

The Gospel News

IN THIS ISSUE:

The Invitation



Blast From The Past
Page 2

Word Up
Page 3

Editorial Viewpoint
Page 5

GMBA Campout
2025
Page 6

**From One Grateful
Heart to Another**
Page 8

**Ladies' Uplift Circle
News**
Page 9

Children's Corner
Page 10

**Question of the
Month**
Page 11

Blessing Bits
Page 12

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles **SANCTIFICATION**

Sanc-ti-fi-ca-tion /saNG(k)təfə'kāSH(ə)n/

Dictionary Definition:

- the action of making or declaring something holy.
"the sanctification of bread and wine representing the body and blood of Christ"
- the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.
"the process of sanctification takes deliberate action on our part"

Spiritual Definition

- actively resisting sin and its influence in our lives by seeking to live a life pleasing to God.
- actively pursuing holiness, cultivating good habits, and seeking to live according to God's will.
- actively conforming to the image of Christ, surrendering our character and reflecting His character by living a life of love, compassion, and righteousness.

The Word of God (Bible and Book of Mormon) emphasizes both physical and spiritual sanctification or cleanliness. While the phrase "cleanliness is next to godliness" isn't found in the scriptures, it does reflect a core principle: purity and holiness are valued. We often use terms related to cleanliness, including "clean," "holy," "pure," and "sanctified," highlighting the importance of both outer and inner purity.

Natural / Physical Sanctification

Looking through the Old Testament, we find the Mosaic Law (the law of Moses) emphasized physical purity. The law focused on the outward appearance, it focused on 'works' and 'actions'. Its primary purpose was to establish a covenant between God and the Israelites and to reveal God's holiness, righteousness, and justice. More specifically, it served as a guide for daily life, establishing standards for moral, social, and religious conduct. Ultimately, the law's purpose was to point toward the need for a savior and to prepare the Israelites for the coming of the Messiah.

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith"
(Galatians 3:24).

(Continued on page 4)

	<p>Songs of Invitation: (Connect lyrics to images)</p> <p>COME, _____ _____ of _____.</p> <p>(Saints Hymnal)</p>		<p>"COME _____," He said, _____ Lay aside your _____ and _____, come _____."</p> <p>(R. Champine)</p>
<p>COME, _____ _____ and let our _____ _____.</p> <p>(Saints Hymnal)</p>		<p>O COME, _____ _____ _____ _____!</p> <p>(Saints Hymnal)</p>	
	<p>COME _____, _____ _____ no money.</p> <p>(SOZs)</p>		<p>COME _____ _____ _____ no need _____.</p> <p>(SOZs)</p>
<p>"COME _____," the Master _____ _____."</p> <p>(Saints Hymnal)</p>		<p>And Jesus said, "COME, _____ _____ _____."</p> <p>(Branch Favorites)</p>	

BFTP Blast From The Past

By Alex Giovannone

In 1863, The Church of Jesus Christ was taking root in the small community of Green Oak, PA. At the time, the church had only a few dozen members. One evening after baptizing three people, William Bickerton had the following dream:

"I saw a beautiful table spread over, with everything that was desirable of the rich bounties of Heaven, and the Saints feasting themselves; there was no end to it, as far as I could see. I saw myself sitting at the head of it; and while in the vision the glory of God filled the room. No mortal man can tell what I felt on that occasion, while a cloud of divine glory rested upon me. To the world this might appear to be imagination, but to me a reality, a divine reality, that years cannot erase from my memory. I might fill up pages of what we have received, but we give our testimony to the world, that we know that there is a God in Heaven, and He changes not, and that He does reveal Himself in this our day and generation, as He did in days of old."





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.



“By Invitation Only” By Brother Doug Obradovich

“Get thee behind me, Satan” – Matthew 16:23

Most attribute Dracula's author, Bram Stoker, with the theory, but now most fictional supernatural beings have adopted the practice. They are unable to enter a home unless invited to do so, so that it is impossible to cross over the threshold without receiving permission by the occupant. Is this only fiction?

I have long espoused man is built to fail but intended to succeed. This reinforces the notion that any true success takes place exclusively under the influence of Jesus Christ. Such success is never defined by bank accounts, professional designations, political position, or physical possessions. Man's failure and success is determined by invitation, per the Word, "The natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit" (Mosiah 3:19).

Jesus clarifies the power of man's choice to invite, "I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and he will

sup with me, and I with him" (Revelation 3:20).

We are always under the influence, some influence. Consider any day in your life as you might identify your nemesis as a co-worker, an ex-friend, a neighborhood bully, or even some rotating list of different people. Paul knew it was none of the above when he warned, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Your struggle is not with any one person, but with the influencers over any number of people in your life.

Immediately following the Savior's public baptism, He was challenged by Satan. First, he tempted Jesus with food while hungry from fasting. He then tempted Jesus with power, conditioned on His switching allegiance from His Father. Jesus rebuked the evil one, "Get thee behind me, Satan" (Luke 4:7). Later, during a very intimate exchange as the Savior prophesied to His 12 disciples concerning His impending crucifixion, Peter impulsively refused to

believe Jesus would be put to death. Jesus identified the Tempter's ploy and immediately addressed him, "Get thee behind me, Satan" (Matthew 16:23).

This example demonstrated where our battles lie. They are not with one another, but with the forces behind the wrongdoing. In the first example, the Son of God stood face-to-face with Satan. In the second instance, Jesus circumvented the one who was influenced and confronted the influencer. In both cases, the result was the same: the Savior boldly admonished, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

Our warring amongst ourselves exposes the error in misdirecting our anger onto the manifested behavior instead of the causation of evil. When we fight amongst ourselves, Satan succeeds. This separation fulfills Satan's purpose. And he laughs with delight. We are empowered to either invite the evil one over our threshold or slam the door. You concurrently have that power to do the same with the Lord. They both stand at the door of our hearts and knock. Neither will enter but by invitation only.

Who will you invite?

(Sanctification - continued from cover)

Throughout the Book of Mormon, we read that the law of Moses was also kept; *“Behold, they believed in Christ and worshiped the Father in his name, and also we worship the Father in his name. And for this intent we keep the law of Moses, it pointing our souls to him; and for this cause it is **sanctified unto us for righteousness...**”* (Jacob 4:5)

Yet under the law, physical purity through rituals like washing, purification rituals, and dietary laws became a requirement of obedience. Leviticus 11 outlines which animals were considered clean and unclean for consumption. The law included detailed instructions on cleansing rituals like bathing and washing clothes. Similarly, there were specific instructions regarding purification after contact with certain items and even certain people such as lepers or those with certain bodily ailments (see Leviticus 13). Leviticus 12 and 15 explain that women were considered unclean at certain times during the month and that anyone touched by them were also considered unclean. This is why, with great faith, ‘the woman with the issue of blood’ touched Jesus’s garment, she *“fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him...”* knowing that she was healed yet also being aware that simply touching Jesus’s garment was a violation of the law. (Mark 5:25-34)

The prophet Abinadi, speaking about the law of Moses said, *“And now ye have said that salvation cometh by the law of Moses... but I say unto you, that the time shall come when it shall no more be expedient to keep the law of Moses. And moreover, I say unto you, that salvation doth not come by the law alone; and **were it not for the atonement**, which God himself shall make for the sins and iniquities of his people, that they must unavoidably perish, notwithstanding the law of Moses. And now I say unto you that it was expedient that there should be a law given to the children of Israel, yea, even a very strict law; for they were a stiffnecked people, quick to do iniquity, and slow to remember the Lord their God; Therefore there was a law given them, yea, a law of performances and of ordinances, a law which they were to observe strictly from day to day, to keep them in remembrance of God and their duty towards him.... For behold, did not Moses prophesy unto them concerning the coming of the Messiah, and that God should redeem his people?”* (Mosiah 13:27-33)

Finally, when Jesus came, He made it clear that He was the fulfillment of the law; *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil”* (Matthew 5:17, 3 Nephi 9:17). And with the fulfillment of the law, emphasis was now placed on the importance of spiritual cleanliness—focusing on surrendering our heart. The New Testament repeatedly talks about the importance of inner purity, *“First cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt*

thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye” (Matthew 23:26). This highlights the need to address our own internal issues of sanctification before looking at others.

Spiritual Sanctification

With the fulfillment of the law, Jesus turned the sanctification process from the outward or physical, to the inward or spiritual. Matthew records His words: *“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven... Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”* (Matthew 5:20-48). Matthew continues by quoting Jesus’ words that draw our attention to the importance of our heart: *“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your **heart** be also”* (Matthew 6:20-21).

How do we achieve this Spiritual Sanctification?

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, *“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a **pure heart**”* (2 Timothy 2:22). This verse emphasizes the importance of pursuing righteousness and purity in our life, as these are characteristics of those who call on the Lord. Paul also wrote to the Corinthians, saying *“...let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”* (II Corinthians 7:1).

The Book of Mormon emphasizes that sanctification is a process of **purifying our hearts through the atonement of Jesus Christ**. This is achieved by yielding and surrendering our heart to God and putting off the natural man and allowing the Holy Ghost to work in our lives. This is a crucial step in the sanctification process. It involves willingly submitting our desires and will to God’s will, while the atonement of Christ is the source of both forgiveness and the cleansing power that helps us become pure and holy: *“...they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the **purifying and the sanctification of their hearts**, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their **hearts** unto God”* (Helaman 3:35).

In response to King Benjamin’s address, the people *“...all cried aloud with one voice, saying: O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our **hearts may be purified**”* (Mosiah 4:2).

(Continued on page 9)

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By Brother Anthony Scolaro

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)

Sister Jan’s firsthand account of attending the GMBA Campout (see page 10) highlights the blessing of experiencing gatherings of this sort in person. While the Camp’s theme was about coming to the table, that concept was explored in depth throughout the week, and some of the preaching and teaching focused on the individual, personal connection with our Lord and Savior alluded to in the scripture above. It’s not always a banquet table we’re being called to; sometimes it’s a table for two (just “Jesus and me”).

Several Church gatherings over this past summer—in addition to the Campout, Youth in Action activities that preceded and followed it—resulted in hours of uplifting content being broadcast live and available online. For a number of weeks, one or more new videos were posted each day on YouTube with inspired preaching, beautiful singing, impactful testimonies, and powerful prayers. While it’s not the same as being there in person, I found myself as I watched these recordings being uplifted, encouraged, and challenged to walk more closely with the Lord. As the meetings were directed by God’s spirit (Moroni 6:9), I was able to follow as the events’ themes (which themselves had emerged through much study and prayer) blossomed and developed under the spirit’s inspiration into a feast for the soul.

Worshiping the Lord in spirit and in truth requires intentionally making time to spend with Him. While this includes attending regular church services and gatherings, Jesus was referring in John Chapter 4 to heartfelt, daily time devoted to practicing His presence in our lives. The media bombards us if we allow it to, with content that can be disturbing, depressing, and even alarming. But God’s word urges us to “think on” those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report (Philippians 4:8). Besides reading the scriptures, prayer, and meditating upon the Lord, we are blessed to have so many Church meetings available online, with branches recording and posting their weekly meetings from coast to coast. Truly, there are more good things available to fill ourselves with and think upon than there are hours in the day.

As Jesus stated to the woman at the well, “...the Father seeketh such to worship him.” We are seeing increased evidence of the Lord’s hand moving—within the Church and beyond—to bring about the fulfillment of His plan. While He is repeatedly urging us to prepare ourselves and be ready, we are also reminded that He is in control, and we must wait patiently upon Him. Whether in our personal daily walk with Him, meeting with our local congregations (if we’re blessed with that opportunity), or making our way to the gatherings and conferences that mark the high points in our lives, let’s strive to develop a one-on-one relationship with God that transforms us and allows us to bear much fruit, with the ultimate goal of bringing souls to salvation.

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GMBA CAMPOUT 2025



"This Campout was an incredible blessing. The theme of "You're Invited: Come to the Table" allowed us all to reflect on our personal journey with the Lord while also motivating us to extend that invitation to others. I was blessed by all the ways the Lord directed the camp, through preaching, testimony, experiences, and singing. Ultimately I am so thankful that many individuals accepted the invitation and joined this beautiful Gospel. Thank you to everyone who helped make this Campout a success." - Bro. Ryan McDonnell, GMBA President

"Praise God that He blessed our 2025 Campout! While Campout is always filled with incredible fellowship, wonderful preaching, and spirit-filled seminars—witnessing souls accept "The Invitation" is the highlight of the week. Thank you to ALL who attended and those that made sacrifices to make Campout a success!" - Bro. Aaron Palmieri, GMBA Vice President



"God's invitation was evident all week and we felt His spirit and blessings. I still feel so blessed by the beautiful spirit of singing, especially on Thursday night. I'm thankful I was able to be a part of it and can't wait for next year!" - Bro. Chuck Maddox, Sr., GMBA Chaplain



"Campout was such a blessing for me and it was an honor and immense blessing to serve all of you as Camp Director. The Lord provided us with a wonderful week and I am so thankful to have been able to spend the week with each and every one of you." - Bro Marco DiMelis, Camp Director

"Campout was so blessed this year! We felt a beautiful spirit in the singing and the preaching about this theme of being invited to the table. The baptisms were definitely my highlight. It was so beautiful to watch those who decided to accept the invitation and give their life to the Lord. Praise God for GMBA Campout!" - Bro Wesley Griffith, Assistant Camp Director



STATISTICS



535 people in attendance



65,759 steps taken by one camper

60+ songs sung all week



4 people baptized at camp

Average temperature **83** DEGREES



At least **7** instruments played

1 Spirit-filled week



COUNTLESS BLESSINGS!

From One Grateful Heart to Another

It's with a prayerful and grateful heart that I step into this new role as editor of the Gospel News. I'm truly honored to serve in this capacity and deeply humbled by the opportunity to support the Church through this ministry.

This publication is more than a collection of articles—it's a reflection of our shared faith, lived testimonies, and the loving work of God among us. In my short time in this role, I've come to see this work as more than compiling and editing stories—it's witnessing how the Spirit moves through people and how God is active in His Church. Being entrusted with these glimpses of His goodness is both humbling and inspiring. My prayer is that, through each page, we continue to educate, uplift, and unite in service to God.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Sister Carolynn O'Connor, who has been so gracious, patient, and supportive in teaching and guiding both myself and Brother David Tenorio as we transitioned into the roles of editor and assistant editor. Her love for the Church and for this work has been evident, and I'm especially thankful for the way she has faithfully passed the torch with encouragement and care.

I also want to say how deeply touched David and I have been by the Gospel News team. From day one, everyone has been so open, kind, and encouraging—making us feel truly welcomed and supported. Your warmth has made this transition not only smoother, but joyful, and we're so blessed to now serve alongside such a faithful and talented group.

We're also grateful for the Operations Support Committee, whose oversight and support have been a steady foundation for this publication. Their insightful guidance and prayerful leadership behind the scenes help make the Gospel News possible, and we appreciate their continued dedication and encouragement as we step into these new roles.

Something Sister Carolynn shared with me—and again in her farewell letter in last month's edition—has stayed with me. She mentioned how she wished she had written down the experiences and blessings she encountered along the way as editor, because they could have filled the pages of a journal. I've tried to take that advice to heart, and even now, just at the beginning of this journey, I can only imagine how many journals she would have filled. The blessings I have already experienced in this role have been numerous, and I'm reminded of how faithful God is when we simply say yes to serving.

And yes—I am Canadian. So if you happen to spot the occasional "u" sneaking into a word where it *technically* doesn't belong (e.g., colour, labour)—just consider it part of the blessing of international fellowship!

We are excited to be part of this work, and we look forward to what God will continue to do in and through all of us. May each issue of the Gospel News be a reminder that God is still moving, speaking, and working—in big ways and small.

Sister Sabrina Fisher

Editor-in-Chief, Gospel News

Brother David Tenorio

Assistant Editor, Gospel News

An Invitation

By Sister Marty Jumper

As the risen Savior stood on the shore, He called to His disciples, noting that their long night of fishing brought no catch. Instructing them to cast their fishing nets to the right side of the boat, the catch was so great they could not pull the net into the boat. Back on shore, the disciples found a fire already laid, Jesus cooked fish and had bread for them. Jesus' invitation to "Come and Dine" satisfied their physical hunger, but His desire was, and is, to feed with spiritual food that would satisfy the hunger in the soul.

As I thought about the Lord's call to "Come and Dine," I realized the importance not only of partaking of the spiritual and natural food, but also the necessity to meet one with another to develop a deeper spiritual connection, a connection similar to the one the Lord offered the disciples as He called to them from the shore.

The Penn Mid-Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle has given the invitation to "Come and Dine" twenty-one times since May 5, 1990, when it held its first Mother and Daughter Banquet at the Monongahela Branch. From that first day in 1990 until May 11, 2024, nine more Mother and Daughter banquets, as well as seven Spring Luncheons, have been enjoyed by our sisters, with he invitations

textended to our natural mothers, sisters and friends. The Area Circles offer physical food and spiritual encouragement from the word of God. Each meeting of the sisters had a spiritual theme: Praising God, Mothers are Earthly Angels, Sisters by Heart, The Flowers Still Bloom, Believe, and Sisters in Service, to name a few.

Jesus' invitation came with His desire to restore and strengthen the personal relationship He had with the disciples. The Ladies' Circle has the same desire. When we meet as sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ, we create a stronger, more personal relationship with the Savior by "providing wholesome, meaningful study of God's Word" (Ladies' Uplift Circle, Aim #4) and as we "share their problems and joys and pray together" (Ladies' Uplift Circle, Aim #2). It also states in the Circle by-laws that "whenever Circle sisters work together, a richer fellowship with greater unity of spirit and purpose will result." The gatherings of our sisters have brought our aims to life for us who became closer as we met together over the years.

The Lord knew these facts and therefore, "To the hungry calleth now, "Come and dine." (Saints Hymnal #127)

(Sanctification - continued from page 4)

What role does your Heart play in Spiritual Sanctification?

Two revelations accepted by the Church Priesthood, separated by more than 50 years, remind us of the importance of having a clean heart: In 1972, a dream revealed that as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we must rid ourselves of the things that keep us from serving God and that keep God from blessing us. The dreamer was given to understand 'that the things that were being pulled out of his chest (that we need to rid ourselves of) were hate, envy, jealousy, pride, murmuring, etc.'

In 2024, a similar revelation was received through a vision, where the members were told that for many years, the Lord has been sending messages regarding the need to cleanse and purify their hearts. Yet many haven't committed fully to purifying their hearts. We were directed in the vision to 'take pride and place it on the altar of sacrifice before the Lord. Admit that we are nothing and that He is everything. Repent of these sins and stand before the Lord. Recognize that He is everything and we are nothing.'

Both of these revelations are humbling and instructional. Christ desires that we surrender our **whole heart** to Him. If we hold back, we hurt our individual relationship with Jesus and we miss out on the greater blessings that He has promised: "And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother

of Jared did, that they may become **sanctified** in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are." (Ether 4:7) Let us each seek to **sanctify our hearts**, as individuals and collectively as a Church, that the works of God should be made manifest in us.

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. Loyalvo, Frank Natoli, Paul A. Palmieri, Peter Scolaro, Jerry Valenti

Postscript: If you'd like more detail regarding the two revelations referenced above, ask your Branch/Mission ministry.

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



You're Invited, Come to the Table

Dear Friends,

GMBA Campout this summer provided over five hundred people that you were safe to talk to, play with, pray with, and make friends with. Some were old friends and some new! There were kids of all ages. It was fun and safe, with all sorts of new things to do and people to talk with.

Our message was to come to the Lord for all our needs. Did you ever come home from being away and felt so very hungry? Well when we need help in our lives, it's like being hungry. And the lesson was, come to the table.

Otherwise, come to the Lord. He will guide and help us. For some people, that meant come and give their life to the Lord and be baptized. Others there who already are baptized and walking with the Lord were encouraged to stay at the table. We were reminded that we do not have to be worried or try to control everything. Pray to God, who is in charge, and Jesus will help us over and over. Another thing we all need to do is to invite others to come to the table and learn about the love of Jesus and God. No matter how old you are, you can tell others about what God has done for your family. You can bring people to visit. Invite your friends to Sunday School or a fun activity. Pray for their troubles. Help them so they see Jesus gives you strength and kindness.

I also got to be in important Seminar classes where wise and kind Elders listened to our questions and provided answers! Some of us stayed after class and asked for personal prayers over

things we were worried about in our lives. No one asked me to pay them for their prayers. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 10:8, "Freely you have received; freely give." And our Elders helped and counseled us all week long. And no one paid them for their time and help.

At Camp, I even got to practice a new language I am learning, Spanish! Nobody got mad at me when I missed a word, or said it like baby talk. We all laughed, loved each other, and I'm smiling now thinking about it. My joke is that at Campouts in the past, it's the one place people let me play volleyball even though I am not tall or not really good at diving for those balls. They let me play. And I could enjoy watching the really good athletes and runners. Nobody gets mad. Or if they do get mad, they know God does not want us being like that and they control themselves.

In Crafts, we learned something very valuable. We learned how to use yarn, even grasses and things of nature, to weave. The Book of Mormon is full of stories from the first Jaredite women

who wove and made clothes for people (See Ether 10:24), and hundreds of years later (See Helaman 6:13) again women wove to make clothes for everyone. These kinds of woven and incredible clothes are still in museums in South America.

So, we learned. We prayed at Campout. We played. We sang and enjoyed each other. We talked about our problems and how to change ourselves or help others. It's not that way in the world. In the world, people get angry for little things that really do not matter. They let the evil one bother them. Remember, Jesus says to love and forgive. We had the happy Spirit of God and love. Every day we came to the table and were fed inside our hearts and souls, and felt the joy of people who follow God. Stay at the table. Or if you are thinking about giving your soul to the Lord, come to the table. Also bring your friends and loved ones with you, where they can find love at the table. See you at Campout next year!

With care and love,

Your friend and Sister in Christ,

Sister Jan

G R H V B S T D U K C O M E C
P Z C B O H Y Q W O R G T Y Z
J F A W J U T T N H W N S H
U Z E S Y B L H J F O T Y B X
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COME EACH
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YOU
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LEARN
GROW
HELP

What is one way God moved in your life during the summer?

"This past summer, God worked so much with me; He gave me the strength and confidence to go out canvassing during YIA and to interpret at the tent meetings in the Detroit Inner City. God also just showed Himself through countless confirmations and little blessings. But most of all, on Tuesday night of Campout, He spoke to me directly after I testified and reassured me of something I've been very anxious about. Praise God!"
- Sister Anna Marie Mott, Columbus, OH, Branch

"I attended YIA in Tse Bonito, NM, and being out there and in direct contact with the House of Joseph has ignited a new spiritual flame to do missionary work and place my faith in God for all things! The Lord performed many miracles and used me as an instrument in His hands many times, and I give him all the honor and glory!" - Brother Giovanni Lind, Lake Worth, FL, Branch.

"Since my family has and will be away for most of the summer, I've been by myself in the new house we all moved into. During this time, I've had incidents involving car repairs, accidents, and so on, and I felt very alone and at times without a car to get groceries. However, God's lesson for me was to lean on and trust Him more, and less in my fearful thinking. I now worry a lot less over things that have happened or may happen. Cars can get repaired and groceries delivered when needed. God has given me the strength and peace to know that I've never been alone, no matter what happens." - Sister Kathleen Pastorelli, Ocala, FL, Mission.

"Our middle son, Gabe, asked for his baptism at Campout this year and was baptized! Now, all three of our children have made that commitment with the Lord, and we are forever grateful. He is so good!" - Sister Colleen Moore, Columbus, OH, Branch.

"After fasting and prayer, God directed us to buy a home and sell our old one, with wonderful experiences about what to do. 'Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings; Alma 37:37.' - Sister Erin Palposi, Irvine, CA, Branch.

"Brother Armand Giovannone and I drove from Campout in Michigan to the tent meetings in Tse Bonito, NM in less than two full days. I was tired and concerned about the long day ahead. Brother Justin and Sister Betsabe Benyola were leaving the Campout at the same time as we did and were planning to drive the same route. Of all the places they could have spent overnight during this drive, they chose Oklahoma City, which was the same as our plans. In our efforts, God blessed us with safety and energy; we were comforted to have saints on the road alongside us." - Brother Andrew Tenorio, Edison, NJ, Branch.

"God blessed us with an item of value that we no longer needed, and rather than sell it, we had a desire to pass it on to someone who needed it. When we prayed about it, the Lord put a name in our mind. When we contacted that person, we learned that they had been praying for the Lord to provide that particular item as they very much needed it, but did not have the means to purchase it. We were both blessed in being able to see God's hand move in addressing their needs.. In addition to that blessing, right after passing it on, we learned of some unexpected income that more than covered the value of the item we gave away, so in reality, we did not even feel like we made a sacrifice in foregoing any proceeds from a sale!"
- Anonymous.

GOD IS SO GOOD!



Blessing Bits

BB A Joyful Leap

After hearing the news that our dear Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. had passed away, this experience was brought to my remembrance. Forty-four years ago I was about to deliver a baby boy after losing a daughter two years prior. I knew I'd have to have a C-section, so I asked to be anointed for a safe delivery and healthy baby. Brother Bob Sr. anointed me that day and asked that the Lord would have the child that I was carrying leap like John the Baptist did when his mother Elizabeth saw Mary while carrying Jesus. At that moment my son, Jonathan, "leaped" like never before! God had answered his prayer and all went well with the C-section and the baby was born healthy. - Sister Terri Nath - Monongahela, PA Branch

BB Doubly Blessed

I decided on my birthday last year that I would start growing closer to The Lord. I prayed that God would open my eyes and heart and move in my life, and He did! I decided to attend SAMBA

Campout in Bradenton, FL where my cup was filled to overflowing with love and joy. By the end of the beautiful, spirit-filled weekend, I asked for my baptism! My husband surprised me and asked for his baptism at the water's edge. That day, his testimony was my biggest blessing: He stated that since I started going back to church, he began noticing a change in me, and after I got home from that campout, the spirit I was carrying was so strong it made him want to change his life as well. Since our baptism day, we've grown stronger in our faith and also in our marriage. I am so thankful to God that my prayers were answered and that we decided to put God first in our lives before anything else. - Sister Laura Johnston, Treasure Coast, FL Branch

BB Services in the Pacific Northwest

Living in an outpost of the Church in Oregon state, we've been blessed with recent visitors to our meetings in the Pacific Northwest. Most notable and expected was the Spirit of God that blessed us all so abundantly.

We had anointing for sickness, prayer for spiritual health, and inspired testimony of God's blessings. - Brother Dean Longrie, 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.



Question for this month:

How has your experience in outreach or missionary work impacted your view of what it means to be the Church?



Answer from last month:

What is one way God moved in your life during the summer?

Turn to page 11 for more answers.

Welcome, Sister Sabrina, to your new post as editor. You have our full support. May God richly bless you.



Behold, he sendeth an invitation unto all men, for the arms of mercy are extended towards them, and he saith: Repent, and I will receive you. — Alma 5:33