

The Gospel News

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Arose!*



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New Evangelists Ordained in Mexico

The Quorum of Seventy evangelists are blessed to share with you that two new evangelists have recently been ordained in Mexico. Brother Juan Rivas Carrillo from La Reforma Branch in Tijuana, and Brother Jesus Villegas Benitez from the San Isidro Branch in Sinaloa were recently ordained.

As with all ordinations in the Church, we seek the Lord's direction for ordained officers' callings. The following is a vision given through the Quorum of 70 regarding the calling of our two brothers. *I found myself in a field with rich, dark soil. Looking up, I saw Brother Juan Rivas laboring to cultivate the field. He was dressed in clothing that looked like he was prepared to do much labor in this work, and the time of day seemed to be morning. I then saw Brother Jesus Villegas dressed exactly like Brother Juan. They were laboring alongside one another. I saw their tremendous work before them, but what stood out was they had great joy on their faces. They were blessed doing what God had called them to do.*

Saturday evening, January 18, the Tijuana Branch hosted a fellowship meeting with visitors from across the US and Mexico attending. The congregational singing and special groups that sang were all a blessing to hear as they praised the Lord with all their talents and joy. The message for all was that everything we do is visible to God. Whether it is good or bad, we are always visible to God. The following day, the Tijuana Branch was filled, including overflow seating along the side of the building. Apostles, Evangelists, Elders, and visitors from across Mexico and the US gathered in Tijuana, eagerly anticipating blessings to come. The members sang praise songs for an hour before Brother Joel Gehly, president of the Church, addressed the congregation on the theme of Sanctification. Using Joshua Chapter 3, he reminded us how the Lord instructed Joshua to sanctify the people before they were allowed to cross over the Jordan and inherit the promised land. Brother Joel also related many experiences that the Lord has given the Church over the last few years, instructing us to sanctify ourselves. Visiting Evangelists followed, encouraging the saints and introducing the ordination of Brother Juan Rivas.

During the ordination, Evangelist Robert McDonnell washed the feet of Brother Juan Rivas, and Evangelist Stacey Light ordained him. During the ordination prayer, a sister saw a personage in a white robe lay his hands on Brother Juan rather than Brother Stacey. She also saw all the other brothers in the circle dressed in the same white robes.

(Continued on page 4)

Come study with us:

14 miracles – 2 chapters

In Matthew chapter **8**, we read of 7 miracles:



8:3 leper cleansed

In Matthew chapter **9**, we read of 7 more:



9:7 lame walks

8:13 servant healed



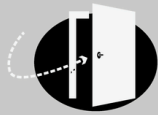
8:15 fever cooled



9:22 blood stanchied



9:25 maiden raised



8:16 demons depart



8:16 all sick healed



9:30 eyes opened



9:33 devil cast out

8:26 storm rebuked



8:32 devils drowned



9:33 dumb spake



9:35 diseases healed



BFP Blast From The Past

Brother George Nicholas

Of the three chiefs in Muncey, Canada, George Nicholas was considered the most (at that time) religious. It was for that reason, according to his daughter, Sister Faye Albert, that Brothers Paul Love, Alma B. Cadman, Anthony DiBattista, and W.H. Cadman made their way to the Nicholases' home in the fall of 1932. Julia, George's wife, would be baptized within days, but it would take two and a half years before George would ask for his baptism. This occurred 91 years ago this month, not in Muncey, but in Detroit, where the spirit of repentance fell upon him while he and his wife attended the April 1934 General Church Conference at the corner of Hall and Devine. In 1939, Brother George would become Muncey's first Native American minister.

Back row left to right: Brother George Nicholas; his daughters Joyce in arms and Bernice; Brother John Hall. Front row left to right: Sister Julia Nicholas, Sister Feebie Hall.





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.



Suddenly, he was gone much too soon, with much too little warning. Although separated by miles and circumstances for many years, our friendship was never challenged. I originally met Bob Stinchcomb when we were each 13 years old, entering Conniston Jr. High School (West Palm Beach, Florida). Although from different sides of town and very different upbringings, our connection in September 1970 kept us inseparable for the next 6 years. College and careers kept us apart for 40+ years, but never in our hearts. Bob was shockingly taken from his family after a week-long, unexpected battle that ended with his passing.

Since losing him, I have pondered a return to the Riviera Beach youth football field where Bob scored the last-second game-winning touchdown. Or swimming out past the jetty at our

What is "This"? By Brother Doug Obradovich

"This do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)

hangout beach just east of Worth Avenue in Palm Beach. Or simply parking in front of his childhood home on Dyer Road. Each of these, an attempt to remember and rekindle Bob.

Jesus knew that following His crucifixion, His disciples would need to resolve losing Him in a search for peace. In lieu of their returning to the River Jordan, the Garden of Gethsemane, or Jacob's Well in some attempt to remember Him, He was providing direction of what to, how to, and when to. He provided the specifics to do so when celebrating His life through communion, "This do in remembrance of me." However, His directive can be expanded upon in order to pay more tribute, to honor our Savior's life. Could the "this" in "This do in remembrance of me" have a secondary meaning? Maybe absolutely every single thing you do, say or think can be done 'in remembrance' of Jesus Christ. Maybe "this" is whatever confronts us.

You're facing a challenging situation with multiple options. "This do in remembrance of Jesus Christ." You're presented with a decision concerning your career. "This do in remembrance of Jesus Christ." You're involved in a serious relationship. "This do in remembrance of

Jesus Christ." You're relocating. "This do in remembrance of Jesus Christ."

But we mustn't overlook the smallest occurrences, either. You're responding to someone's abruptness. "This do in remembrance of Jesus Christ." You're choosing a route home from work. "This do in remembrance of Jesus Christ." You're going out for lunch. "This do in remembrance of Jesus Christ." Every decision counts. A word of kindness instead of the deserved sharp retort may help recover someone grieving. The chosen lunch spot may provide a chance meeting that uncovers someone in need of Jesus Christ. The selected route may have you pass a billboard sign that answers a question you've wrestled with for weeks.

Every decision, every interaction, and every thought counts. I've been considering ways to reminisce about times with Bob through a visit to a football field, a beach, or a front lawn. Understandable. But approaching each moment as a means of honoring Jesus Christ can bring more significance to everything in our lives. Each time we identify what "this" is, in remembrance of Him, lives change. And when they do, it is always for the better, and always to His honor and glory.

(New Evangelists Ordained in Mexico - continued from cover)

Brother Juan was greeted by his family and loved ones and then spoke to the congregation. He expressed how the Lord showed him he was being called and thanked everyone for their love and support. Sister Mirna (his wife) and other members gave wonderful testimonies. During the closing prayer, the Gift of Tongues was spoken, and the Interpretation was had as follows: **I Am that I Am, Go now and preach to all the nations that I Am the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.** All of us enjoyed a meal and fellowship following the service.



Evangelist Juan Rivas, his wife, Sister Mirna, and their children, Juan and Paula

On February 8-9, seven evangelists traveled to Sinaloa, Mexico, to ordain Brother Jesus Villegas an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Saints from nearby Sinaloa and distant Chihuahua traveled to witness this event. Included in this group was a group of 35 traveling by train from Bahuichivo/ La Mesa de Arturo, Mexico. This was a blessing because half of this group were native Tarahumara people. La Mesa de Arturo is a recent outreach God has been opening to the Church.

The weekend was filled with many blessings. The saints gathered in the San Juanito Branch both Saturday and Sunday. Preaching, singing, and testimonies all filled our time together. Themes of Captain Moroni and how his faithfulness and humbleness are required as we serve the Church, and the parable of the wedding feast, filled our preaching. All were centering on the called servants of God. Brother Jesus' feet were washed by our newest ordained evangelist, Evangelist Juan Rivas, and Evangelist David Arreola ordained him.

As our brother evangelists met Saturday morning, a vision was given during the closing prayer of evangelist's training.

As the brothers circled with their hands grasped together, fire descended from heaven and entered our soon-to-be evangelist, Juan Villegas, from his head throughout his body. The fire then circled the group of evangelists in the circle.

During the morning preaching the following message came forth in the form of tongues/ word of the Lord. **Come unto Me, saith the Lord, come unto Me for I am calling you. Behold, it is I that calls. Thus saith the Lord.**

Following the ordination, witnessing many saints come and greet Brother Villegas in the love of Christ was a beautiful sight. Brother Villegas shared his testimony. As a child of 3 years, his mother had a dream where she saw him moving from what looked like lily pads in the shape of the seven continents. He also shared a dream given to him where he was shown how to nourish and care for a large vineyard.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. Isaiah 61:1



Clockwise from left: Jesus Hector, Jose Miguel, Evangelist Jesus Villegas, wife Ceidy, Estrella and Santiago

We thank God for calling laborers into the vineyard. Surely the harvest is great. We ask for your interest in prayer as God continues to work with our newly ordained brothers. We ask you to remember their families that God will bless them to allow them to have the liberty to go out. Our brothers have traveled throughout Mexico and other nations, including Guatemala, Colombia, and Cuba, and we pray God allows them to go to many more.

May God's blessing be upon those called to expand the footprint of His Kingdom in this generation.

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By Brother Anthony Scolaro

(originally published in April 1985)

"Ye are the light of the world," Jesus told His followers when He lived upon the earth. Today, like then, the Lord wants us to allow His light to shine through us. If we stop to think of what Jesus Christ is to all those who know Him, we can easily see how, by projecting His image to others, we could be instrumental in winning souls for Him.

In order for us to let our light shine, we must constantly seek the direction of the Holy Ghost. We never know when the opportunity may arise for us to be a light in the darkness. Perhaps, when all around us people are filled with fear, we can be as Jesus was on the stormy sea, bringing peace to others. When everyone else is throwing stones, maybe we can set an example for those around us and be the first to forgive. Just as Christ has become a personal friend in whom we can confide, perhaps we can share our time and lend a listening ear to someone in need, someone who still doesn't know the Lord. Unlike Christ, we cannot be all things to all people, but each of us has an individual talent, something we can do better than most people, and whatever that ability may be, we can use it toward God's honor and glory to better the lives of others.

The key ingredient in our reaching out to others must be the fervent charity that Christ Himself possessed, that pure love of God which led Him to put all of mankind before Himself. Without this love our other efforts will have little effect. The love of God must be a profound, consistent presence in our lives, not something that makes an occasional, unpredictable appearance.

As we endeavor to exercise the love of God in our lives, let us reflect upon God's infinite love for us, to have sent His only begotten Son down to earth, to take upon Him flesh and blood, to be mocked, ridiculed, and finally crack fled because of His good works among the children of men. Let us remember His commandment to us that we love one another even as He loved us, and ask Him with all energy of heart to bestow His love upon us.

At this time of year when the Christian world celebrates the resurrection of Christ, let us take a moment to reflect upon what Christ's immortality means to us. The scriptures teach us that there is no other name by which man can find his way back to the presence of God. Being born Himself of water and the spirit, Jesus blazed the trail for us along that straight and narrow path.

Jesus is our strength. We must not imagine that we can, by our own means, overcome this world. Only by drawing from the reservoir of strength Jesus provides can we surmount the things that come upon us in our lives. As long as we are trying our best to keep His commandments, He is there for us to lean upon when we need Him. He is the solid Rock upon which our faith is built. In an ever-changing world where we can't be sure what will happen next, Jesus is the one thing we can count on.

January Q12/Q70 Spiritual Weekend: Youth Summit at Mesa Branch

By Brother David Tenorio

On the Saturday of the January Q12/Q70 Spiritual Weekend (January 25, 2025), the youth gathered at the Mesa Branch in Mesa, Arizona for a transformative GMBA Youth Summit presented by the SWAMBA and PAMBA. The theme for the weekend, inspired from 1 Nephi 13:37 reads, "And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be." In this dispensation of time that we're living in, this verse particularly serves as an imperative reminder to each of us, to present ourselves as true ambassadors of Jesus Christ, embracing His love, His peace, and His joy, ultimately providing us with purpose in our walk to prepare for His latter-day promises.

The afternoon gathering started with a powerful message from our brother, who metaphorically invited each of us to walk into a gym, not for a workout, but to strengthen our spiritual muscles. "I want you to act like you're coming into the gym spiritually," he said. "You want to be closer to God, you want to be stronger in the Lord so when you leave, you'll be prepared for whatever distractions come your way." His analogy drew a comparison between a talkative gym-goer and one who focuses on their progress, reminding everyone that spiritual growth, like life, requires our full attention. We were all invited to begin this spiritual journey with the same commitment as a well-planned workout: thoughtfully, intentionally, and deliberately.

The Youth Summit became an open space for thought-provoking discussion. One brother asked, "Why are you here?" This question sparked honest reflections, some sharing their unconditional love for Jesus Christ, and others admitting feelings of loneliness and doubt. As we listened to each other, it became clear that our existence is not a random event. God placed us each here for a purpose, calling us to seek His joy, that "men are, that they might have joy" (2 Nephi 2:25).

Another brother shared the importance of "publishing peace" and spreading "great tidings of joy" to those around

us. We were reminded that the peace we seek needs to start in our hearts first, forgiving when needed, helping when we can, and offering kindness at every turn, a simple yet

important message that true peace overflows from within, transforming our interactions and offering healing to those we encounter.

The conversation soon became more personal, as several shared their testimonies. One brother compared his battles with distractions to a post-workout temptation; just how we can be tempted to treat ourselves with a sweet treat right after a workout, we can easily be tempted by worldly distractions, from social media to academic pressures, pulling us off course from our spiritual commitments if we are not steadfast. "Instead of chasing temporary comforts, why not feed your soul with the nourishment that comes from the Lord?" he said. Speaking openly about his own struggles, anxieties, and pressures of life deeply connected with many in the room. His message emphasized, however, that when we fill ourselves with God's word and seek support from our brothers and sisters, we can overcome that which seeks to pull us away, and stay focused on the path of righteousness.

Another brother shared the urgency of beginning and persisting in our walk with the Lord. He boldly reemphasized a central message aligning with the direction God has given the Church in this day, that the gates of Zion are open for those who are ready and willing to step forward. His message emphasized that the journey to spiritual growth is open to all, and that we must embrace it actively and continuously. In today's world, filled with distractions, this summit reminded us that our connection with God is the most rewarding pursuit.

Throughout the afternoon the spirit of community continued to strengthen us. Specifically in one significant moment, small groups and conversation filled the room with mutual encouragement and hope for each other. The spirit of unity was palpable, with each individual reaffirming the promise: "I will endure with you." This phrase encapsulates the shared commitment to support each other, as we endure together toward the end.

(Continued on page 8)

He Arose

By Sister Marty Jumper

The Easter story is one of beauty, hope, and love. The picture I have in my mind about the morning Christ resurrected is like a Disney movie. A magical morning, the sun shining, a soft breeze blowing, the birds singing, and the bunnies and deer peacefully playing, Nature was aware that a change had taken place. As the earth suffered because of the crucifixion, I believe the earth rejoiced when Christ arose.

**Up from the grave he arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever with His saints to reign,
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**
(Saints Hymnal #357)

I often think about Mary Magdalene as she approached the sepulcher and saw the stone moved away. As she ran to get the disciples, her grief must have been even more overwhelming. First, they killed her Lord, and now they took His body away. She remained outside the tomb after the disciples left, weeping.

I want to relate an experience had by C. Austin Miles concerning this scripture, John 20. Mr. Miles wrote the hymn, "In The Garden." This is the story behind the hymn.

It was though I was in a trance, as I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life when she knelt before her Lord and cried, "Rabboni." I rested my hands on the open Bible, as I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat, as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she

came unto the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and ran away.

John, in a flowing robe, appeared looking at the tomb. Then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John. As they departed, Mary reappeared leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing there, so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms outstretched, and looking into His face cried, "Rabboni." I awakened in sunlight, gripping my Bible and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I wrote, as quickly as the words could be formed, the lyrics exactly as it is sung today. That same evening, I wrote the tune. It is sung today as it was written in 1912.

Can you even imagine experiencing one moment of that morning? The tomb might have been empty, but Mary's sorrow was soon turned to joy because Jesus was alive and is alive today.

There is no greater holiday in our faith than Easter. Several years ago, the Aliquippa Ladies' Uplift Circle decided to gift the branch with flowers for Easter and Christmas. Lilies are the flowers mostly associated with Easter because they represent the coming of spring and the renewal of life. Our Ladies' Circle flower committee delivers the most beautiful lilies every year, bringing to remembrance that "there is a resurrection, therefore the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ." (Mosiah 16:8) In years past, every Easter morning the families of the Aliquippa Branch would get a phone call from Brother Feo Rossi saying, "Don't Go to the Tomb, for He Is Risen!" With this reminder, we return to the words of the song,

**Up from the grave He arose,
Hallelujah, Christ arose!**

As the summit drew to a close, a young sister, deeply moved by the love and spiritual renewal around her, asked for her baptism. This wasn't only a personal milestone for our sister, but an embodiment of the collective effort of the spirit of unity, stepping into a life full of faith and purpose.

The Youth Summit at the Mesa Branch was more than just a spiritual gathering, but a day where joy, laughter, and heartfelt discussion led us toward a deeper relationship with

the Lord. In the spirit of 1 Nephi 13:37, we were reminded that by sharing these divine gifts, we are helping to build the kingdom of God here on earth. Our commitment to live joyfully, publish peace, and support one another toward eternal happiness and divine purpose is not a one-time event, but a continuous journey where now the gates of Zion are open to all who are willing to step forward in faith and increase in righteousness.

Wordup



“Let’s Bounce!” By Brother Doug Obradovich

“Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house” (Matthew 9:6)

As I walked to my car during my first winter in Kentucky (25 years ago), I reached for my keys and took my eyes off of the ground. Quicker than I would ever have expected, I was flat on my back. I never had negotiated ice before, and failed in my first encounter. As quickly as I fell, I tried to scramble back up (pride and humiliation are powerful inspirations). That’s what I mean by, “Let’s bounce!”

The Word records many rebounds. Saul’s first encounter with God left him blinded by “a light from heaven,” and a challenge from God, “Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me?” Blind and speechless for 3 days, he bounced back through his conversion, and soon developed into one of the greatest Evangelists in the Church’s history.

Peter, fearful for his life, denied connection with Jesus. He immediately heard a rooster crowing and recalled Jesus’ warning, “Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.” He wept, fled, and hid in fear, shame, and humiliation. His bounce back? In the absence of the Savior, Peter came back to become the first leader of the Church.

Others mentioned in the Word include Jared’s brother, who after 4 years of ignoring God, returned to become instrumental in rescuing his people. David, after weakly submitting to his lust for Bathsheba and knowingly ordering her husband (Uriah) into battle to die, repented and returned to become one of the greatest Kings of Israel. After both Paul and Nephi gave into their own self-pity (“O wretched man that I am”), bounced back from these destructive mindsets, and returned to become useful to God.

We might visit discouragement, but we must dwell in joy! Note: Satan’s single greatest attempt to destroy mankind via the crucifixion of Jesus Christ was reversed (backfired), and instead, provided the single greatest bounce back in our history. Through His resurrection, the Savior arose in every way one can (physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc.). In doing so, He introduced and invited all of mankind to tap into the power of the bounce back (resurrect)!

You are not alone, as all are subject to setback; with the overwhelming temptation to accept defeat lying in wait. But know this: it is impossible to fall so far that you land beyond God’s reach. Consider how the man with leprosy presented to Christ. Jesus understood all that attached itself to this diseased man; he was ostracized, banished from his home, humiliated, and probably left to die alone. Just as Jesus understood the hopeless thoughts and condition of this man, He sees you when you wrestle with your own hopeless thoughts of defeat.

Our Savior does not simply save us from damnation. More than any other, our Savior knows there is never a bottomless, unreturnable low point; He counted upon His Father’s reach being limitless. If the leprous man, filled with more destructive effects of his disease inside than the obvious crippling outward sores was able to extend his arms, open your heart to hope and obey His command, “Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine home.” Get back up and go back to your life!

Let His resurrection power have access in your life and let’s bounce!

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How to Have a Good Life

Dear Friends,

Do you know the Ten Commandments that God gave Moses to teach all of us? To all of mankind, in fact? They are found in the Bible in Exodus 20. They will save your soul and give you a good life!

(The word Thou means YOU) They are:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (There is one God, the great Creator. He cares for each of us. God loves us. He sees and hears everything we do.)
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. (We do not pray to statues, good luck charms, fake wizard wands or any kind of thing people in the world call magical!)
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. (When we say God's name, it is important; he is listening. Never curse or yell His name when you are mad.)
4. Remember the Sabbath day, (Sunday) to keep it holy. (Do not shop on Sundays, for one thing, or do work unless you have to)
5. Honor thy father and thy mother. (Show respect and love to them.)
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. (Go with someone you are not married to and take someone else's wife or husband)
8. Thou shalt not steal. (Take anything that is not yours.)
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness. (Tell lies about other people)
10. Thou shalt not covet. (Do not spend your time wishing you had someone else's family, skills, helpers, possessions, etc.)

So, our job is to realize that we have an enemy, the devil. He is constantly trying to confuse humans, to tempt us to do

wrong. The devil wants us to be miserable like he is. Our enemy will whisper to us, "Oh, it's not too bad," or "Nobody will know," or "Try it just once." But God and Jesus do know.

The devil will try to poison our thoughts so we will be jealous, hateful or full of self-pity and feelings of failure. Or maybe we think we are so great we act proud, selfish, or mean.

We can fight the evil one by praying to God and telling God we need help changing those secret thoughts, those fears, and emotions. That is called repenting. Then we can stop doing whatever thing makes us tempted to do wrong. We can change!

Also, pay attention to what you are saying to yourself in your own minds. Pay attention and change anything that is bad or discouraging or jealous. Admit to God that you need His help to change, and start working on it. Tell the Lord your true feelings. (He knows them anyway.) Jesus says in Matthew 6:14 & 15 that God will not forgive us if we do not forgive others.

So, if you are angry with someone who hurt you and hate them and do not want to forgive them, then pray and ask God to help you forgive. He will.

And then we must start thanking God for all the good he has done and is doing for us. Are you strong? Are you healthy? Can you walk, speak, be kind? Do you have people that love you? Do you have food to eat, water to drink, and a safe place to live? Can you learn? Can you read? What are your talents? Thank God. Start using your talents!

From the beginning of time, the Bible teaches us to Praise God! Be thankful. It is so important. Angels in heaven praise our wonderful God. So must we. He is a living God, the Creator! And Jesus gave us two short Commandments (See Matthew 22:36-40.) When he was asked which of the commandments was the most important: 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."

(Continued on page 11)



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If you could go back and be present for any event in history, where would you go?

"The signing of the Declaration of Independence! What an amazing time to be alive and witness such a huge act of faith. To create a government formed for the people and by the people, a concept that had never been breathed into existence. Thank God the minds and hearts of many of our forefathers turned to God to direct them in forming this new nation." -Sister Alanna Wiktorowicz, Mesa, AZ Branch

"The death of John F. Kennedy. I was a junior in high school. This was a terrible event." -Sister Joann Cotellese, Pinetop, AZ Branch

"I love the history of this Gospel. I would have loved to have been present in September 1827 when the angel delivered the plates to Joseph Smith. From that day, the Book of Mormon was presented to the world in 1829-1830, and on April 6, 1830, the church was duly formed and organized. I would love to have been a part of that early history." -Brother Michael McGuire, Cape Coral, FL Mission

"Creation of the magnificent mountains I have seen in various parts of the world -- I have often admired them in great awe and wondered what it must have looked like to see them being formed. Truly a manifestation of God's power and glory!" -Brother Tim Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch

"The year GMBA camp was in California." -Sister Karen Baldwin, Atlanta, GA Mission

"And it came to pass that he went again a little way off and prayed unto the Father; And tongue cannot speak the words which he prayed, neither can be written by man the words which he prayed. And the multitude did hear and do bear record; and their hearts were open and they did understand in their hearts the words which he prayed. Nevertheless, so great and marvelous were the words which he prayed that they cannot be written, neither can they be uttered by man" (3 Nephi 19:31-34). -Sister Kathy Golling, Monongahela, PA Branch

"After some careful consideration, I would like to be in the land Bountiful when Jesus Christ descended there. To see him in his resurrected state and have a chance to touch his nail printed hands and feet, plus to praise and glorify his name, would be a glorious blessing." -Brother George Kovacic, Middle Tennessee Mission

"This land the night before Christ was born. I would want to see the day, night, and a day as if there were no night." - Brother Rich Nath, Fort Worth, TX Branch

"I think if I could go back in history and be present for any event, I'd love to be present to see and hear Jesus preach the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5). I'd love to hear His voice and listen to Him bring that scripture to life." -Sister Kathy Natoli, Detroit, MI Branch #1.

(How to Have a Good Life - continued from page 10)

If you truly love others, you won't harm them. You won't steal, covet what they have, take their husband or wife, lie, forget your parents, or break any of those ten wise commandments. Try it. Life is so full of changes. By being truthful with God, He will help us change. He can and will bless us constantly and help us. He already has. And since He loves us, He will continue. Ask God. Thank God.

Let him give you a good life full of blessings!

With much love,

Your friend and Sister in Christ,

Sister Jan

Blessing Bits

BB God's Blessings Were Abundant!

I feel truly blessed to have been able to reunite with the Family of God at the Winter Spiritual Gathering in Arizona! Helping with the kids class on Saturday afternoon turned into an increase in my desire to do more for The Lord! Praising God in the choir led to singing hymns *en Español* with my brothers and sisters, which had been a dream of mine! Finally, witnessing Brother Midegah's baptism led to the biggest blessing of all! God blessed me with a vision as Brother Midegah partook of the sacrament bread. I saw a white dove hovering over him. The Lord confirmed the vision through a wonderful Sister whose eyes were also opened to see the dove!- Sister Heather J. Escobar, Forest Hills, FL Branch

BB The Spirit Was Evident!

How can I pinpoint a singular event from the Winter Spiritual Gathering when the Spirit of God was felt the entire time? That would be like asking "What will be your favorite

moment in Zion?" From our Ladies' Uplift Circle fellowship on Friday to the beautiful baptism of our new Brother Chief Midegah on Sunday afternoon, Jesus was with us the entire weekend! We delighted in the Gift of Tongues, the word of the Lord, beautiful testimonies, singing, and fellowshipping with the saints of God! I was so grateful to be there and witness it ALL!- Sister Dienna Rogers, Irvine, CA Branch

BB Didn't It Shine!

Although I am able to attend most General Church Conferences, there are many saints from the Southwest and Pacific Regions that I do not get to see. Seeing them in Mesa, AZ for the Winter Spiritual Gathering was a wonderful blessing! I felt the Spirit of God in each meeting that I attended. It was truly wonderful—greater than words can express! I also enjoyed meeting our new brothers and sisters from Missouri. The love of Jesus was shining everywhere!- Brother George Kovacic, Middle Tennessee Mission

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

Q

Question for this month: What is your favorite *Song of Zion*? Tell us why.

A

Answer from last month:

If you could go back and be present for any event in history, where would you go?

Turn to page 11 for more answers.



"For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." — Psalms 30:5