

# The Gospel News

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*Happy  
 Mother's  
 Day!*



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## Grow and Glow

**Q70 Southeast Youth Retreat, January 12-14**

**By Sister Megan Morle**

*Ether 2:22-23*

*"And he cried again unto the Lord saying: O Lord, behold I have done even as thou hast commanded me; and I have prepared the vessels for my people, and behold there is no light in them. Behold, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that we shall cross this great water in darkness? And the Lord said unto the brother of Jared: What will ye that I should do that ye may have light in your vessels?"*

**H**ow can we, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, grow in our faith and shine our light eternally? This was the question that led our discussions as we entered our sixth annual youth weekend. As a group of 50 young people gathered in Lake Placid, Florida, we were not only excited to be together, but excited to see how this weekend would impact us as we entered into the new year.

In the days leading up to the weekend, the region evangelists requested that the brothers and sisters would fast and pray that the Lord might reveal Himself amongst the young people and that the weekend might be blessed. The Wednesday prior to the youth weekend, a sister was fasting and praying and was given these words; "His plan, His purpose, His will." On that same day, a sister attending the weekend was studying her scriptures. Without knowing the verses that prompted the theme for the weekend, she was directed to read the first four chapters of Ether, the exact book the Lord gave the region evangelists to base the weekend around. Before the weekend even started, there were two confirmed experiences that God's hand was in the works.

We began our weekend in small prayer groups Saturday morning, where we discussed what prayer meant to us and each having the opportunity to offer a prayer over the weekend so that we might feel God's spirit. God heard our prayers and Saturday was filled with joy and experiences. The day consisted of two workshops focusing on diving deeper into what it means to grow in our faith and what it means to shine our eternal "glow".

The Saturday night meeting began with a Spanish rendition of "The Sea so Great Lord, My Boat so Small" sung by our newest Southeast member, Sister Betsabe Benyola, originally from Tijuana, Mexico. As she was singing, a sister in the congregation had a vision of light coming from behind her. The congregation joined Sister Betsabe in the last chorus of the song where the sister saw the beam of light grow, connecting each member in the congregation. Towards the end of the night, a brother had another vision of all of the members in the congregation holding hands on the edge of a boat. Before the vision ended, we all took a step out of the boat, continuing to hold hands with one another.

(Continued on page 4)



• MOM'S NAMES •  
(a worksheet for 9 moms)

Genesis 11:30  
-----

The mom who waited.  
(Isaac's)



Genesis 25  
-----

The mom of  
twin nations.  
(Jacob's/Esau's)

Genesis 30  
and -----

The moms who  
had to share.  
(The 12 tribes')



Exodus 1  
-----

The mom with a plan.  
(Moses's)



Ruth 4:17  
-----

The mom-in-law  
who shared her faith.  
(Obed's)  
(David's grampa)



I Samuel 1:20  
-----

The mom who  
kept her promise.  
(Samuel's)

Luke 1  
-----

The mom who  
believed in miracles.  
(John the Baptist's)



(easy one)  
Luke 1:31  
-----

The mom who was  
blessed among moms.  
(Jesus's)



# BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck



Photo of Paul D'Amico in the army shared by Perry Azzinaro on Ancestry.com



Apostle Paul D'Amico from May 1984 Gospel News

Excerpts taken from "The Lord is My Shepherd" by Apostle Paul D'Amico 1977

**Eighty years ago on May 21, 1944, Brother Paul D'Amico had the following dream while in the military on a ship in Leyte, Southern Philippines.**

"I would like to relate a dream I had aboard ship, a few days before arriving in New Guinea. I saw some brothers and sisters walking down the road going to visit a faithful and elderly sister of the Church. When they arrived at her home, they found her dressed in a white garment which shined more brilliantly than the noon day sun. While all present were enjoying a portion of the Spirit of God, a group of men and women who were not members of this Church came to this house. Upon arrival, they stated that their mission was to kill our Sister who was adorned in white.... They secured a box and decided that they would put our sister alive into this box and seal it. After sealing the box and without delay, they proceeded to the cemetery, assuming that by the time they would arrive our Sister would no longer be living. Meanwhile, the brothers and sisters of this Church followed this group to the cemetery because they were anxious to see what the outcome would be.

(Continued on page 6)



## 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.



## "Protect Your Valuables"

By Brother Doug Obradovich

**"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs" (Matthew 7:6)**

anything to anyone unable to appreciate its true worth. Our testimonies can prove as vulnerable as vinyl. Have you encountered the betrayal of sharing your personal experiences with someone and have it devalued? Maybe you've presented Jesus Christ to a family member, friend or acquaintance, only to have it flippantly or even incredulously misrepresented in the witness of others. You quickly realize your sincerity has been thoughtlessly disregarded.

The immediate mental swirl of hurt may present many options, but some (maybe most) would prove harmful to your relationship and/or reputation. As these choices of how to react are eliminated, the relationship still requires such behavior be addressed (ex: acknowledge the harm or offense created by the breach of trust). Once the venom resulting from their disloyalty has lost its potency, you focus on the remaining, more palatable alternatives, which include deciding whether you'll ever trust this individual with such information again. Jesus' warning counsel above continues "...neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

Such disrespect has left your testimony "trampled" and you feeling vulnerable and unsafe, as they could "turn again" back at you while in this emotionally weakened state with even more devastating effects. You can't retract your words, but this rejection can become a powerful learning tool. Unfortunately, for some, they learn to not share themselves anymore, and the loss is both theirs and others seeking truth. For others, they learn the value of depending upon God to inspire.

Many have said they've felt directed on when to testify to another, so that they might be received well. They have found great success in doing this, so see, by allowing God's discernment to guide us in presenting Jesus Christ, we can avoid giving "that which is holy unto the dogs." Dane and I were simply too immature to understand the value of Bach or Beethoven. Sadly, the results of our ignorance were ultimately irreversible. How much more is the holiness of Jesus Christ worthy of protection from such carelessness?

Now that I think of it, I wonder whatever happened to my old Barry Manilow and Elton John albums. The last time I saw them they were in my kid's closets.

Our family moved 30 miles north from Pompano Beach to West Palm Beach (Florida). My older brother (Dane) and I enjoyed hours of exploration in our new surroundings. With my big brother as guide, we (9 & 7 years old) uncovered boxes of treasures in the shed in our backyard. These phonograph records were soon launched into flight (note: I recall thousands, but this must be a youthful exaggeration of the truth). We screamed with delight each time one exploded against the unforgiving pine trees lining our property, as we destroyed the entire music collection. We will never know whether Mozart, Elvis or The Beatles, but it clearly mattered little as trajectory trumped tone. Too young to appreciate their value, they were gems lost on two young, impulsive boys.

We were the figurative "dogs", unable to rightfully assess our findings, as their greatest value was their aerodynamic disc shape. How foolish to entrust

(Continued from cover)

We thank God for the immense number of blessings He provided us this weekend, and the blessings did not stop as we left the campsite at the end of Sunday afternoon. There is a personal testimony that came from this weekend for me. Coming into this weekend, the prayer on my heart was that God would give me clarity on my future plans. As a college senior graduating in May, there had been a lot of confusion on what was coming next after graduation. After hearing the message of the weekend, I was ready to walk away content with however long I had to wait. However, that Monday, God moved His hand to provide the answer to this prayer, proving to me that He was and is always in control.



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## ***New Building Dedicated in Pinetop, Arizona*** *By Sister Michelle Watson*

**T**he Pinetop Branch wishes to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone around the Church who supported us as we built our new church building. Some of you pounded nails and laid tile. Some of you fasted and prayed. Some of you cooked and cleaned. Some of you flew across the country to be present at our dedication. Whatever your involvement, we thank you for showing us the love of God.

The weekend of Sept. 16–17, 2023, family, friends, and visitors came to town for the dedication of our building. On Saturday, we opened the building to visitors. It was a joy to meet and greet approximately 175 visitors from around the Church over the course of the weekend. Seeing people reunite, hug, and catch up—it was like a slice of Zion. Brothers and sisters from the Mesa Branch volunteered to help our small congregation host our visitors by assisting with cooking, cleaning, serving food, and providing childcare. Thank you, Mesa!

We served a fry bread and chili dinner followed by a singing and testimony meeting, where we heard beautiful words and songs from our members and guests. The Pinetop Branch sang several songs, including “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” in Apache. At this point, a brother had a vision:

*I saw a group of people arrayed in white appear behind the choir. I was unable to recognize anyone because they were shrouded in white. They were singing with the choir. Then one of the individuals stepped forward and I*

*recognized him as Brother Issac Smith who recently passed. He then spoke in the Gift of Tongues and interpreted stating, "Thus saith the Lord: Prepare now for the blessings that the Father has in store, thus saith the Lord!" The experience ended. I was given to understand that among the individuals arrayed in white were those who have been part of this work but who have passed on to their eternal reward.*

On Sunday, we met for our church service. At the conclusion of our meeting, Brother Joel Gehly gave the dedicatory prayer over the building. As he was offering the prayer, a brother had a vision:

*I saw the Lord Jesus Christ descend and appear in our midst. He walked to the front of the sanctuary and with His finger, He touched the wall. With that one touch, a brilliant gold color began to illuminate and expand until it covered the whole wall. It continued to expand until all walls of the building were illuminated in bright gold.*

Our hearts were full of joy. We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for these beautiful experiences that elevated this special day into one that we will never forget.

Our new building is a gift to be used for the Lord's purposes, and we pray that He gives us the strength to keep the gospel pure so that we can shine as a beacon light to the Seed of Joseph in this part of the vineyard.



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## Faith vs. Science?

By Brother Josh Gehly

I remember my first day of classes at Penn State. Everything was organized with notebooks at the ready and syllabus in hand. I stood in front of the door of my first class eager for the next big step in the great adventure of life. When the doors opened, I blended into the sea of students which single-handedly rivaled my entire high school graduating class.

My nervous excitement almost immediately got cut out from underneath me. The professor stood up to the podium and nonchalantly intoned, "If anyone has strong religious beliefs, leave them at the door. They are not welcome in this classroom." I remember looking around and not seeing reactions from any other student. I felt completely alone.

Most people reading the Gospel News these days are not first day college students. Information flows out to kids through Tik Tok and YouTube, not print. If you are reading this, most likely you are a parent...or a grandparent. If that's the case, my experience might surprise you. At the end of the semester, this same professor took an entire class session and preached against religion. That final lecture ended with a raucous, standing ovation. All except for one student.

This is not an article against the sciences, and biological anthropology classes are not the enemy. Far from it. I loved earning my degree in archaeology, my time at college, and the spiritual challenge that accompanied all of it. It wasn't the content of the class which presented an issue, it was the presenter occupying a position of authority shrouded in the robes of a false priesthood. The exact same class could be taught tomorrow, but without the atheistic overtones.

My professor symbolically removed his lab coat to preach a false belief—and was dead wrong for doing so. As Christian John Lennox from Oxford University retorts, "Nonsense is nonsense even when spoken by world-famous scientists." However, we can fall prey to the same mistake in the other direction. Well-intentioned comments from the pulpit or pew against scientific theory can make our young people feel like they have to choose between faith or reason. This is a false dilemma.

Let's all be careful not to inadvertently make our kids feel torn between church and well established, data driven sciences. My children will have access to both. Dr. William Newsome, professor of neurobiology at Stanford, states, "Your faith should be informed by science. It should not be replaced by science. Science can't bear that weight." Science often tells me what and how in wonderful ways. My Lord Jesus Christ tells me why. Discoveries about this world unfold an incredible description of our God who made all things. He is worth pursuing on all fronts. As the Book of Mormon proclaims:

"...all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion, yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form do witness that there is a Supreme Creator." Alma 30:44

# *They Were Taught by Their Mothers* By Sister Linda Scolaro

As a parent of young adult women, I find myself praying more each day. The scriptures tell us to pray about everything, and I whisper quiet prayers frequently throughout the course of my day.

I have been thinking about the examples of women in the scriptures, both Bible and Book of Mormon, who prayed.

In some examples, the women's prayers are explicit, and in other examples, it is strongly implied that the resulting miracles were a product of their prayers. This is the first article in a series of women who prayed in the scriptures (originally published on the Gospel Blog in March 2024).

The first praying women that come to mind are the mothers of the stripling warriors. This account in the Book of Mormon is a beautiful story of brave young men who had the courage to go into battle. "Stripling" means "youth," and in this case, the stripling warriors are young men. There is some speculation as to how young these men were, but what stands out to me are the verses in Alma 56:47-48:

"Now they never had fought, yet they did not fear death; and they did think more upon the liberty of their fathers than they did upon their lives; yea, they had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them. And they rehearsed unto me the words of their mothers, saying: We do not doubt our mothers knew it."

Verse 48 amazes me, "We do not doubt our mothers knew it."

First, kudos to young men giving credit to their mothers, but seriously, this doesn't just happen with one statement or overnight. I can only infer that their mothers demonstrated steadfast examples of prayer, trust, faith, and unwavering belief in their spiritual walks that were strongly noticed by their children, so much so that they demonstrated faith.

As the story unfolds, the conflict of the battle is that the stripling warriors were descendants of the Lamanites. In prior scripture, the sons of Mosiah taught and converted the father of King Lamoni, who then taught the gospel to his people. The

Lamanites accepted the gospel, repented of their sins, and covenanted to never again shed blood. Alma 56:6 clearly states the covenant their fathers made, which was not to take up weapons of war against their brethren to shed blood, which was a promise they vowed not to break. The Lord was in control and sent 2,000 young warriors. They won the battle without the fathers breaking that promise.

Another important scripture is found in Alma 27:28:

"And they did look upon shedding the blood of their brethren with greatest abhorrence; and they never could be prevailed upon to take up arms against their brethren; and they never did look upon death with any degree of terror, for their hope and views of Christ and the resurrection; therefore, death was swallowed up to them by the victory of Christ over it."

## **Takeaways**

1. The mothers of the stripling warriors knew because of the atonement of Jesus Christ that death had no power. They had no fear of physical death because Jesus would conquer it, and that sin would bring about spiritual death. They taught this to their children, who did not fear natural death, as explained in Alma 56:47.
2. My response to situations greatly affects my children, just as the mothers of the warriors held firm and taught their sons not to doubt by example more than by words.
3. The Lord can produce a better outcome than we could ever imagine in what may seem an impossible situation.
4. Doubt is not only questioning whether something will happen, but it also relates to one's conviction or belief. The mothers of these warriors obviously had a strong conviction, which they demonstrated to their sons.

The mothers of the stripling warriors are a great example to me of praying women who were strong in their conviction and raised warriors to not only face natural battles, but who also had the fortitude to face spiritual battles. This can only be accomplished by the power of prayer from women who prayed.

*Originally published on the Gospel Blog*

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(Continued from page 2)

After sealing the box and without delay, they proceeded to the cemetery, assuming that by the time they would arrive our Sister would no longer be living. Meanwhile, the brothers and sisters of this Church followed this group to the cemetery because they were anxious to see what the outcome would be. Upon their arrival at the cemetery, they beheld that the box was being lowered into the grave. Before it reached the bottom, a loud noise was heard, the top of the box was broken open; and our Sister arose and was being carried rapidly into the Heavens by some unseen power. While she was flying into the heavens, she shouted with a voice which shook the earth "Woe, Woe, unto those who fight against Zion."

When I awoke from this dream, I immediately petitioned the

Lord for an interpretation. I finished my prayer but did not cease meditating on this experience. The interpretation which came to me is as follows: "The Church of Jesus Christ and those of the world represent two distinctive peoples. The Power and Priesthood of this Church we know comes from God, and it has been revealed, in the past, this Church is accepted even as the Church of Alma." The world in this dream sought to destroy this Woman who represented the TRUTH, FULNESS, AND VIRGINITY of this Church. The final words of this woman will stand as a testimony in the Judgment Day against all those who have willingly and knowingly sought to destroy the True Church of God. This dream was recorded in the General Church Dream Book at the October 1945 Conference."

## ***Making Room for the Lord*** *By Sister Sydney Lovalvo*

Looking back on my very short life, I will be the first person to tell anybody that it can be tough to be a young person. There can be pressure from every corner of your life to figure out who you are and what you want to do in the future. Once you figure out what you want to do (which can always change), there are usually multiple steps to take in order to reach your goal. It can be anxiety-inducing, confusing, and feel never-ending. Even with God in our lives and His promises, it can still feel overwhelming.

Right when I was about to finish my undergraduate degree in 2021, I decided that I wanted to become a nurse. That meant more school, and ultimately, a move to Pennsylvania in 2022 for a rigorous accelerated nursing program. The program was intense, consumed most of my thoughts, and took up almost all of my time.

All of that to say, one day, while I was listening to one of my favorite Gospel artists, a song came on called "Make Room." The whole song is essentially about how the artist wants to move over many things in his life and make room for the Lord. Some of the things he wanted to move over included His will, His ego, His way, His schedule, and His habits. While I was listening, I identified completely with wanting to move over many things in my life to make room for the Lord, draw closer to Him, and to seek Him first.

I knew I couldn't move over all the things in my life, because I was in the midst of school that required a lot of my attention.

But I decided to make a small change to help me make room for the Lord. I chose to dedicate my drive to work or school in the morning to God. Whether it was praying, listening to music focused on Him, or listening to one of the podcasts or sermons on our GMBA channel, it was my time with Him.

I will admit that being in a grueling nursing program over the last year and a half consumed most of my life. While I went to Church as often as I could, spent quality time with the saints, and attended as many functions as I could, sometimes, I just couldn't do everything. If you are reading this and are in a similar situation, know that I understand how you are feeling, it will be okay, and it will pass. The Lord knows your heart and your desires. Because I couldn't make a huge change, I made a small change, and that still made all the difference.

Growing up, when I would ask for advice, my dad always told me to stay humble. The Bible says, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up" (James 4:10). That is exactly how I felt, because I was humble with Him. I knew that I had to focus on my education to help further and better my life, and I was very candid with the Lord about that. I would say things like "Lord, you know my desire to be at every event or every Sunday meeting, but you also know that I have a program to finish. I am dedicating this time to you at the beginning of my day to praise you and thank you for what you are doing for me."

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## ***Baptism in Meaford, Ontario*** *By Sister Cindy Henderson*

Late last year we witnessed the baptism of our brother Steven Atchison as he was immersed in the chilly waters of the Georgian Bay in Meaford, Ontario. Shrubs near the shoreline were encased in ice, and it was barely above freezing, but our new candidate felt warm as he rendered obedience to God. The calm day and warm sunshine were a great blessing considering the storms that had presented in the previous weeks. Brother Richard Elzby, who had introduced the gospel to Brother Steve and his wife Debbie several years earlier while they worked together, took him down into the waters and then confirmed him back at the Meaford Hall where we held our Sunday service.

Joining us that day were Brother Gary and Sister Judy Coppa from Creekside, MI, and Sister Linda Boyle, Brother Larry and Sister Cindy Henderson, all from Farmington Hills Branch but

residents of Ontario.

Brother Gary Coppa introduced the meeting using John 3 about Nicodemus asking how a man could be born again when he is old, and tied in Alma 7:14 and 15 that states ye must repent and be born again to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Our brother relayed several experiences prior to his own conversion where the Holy Ghost continued to persuade him to come to God and moved him to acknowledge God's constant goodness in his life and answered prayers, first as a child and later when he was overseas in Vietnam. The Holy Ghost was manifest in many ways during his life: in messages from family members that provided good counsel, in hearing his mother's voice praying for him while far away, in being spared from tragedy, and in a Lamb's Book of Life.

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(*Making Room for the Lord* - continued from page 7)

I can tell you that the Lord in fact did lift me up and improved all aspects of my life. My time in nursing school was very formative for me as a student and professional, but also as a person of God. God provided me with wonderful saints in Pennsylvania who loved me, supported me, and helped me stay focused. My relationships with them helped me strengthen my commitment to the Lord, strengthened my love for other people of Christ, and helped me become a better person.

I am not writing this to lift myself up and say, "Look at this great thing I did!" I am writing this to hopefully encourage anyone reading, especially young people in the busy, stressful, and formative years of their life. Think about making a small (or big) change to make room in your life. It can be anything: take more time to pray, spend five minutes a day reading the scripture, reach out to Saints, become more involved at your branch... the possibilities are endless! He is always here for us, He will provide for us, and when we make room for Him, He proves faithful.

(*Baptism in Meaford, Ontario* - continued from page 7)

Brother Richard Elzby shared how Nicodemus knew that Christ held the answers and was convicted of the truth and authority of Christ. Likewise, Joseph Smith was directed to seek out the truth and in doing so was used as an instrument to restore the Gospel. Each of us has the Holy Spirit guiding us to work for Him. Our new Brother Steve is a worker in God's army, responsible for helping others, including the Seed of Joseph, to find the Gospel.

God's blessings continued through our testimony service of His faithfulness and miracles in our lives.

Our worship time ended with Hymn #122, "In The Army of the True and Living God." Each of us enjoyed a lovely luncheon together and time spent getting to know our new brother and his wife.



## Ladies' Uplift Circle News



### ***How It Began***

***By Sister Rocio Tostado***

**B**elow is Sister Rocio's brief testimony about how the Torres-Martinez Mission in Thermal, CA came to be:

I was praying to the Lord, telling Him "Get me out of here and take me to a place where I can be useful." After three years, my kids had left for college, and we sold our house in San Diego to buy a new house in Indio (2003).

Then my daughter Vanessa (an ordained deaconess) and I began handing out flyers on the Torres-Martinez Cahuilla Indian Reservation and inviting people to Church. We used to get together at their park to give out food and sing The

Songs of Zion. We also gave out "Gospel kits"—a Bible, Book of Mormon, "Wave the Flags of Zion" CD, and The American Indian Moses. We went to powwows, tribal events, and funerals, getting involved with them for a few years. After all of that, we moved onto another area of the reservation where the native Mexican seasonal farm workers live. They speak other languages, such as Tarasco and Mixteco, so sometimes we couldn't even communicate in Spanish. There we handed out food, clothing, household items, etc. over a few years too. That's when we were invited into a couple of homes.

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At that time, my husband was serving as a deacon. When we got plenty of people ready to listen, Bro. Bob McDonnell said, "Let's look for a place to meet." He had a desire to assist us in our missionary efforts and provided support to us. Then God touched the heart of one of the farm workers and he expressed that he wanted to be baptized. Brother Stacy Light came to baptize him and there was a beautiful vision as confirmation of his baptism.

We found a church to rent as a meeting place in 2012, and Brother Bob had an experience when we had our first meeting there, which was another confirmation. A couple of years later, my husband was ordained a minister, and we had four more baptisms as time went on. We still meet in that place to this day. Lots of brothers and sisters have had multiple experiences with this work over the years.

As a result of having five total baptisms and consistent meetings, Brother Joel Gehly declared this work as an official mission a few years ago. We continue to invite people and do outreach efforts, donating items, sharing testimonies, singing, etc.

We still need prayers for this mission as we continue to reach out to the Cahuilla natives, every new tribal chairman that's elected, and all who are from the House of Joseph in the area. Please pray that God will raise men and women to continue the work in this mission for the Honor and Glory of God.

If you are willing to work for the Lord, He will find a work for you to do. Even though it's just us, we feel His presence and that He is pleased with what we are doing. It's all about the Divine Commission, fulfilling His commandment.

Now if you want to come and visit, come in the wintertime. Pray for the farm workers who work in over 115-degree summers. It's not a glamorous place to be, the desert is brutal.

Thank you for your prayers, may God bless you!

Love in Christ,

Sister Rocio Tostado

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## ***Dedicated to MY MOTHER***

***By Sister Katherine Vitto***

Is there anyone, in all this world, like Mother.  
To me, she's more precious than sister or brother.  
And tho' we may be miles apart,  
The memory of her, remains in my heart.

Who else could be so patient, loving and kind?  
And yet when you should feel grouchy, she doesn't mind.  
She's always there to comfort your woes,  
Even as a baby, when you'd stub your toes.

The examples and teachings you gave me.  
Without complaint and you gave them free.  
I'm so thankful God gave me a mother like you.  
I wish that all others could feel as I do.

And when your days on earth are completed.  
Just think of all the good you've seeded.  
Then you can face the master, unashamed.  
Assured in the Gospel which you have claimed.

*Originally published May 5th, 1958*





## Our Words Have Great Power

"Then give Caesar the things that are Caesar's and give God the things that are God's!" They couldn't trick him into saying a person should not pay their taxes. (See Matthew 22:17-22.) He would have gone to jail!

Then a lawyer in the group had another tricky question. There were so many laws to follow in their religion. You could also get into trouble for breaking them. He said to Jesus, "Teacher, what is the great commandment in the law?" Everyone listened.

And this is also the beautiful law of God that you and I must follow. Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Think about it. If we loved God so much, we would be kind and loving. We would help others with joy. It would be safe everywhere. And if we loved our neighbor like we love ourselves, nobody would steal, lie about someone, or hurt anyone. We would not be fighting to be the first. No one would ever be homeless or hungry, because others would treat them like themselves and feed them. We would all share!

Serving God is not for weak people. It takes a

person who is strong and loving on the inside to follow these two commandments. It takes determination to always do good and to share. Try it. Ask God in your prayers to help you to be strong inside and give up mean and selfish thoughts. Forgive others like you want to be forgiven when you make a mistake, and always thank God for every good thing in your life that He gives you!

We are so blessed to be alive nowadays, to be able to even read and to own a Bible and Book of Mormon or device that holds those precious words of life.

Most nights, I write down ten things I feel gratitude for that day. Friends, food, kind words, a beautiful world with wind and clouds rushing across the sky. I remember even simple things like hot water, heat, a car I can drive, and food.

I thank God for these blessings. I love God with all my grateful heart! What things has our loving God given you this day? Tell God thanks!

With love,

Your Friend and Sister in Christ,

*Sister Jan*

Dear Friends,

Many times young people who really are trying to do right have asked me in class, "How do we please God the best way? Are there any rules beside the Ten Commandments?" And there is a simple but really deep answer. Jesus gave it to us in the Bible in Matthew 22:36-40, and we must follow it today.

Before these two laws there were over 600 laws for people of the twelve tribes of Israel to follow! For example, there were laws about what to eat, how far to walk on the Sabbath (our Sunday), how to stay clean, who not to marry, how much money to share with their temple (church), and others! The laws went on to teach about the proper way to live, do ceremonies, and things that were against the law!

Some really made sense, since they'd come through the desert with Moses to form a new group of followers of God. For example, they needed to learn to only eat safe foods. They needed to never worship statues like they'd seen done in Egypt. They needed the Ten Commandments telling them how to be good. And they needed good laws to keep people safe.

But now, years had passed, and the rulers of Israel were upset when Jesus came with His love, power, and miracles.

The men running the temple tried to trick Jesus with questions that would get Him into trouble with the Roman government which was in charge. Then they could arrest him for being a troublemaker and throw Him in prison.

Can you imagine how foolish that was? Jesus knew every thought they had!

They asked Him "Is it lawful that we should pay taxes to the government?"

Jesus told them, "Show me the tax money." And they brought Him a penny which had a picture of the ruler, Caesar, on it. "Whose image is on this?" Jesus asked them.

They answered, "Caesar."



SLOW  
DOWN  
THANK  
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OTHERS

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

"Time is a precious commodity that, if carefully managed, can afford new moms opportunities to explore scripture. Capture small windows of time to take in the word, even if it means not always being alone. This may be reading before children wake up or after they settle for a nap or the night. It could look like you reading your child a Bible story, or visiting your scriptures while your child sits nearby exploring her/his favorite book. It may involve listening to an audio version while feeding an infant or pushing a child in his stroller while out for a walk. Hearing the Gospel Blog narrations or catching a Zoom meeting replay while doing small tasks are yet other examples that will help deepen your understanding, expand your knowledge, and provide a needed spiritual uplift to an otherwise busy day." -Sister Cindy Henderson, Farmington Hills, MI Branch.

"Have a vision that this little baby will become a servant in God's kingdom and raise him/her with that purpose in mind. Pray for God's blessings upon your children, and that they will choose to use their gifts and talents in ways that honor God. Show them by your example." -Sister Renée Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch

"First and foremost, take all your questions and concerns to God in prayer, the key word is ALL. Second, always include your husband, you two are one, now and when the children have grown up and left home." -Brother Dean Longrie, San Diego, CA Branch

"Becoming a mother is a joy and a blessing. Your life changes when you become a mother. Think about those examples of wonderful, kind, and loving mothers in your life and try to emulate them by becoming that way toward your children and family. Mothers are so very important to the training of children in the ways of the Lord. Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." -Sister Kathy Natoli, Detroit, MI Branch 1.

"My advice to a new mom would be to pray and trust in God always! Also, it is okay to ask for help! Plus singing, regardless

if you can or not, but something about singing praises to God with your baby miracle in the room is such a blessing!" -Sister Heather Escobar, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"I would tell my new parents and the seasoned ones to always trust our God. From day one go to our Lord for direction. He will tell you what to say and how to react to all situations." -Sister Joann Cotellesse, Pinetop, AZ Branch

"Don't obsess about what the books say that your baby should be doing. Every baby is different. Just enjoy him or her and love them!" -Sister Sharon D'Amico Church, Simi Valley, CA Branch

"Pray for and with your children. They learn by example, watching what you do every minute of every day." -Sister Anita Znoy, Creekside, MI Branch



**GMBA Campout June 22-28**

Plan to be there to reNEW your focUS  
and enjoy the blessings!

# Blessing Bits

**BB He Restored My Peace** - On a recent Sunday morning, during the ride to church, I removed my wedding ring to put lotion on my hands. I completely forgot about it until I was inside the building and realized I didn't have my ring. I searched the car from top to bottom. I searched the parking lot. I was afraid that if it had been on my lap when I got out of the car, it could have rolled into the storm sewer grate that was near the car. I kept praying that I would find the ring. As I walked back towards the church building I remembered that it was raining when we got to church and Chuck had dropped me off by the front door. As I neared the front door.... I saw it on the ground! Unharmed. I am so thankful that I found my ring and that my peace wasn't stolen that day. -Sister Dianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

**BB Praise be to God!** - In 2018 a prescription I had been taking for years stopped working and I became very anxious and paranoid. I was in and out of hospitals over the next six years, at one point for 8 months straight. While in the hospital, elders came to visit and pray for me. My family also visited me regularly including my son Brandon and wife Earleen. I received letters of encouragement from the Saints. Little by little I was showing signs of improvement. I started getting better in April of 2022 and my wife saw a big improvement and talked with the staff of the personal care home. I came home on May 30,

2022, Memorial Day. I went back to my previous part-time job of driving a school bus van. I am also an ordained deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ, Aliquippa Branch since October 31, 2010. First, I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His Mercy and Grace in my miracle healing. I would also like to thank my family for standing by me and never giving up. I also would like to thank the Saints for the love, support, and prayers on my behalf. This is my testimony!! Praise Be to God!!!- Brother Thomas R. Hunt, Aliquippa PA Branch.

**BB A Divinely Arranged Appointment** - I had wanted to color my hair after a long period of not going to a salon. I prayed, "Lord, I don't know if you care about this, but please bless the appointment that the right stylist and color is produced." I chose a stylist named Manasseh as the name reminded me of the scriptures. It turned out that Manasseh was an active believer in Christ, and we talked about our walk and struggles and miracles with the Lord. He also revealed to me that although his heritage is Pacific Islander, he feels a deep sense that he's a Jewish descendent. This led me to share our belief that the tribes of Israel were scattered across the world, and he believed that was the truth. I truly believe God cares about us on a deeply personal level, has love for each and every one of His children, and sends people our way to uplift and address our needs. (The color was wonderful, too!)- Sister Gabriella Cihomsky, Irvine, CA Branch

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

Q

**Question for this month:**

**What are some of your dad's qualities, characteristics, or attributes you try to emulate?**

A

**Answer from last month:**

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

Turn to page 11 for answers.



*As one whom his mother comforteth, so I will comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. Isaiah 66:13*