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50th Anniversary of the San Carlos Native American Mission

Sister Paulette Key, Mission Editor/Historian

I am honored to be the historian/ ditor of The Church of Jesus Christ, San Carlos Native American Mission. This is my first article and I hope it reaches you all in great spirits.

I can dive right into the typical "Who, what, when, where and why?" of the event that I am reporting on but in order to fully appreciate the joyous occasion that we recently celebrated here on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, I feel that I must first begin with answering "Who" and "Why". Who is it that started the San Carlos Mission and why? Well, it all began over 50 years ago with a then young and eager servant of God, Brother Dan Picciuto. Seeking guidance and direction in his mission to serve God to the best of his abilities Brother Dan knelt down in prayer asking God to direct his path. God answered his prayer with a dream. In this life-altering dream Brother Dan saw the arm of the lord in all white pointing down from the heavens to the current location of the church. A voice spoke to him saying, "This is the place". In his

dream he vividly saw the three mountains, the river and the plateaus. It was evident that God was calling him to start his mission there. Although he had seen the place where God was directing him to, its exact location remained a mystery. Thankfully it wouldn't remain a mystery for too long. Through divine intervention and not mere happenstance Brother Dan found himself with his family driving a route through Arizona that wasn't pre-planned and one that he had never driven before. While driving on the highway he immediately recognized the scenery although he had never been there before. He saw right before him the three mountains, the river and the plateaus. Struck by the Spirit of God he pulled over, picked up a rock and made a promise to God to return to this place which God had led him. That rock of promise still remains and is currently within the wall of rock that stands behind the pulpit in our church. This is where the Mission began.

The most befitting answer I can come up with to answer the next ques-

tion of "Why?" is by quoting a scripture from the Book of Mormon that Brother Dan has shared with us many times—I Nephi 22:8: "The Lord God will proceed to do a marvelous work among Gentiles, which shall be of great worth unto our seed;...wherefore, he will bring them out of captivity and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be out of obscurity and out of darkness; and all shall know that the Lord is their Saviour and their redeemer, the mighty one of Israel, Amen."

Alongside Brother Dan and his wife, Sister Delores Picciuto, others were called by the Spirit of God to assist in the task of building the mission. Among them were: Brother Ether and Sister Ella Furnier; Brother Phillip and Sister Ann Damore; Brother Bob and Sister Millie Ciarrochi. With faith, God, and skilled builders, the church along with an adjacent residence was completed and dedicated to God on November 19, 1961.

(Continued on Page 4)

The Interpreters

We read in Moroni's account, Ether 3, that after the brother of Jared experienced the fullness of the revelation of Jesus Christ he was commanded of God to write his experience and seal up the writings. It was written in a language that could not be read. The Lord then provided the brother of Jared with two stones [God made and God given] which would magnify [or interpret] that which was written in God's due time. The Lord commanded the brother of Jared to "seal up the two stones with the writings" (Ether 3:21-28). More than 1,000 years later Moroni receives a similar commandment from God to seal up the sacred records and the interpreters (Ether 4:5). Moroni then seals up the same interpreters the brother of Jared received, spoken of in the 3rd and 4th chapter of Ether.

This record that the brother of Jared started was the beginning of the twenty-four gold plates which contain the spiritual history of the Jaredites. Ether completed the record and hid the gold plates in a manner that the people of Limhi would find them (Ether 15:33). No account is given concerning the location of the interpreters at the time that Ether buried the plates. Ether fulfills the commandment given to the brother of Jared in Ether 3:28, to seal up the two stones with the plates.

The next chronological event mentioning the twenty-four gold plates leads us to Mosiah 8:7-11. When the expedition of king Limhi went seeking the land of Zarahemla they instead discovered the remains of the Jaredites. They returned to king Limhi with the relics of the lost civilization and the twenty-four gold plates. Did they have the interpreters?

Reading on we see that king Limhi

asks Ammon, the leader of the expedition sent from Zarahemla to locate the people of Zeniff, if he could translate the twenty-four gold plates. Ammon answered Limhi that king Mosiah had the gift to translate (Mosiah 8:18), then in the same verse speaks regarding the use of the interpreters. Ammon speaks in a manner that leads the reader to believe that the interpreters are already in king Mosiah's possession. How could this be if the interpreters were buried with the twentyfour gold plates?

The answer is found in Mosiah 8:19. In the rejoicing of king Limhi over the discovery he speaks of "these plates" and "these interpreters", speaking of that which he had in his and Ammon's presence at the time of their discussion. Therefore the interpreters were buried with the twentyfour gold plates by Ether and discovered by Limhi's expedition. Further proof to substantiate this fact is when king Benjamin gave to his son, king Mosiah, the brass plates, the plates of Nephi, the sword of Laban and the ball and director (Mosiah 1:16). In bestowing such precious sacred treasures why is no mention made of the interpreters? Because the interpreters were not yet discovered, they were still hid with the twenty-four gold plates.

When king Limhi and his group finally returned to Zarahemla, the twenty-four gold plates and the interpreters were delivered to king Mosiah. King Mosiah translated the twenty-four gold plates by using the "two stones which were fastened into the two rims of a bow", the same two stones prepared ages ago for the brother of Jared (Mosiah 28:11-18). At the end of king Mosiah's reign he conferred all the sacred records and the interpreters into the charge of Alma, the son of Alma (Mosiah 28:20).

At the near end of the ministry of

Alma, the son of Alma, the first chief judge; we see Alma confers the sacred records with the interpreters into the care of his son, Helaman (Alma 37:21-25).

Following the above referenced scriptures we see that the Lord had prepared and given the interpreters to the brother of Jared. After the discovery of the twenty-four gold plates and the interpreters by king Limhi's expedition, these sacred items were handed down from one spiritual leader to another.

In Alma 37:23, the verse states "And the Lord said: I will prepare unto my servant Gazelam, a stone, which shall shine forth in darkness unto light ... " In this particular scripture the Lord states that a stone is prepared for Gazelem; a stone used by those who have the gift of a seer. In Alma 37:21, Alma confers to Helaman the sacred records and the interpreters. The same interpreters prepared for the brother of Jared, discovered by king Limhi's expedition, given to king Mosiah, conferred to Alma, the son of Alma, now conferred to Alma's son, Helaman, finally sealed up by Moroni (Ether 4:5). As Alma is exhorting to Helaman the importance of the sacred items he quotes the Lord preparing the interpreters for Gazelem.

There is only one set of interpreters that the Book of Mormon gives account of; the same used by Joseph Smith and all those mentioned from the time of the Jaredites. The Book of Mormon has recorded within it all those who possessed the sacred records and the interpreters.

Notwithstanding, and of greatest importance, is the revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior to the brother of Jared and to each of us today.

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Purpose – Mission – Vision

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.
- To draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused on the Native Americans of North and South America.

Vision Statement

• The full manifestations of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, resulting from living and worshipping in unity and righteousness, stimulate continuous growth of the Domestic Church—even at a rate of doubling over a five year period—while strengthening the International Church.

The understanding of PERFEC-TION in the sight of God is quite simple—live each day without sin. In today's very sinful world we are each inundated with temptation, immorality, tolerance of abominable sins in everyday life, laws protecting sin—and the list goes on. So how is it possible to live each day without sin?

Always remember this very important verse of scripture: I Nephi 3:7 "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."

Jesus indeed commands His children to be PERFECT and He has prepared a way for His children to be PERFECT; notwithstanding, we are never permitted to claim we are PERFECT: only Almighty God is the judge of PERFECTION. It is a goal that we strive to attain day by day.

Another very important scripture: Moroni 10:32,33 "Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God. And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy, without spot."

"Be Ye Therefore Perfect"

In our very sinful world Jesus Christ commands us to be PERFECT. Impossible? NO! Follow the scriptures. The steps to accomplish perfection are clearly and simply stated by Moroni. The part we have difficulty with is *"deny yourselves of all ungodliness"*. We must make wise choices, sometimes quick but prudent decisions, exercising free-will with Godfearing carefulness.

Scripture to live by: II Nephi 32:9 "But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul." Bottom line—ALWAYS PRAY!

If a situation becomes too tempting remember this verse: I Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." We must endeavor to live each day without sin-PERFECTION: Always pray for divine direction in all our decisions; Always pray for the spiritual strength to choose good and refuse evil. May the Lord grant us sufficient grace to remain on the path that leads to PERFECTION!

50th Anniversary of the San Carlos Mission

Continued from Page 1

When I look through our church's photo album and listen to Brother Dan and Sister Delores recount the memories from those old photographs, I am always captivated by their stories and I can feel the love that they have for the Church and for the people of my tribe. Looking through those old photographs, I realize that times were much different then. The church had the first water well on the east side of the San Carlos River. We now have all the modern day luxuries and sometimes take them for granted-Simple things like hot and cold running water, paved roads, telephones, automobiles, adequate housing, etc. Back then living conditions were meager. Some of the people still lived in traditional Apache Wickiups, with no electricity or plumbing. The roads were made of dirt. Many personal sacrifices were made. All of which were done so that we, the seed of Joseph, can be brought out of obscurity and be given the teaching of the Restored Gospel.

The 50th Anniversary is one of importance and worthy of recognition. In the Bible it is known as the year of jubilee. All debts and sins were forgiven. The land was given an extra year of rest. Nothing was sown nor reaped. (Leviticus 25:11) The 50th year for our church began on November 19, 2011, and God saw fit to bless it with 13 baptisms and six reinstatements all within a period of three weeks. I was one of the 13 newly baptized and I have a new-found hope and love for life since making that commitment to serve God. Since then we have witnessed the church pews begin to fill up, which is a welcome hight considering how many seats were empty before. Our church is alive and thriving, we have 75-100 people attending weekly.

After the holidays a church committee was formed in January, 2012. Meeting weekly the committee effectively collaborated the 50th Anniversary. On February 4, 2012, the church held a potluck dinner followed by a special service. We opened with a song and prayer. It was a singspiration/testimony type of service. The night was wonderful as we got to fellowship with one another and met the visiting church members who travelled to join us in our celebration. The highlight of that night was all the wonderful songs and heartfelt testimonies that we heard.

The following day on February 5, 2012, the 50th Anniversary event took place. All the planning had paid off as the event proceeded without a flaw. The youth of our church saw to the parking lot as we expected many visitors and they also served as ushers. Their love of God was visible to all as they helped and took part on this special day.

Agenda for the day was as follows:

• Opening remarks: Brother Dan Piccuito

• Master of Ceremonies: Brother Terry Ross

• Church Choir: song performed in Apache by senior members of the church.

• Remarks by: Brother Pete Giannetti, Southwest Region President

• Remarks by: Brother Brian Martorana, Southwest Evangelist Chairman

• Special song: Church Youth Choir performed a unique medley of their favorite songs

• Remarks by: Brother Joel Gehly, Native American Outreach Committee Chairman

• Special remarks: The First and For-

mer Chairwoman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Kathy Kitcheyan

• Special presentation: Current San Carlos Apache Tribal Chairman, Terry Rambler presented a custom plaque recognizing and honoring The Church of Jesus Christ for the dedication and commitment to the people of the tribe

• Special guest speaker: Brother Paul Palmieri, President of the Church

• Special song: Church members and Brothers Jack, Alder, and Fernando Kayson

• Power Point presentation: Sister Andrea James gave a Power Point presentation of the construction of the Church and its later expansion, church events and all the baptisms.

• Acknowledgment of past missionaries that have served: Brother Terry Ross,

• Special gift presentation: Sisters Karen Key and Kathy Perry presented Brother Dan and Sister Delores Picciuto with two Pendleton blankets. This was a gift from the church members as a token of appreciation for their dedication to the people of the tribe.

• Closing remarks: Brother Vernon James, Sr., Deacon

• Closing song: Sister Cheryl Stuart sang "Standing on Holy Ground"

• Closing prayer by: Apostle Tom Liberto

The anniversary event was a major success. Each guest speaker was a blessing to hear, their words were inspirational, and each delivered a unique message about the Church. Immediately following the service lunch was catered and served.

I look forward to our 75th Anniversary, and to see what positive changes come about in the next twenty-five years.



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Message from the Editor. .

This issue of the Gospel News, April 2012, will mark my last as Gospel News Editor. I am so thankful that God has now provided a successor, Sister Carolynn O'Connor, to this wonderful position. I am certain that the ideas and changes you will see come to fruition in The Gospel News will be exciting and a great blessing to all readers.

For over 11 years, I have had the great honor of assembling the Gospel News, and have tried with the help of God to make sure each issue brought to you blessings, excitement, missionary news, inspired teachings, and wonderful commentaries. Writing my "Editorial Viewpoint" each month has been nothing short of God's divine intervention. Each editorial was inspired completely by God; often times not even my own words or thoughts. I truly have always prayed that the words would stir your hearts to a greater understanding of God's incredible love for us, His children, and His plan and purposes for our future. Over the past decade, many great things have happened in The Church of Jesus Christ. Most notably, we have seen explosive growth of the Church internationally. We have read about places around the world where there have been hundreds baptized. We have read about countries that some of us have never even heard about, where the Church has made inroads. We have read about great miracles in these foreign lands. What an exciting time we are living in!

Recently there has been a greater focus on the Church in the United States. Upon this Promised Land, people need more than ever to turn back to God. This land of America will someday soon be the land of Zion, where we will live in the Peaceful Reign. Our efforts are now focused on bringing as many as we can on board the ark of safety, including a stronger effort to reach those of the seed of Joseph. With each passing day, we draw closer and closer to some of the great promises God has for His people and the House of Israel upon this land. We cannot grow tired, or become weary during this time. God has shown us that we need to focus on our children, ensuring that we do not let them get entangled in the snares and tricks of the devil. It is truly a time of revival in The Church of Jesus Christ. With revival will come much opposition and challenges by the enemy. Like a woman travailing to bring forth a child, the Church is travailing more than ever to bring about the fullness of God's kingdom upon the earth. But won't it be worth it all when we "*See the Morning Light*"? The Gospel News has attempted to stir our hearts to spiritual action and awakening. Based on the hundreds of letters and comments I have received over the years, we have been successful.

Personally, the past decade has also brought me much change. I lost both parents and a brother to tragic deaths. However, as I have stated before, it is only tragic in our human eyes, but through our spiritual eyes the promise of Paradise after death, brings me joy and happiness for them. Both of my children were born during this past decade, one of whom was born autistic, and then miraculously healed of this affliction of the mind. September 11, 2001, occurred during this past decade as well, and you have all heard my testimony of being in New York City on that fateful day. God truly sent His angels to protect me and many others who were calling upon His name on that day. The world has changed much in the past decade, but one thing has not changed—Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He will never change. He will never leave us, nor forsake us. His arms are open wide all day long for whoever would want to find shelter in Him. He is our closest friend, our father, our all in all. Oh, how He loves us! We fail Him so many times, but He never turns us away, but patiently and lovingly carries us along through life. What would we do without Him? Where would we be without His precious Church? Who would we turn to other than our beloved brothers and sisters?

I love you all very much and thank all those who have contributed to The Gospel News during my tenure. Just like the Church, the Gospel News will continue on, and I, like you, will continue to look for it in my mailbox each month as a source of inspiration and upliftment. May God richly bless you all and bless our new Gospel News Editor as abundantly as He has blessed me these past 11 years.

The

Children's

Corner

By Sister Jan Bork

The Easter No One Could Forget (III Nephi)

Dear Boys and Girls,

At the time we now call the first Easter, in the Promised Land of the Americas, the people had just gone through twenty-five years of warfare with the Gadianton robbers. God had the good people gather in family groups in one huge valley. They built big strong walls around their city. They brought all of their food, animals, possessions and weapons with them. Then there was nothing left in the land so the robbers ran out of food as they waited outside the walls. They only went out to battle if God told their leaders to send them. There were many hideous battles but God saved and protected the good people over and over.

After one final battle with the robbers, the war was over. Families could return to their homes. For a couple of years there was great peace and everyone got along. But then some people wanted more power. They wanted to set up a king so they could control everyone. The people began to be separated because some received great learning because of their riches and some were ignorant because of their poverty (see III Nephi 6:12). There began to be great inequality in the land and the church began to be broken up. There was a group of strong believers, the Lamanites, which had been con-



verted to the true faith. They remained steady and immoveable, willing to keep the laws of God. And God sent out prophets and preachers to warn everyone to repent and be fair and loving to each other.

But the devil had great power puffing the people up with pride and tempting them to hunt for power, authority, and riches and the unimportant things of the world. They did not want to hear the preachers and prophets God sent to them telling them they were doing wrong. They already knew that.

A secret group got together mostly made up of the chief judges and lawyers who hated hearing about Christ. These men knew better! They were all sinning against great knowledge, because they all had been taught about God's plan for them. And many had even been alive when Samuel the Lamanite told them to look for a sign in the heavens showing that the Savior, Jesus Christ, was born. They saw the sign of a day and a night and a day when a new star came. They also had been there when through much prayer; God had protected them and let them win over the Gadianton robbers. A few years had passed and now they turned away from God.

They were listening to the devil. They killed the chief judge and some of the prophets in secret then they lied and protected their evil friends. They had secret plans to get a king so they could rule over everyone else. The rest of the country did not want this. They all divided into huge family groups, or tribes. At first, they decided not to fight against each other and an uneasy time of peace went on.

They were not following God, and each group made up their own laws. But time was passing. By the thirty-third year their hearts were turned against God (see III Nephi 7:14). Yet, there was still a group of true believers. One of them, named Nephi after the Nephi who came over in the old days, became a great preacher.

God gave Nephi great power and authority. Angels visited him daily. When he preached, they could not disbelieve. When a mob threw rocks and killed his younger brother, God gave Nephi the power to pray for him and raise him from the dead. When the people saw it they were angry with him because of his power from heaven. And Nephi did many more miracles in the sight of the people, in the name of Jesus. Many people were reminded of God's love, were sorry and were baptized with water.

And the people began to look for the other sign that Samuel the Lamanite had told them about thirty-four years ago. The sign was that there should be darkness for the space of three days over the face of the land. This was the sign that Jesus would be coming. Of course, the sinners made fun of the believers even though they had all seen and felt the incredible power and love of God. People began to argue and wonder if it was truly going to happen, and the evil people fought the good ones.

And it came to pass in the thirtyfourth year, in the first month, on the fourth day, there arose a great storm,



12 Points Bike Ride of 2011

By Brothers Edmond Buccellato and Sal Azzinaro



In the summer of 2011 the Simi Valley Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ was presented with a unique opportunity. The Simi Valley Boy Scouts of America asked the Church to participate in a Boy Scout event called the "12 Points Bike Ride of 2011". The objective of this annual bike ride is to expose these young men to a variety of faith based lifestyles to promote understanding and respect for all of God's creation.

The bike ride would include twelve churches of various faiths in the Simi Valley area. Each church would give twenty minute presentations outlining their faith and reserving the final five minutes to incorporate part of the Boy Scout Law into a mini sermon.

The Simi Valley ministry informed the Pacific Region of this opportunity and was granted permission to participate.

On October 15, 2011, Brother Ed Buccellato and Brother Sal Azzinaro represented the Simi Valley ministry of the Church in this presentation. The audience included approximately 200 Boy Scouts, parents, and Boy Scout leaders. Due to the large attendance, the presentation was divided into two groups. The meeting was opened in prayer.

Our objective was to explain the faith of our Church, our basic Church structure, and the ordinances we practice which were instituted by Jesus Christ almost 2000 years ago.

The information was a collaboration of previously authorized Church sources, such as the Church website.

The subjects covered were the establishment of the Church, our independence from any other religious group, the structure and ordinances of the Church, and mission statements as outlined on the Church website. Scriptural references were incorporated at appropriate parts of the presentation.

It was emphasized that we believe in the King James version of the Bible, [the record of Judah] and the Book of Mormon [the record of Joseph, Native Americans, on this land of America] to be the Word of God and are to be used together as referenced in the Bible. (Ezekiel 37:16,17).

At this point we transitioned to our assigned "Point" of the Scout Law, which is HELPFUL, and how it ties into our faith.

Jesus Christ's story about the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37, turned out to be a way to relate scripture with the Scout Law. We also referenced Matthew 22:36, where Jesus answers a question about the "greatest commandment".

The Scouts were told that it is our duty as responsible members of our society to respect, administer, and be HELPFUL to the needs of others that cross our path in life. Many times these situations are tests of our faith and beliefs. Although we must always exercise good judgment and discernment in these opportunities, it is clear that Jesus intended that we treat each other as neighbors, bound together in a Christian society that serves God to the best of our ability.

It is also clear that Scout Law is based on good moral judgment and that each "Point" serves to strengthen our communities and build a good foundation for the youth of our society.

The Scouts were sent off with the message that this was their time to establish this foundation in their life.

This humbling experience was quite a blessing for our ministry and only God knows how seeds planted will provide fruit for the labor.

The Children's Corner

Continued from Page 6

such as never had been known in the land. For three hours there was sharp lightening, and terrible thunder that shook the earth. And the great city of Zarahemla took fire. The city of Moroni fell into the sea and the bad people there drowned. Earthquakes buried entire cities of bad people. The whole face of the land was changed because of the tempest, the whirlwinds, and the earthquakes. Rocks were torn in pieces; cracks ruined the highways and great cities.

The ungodly, evil people were destroyed as a thick darkness fell across the land in a vapor. This happens today when there are volcanoes and ash in the sky. No fires could be lit. The cries and the moans of the people filled the air. There was not light for three long days. Voices howled in the darkness crying out saying, "Oh, if only we had listened to the prophets and repented before this terrible day!"

But then a beautiful voice was heard over all the noise. It was Jesus. He was coming for the most righteous people who had survived. He was coming to preach, to teach and to love those that would serve Him. He set up His church—The Church of Jesus Christ. He appointed twelve disciples, and told them how to baptize new believers with water. Angels descended to surround the children with love and God's power.

The world was never the same after this first Easter. Our Savior had been born, and allowed Himself to be crucified as the last sacrifice. Now He taught the people the right way to live. They wrote it down for us, and we too can follow the Lord's commandments and receive the same safety and blessings

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With love, Sister Jan

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Plan to Attend ! 2012 GBMA CAMPOUT

Where: Univ. of California, PAWhen: June 30 - July 6, 2012Theme: "Glorious Day"

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