

The Gospel News

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles **WHILE WE WAIT**

The scriptures are replete with the use of wait, await, and waiting, to name just a few variations from the root word “wait.” In fact, the Bible and Book of Mormon record the use of “wait” over 150 times (the exact number can be found via the Church app). Yet, waiting is not something we as humans often enjoy. All can reflect on the frequency with which we get upset at waiting over common life events such as sitting in a vehicle waiting for a traffic light to turn green, waiting in line for your drive-thru order, waiting for an answer from a doctor’s office, or a job application, or school admission, etc. Sometimes, we can even get frustrated spiritually when waiting for a meeting to end, or for a testimony or sermon to end or, more importantly, for a prayer to be answered.

However, the Lord has provided His creation with a wonderful blueprint on waiting that includes unforeseen blessings while we wait, how to act while we wait, and benefits that can occur both while we wait and afterward.

Unforeseen Blessings

The Lord has provided evidence in the Holy Scriptures and in each of our own lives of blessings that come from waiting while seeking His direction, sometimes when we don’t realize it. A wonderful example is when Nephi and his brothers were directed to get the plates of Laban yet were forced to wait until the third attempt for success. Faith was needed during their wait as is recorded in 1 Nephi 4:6-7, *“And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. Nevertheless I went forth, and as I came near unto the house of Laban I beheld a man, and he had fallen to the earth before me, for he was drunken with wine.”* The benefits of waiting were many: they brought all the records they needed for their journey to the promised land, Laban was eliminated as a threat to come after the family for the records, and they also brought another individual on the trip (Laban’s servant Zoram). The last two benefits (unforeseen blessings) would not have been realized had they not been made to wait until the third time when God provided for them to get the plates.

In our church meetings, we often hear testimonies of the Lord forcing someone to wait and then they receive an unexpected or unforeseen blessing. The following are a few examples: The Lord spared them from an accident due to an extended traffic wait, the Lord provided the right job after a wait when other jobs looked good but would have been a mistake, the Lord provided the right spouse after waiting when other choices would have not been for the best and many other examples.

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*Happy
Father's
Day!*



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This month's issue's theme:



Each square gives a portion of a verse... the other blank portion follows the theme. See how many you can get without looking them up.

We'll start you off easy:

And God said,

Genesis 1:3



For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee

that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Acts 13:47

whom shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength
of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 27:1



we have fellowship
one with another, and the
blood of Jesus Christ his Son
cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:7



Turn us again,
O Lord God of hosts,
and we shall be saved.

Psalms 80:19



Therefore
before this people, that they
may see your good works
and glorify your
Father who is in heaven.

3 Nephi 12:16

...For behold,
I am the father,
and the truth
truth of the world.

Ether 4:12



Commit thy way unto
the Lord;
trust also in him; and he shall
bring it to pass.
And he shall bring forth thy
righteousness

Psalms 37:5,6



BFT Blast From The Past

Brother W. H. Cadman would say of Brother Richard Isaac, "I find him to be a very industrious man" in reference to his nice herd of cattle and the 140 acres of land he farmed. And, as chief of the Six Nations Reserve, the Canadian government—51 years ago this month—would name a township of Ontario's Algoma-Manitoulin region after him in recognition for his "valuable contributions." But Brother Richard—a dedicated member and ordained teacher of the Church, baptized along with his wife, Georgina, in 1939—would conclude "The greatest honor I want to accomplish is that my name be written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

Brother Isaac ►



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



“When Out Standing Isn’t God’s Outstanding”

By Brother Doug Obradovich

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24)

1 Samuel 16:1-13 records the meeting between Jesse and the prophet of God, as Samuel entered Jesse’s home in search of the next King of Israel. He requested Jesse’s sons, which began the parade, starting with the firstborn, Eliab. It was presumed he would be the one, but he wasn’t. Jesse’s next six sons also passed by Samuel, and all were rejected, *“The Lord has not chosen these”* (v. 10). Frustrated by failure, Samuel pressed, *“Are here all thy children?”* As an afterthought, Jesse suggested his youngest, a sheep herder: *“There remaineth yet the youngest...”* (v. 11).

As David walked in from the field, God spoke to Samuel, *“Arise, anoint him; for this is he”* (v. 12). Early in the process, the Lord had warned His prophet, *“Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature...for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”* This is in concert with Jesus’ warning about relying upon physical sight when spiritual vision is required.

Jesse knew his sons best, but was influenced by tradition (birth order), behavior (qualifying characteristics), and/or physicality (tall, handsome, etc.). If a father is unqualified to choose from his own children, how much more should we rely upon God for such direction? Given this specific situation, Jesse and Samuel appeared highly qualified. Yet, David would

never have stood out in their eyes because he stood out in a field, which would have certainly frustrated the plan of God concerning David’s calling.

To accommodate God’s chosen, the search begins within the selection committee. They must possess a pure desire to sincerely locate God’s hand-picked, as David would have been passed over, given man’s parameters. Then, accurate identification of God’s choices might prove to disqualify personal preferences (e.g., Eliab). Third, courage is critical. Samuel called a sheep herder in to apply for King of Israel. Having fulfilled these three demands, David came in from standing out in the field to accommodate his standing out for God.

David may have easily remained in that field, as Jesse and Samuel (the selection committee) may have overlooked God’s intentions. However, David (the individual) also had to be ready to serve. Where do you stand today? Are you still standing out in your field? Have you allowed doubt and judgment (*“Oh, wretched man that I am”*—Romans 7:24, II Nephi 4:17) to keep you from being open to God’s intended greatness? It’s time for all of us to listen for His voice over the bleating of the sheep. Why? There’s work to do.

David, come in now; Samuel wants to meet you!

If not for God’s intervention, he would have been left standing out in the field. When spiritual decisions are made through natural resources, more than just this young sheep herder can be overlooked. Had man made the decision, we may have missed David’s unifying Israel (north and south), establishing Jerusalem as the capital city, and delivering the Ark of Covenant to Jerusalem, not to mention his beautiful writings (i.e., The Book of Psalms). Finally, Acts 13:22 records God’s view of him, *“I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart.”* Man’s view was of a sheep herder.

Jesus advised, *“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”* This is challenging, as this visual dependence is well-deserved. A vehicle approaches, you stay put. Thank you, eyes! You select an outfit, compliments are received all day. Thank you, eyes! You spot your children in a crowded area. Thank you, eyes! Yet, Christ counseled to discard this success in order to “judge righteous judgment.”

How to Act:

The Lord does make promises that require us to wait, either individually or as His Church. He ALWAYS fulfills His promises, but it is in His timing. During this period of waiting, He often tests His people, and when we pass the test of faith on His promises, He acknowledges us with blessing. Two scripture stories illustrate the test, the reactions and blessings:

In the Old Testament, we read the story of Abraham being promised a child with his wife Sarah. In Genesis Chapter 17, the name of Abram was changed to Abraham when he was 99 and the name of Sarai was changed to Sarah when she was 90. In verse 16 it is written, *"And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her."* This promise was a reminder of what was given many years before when in Genesis 15:5 the Lord stated, *"And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be."* Abraham's actions and reaction to the original promise are what pleased the Lord as the next verse recorded in Genesis 15:6 states, *"And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness."* It is also recorded in Hebrews Chapter 11, specifically in verse 8, that *"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."*

In the Book of Mormon, we can reflect on a wonderful act of waiting with firm steadfastness found in 3 Nephi Chapter 1. In this account, the people of God were in danger for believing in the coming of Christ by the unbelievers who wanted to put them to death, as is recorded in 3 Nephi 1:9: *"Now it came to pass that there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be put to death except the sign should come to pass, which had been given by Samuel the prophet."* However, the people of God were already doing exactly what the Lord wanted, as is recorded in the previous verse, *"But behold, they did watch steadfastly for that day and that night and that day which should be as one day as if there were no night, that they might know that their faith had not been vain."*

The Lord came to the rescue of the people while they waited and spoke these beautiful words in 3 Nephi 1:13: *"Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets."* The people of God were spared and unbelievers fell to the earth because the promises of God were fulfilled as recorded in 3 Nephi 1:16: *"And there were many, who had not believed the words of the prophets, who fell to the earth and became as if they were dead, for they knew that the great plan*

of destruction which they had laid for those who believed in the words of the prophets had been frustrated."

Likewise, today, we as a Church are awaiting the promise of the Latter Day glory in the Kingdom of Peace, or Zion. How does our God want us to act and what should we be doing while we are waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled more fully? We should be focusing on drawing closer to the Lord in righteousness and having more love for one another, that we might be in one accord. Our families, friends, coworkers, and neighbors all need the atoning blood of Jesus in their lives that comes through the waters of baptism. Consider how the people in Jerusalem after the ascension of Christ continued together as the family of God. When the great power of God via the bestowal of the Holy Ghost came into their midst on the day of Pentecost, as found in the 2nd chapter of the book of Acts, they were waiting together because the Lord gave them a commandment, as found in Acts 1:4, *"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me."*

Because our early brothers and sisters obeyed the Lord's commandment and worked together, God blessed them with 3,000 souls added in one day and the Gospel then began to grow as recorded in Acts 6:7, *"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."* Likewise, today as we endeavor to obey the Lord's direction, He is blessing us with many revelations that help us to prepare and focus our efforts to spread the Gospel to the dying souls of men starting with the House of Joseph, and then to all of Israel, and to all the nations of the earth.

Benefits While We Wait and Afterward:

There are often great benefits the Lord gives while we wait, and certainly afterward that on the initial surface are not visible to the natural man and woman. We can share many examples but want to focus on two famous passages of scripture.

The first passage is about Joseph of Egypt who was made to wait many years for the fulfillment of what the Lord had promised him, as outlined in Chapter 37 of Genesis, verses 5 through 11. During his wait time, Joseph was sold into slavery and cast into prison, just to name two challenges. However, an amazing pattern arose during his entire time of waiting—God blessed Joseph in every place and promoted him in every circumstance whether in his master's house or in prison, to where he became second in command over the entire kingdom of Egypt. He was used to not only save Egypt from starvation, but was also able to rescue his own family from the same fate.

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Why Does Joseph Smith, Jr's First Vision Matter Today?

By Brother Josh Gehly

In 1820, Joseph Smith, Jr. prayed to God out loud for the first time. A spiritual revival was taking place all around him. Different churches preached strict dogmas for Christ, but also contended against one another. The religious fervor burdened the young man with concern for the welfare of his soul and, "...I pondered many things in my heart concerning the situation of the world of mankind, the contentions and divisions, the wickedness and abominations, and the darkness which pervaded the minds of mankind. My mind became exceedingly distressed, for I became convicted of my sins, and by searching the scriptures I found that mankind did not come unto the Lord but that they had apostatized from the true and living faith, and there was no society or denomination that was built upon the gospel of Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament."

"...I cried unto the Lord for mercy, for there was none else to whom I could go and obtain mercy. And the Lord heard my cry in the wilderness, and while in the attitude of calling upon the Lord, in the sixteenth year of my age, a pillar of light above the brightness of the sun at noonday came down from above and rested upon me. I was filled with the spirit of God, and the Lord opened the heavens upon me and I saw the Lord.

And He spake unto me, saying, 'Joseph, my son, thy sins are forgiven thee. Go thy way, walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments. Behold, I am the Lord of glory. I was crucified for the world, that all those who believe on my name may have eternal life. Behold, the world lieth in sin at this time, and none doeth good, no, not one. They have turned aside from the gospel and keep not my commandments. They draw near to me with their lips while their hearts are far from me. And mine anger is kindling against the inhabitants of the earth, to visit them according to their ungodliness and to bring to pass that which hath been spoken by the mouth of the prophets and apostles. Behold and lo, I come quickly, as it is written of me, in the cloud, clothed in the glory of my Father.'"

This version might look a little different than others you've read. They all have value, but this is the earliest and only version of this experience written in Joseph's own handwriting without any edits. It was never published. It's my favorite due to the simple and youthful personality represented. First written in 1832, the success and growth of the church was no guarantee yet. To begin the great conquest of restoration which restored the priesthood authority and re-established the kingdom of Heaven back upon the earth—the Lord started with a soul needing forgiveness in a grove. That's where God's plan and path always starts. In the center of each heart prayerfully seeking Him. Is your heart prepared today to further His plan in these latter days?

The Company You Keep *By Sister Sydney Lovalvo*

Every year when summertime approaches, I find myself reminiscing on past summers and memories that I made. When thinking about it all, it's clear to me that there is a common denominator: Most, if not all, of my core/meaningful summer memories involve the Church and the Saints. What an amazing blessing! I always used to get excited (and still do!) at April Conference seeing my friends, knowing we will be able to spend quality time together over the summer with all the activities around the Church. Whether it was seminars or meetings at Camp, Youth in Action, or just trips to visit different branches, my memories are deeply rooted in the goodness of God with the people of God.

When I enter this season of reflection, I am reminded of how many times these wonderful people of God have loved and encouraged me, especially when spending quality time with them in the summer.

For example, as a teen at GMBA Campouts, in seminars people (including myself) would share struggles that they had endured over the past year. The room was always filled with so much love, compassion, empathy, and kindness from the others in the class. Those particular moments have always reminded me of 1 Thessalonians 3:11: "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

Another time was a couple of years ago when I had planned to visit Florida with my cousins to spend time with some brothers and sisters. The trip was planned a few months in advance, and a couple of weeks before, it was clear that my grandma's health was deteriorating and the trip was very much up in the air for me. After weeks of wonderful quality of time with her, she passed away right before my trip, and I

decided to still go. During that trip I felt enveloped in overwhelming love and comfort from every single brother and sister I encountered, whether I knew them well or not. The Lord knew I needed time away and to enjoy myself, but that I also needed to be surrounded by the wonderful love of the Saints.

These are just two of the countless examples I have of the times when the amazing people of God showed love and supported me. When thinking deeper about it, I realize that if I had experienced these moments with other people, or not experienced them at all, these crucial memories may not exist. Back as a teen, if we hadn't all collectively shared our burdens with one another and shown support and kindness, would I still have strong friendships with people who were in that class? If I had decided to stay home and not go to Florida, would I have felt lost in grief instead of feeling overwhelming love?

The summer season is exciting for us in the Church because there are so many events and things to become involved with. These two times in my life are among the many fond memories I have had over the summers in my life. I hope this encourages you (especially as young people) to get involved this summer. Time goes by quickly and in the future, your summers might not always be as free as they are now. Come to Camp, volunteer at Youth in Action, travel around to other branches! But most importantly, surround yourself with the people of God. If you can't travel or participate, initiate time with people at your branch or mission. Go get ice cream after MBA (a wonderful Farmington Hills Branch summer tradition), plan a get-together, or just participate in fellowship after a meeting. I have felt blessed beyond measure when I've spent time with the brothers, sisters, and friends of our church, and I know you will, too.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

GMBA CAMPOUT 2025 | JUNE 28TH-JULY 4TH

@ SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY CENTER, MICHIGAN

ALMA 5:33 - BEHOLD, HE SENDETH AN INVITATION UNTO ALL MEN, FOR THE ARMS OF MERCY ARE EXTENDED TOWARDS THEM, AND HE SAITH: REPENT AND I WILL RECIEVE YOU.

REGISTER HERE!



“What a Wonderful World” by Sister Marty Jumper

These devotions were prepared by the Aliquippa Ladies' Uplift Circle for a Penn Mid-Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle business meeting. While considering a topic to share with the sisters, I thought of the song “What A Wonderful World,” a poem composed by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss and made famous as a song by Louis Armstrong. With the words of the second verse of the song coming to my mind, I immediately thought of the creation of the world.

Genesis 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

***I see skies of blue... and clouds of white
Bright blessed days.... warm sacred nights
And I think to myself... what a wonderful world***

In the following verses of Genesis 1: 3-8, God created light and saw that it was good. Then He divided the light from the darkness and called the light day and the darkness night. God made the firmament and called it Heaven. In verses 14 through 18, He placed lights in the firmament, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser to rule the night. “He made the stars also.”

The sun and the moon define the length of the day and night, each season in its turn throughout the year and the number of days that make up the years. The lights of heaven shine in their season without fail.

Psalms 19:1 - *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork.”*

***I see trees of green, red roses too.
I see them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself... what a wonderful world.***

Genesis 1: 11&12 - *“And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.”*

“And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.”

The Lord God called the plants, trees and flowers into being, each with a unique purpose, and each reproducing only its own kind. Remember even Solomon in all his glory didn't compare to the beauty of the lilies in the fields. God must have all the praise for the beauty He provides with the flowers, the trees, and the benefit we receive from the produce of the earth.

***The colors of the rainbow... so pretty in the sky
Are also on the faces... of people passing by
I see friends shaking hands.....sayin'. how do you do?
They're really sayin'... I love you***

With the beautiful colors of a rainbow God made a promise to Noah as found in Genesis 9:13-1

I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

The words, “I see friends shaking hands, saying “how do you do”?... have a lot of meaning in today's world. Remember the challenging 18 months when, as the family of God, we couldn't meet— that we never imagined could happen. How wonderful it is to be able to see our brothers and sisters, hug and be hugged, shake hands and just see each other smile. Remember, when we greet each other and ask how you are, we really mean it and say it in love.

John 13:34 - *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”*

***I hear babies cry... I watch them grow
They'll learn much more... than I'll never know
And I think to myself... what a wonderful world***

When the Lord was on this land, He taught and entrusted the children with “great and marvelous things” that He had not told anyone else.

3 Nephi 26: 14 & 16 - The Savior did teach and minister unto the children, and they did speak unto their fathers great and marvelous things, even greater than he had revealed unto the people. Behold, it came to pass on the morrow that the multitude gathered themselves together, and they both saw and heard these children; yea, even babes did open their mouths and utter marvelous things; and the things which they did utter were forbidden that there should not any man write them.

Teach the children wisely. Hold them close to the teachings of Christ even as we hold firmly ourselves. Let's show them the beauty of God's Earth, and teach them to praise Him in all things.

And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

Joseph told his brothers their plan to hurt him was overmatched by God's providence. God had Joseph in the palm of His hand, as shown in Genesis 45:7-8: *"And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."*

The second passage is the raising of Lazarus from the dead. When Lazarus was sick, Jesus heard about it and decided to stay (or wait two extra days) in the same place. It is recorded in John 11:6, *"When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was."* When Jesus made His appearance to the family, Lazarus was already dead. When Lazarus' sister, Martha, saw the Lord, she stated her feelings as found in John 11:21: *"Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."* Great blessings then began to occur as the interaction led to the Lord providing one of the most beautiful scriptures as recorded in John 11:25, *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."* Following this was the pinnacle blessing of Lazarus being raised from the dead as found in John 11:43-44, *"And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him,*

and let him go." In this instance, the waiting brought greater blessings. The fame of this miracle brought many to believe in Jesus and the testimony of Lazarus just being seen must have been indescribable.

To conclude, there is *always* a benefit to waiting on the Lord. This is captured for all by the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 40, verses 29-31: *"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But **they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."***

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. Lovalvo, 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

Miracles in South Dakota

By Brother Steve Curtin

The South Dakota Team set off in April 2025 to visit our Lakota friends, and in particular, to baptize Bessie Goodface-Loudner.

Brother Chip and Sister Karen Smith went early and visited Standing Rock and Pine Ridge reservations, providing diapers and other supplies to support the children and families in the community. The rest of the team flew in on Wednesday, April 23 with a plan to meet up on the Lower Brule reservation, visit our friends, and then have a lunch and fellowship meeting on Saturday followed by the baptism and worship service on Sunday.

To our dismay, we received word that Bessie had slipped and fallen in her home and was taken to the local hospital, where she was diagnosed with a broken hip that required surgery. She was airlifted to the Sioux Falls regional trauma center

due to the severity of her injury.

Immediately, word went out to the Church and our Brothers and Sisters went into prayer asking the Lord for a miracle. Thursday morning, we went to the hospital to visit and anoint our soon-to-be sister. God surely heard our prayers, as her condition was downgraded from a broken hip requiring surgery to a hairline fracture that would keep her in the hospital for about a week for recovery and physical therapy. Brothers Jim Calabro and Tony Moraco anointed Bessie, and our Sisters Sherry Curtin and Mitzi Calabro ministered to her. Before long, she was sitting up with her feet on the floor!

After some time of fellowship, we encircled Bessie, and Brother Steve Curtin offered a word of prayer. As we returned to our van, our Sisters, undeterred, immediately said, "Let's go to Walmart and buy baptism towels!"

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(Miracles in South Dakota - continued from page 8)

Afterward we headed to the Lower Brule reservation and met with our friends at the courthouse, community center, and tribal office to let them know we had arrived, and then the team gathered for dinner and made our way to the hotel.

At the courthouse we were excited to meet with our friend April Fallis. Late last year, April had contacted the ministry requesting prayer for her daughter Cheyenne Sazue, who had been diagnosed with cancer. That weekend in the Hopelawn Branch, the ministry anointed a handkerchief, as the Apostle Paul had done in the scriptures, and sent it to April, that she would lay the cloth on her daughter in faith for healing. April was happy to report that her daughter is now cancer free!

Friday started with prayer, and during breakfast we received the good news that Bessie had passed her physical therapy evaluation and would not need an extended stay in the hospital, and instead could do outpatient therapy. The rest of the day we visited with others and connected with our friend Clyde, a former Tribal Chairman, and later on Brother John and Sister Barbara Straccia joined our missionary team.

Saturday again started with prayer, and once again we received good news that Bessie was being discharged from the hospital and did not need any physical therapy. We then headed to the grocery store for food and supplies, and hosted a food distribution and fellowship at the community center in the afternoon. It was a blessing to reconnect with several of our friends and make new ones, bringing them the hope of the Gospel and God's plan for His people.

After cleaning up and bringing the leftovers to the local food pantry, we stopped by Bessie's house to check in on her. As stood in her kitchen, surrounded by her many grandchildren, she proclaimed, "I told the Lord that tomorrow I am going to be baptized. Nothing is going to stop me!"

We met Sunday morning at the Missouri River, accompanied by Bessie's family and our friends, where Sister Bessie went into the waters of baptism. She was worried that the waters would be too cold, but as she was going under, she said the waters became warm to her.

Praise God, He made the way from a broken hip to the healing of both body and soul!

Back at the hotel, we met with singing and praise, and our new Sister had the Holy Ghost conferred upon her and was able to take her first Holy Communion. There is so much more that could be written about our trip and the blessings of God; these are just a few highlights.

It should be noted that none of this would have been possible without the love and ministry of our Sisters. It is amazing how God uses them to bring His people in, fulfilling the prophecies of being nursing mothers carrying them in their arms and on their shoulders.

Please keep the Lakota people and the work in South Dakota in your prayers. May God bless them, and may God bless you, from the South Dakota Team.



Sister Bessie Goodface-Loudner being baptized

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus[®]
Christ



When Does God Say To Test Him?

Dear Friends,

Did you know that there is a place in the Bible where God tells people to do as He commands and to test Him to see if it is true? In the book of Malachi 3rd chapter, God is talking with His people about sharing their money. Now most of us are careful with our money and do not easily share it. But God says here, "Bring your tithes (one tenth of your money) to the Storehouse (temple or church) and see if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing so big there shall not be room enough to receive it!"

So God's plan, and He is watching us, is for us to keep 90 percent of all our money and share 10 percent with some good place—our Church, another needy place, or good cause in the world.

So, if you make \$10.00, you would keep \$9.00 and give 1/10, or \$1.00, to help someone or something in need. If you earned or were given \$20,000.00 you would keep 90 percent and give away—or tithe—10 percent to wherever God directs you! It's fun!

And what is God's promise back to you? He said to test him, "See if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing so big there shall not be room enough to receive it." When we listen to God and do that, all of a sudden God will start blessing us in all sorts of surprising ways! Maybe it will be something we want that will go on sale; we may be given something of value, or find a great way to earn some

money. Test God and thank Him when He pours out a blessing so big there's not enough room to receive it! In the New Testament Jesus teaches us (See Luke 6:38), "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you give out it will be measured to you again."

In those days when people bought grain, it was poured into their basket. If the seller pressed it down and shook the basket when it was being filled, the people got even more grain. If they kept on pouring after it was full, it overflowed. Jesus is teaching us that if we share our money, and show love, kindness, and even forgiveness to mean people, we will be blessed overwhelmingly (See Luke 6:35-37). The Apostle Paul teaches us that God loves a cheerful giver (See 2 Corinthians 9:6-8). But we are not supposed to tell everyone, or show off. Jesus teaches us (See Matthew 6:3-4), "When you give money, don't let your right hand know what your left hand is doing. Let it be in

secret, and your Father (God) which sees in secret will reward you openly! How wonderful! Try it. Test God! And continue to be grateful. Don't be afraid.

God does not need our money. He, the Creator, has everything, but He knows we must love and help others! God knows it is good for us to do so. Jesus says "The poor you have with you always." We must help others! It is so interesting to be a person who serves God! We are constantly being blessed and protected. We are given many, many opportunities to grow and challenge ourselves! And our great big wonderful God is watching and guiding, protecting and then rewarding us! Take up his challenge and give. See how God will open the windows of heaven and what He will do for you! His promises are always kept!

With love,

Your Sister in Christ

Sister Jan

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What is your favorite thing about your relationship with your dad or your favorite thing about your relationship with your children?

"I can still see my father sitting me down at five years of age and telling me I was going to play the piano for his branch, which had no pianist. I was so excited! I said, "Wow—I get to do that?! Well, it's over half a century later, and I have been truly blessed by God's gift of music to me. My father was the late brother Paul D'Amico." -Sister Sharon Church, Simi Valley, CA Branch

"That he is funny (my son, age 8). That he takes care of us (my daughter, age 10)." -Brother Ruggert Orozco, Modesto, CA Branch

"My favorite thing about my relationship with my Dad, Brother Lawrence, was how we would discuss scriptures and Gospel topics! So thankful for these precious memories that will be with me forever, even though my Father was called to the Paradise of God in December of last year." -Sister Connie King Gottschall, Vanderbilt, PA Branch

"I look first to the relationship between the many fathers in the Bible and Book of Mormon with their children, as to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Lehi, and Alma. There are many examples, and the favorite thing about my relationship is my example of my relationship with God, hoping and praying it has an impact on how they walk the path of life before them." - Brother Michael McGuire, Cape Coral, FL Mission

"Becoming a dad has taught me more about the unconditional love that God has for us. I have grown closer to God through becoming a dad. Coming home from work to their hugs is a daily blessing." -Brother Ryan McDonnell, Bell, CA Branch

"During this difficult season my family is in, my dad has shown me to never doubt God's plan, to serve Him and praise Him during the highs and lows, and to take comfort in knowing that my mom is in heaven worshipping her savior." -Brother Chuck Maddox Jr., Forest Hills, FL Branch

"His love and support. He never judges people." -Sister Sophia Sites, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"His willingness to listen and provide sound advice." -Sister Sydney Lovalvo, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"My dad taught me about hard work, dedication and the ability to be focused on the most important things in life- my relationship with God. He taught me to make all decisions in life based on the goal of spreading the Gospel, supporting the Church, and personally gaining salvation. He was always there to support, lift up and pray for the brothers and sisters." - Sister Carolynn O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

TO ALL OF OUR FATHERS AND SPIRITUAL FATHERS!

God Bless you for your love, mentorship, guidance, and dedication.

Blessing Bits

BB Impossible Goals

I recently returned to work after paternity leave and was immediately faced with a huge goal set up by the CEO and leadership team of our health system. We were challenged to conduct 800 cancer screenings among uninsured or underinsured communities. This is a monumental task that would usually require months of planning, process development, clinical support...the works! The CEO of my particular hospital even said "This will be the year we don't hit the goal." Naturally, I felt overwhelmed because I was being asked to do what takes half a year to accomplish in just thirty days, to develop a brand new system and begin screenings. I struggled for weeks trying to get this to work and my team was working hard along with me. One Sunday, when they asked if anyone came for prayer, I made my way over to the pew and asked for prayer that God would help us at work. That week, I developed two partnerships with local clinics and we are now projected to go beyond our goal. God has been so good! I am thankful for all He has done and praise Him because I know He has even greater things in store! - Brother Dan McNamara, San Diego, CA Branch

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

BB My Place

In 2021 I stopped attending the LDS church. For the next two years I attended many Bible believing churches, but I just couldn't settle with one that felt right for me. In December 2023, I prayed to God about my concerns that none of those churches love and use The Book of Mormon and I felt I couldn't give it up in my church worship. I asked God if there was another church that used The Book of Mormon that I could attend, and if there were, to show me. In a few weeks, I saw a dear friend, Sister Jenny Meyer, at the grocery store. She told me that she and her husband, Dave had joined a Restoration church and that ministers would be visiting Idaho soon. I asked her to please let me know. In January 2024, I met the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ in Dave and Jenny's home. I've been attending since then and found a place. Praise God! - Sister Camille Harris, Idaho Falls, ID Mission

BB Just for Me

One Sunday morning, I was blessed to prepare the Sacrament bread. As I was trimming the bread, I was thanking God for His precious son, Jesus Christ, that the Lord went to the cross for

my sin. I thanked the Lord for His precious blood that was shed for me. All at once, I pinched the side of my finger with the tip of the knife. I moved my hand away quickly so any blood would not drip. To my surprise, as I lifted my finger upward, the blood formed a small pearl size drop on the side of my finger. I stared at it for quite some time in amazement and awe and the thought was given to me that... "THAT one drop of blood was shed for me." A drop of blood for each of us who accept, love, and serve Him! Praise God that the Lord would do that for ME! - Sister Debbie Kall, Perry, OH Mission



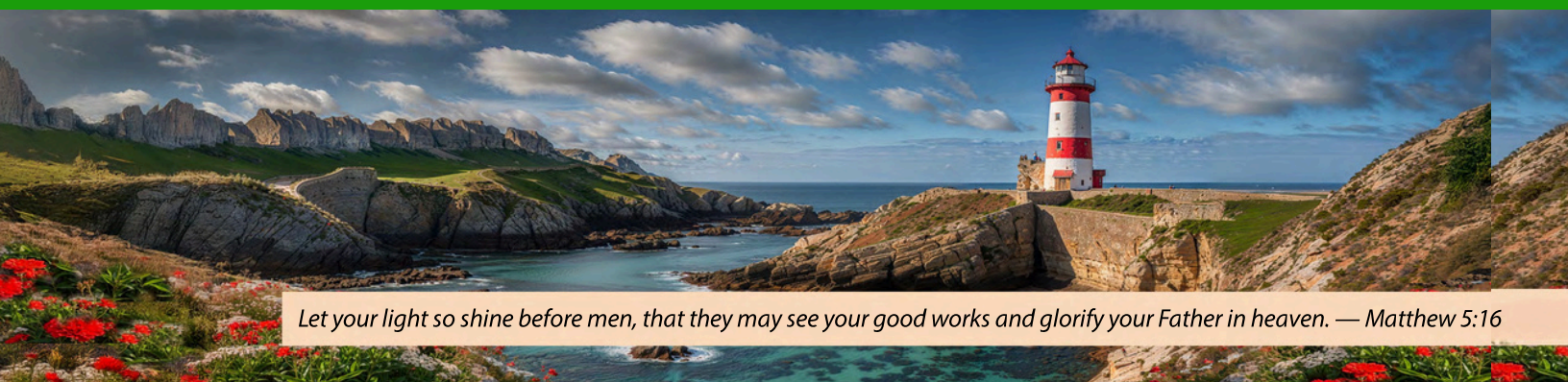
Question for this month:

Campout is around the corner. Share a favorite campout memory.



Answer from last month:

What is your favorite thing about your relationship with your dad, or, for the fathers, what is your favorite thing about your relationship with your children?
Turn to page 11 for more answers.



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. — Matthew 5:16