such a blessing! It is always so amazing to see everyone enjoying each other's company and events of the weekend. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with so many amazing brothers and sisters throughout the process." - Sister Anna DiMelis, Assistant Camp Director

"Campout 2026 was such a blessing. God's Spirit was truly with us during the whole week. So thankful for all those who put forth their efforts to make it a great week. We did our best, and Jesus did the rest!"

- Brother Wesley Griffith,
Camp Director



STATISTICS

1 cute baby kangaroo at the petting zoo!

70,000

steps taken by one camper

60 +

songs sung during the week

6 people baptized at camp

Too many pieces of pizza to count eaten by campers



Over **50** faces painted during kids' day

1 Spirit-filled week

COUNTLESS BLESSINGS!



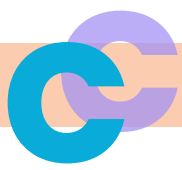
Sisters of the Round Table

By Sister Ruth Gehly

The past eight region conferences have served the sisters of the Midwest Area Ladies' Uplift Circle well. Together, we have dedicated our time and effort "around the table" towards delving into scriptural themes and activities that speak to who we are as daughters of the most high God; and action taken in order to bring fullness to our journey with Christ and His Divine Commission for The Church of Jesus Christ. Below are quick summaries of the places we have been and the subjects we have "unpacked," including some things we have purposefully "packed":

- **You Are Chosen:** During this virtual gathering, we focused on the study of three lesser-known women in the scriptures (Abish, the widow of Zarephath, and Rahab) and the tremendous impact they had on the Kingdom of God. As ordinary women, God provides grace to those with open hands and willing hearts, and who trust Him, for the work He calls us to do.
- **The Flowers Still Bloom:** During this virtual gathering, Sister Consuela Hopkins openly shared her deeply moving testimony regarding the death of her daughter (killed by a drunk driver), and how the Lord gently guided her through the grieving process while allowing her to see that the flowers still bloom amidst her difficult trials.
- **Step Out of the Boat:** This was our first in-person gathering after COVID. We enjoyed a lovely dessert reception at the Peter Allen Inn in Kinsman, Ohio where we received a timely reminder of the great blessings that come when choosing to live outside of our comfort zones. We also sponsored our little ladies for their participation in the GLUC virtual gathering pertaining to social media influencers.
- **The Great I Am:** This special gathering focused on how the seven I AM statements made by Jesus Christ identify His true character and how His character changes who we are as daughters of the Lord.
- **Through the Gate:** Aligned with the General Church's theme, we spent time unpacking the meaning of the "gate" and exploring more deeply the need for us to sanctify and purify ourselves in preparation for Zion.
- **House of Joseph Outreach:** Teaming up with the Midwest Area MBA, we were able to pack and send 100 bookbags for elementary and middle school children on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana.
- **The Fire Will Refine:** During this gathering, we focused on how we are formed by God's hands, refined by His fire, and reflect His image and glory. Our ultimate goal being to reflect the image of the Lord and how He helps us get there.
- **He's My Rock:** Most recently, the sisters gathered around the table for an engaging lesson that focused on a subject that never grows old: how we are "Built Upon the Rock," "Hidden in the Rock," and "Held by the Rock."

On behalf of the Midwest Area LUC Officers, it has been a great joy to prepare for and conduct these sessions with our sisters. Our prayer has always been that our gatherings would be so much more than just another seminar to fill our time. Rather, that our time and study together would serve to strengthen our daily walk with the Lord. Also, that we would further resolve ourselves to be sanctified and chosen vessels fit for use by the Master's hand as we work to bring forth God's Kingdom in its fullness here on Earth. In reality, we recognize that there is always more to do and things that can be done better. However, in reflecting on these things, we are confident that we are headed in the right direction.



The Joys of Campout

Dear Friends,

I hope each of you reading this has had the chance to spend time with a large group of saints at a Campout. At Campout there is a place even for someone who is very shy or going through a heartache or big change in their life. Those who are full of energy and want to help others are always needed with large groups of people. So are those who pray for others and are willing to work! In the Bible and Book of Mormon there are amazing stories of people who were on the move. People who were led by God to get them into a safer place.

The Brother of Jared, his family, and friends were led away for eight years after God mixed up the languages at the Tower of Babel (Ether chapters 1-8). What did they eat? Who hunted for food – plants or animals? Who led the singing around the campfires at night? Who gathered the wood and got the fire going, since matches weren't invented? Who had the skills? Who prayed for others? Who had a spirit of love and kindness? Who helped the ladies having babies or people who were hurt, since there were no hospitals?

Campouts are much like that. We have new jobs, new people to meet and become friends with. Our wonderful young men and women help everyone. Those who have the strength of their youth and are full of the desire to assist others just shine! Our well organized deacons, deaconesses, and others help us! Because of them our work becomes easier, and we get to know and love each other. We never forget them!

We also are praying every day for God to be with us and guide us, our leaders, and those learning to be leaders. We pray and ask God to show us what He wants us to do in our lives or the words He wants us to say. At Campout, there are also really interesting study times when we meet in groups and talk about spiritual things to make us grow.

In my group, the Spirit of God was with us, as many of us had gone through full lives. We have had careers, families, children, and deaths among our friends and families. We were strong in the faith of the Lord. Yet, we were there at Campout willing to love, learn, share, and pray for others.

In several classes and meetings, God actually spoke to us in tongues. Tongues are listed in the scriptures as heavenly messages spoken in a different language. They are sent to

convince the unbeliever (Acts chapter 2). Peter was preaching in a seaport town with people from many different nations. The power of God came down, and his words were changed into different languages! People were astounded to hear preaching in their own language. Three thousand heard and believed. It convinced them.

In my class at Campout, a beautiful message of encouragement and peace was spoken by one brother, and another man heard it in English. God spoke to us and said:

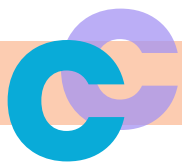
"I AM FAITHFUL TO EACH OF YOU ALWAYS. I AM ALWAYS THERE! TALK TO ME. I AM JEHOVAH"

I felt so safe! I don't need to feel like I am bothering God with my worries. He actually wants me to talk to Him, however I am feeling or whatever I am dealing with. He cares for us! He cares for you, no matter what is going on! He is there, day or night. We are His children! He will provide for our needs!

With love,
Your friend and Sister in Christ,
Jan

Sister Jan





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 OF

(Jesus Cares- continued from page 4)

Together, these accounts testify and record a loving Savior who is not distant, but intimately aware of our needs and desire to act on our behalf. Yet the most important message in all of this is that we would be obedient to the Lord's invitation and to the ministry ordained to deliver words of eternal life. His care, His love, and even His healing touch bring great comfort to us while in this life, but repenting of our sins and entering into a covenant with Him, followed by baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost, is the greatest comfort of all! Then enduring to the end of our lives, knowing how much Jesus cares and desires to greet us in Paradise one day, is our eternal reward.

In the love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

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

To learn more about The Church of Jesus Christ, with Headquarters in Monongahela, PA, please visit our website.
 The World Operations Center for world-wide missionary efforts is in Greensburg, PA.
www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org

At camp, outreach, or another church sponsored event during the summertime, when was a moment that made you feel especially close to God?

"During the singing of a night meeting, I was reading the words of the songs being sung and feeling a strong love of Christ"

– Brother Zane DeMercurio, Lorain, OH, Branch

"A moment when I felt close to God was when I was serving others. As a newly ordained Deacon, I was asked to do more tasks and had additional responsibilities. Sometimes these tasks might feel difficult, or detract us from the events, but when I was accomplishing these tasks and making sure the brothers and sisters were taken care of, I felt the Lord's spirit blessing me. 'When ye are in the service of our fellow beings, you are only in the service of our God.' Every time there was something that needed to be done. I still felt the blessing of serving others, knowing that I was serving the Lord, as I know many other deacons and laborers for the Church feel the same way. Any moment while chatting with someone on the golf carts at Camp, or setting up the tent at Pinetop with the brothers and sisters, the Lord is with us, and he blesses our efforts when we serve Him."

– Brother Zacary Griffith, Forest Hills, FL, Branch

"During evening service when one of the brothers talked about walking in our failure and pursuing God at all times, especially in failure."

– Sister Anaya Brady, Lorain, OH, Branch

"Spending quality time with my brothers and sisters"

– Sister Darinka Olexa, Monongahela, PA, Branch

"During my seminar class at GMBA Campout when everybody was getting prayed for and young people were asking for their baptism one after another."

– Sister Maia Nath, Monongahela, PA, Branch

"I attended the Monongahela Youth In Action (YIA) tour earlier this year. It was a very blessed week and gave the youth an opportunity to get their first experience with missionary work. During the week we helped local natives on their property and a local church with their food bank. But the moment that stood out to me was visiting the shut-ins from their branch at their home. We all filed into their homes and sang some hymns and bore out testimonies. I truly felt the power of God visiting those wonderful sisters and hearing how they met the Church and talked about their lives. I can tell they really appreciated our visit. These experiences opened my eyes to how important it is to visit our saints who are widowed and sick. I truly felt God's presence the most doing that."

– Brother Jacob Huttenberger, Freehold, NJ, Branch

"Seminars at GMBA Campout"

– Brother Samuel Wilcoxson, Erie, PA, Branch

"At the Pinetop YIA I experienced so many blessings throughout the whole week, and I was able to feel very close to God. He provided for every single saint involved. We always felt God's presence in all our efforts. During outreach we were giving out hot dogs, snow cones, and water. We constantly had a rush of people waiting in line. Whether they were just coming for the food or they wanted prayer, we were still able to provide these individuals with a little bit of joy to brighten their day. This was an answered prayer for me; I had asked God to use all those on the trip for our purposes. He intended us all to be a beacon of light and to plant the seed, and God will take care of the rest."

– Sister Bella Gehly, Greensburg, PA, Branch

(Continued on page 12)



BB Blessings in Pinetop

My dad, Brother Chuck Maddox Sr., and I had the opportunity to travel to Pinetop, AZ for the recent Youth In Action and God was present through two trials we experienced. First, as we were driving to Pinetop from the Phoenix airport, our rental car broke down and was no longer able to drive. We broke down right on the edge of the city and were able to call for help. If we had broken down on any other part of our 3-hour drive through the mountains, we would not have had cell service and would have been truly stranded in a very unsafe spot. Later in the week, as we were canvassing door to door on the reservation, I was bitten on the foot by a dog. Earlier that day I was wearing sandals, but felt to change into sneakers. If I had still been wearing sandals, the bite would've been much more severe. God was in the matter with both of these trials and prevented them from being much worse. I'm so thankful for His goodness and faithfulness in all things.

-Sister Alyssa Maddox,
Lake Worth, FL 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.

BB Joy Beyond Compare

Having the opportunity to go canvassing during Youth In Action is always a blessing! One day, our group set up a tent in the White Mountain Apache Reservation to serve free hot dogs and snow cones to the neighborhood while inviting people to the Pinetop tent meetings. Even with the heat of the day, a long line of people waiting, and the fast-paced work of serving, my heart was filled with absolute JOY. As the young people sang The Songs of Zion, I found myself singing along while serving and watching the smiles on everyone's faces. No pleasure this world offers can compare to the JOY that comes from serving others with the love of Christ. Helping alongside others who share that same passion, especially such amazing young people who are truly on fire for the Lord, is a joy and blessing unlike any other!

-Sister Rebecca Palafox,
Simi Valley, CA Mission

BB Blessed With a Spirit of Unity

I'm thankful that on our trip to Pinetop, AZ for Youth in Action, we were very united in the Spirit of God and in our work among the House of Joseph. I'm also glad that I got to spend more time with brothers and sisters that I've known for many years but haven't been able to spend much time with.

-Brother Josiah Bicelis,
Charlotte, NC Branch

(QOTM - Continued from page 11)

"Last summer, while at the Detroit Inner City YIA, I had a desire to sing the song 'Quièn Irà' at a branch we were visiting that night. Knowing that I don't have the best voice, or know much Spanish, I was very nervous. This caused me to mess up during practice and get very frustrated with myself. Shortly after, a brother had a vision that Christ was sitting with us in the room, listening to the singing. As I was singing, Christ had a smile on his face and turned to the brother saying "Tell my daughter I am pleased." After I heard this, I felt the love of God so strongly and knew that God was telling me that it's more important to please Him, rather than pleasing others. He also taught me that I don't need to be perfect, we honor Him by having a desire and trying our best. I'm so blessed that God would give me this message to share as a testimony. God bless you all!"

- Sister Angelica Risola,
Forest Hills, FL, Branch

*Got a blessing?
Share it here!*



Question for this month:

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



Answer from last month:

At camp, outreach, or another church sponsored event during the summertime, when was a moment that made you feel especially close to God?"
Turn to page 11 for answers.

