

The Gospel News

IN THIS ISSUE:

Blast From The Past
Page 2

April Calendar
Page 2

Word Up
Page 3

Meet the Branch
Page 4

Editorial Viewpoint
Page 5

Topic Series
Page 6

Branch/ Mission News
Page 7

GMBA News
Page 8

5 Amazing Facts
Page 9

Ladies' Uplift Circle
News
Page 9

Children's Corner
Page 10

Blessing Bits
Page 12

HE IS RISEN

By *Apostle Paul Palmieri*

The month of April is the time when spring gradually begins to assert itself and break the cold, icy grip of winter. It is the season when nature comes alive again, also inspiring us with new hope and expectation. It is a time that influences our thoughts to dwell increasingly on the story of the Lord's Resurrection.

We rejoice in the message of the Angel of the Lord, "...**HE IS RISEN.**"

Surely, this is one of the grandest declarations as recorded in our Holy Bible.

We are stirred by the Apostle Matthew's brief but eloquent account of our Lord's notable victory over death:

"In the end of the Sabbath Day, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And, behold, there was a great earthquake; for the Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightening, and his raiment was white as snow. And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the Angel answered and said unto the woman, 'Fear not ye, for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified, He is not here; for HE IS RISEN, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay' " (Matthew 28:1-6).

We rejoice in our Lord's mighty victory over the "power of death". We believe it also was a reintroduction of the principle of continuous or external existence, not only for Himself, but for all of the human family. This is verified by the Apostle Matthew's account of a notable event immediately following our Lord's resurrection:

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many" (Matthew 27:52, 53).

Another scripture is found in the Book of Mormon, III Nephi 23:9-11, which records that a similar notable event took place in the land of America, attesting to the resurrection of our Lord in the land of Palestine. There we read that *"many saints did arise and appear unto many and did minister unto them."*

(Continued on page 6)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 Have you thought about attending conference this month?	3	4 Read the scriptures about Jesus' resurrection	5
6 Eternal life through salvation is for all. Spread the word!	7	8 Pray for the Windsor Branch - pg 4	9	10	11 General Church Conference Ladies' Circle Conference	12 General Church Conference
13	14 Thank God for spring and the blessings of beautiful things	15	16 Invite a friend or neighbor to the Sunday service	17	18	19 While preparing for Easter don't forget your heart and mind
20 Have a Blessed Easter Sunday!	21	22 Reflect on the knowledge that Jesus died for your sins	23	24 Plant the seeds of repentance and eternal life	25	26
27	28 Consider supporting missionary work with time or money	29	30	1	2	3

March 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2014

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:" (John 11:25)

BTP Blast From The Past

Brother George Nicholas

Of the three chiefs in Muncey, Canada, George Nicholas was considered the most religious. It was for that reason, according to his daughter, Sister Faye Albert, that Brothers Paul Love, Alma B. Cadman, Anthony DiBattista, and W.H.Cadman made their way to the Nicholases' home in the fall of 1932. Julia, George's wife, would be baptized within days, but it would take two and a half years before George would ask for his baptism. This occurred 80 years ago this month not in Muncey, but in Detroit, where the spirit of repentance fell upon him while he and his wife attended the April 1934 General Church Conference at the corner of Hall and Devine. In 1939, Brother George would become Muncey's first Native American minister.

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



Purpose Statement

- To fulfill the plan of God by bringing salvation through Christ to all people.

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ.
- 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 CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ



from The Gospel News Staff



Word Up

The Case For Christ: Holding The "Word Up" By Elder Doug Obradovich

*Is reading scripture difficult for you?
Do the "thees" and "thous" make Christ's words seem irrelevant, even losing their potency in translation?
Let's take a deeper dive into Jesus' message and see if we can make sense of it all.
If successful, let's agree to hold the "Word Up"!*

"I tell you that if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40).

Imagine sacrificing your entire life for those in need, with these acts of kindness motivated out of a pure love for the less fortunate. Imagine this sincere desire to serve was for those who could never pay you back, wanting nothing in return. Also imagine throughout your life you were keenly aware those in charge would ultimately take you by force and execute you unjustly. Now imagine you even knew when this violence would take place and those plotting against you were waiting for your return to your adopted "home town."

Knowing this, you journeyed back to your place of reckoning. Many recipients of your lifelong love awaited your entrance and began to honor you with cheers and praise. Now imagine while the crowd shouted joyously, those who intended to destroy you, boldly commanded you silence your loyal followers. Can you imagine such audacity?

This was the dramatic scene as Jesus Christ returned to Jerusalem. The people cried out, "Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord" (verse 38) as they laid their garments down as an homage to the Son of God. Their firsthand experience of His kindness and good works inspired their public reciprocation as they greeted Him with an enthusiastic standing ovation. Filled with jealous rage, the Pharisees demanded that He stop their celebration. Jesus answered simply, "I tell you that if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

Our congregation (Oldham County Mission) hears this verse referenced many Sundays before testimonies begin with, "Don't let the rocks get to rumbling outside" or "You've gotta keep those stones quiet today!" Christ's retort to the Pharisees still rings true today, as He continues to deserve such praise. In the absence of mankind acknowledging the greatness of God, the Creator's creation ("stones" in this case) will stand as surrogates for sadly, silent Saints.

A marvelous moment from "The Lion King" showed the animals bowing before Simba, the King's infant son. As Jesus Christ is held up before mankind, it would be heartbreaking if this scene was repeated because we were unwilling to cry out, "Hosanna" to the true Prince. We must still lay our garments of sin at the feet of Jesus Christ and accept responsibility for silencing the stones. Imagine the noise God's creation would make if we "should hold our peace." So stand up Sunday and stay the stones! Imagine how beautiful that sounds to God.

Do you have a favorite verse you'd like us to dissect? Please send it in to: "Word Up"

MB Meet the Branch

International Church — Windsor, Ontario, Canada



The Windsor Branch was established in 1942. It is located on the corner of Howard and Irvine in Windsor, Canada. The Branch has gone through many changes and was nearly closed in 1962. Following the business meeting that had determined its fate, Brother Frank Vitto spoke up with a great desire to return the Branch to the living and thriving Church it had once been. It was given to one Sister that *"When we increase in love we shall increase in numbers,"* and so the branch continued on and grew.

Our congregation ranges from ages 4-87 years of age and today we have 42 active members. We have MBA meetings alternating with Sunday School and monthly fast and prayer meetings on the first Saturday of each month. We enjoy many activities together such as an occasional movie night, summer Sunday School Picnic, Vacation Bible School in August, a Soup Night Fundraiser this past November, and a Cookie Fundraiser in December where the children put together cookie kits. This raised money for care packages for the needy and homeless from Street Care. The children distributed these baskets with the assistance of our Sunday School teachers and volunteers from the congregation. This made such an impression on one young boy that he gave the \$5 he earned shoveling snow that morning to one of the representatives of the homeless shelter for additional supplies. The children are the main focus of almost every activity within our branch. *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6).

We are blessed with a great love shared for one another and praise God for His gift of healing for one of our dear members who had been afflicted with metastatic colon cancer. Our brother had been anointed prior to undergoing his treatment. He now enjoys almost 1 year of being cancer free. Again all praise, honor and glory go to God.

The Napkin By Brother Daniel Stone

Avivid account of Jesus Christ's resurrection is described in chapter 20 of the Gospel of John. In the book, the apostle wrote a mysterious sentence: He stated that a napkin, which had been laid on Christ's face, was *"wrapped together in a place by itself"* (verse 7), separate from the linen clothes which had bound Jesus' body. Over the years, many people have wondered why John included this sentence in his account. It was important for John to relate that the linen clothes were left in the tomb. After all, Jesus would not have walked out of the sepulcher wearing burial garments. He had resurrected! However, the question still remains why He wrapped together the napkin. Was this portion of the story just an arbitrary description by the apostle? Probably not. Jesus, as the Son of God, never did anything carelessly. He was always aware of His actions. While the scriptures do not explain the reasons behind this act, a number of ideas have been suggested as being the reason why Jesus left the cloth this way.

One theory assigns prophetic symbolism to the napkin, positing that Jesus had followed Jewish custom by folding it, and that the Jews would have understood the meaning. According to this theory, when a servant prepared the dinner table, he performed his duties meticulously, according to the master's specifications. While the master sat at the table, the servant would wait, just out of sight. When the master was done eating, he would wipe his face and

hands with the napkin and lay it on the table. This was a sign to the servant to clean up. However, if the master folded the napkin and placed it next to his plate as he walked away from the table, that meant, *"I am returning."* The servant would not think to touch the table, because he knew the master planned to come back soon. The theory suggests that Christ was sending a message to His disciples, prophetically declaring, *"I am coming again!"*

While nowhere in the King James Bible does it actually state that the napkin was *"folded,"* the above story paints a beautiful picture of Jesus' promise to return. Jewish traditions aside, imagine what the disciple *"whom Jesus loved"* must have felt as he saw the linen cloths lying there! Still referring to himself in the third person, John states in the next verse that when he looked into the empty tomb he *"saw, and believed,"* apparently for the first time, explaining in the following verse, *"For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead."*

The word "napkin" in the King James Version, to our twenty-first century ears, may make us think that the cloth used to cover Christ's face was a table napkin. However, when the

(Continued on Page 11)

The Crucifixion *By Elder Donald Ross*

Why was the Lord Jesus Christ sent to earth? He answers this question in III Nephi 27:13-15, wherein He makes the following statements, *"I came into the world to do the will of my Father because my Father sent me. And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; that I might draw all men unto me; even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works."*

The crucifixion is the most magnificent example of God's love and forgiveness towards His creation. By the very act of being lifted up on the cross, He took upon Him the sins of the world from the beginning of time, from Adam and Eve to the very end of the natural life as we know it. It was His love and act of forgiveness for all men and women that kept Him on the cross, not nails!

Forgiveness is defined as, *"To excuse for a fault or offense; pardon; to renounce anger or resentment against; to absolve from payment of."*

We must remember that great act of forgiveness by the Lord when He was on the cross. It is important that we remember His statement, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34). He forgave His malefactors. Through all the pain and agony, He took time to speak with a thief on the cross that recognized Him as Lord and Master. The thief said, *"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise"* (Luke 23:42-43). The thief went to the paradise of God the very same day that the Lord Himself entered paradise. Jesus Christ is the supreme example of forgiveness.

His crucifixion was deplorable and extremely painful. Imagine; the Lord was without spot or blemish of any kind. He was and is *"perfection"*! Yet, He allowed Himself to suffer the pain and cruel agony of the crucifixion, a painful and awful method of death, a most barbaric form of execution.

King Benjamin informs us in his writings, *"And lo, he shall suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death; for behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great shall be his anguish for the wickedness and the abominations of his people"* (Mosiah 3:7). The entire third chapter of Mosiah is a marvelous scripture, where we read about the *"atonement"* of Jesus Christ. The eleventh verse of this very chapter informs us that *"his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam, who have died not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned."*

Agony was no stranger to the Lord. Jesus Christ, being all knowing, knew the appointed date and time of His crucifixion and death. He persevered daily, despite the knowledge of His destiny. He knew the plan of salvation. He was the plan of salvation. He was the *"infinite atonement."* *"...[H]e suffereth himself to become subject unto man in the flesh, and die for all men, that all men might become subject unto him"* (II Nephi 9: 5).

The salvation of Jesus Christ is free. There is no charge, no fee. Isaiah 55:1 instructs us, *"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."* His plan of salvation is faith, repentance, baptism, and reception of the Holy Ghost plus endurance to the end.

It is incumbent upon us to take the opportunity to seize, to experience, and to enjoy the salvation of Jesus Christ. Can you imagine that by keeping His commandments, by accepting His forgiveness, you can enter the Kingdom of God just as the thief did, and as Jesus Christ did after His crucifixion and death? His crucifixion and forgiveness extends to all mankind. It is our good fortune that by accepting Jesus Christ, accepting His teachings, and keeping His commandments that we become citizens and heirs of the Kingdom of God!

We must forgive others, regardless of the trespass, the way Jesus Christ forgave us. There is no option. We must be like the Lord in forgiveness: love the sinner but not the sin! We should always retain a remembrance of His crucifixion, His death, His resurrection, and forgiveness towards all. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless each and every one of you.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carolynn O'Connor
carolynn@xela-pack.com
734-260-0213

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
donross010@comcast.net
724-709-8458

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovaglio
Anthony Scolaro
Cathy Gentile

OFFICE MANAGER/TYPESSETTER

Erma Draskovich

CHURCH COPYRIGHT PUBLICATIONS

Cathy Gentile

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Ken Lombardo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Karen Pandone

QUORUM OF 70 EDITOR

Carl Frammolino
frammonio@comcast.net
724-375-1459

GMBA EDITOR

Daniel Stone
dpstone01@gmail.com
954-778-6467

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Angela Yoder
angelaanderyoder@hotmail.com
412-526-5771

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
mrzaino35@gmail.com
732-289-4191

GREAT LAKES

Kim Komjathy
komjathy@wowway.com
248-371-9208

MIDWEST

Natalie Pezzenti
natalie.pezzenti@gmail.com
513-659-3694

PACIFIC

Michelle Watson
mhutt82@aol.com
480-276-2697

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
mcgehy@embargmail.com
540-631-0787

SOUTHEAST

Dianne Maddox
dianne29@aol.com
937-545-5786

SOUTHWEST

Anthony Scolaro
ajs@cox.net
732-259-3861

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$21.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINTHOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

VALUES *By Sister Brianne Miller*

Value: Loyalty

Definition: Feelings of devoted attachment and affection that generate supportive actions.

Vital Verses:

- *"And they answered Joshua, saying, all that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go"* (Joshua 1:16).
- *"Wherefore it came to pass that my father, Lehi, as he went forth prayed unto the Lord, yea, even with all his heart, in behalf of his people"* (1 Nephi 1:5).

Scriptural Example:

Joshua demonstrated loyalty when he was commanded by God to lead Israel after Moses had died. Joshua was loyal to God by obeying his commandment to *"Be strong and of a good courage..."* (Joshua 1:8) and fulfilled his obligations as a leader.

Lehi also demonstrated loyalty when he prayed with all his heart on behalf of the people of Jerusalem as the Lord instructed him and his family to flee. Lehi was completely devoted to the Lord and had absolute faithfulness in Him (1 Nephi 1).



Life Application:

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, it's imperative that you be loyal to the commitment you made to the Lord at the water's edge on the day of your baptism. You answered two important questions that day: 1) Do you repent of your sins? and 2) Do you promise to love and serve God all the days of your life? As members, we should have "feelings of devoted attachment and affection that generate supportive actions" to our service to God. Think of how loyal God is to us!

It's important to show loyalty as part of our daily lives in relationships, at home, and at work. Loyalty builds trust. If we commit to obligations faithfully, we are being loyal to our friends, family, bosses, and to God. Always being there for others and going out of your way to help someone are examples of how we can demonstrate loyalty in our lives. We can be loyal to many people and things, but by choosing to yield loyalty to the Lord—which starts with our choice at the water's edge—He can use us in wonderful ways for the up-building of His kingdom.

Points to Ponder:

- Do I demonstrate loyalty in my relationship with family, friends, Church members, God?
- When someone asks me to pray for them, am I being loyal in actually saying a prayer for that person?
- When I commit to an obligation, do I fulfill the task to the best of my ability?

Presented originally on the Gospel Blog

He Is Risen Continued from Page 1

A Time of Rejoicing

What a time of rejoicing it must have been when many of those who resurrected with our Lord appeared unto many of the faithful in the holy city of Jerusalem!

Likewise on this land of America, there must have been rejoicing when many saints arose with our Lord, appearing and ministering unto many. Perhaps included among the risen saints were Jared and his brother; Lehi, Nephi, and good King Benjamin, to name a few. We, too, look forward to a great time of rejoicing:

"What a joy will be there, At the great resurrection.
As the Saints meet in the air, in their robes of perfection;"
(No. 31 in the *Saints Hymnal*)

HALLELUJAH! CHRIST AROSE!

This article originally appeared as the Editorial Viewpoint in the April 1979 Gospel News during the time when Brother Paul was Editor-in-Chief.

New Liberia Church Building Dedicated

By Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

December 15, 2013 was a memorable day for The Church of Jesus Christ in the country of Liberia, West Africa. This was the day set apart to dedicate the newly constructed church building for the saints in this country to call their own where they can worship God in safety away from their previous location. For two years, worship services were conducted in a room that was very dangerous to be in. The building was deteriorating badly. There was fear of someone getting injured severely, and when it rained, the members of the Church together with the visitors who attended would get wet.

During the last few months of worshipping in this room, it was very perilous for the meetings to be held because of pieces of the ceiling tile falling. The membership spent much time in prayer that God would protect them from injury as often as they would meet in this room. The trustees of this mission looked for a different location to meet in, but there were no rental facilities available. On days when it was not raining meetings were held under a mango tree.

During the rainy season, which lasts six months, the attendance of members and visitors alike at their worship services would dwindle because of the condition of the room they held their worship services in. It was during our missionary visit in August 2012 we realized the importance of them having a building of their own to worship in. Of the 14 days of our visit we were only able to use the worship hall once for a very short meeting.

While in country we looked for land to construct a church building; we thought a parcel of land was found for sale, but the owner tried to swindle money from the Church. For the cost of purchasing two lots, the trustees looked elsewhere and purchased six lots for less money. Upon our return home we asked for the IMOC for permission to obtain a loan from the building committee. The Liberia trustees were able to get blueprints drawn up and found a contractor who was very reasonable in

(Continued on Page 11)



New Church building in Liberia

A Brother Gave His Testimony in Lake Worth

By Sister Dianne Maddox

I am sure many of you are familiar with the children's book "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie." The story reads, "If you give a mouse a cookie, he's going to ask for a glass of milk. When you give him the milk, he'll probably ask you for a straw. . ." and continues on, teaching children that everything has a domino effect.

So I begin this article with the statement, "If a Brother Gives His Testimony".

A few years ago, Brother Keith Baldwin gave his testimony to his friend, whom we now refer to as Brother Victor. You may recall about six months ago reading Brother Victor's amazing testimony in the Gospel News (Victor versus Victim). If you remember, due to an accident, Brother Victor finds himself in a wheelchair at only 32 years old. Brother Victor's 84 year-old grandmother, Juana, recently left her home in Mexico, along with another grandson, Felix, to visit our brother in Florida. His grandmother is like a mother to him; she raised him from a young child.

When his grandmother arrived in Florida, having not seen Brother Victor for several years, she noticed a change in him. She began to see how the Lord had changed his life, and how he was not the same person. Brother Victor gave his testimony to his grandmother, and yes, the domino effect continued!

On Sunday, January 12, the Lake Worth Branch enjoyed a praise and worship service rather than a typical preaching service. Our new friend Juana was so touched, she felt the Spirit of God calling her into His Church. At first she was told it was a good desire, and that she should pray about it, but she insisted that she wanted to be baptized "under the water," just like her grandson. On Tuesday evening, January 14, 2014, the day before her return trip to Mexico, we gathered at the water and Sister Juana was baptized into the Church. She speaks no English, but through the help of her grandson and the Spirit of God, she understood the need for baptism.

We praise God for His wonderful touch and for our new Sister Juana. Please pray for her as she is alone in her city serving God. But we all know that truly she is not alone, she has been given the Holy Ghost as an abiding gift. And just remember what can happen "If You Give Your Testimony. . ."

"Kids 4 Christ"

Oftentimes in life, kids seem to take the "back seat" to adult planning. They have to function in an environment that is set up for the adults to get what we need and want while they have to just make the most of it and try to "get theirs." The "Kids 4 Christ" program was established and developed because our children are a #1 TOP priority. This program was specifically designed to let them know and feel that they come first. Over the past several years, the program has endeavored to make sure our children feel loved and appreciated through efforts such as special activities at conferences, birthday cards on their special day, and other notes of encouragement.

Jesus Christ was very clear on how important children are for all the right reasons. In fact, He held them up as our mark of humility in Matthew 18:4, "Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Christ instructs us in several places to PAY ATTENTION to the children and let them know just how important they truly are. Having had the absolute honor and blessing of being a part of this program with your children, let us just say, with every bit of effort comes even more blessings from the Lord. There was a recent change in leadership for this program as Sister Jennie Vargo's term expired. Thank you Sister Jennie for all of your efforts in furthering the development of this SUPER DUPER important program!

Sister Christine Martorana has enthusiastically embraced leading our new team. We asked Sister Christine to share with us (and you) some thoughts "off the top of her head" about how she views this program moving forward. Here is what she said:

"In 1 John 4:4, we read, '...greater is he that is in you, than he is that is in the world.' As we grow into adults, we quickly learn how 'great' he that is in the world can seem, and how important it is that our roots

and foundations are strong in the Lord. In an effort to help our young ones grow and maintain these strong roots, the GMBA is enhancing our youth outreach program. Aimed at ages 5-12, this program is a continuation of the already successful "Kids 4 Christ" program and will focus on strengthening our youth through regular mailings, rewards programs, and exciting activities at campouts and conferences. One way we are expanding our youth outreach efforts is by adding to our database of names and contact information. Over the next few months, you will be receiving more information about this. It is crucial that you submit the names and contact information for any youth who wants to participate. This will make sure they are on the list to receive birthday cards and other surprises throughout the year.

"The goal of this program is to help the young ones know firsthand, without question, that greater is He that is in them than he that is in the world. We ask for your prayers and support as this outreach effort continues to unfold. If you have a desire to help with or have questions about this program, please contact me (Sister Christine Martorana) at gmbayouthoutreach@gmail.com or by phone at 937-266-2539."

We indeed thank Sister Christine for her willingness to lead this great work, and we ask for FULL participation and support from across the Church. To every reader, please make it YOUR responsibility to sign up the little ones in your branch or mission of the Church. This will ensure no one is left behind.

Let's all strive to spend time working on the important things, spreading the love of God which we freely received and ensuring that EVERYONE (that's ALL ages) knows just how much they MATTER!!

May God richly bless you all,

Your GMBA Officers



joy. laughter. peace.

camp 490

gmba camp 2014. california, pennsylvania



Joseph and Daniel *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

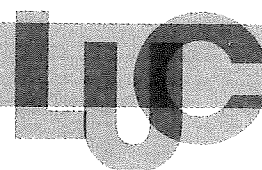
Jesus said of His followers in a prayer shortly before His death, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." Perhaps no greater display of God's protection do we find in the Old Testament than that of two men placed in a world that was not their own, but – for reason of Divine Providence – were used magnanimously by Him. Here are five amazing facts regarding the very striking similarities in the lives of Joseph and Daniel:

- 1 At an early age, both men were taken from their family and homeland to live in a foreign land – Joseph in Egypt; Daniel in Babylon.
- 2 Both were accused and punished for things they did not do. For this, Joseph was cast into prison and Daniel was thrown into a lions' den.
- 3 Both, however, remained faithful to their God and were miraculously delivered.
- 4 Both had the gift of dreams and interpretations which gave great prophetic meaning and significance concerning Israel's welfare.
- 5 Both were taken to the highest court in the land, where they rose to prominence as rulers in these nations. Joseph, second to Pharaoh, would preserve God's children in Egypt, whereas, Daniel, as a very high official, set the course by which the great Persian king, Cyrus, permitted the Jews to return to their homeland.

John 17:15; Genesis 37; 39-47; Daniel 5:28; 6; 9:24-26; II Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1; 6:3



Ladies' Uplift Circle News



To the Work . . . *By Sister KarenJo Pandone*

In September 2013 my husband, Brother Michael, and I were asked to become a part of the Calgary Native Outreach work. We both felt blessed to be asked, and accepted. However, as our departure date drew closer I felt unsure of my role in the trip. My experience in missionary work has always been in established missions. I could easily find my niche and felt very comfortable in the supportive role. I'd never been on "cold calls" in my personal, professional, or spiritual life, yet here I was going to a mission field where there was no mission, no building, no congregation, no classes nor piano for me to "fit in." I began to feel increasingly uneasy and began asking the Lord for His direction to find MY place in this trip. I asked for prayer from my branch because of my uneasiness. The gift of tongues came forth while a brother was soliciting the Lord on my behalf, the interpretation was, "Thus saith the Lord: Tell my daughter now to open her heart unto Me and I will use her. Open her heart and keep it pure and I will use her, thus saith the Lord!" Instantly I was blessed and knew that whatever I faced on this trip, the Lord would use me in His way.

Calgary we stayed with the Turley family. As anyone who has ever stayed with the saints knows, you immediately feel the love and warmth of God's Wonderful People. Being together constantly for 10 days you become family.

We shared our hopes, dreams, experiences, and fears with each other. Each day before we left the house, we made a circle and prayed for the Lord's direction and we would end our day the same way.

Having no experience with "cold calls," it was amazing to watch the Lord work on people. I could feel when a conversation would change or see a person's facial expression alter when a connection was made. On the first visit I was asked to share a dream that I had and for the first time I saw a connection being made with a Native man whom I had never met before. I knew that we would be connected for life when either of us thought about this time.

I felt the coldness of opposition enter the room when my husband was speaking with an Elder of a tribe. Instantly I prayed that the Lord would take control of our conversation and not let that connection be lost. By the end of our appointment the feeling in the room had returned to one of connection, and the Elder closed in prayer in his native tongue. What a blessing!

Of course we faced weather issues that week; one day I was driving in a blizzard, silently praying that we would decide to turn back, but another brother in the van was praying that we would be able to continue on if it meant

meeting with other tribes. His prayer was answered, mine...not so much! We reached our destination and I stayed in the van while the brothers met with two different men, both visits successful only because both of those men would not have been available that day had the weather been good. Again, the Lord had the perfect plan.

Our two Sunday services were held in the Turley home. The first Sunday we were blessed to share communion and feet washing. Our last service we shared with a wonderful couple who spent the day with us. They testified and were both prayed for as they are expecting their first child, and they invited us to their new home. Another connection was made, and I look forward to seeing how the Lord will bless this couple.

Although I started this commitment to the Calgary work with some hesitation, I am looking forward to our next trip and to what the Lord has in store for us. Am I comfortable making "cold calls"? No! But I am comfortable in being used in whatever way the Lord would see fit. My anticipation grows each day as I see the Latter Day work unfolding in my lifetime. If I can be a small part of that work, I count myself blessed beyond anything I could ever hope for.



What Happened After Easter?

Easter is a special celebration for all believers in Jesus. This is the time of year (springtime here) that Jesus' work in teaching others was done. He had taught twelve great men in Israel, called apostles, a new religion of love, repentance, and caring. Jesus loves us so much; He understands how it feels to be human with our worries and weaknesses and He loves us and helps us too. He is our living Lord.

Jesus, who had all power, allowed them to put His body on a cross to die. He could have called a thousand angels to save Him, but there was a plan to show us that we each have a soul that lives on for eternity, after our bodies die. So, Jesus allowed this to happen and then three days later, His beautiful, powerful self reappeared.

Jesus called His followers sheep and He was the shepherd guiding them. He told His disciples (See John 10:16 in the Bible). *"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."* This tells us that there were other people throughout the world that also believed in Him that He wanted to visit. One of these groups' stories is written in the Book of Mormon. In fourth Nephi Jesus visits them after His death.

These people in the Americas had become very sinful and hateful to others. Ministers warned them to stop but they would not listen. As Jesus was dying in Israel, the Lord sent disastrous storms upon these wicked people. Earthquakes, floods, fires, and darkness covered the land. There was such heavy vapor that no fires or candles could be lit.

People could hear others crying and screaming in the darkness, and God saved the most righteous people. After three days of fear and praying, the darkness lifted and Jesus came down from the sky, full of peace and caring. The bad people were gone; this group started fresh in living the teachings of Jesus. He picked twelve good, kind men here and called them

disciples. When Jesus left, they continued to teach the people. There was a wonderful new start as everyone served God.

Jesus set up a way for US to be reborn while we are still alive. We do this by repenting (being sorry) when we do something wrong. We ask for help in forgiving even our enemies, and we pray with a broken heart. We make a promise to serve God with all our heart. As a sign of our rebirth, we are baptized in running water (as Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist).

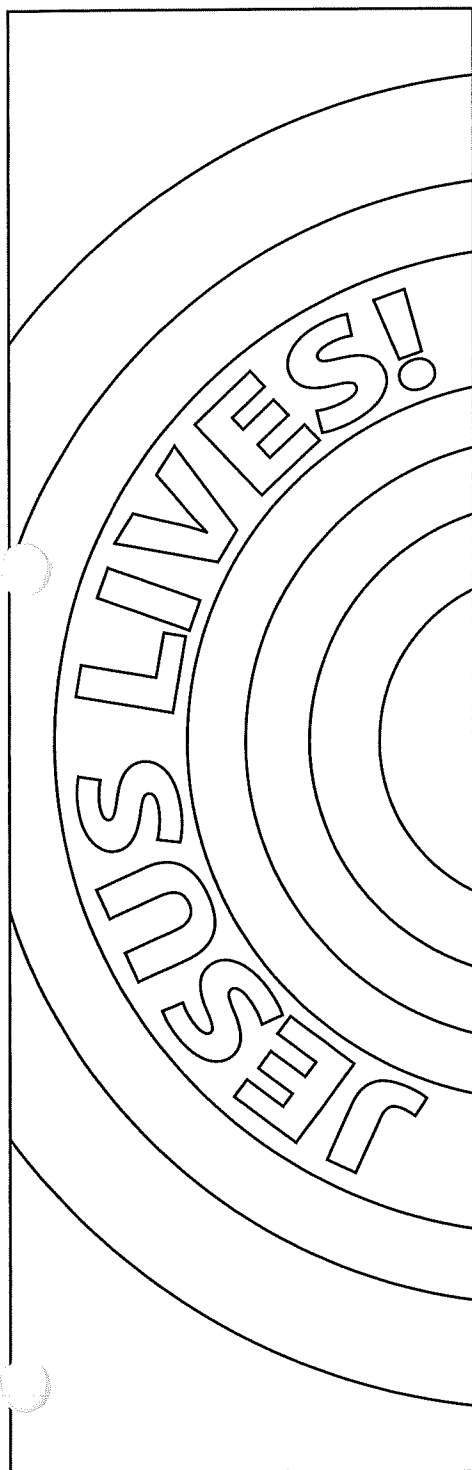
It is simple. It is beautiful. It is powerful and interesting to pray, to change, and be all that we can be. When we are baptized, we each can have our own rebirth into a new life. We can be a better person.

With love,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

WHEN	TOO
WE	WE
PRAY	CAN
JESUS	START
CARES	OVER
HE	WE
WAS	CAN
HUMAN	CHANGE

H	Y	A	R	P	H	E
U	J	E	S	U	S	G
M	C	E	S	U	T	N
A	W	W	W	J	A	A
N	E	H	W	C	R	H
O	V	E	R	P	T	C
S	E	R	A	C	A	N
O	O	T	J	S	A	W



Cut out and color this Easter bookmark

New Liberia Church Building Dedicated

Continued from page 7

Estimate to construct a church building. After considering what it would cost to build a temporary structure, it was decided to request a loan to construct a permanent building.

Construction of the new church building started in late April of 2013. Usually from May to October it would rain heavily every day, but the membership prayed that God would hold back the rain sufficiently so their building could be completed in a short time. So was the prayer request, that God did hold back the rain for many days while the contractor completed the construction in a reasonable period of time. The building was completed the second week in August 2013. The Brewerville, Liberia Mission membership has occupied their new church building since August, setting the long-awaited date of December 15 as the day of Dedication.

Evangelist Philip Arcuri, vice chairman of the Liberia mission field, made plans along with myself to arrive in time to assist in planning the dedication date. Being able to tour the site of the new church building on December 7, we were blessed to see a durable, completely constructed building furnished with chairs, a pulpit, and a communion table.

December 15, the day of dedication, brought together the membership of this mission and a number of visitors, among them the owner who sold us the land, the surveyors, the contractor, and his crew. There were 75 adults plus a number of children in attendance.

Scripture used for the sermon was Matthew 16 and III Nephi 27, regarding the naming of the Church. I had the honor of offering the dedication sermon and prayer. A number of testimonies were related by our brothers and sisters thanking God not only for The Church of Jesus Christ, but also thanking the Church in America who made it possible for them to worship God in their newly constructed, comfortable building away from the place they previously worshipped in. One of our deacons is employed as our security to keep watch on the property. He lives in a small house constructed on the property for himself, his wife, and their children.

A newborn baby girl named Mary (after my wife) was blessed on this day of dedication. At the closing of the dedication services, the mission presented Brother Philip and me with Liberian native garments to wear, and a meal was prepared by the sisters for everyone who were in attendance to enjoy. Just as we started to eat our meal, the heavens opened up and a steady rain fell. Some in attendance felt God was pleased with what was accomplished at the dedication services and He showered the building and grounds, showing His approval. A beautiful day was spent with the brothers and sisters together with the friends who were present for this historical event. This day will long be remembered for years to come. The brothers and sisters of this mission field love The Church of Jesus Christ and its teachings, and send their love to all the Church here in America asking that we remember them in prayer.

The Napkin

Continued from page 4

Bible was translated 400 years ago, that term would have been used for any small cloth. So it may never have been intended to convey the context of a cloth used when eating a meal. The word used in the original Greek, "*soudarion*," also appears in John 11:44, where Jesus restored Lazarus back to life. Lazarus walked out of the tomb wearing his burial garments, including a "*napkin*" bound to his face. When Lazarus had appeared to the crowd, Jesus instructed them to "*Loose him, and let him go.*" Some have suggested that the burial garments and face cloth found where Jesus was laid had remained undisturbed as His resurrected body passed through them. Unlike Lazarus, Jesus did not need help loosing His burial garments.

Another possible explanation for the napkin being "*wrapped together in a place by itself*" is that Jesus was not in a hurry to leave the grave when He resurrected. Unlike grave robbers, who would not have taken the time to neatly place the garments or even leave them behind, for that matter, He took the time to wrap the face cloth and neatly lay out the burial clothes.

Whether one chooses to speculate, study, or seek the Lord for answers to these questions, the Apostle John's account still remains clear to believers: Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead! He fulfilled the prophecy that He gave to the Jews on Passover: "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*" He overcame the grave so all who believe in Him can do the same. We may never know the true meaning of "*the folded napkin*," but to the Apostle John, the neatly displayed burial clothes carried great significance. The garments proved to him that Jesus, who always showed such foresight in His mortal life, did the same in His resurrection. As a result, we can, without a doubt, believe the resurrected Christ's words to that same apostle on the Island of Patmos: "*And behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*"



Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth... Genesis 27:39

Blessing Bits

BB The Love of The Saints

I needed to have a craniotomy to remove a tumor from my brain. The saints began a 24-hour "Ready Alert Prayer." A sign-up sheet began at 12:00 a.m. on the day of my surgery. I was covered with prayers every minute on the day of the surgery. Afterward I was in a coma for two days. A CT scan showed bleeding. My doctor was out of town and the neurologist on call could not find the source of the bleeding, which caused the brain to shift to one side. There was no time to waste as this could cause brain damage. I know I'm alive today because of prayers being offered for me every minute. The doctor in the ER at the time was the one who had assisted the neurologist with my first surgery, and believed he could perform the emergency surgery. I was immediately operated on; they found the bleeding area and corrected the problem. What are the chances that the assisting doctor would be on call two days later? — Sister Mary Ann Heaps. Forest Hills, FL Branch

BB Nothing Is Too Small in the Lord's Eyes

One morning as I was getting ready for work, I dropped my contact lens. I began to search for it, but could not find it. I realized that it probably dropped down

the sink drain. At that moment, I paused and asked God to please help me find it, and then put on my glasses. I spent a few more minutes searching and again was unsuccessful. I asked my husband, Paul, to take the drain apart and look for the contact lens and to call me by 9 a.m. at work if he found it. When I got to work, I emailed my daughter, Natalie, and asked her to whisper a prayer that her dad would find it. A few hours later, Paul sent me a text message (by 9 a.m. as I requested!) that he found my contact lens in the drain. Nothing is too small in the Lord's eyes—not even a contact lens! HE sees our every need. Ask with faith believing and if it be HIS will, HE will answer. —Sister Karen Pezzenti, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission

BB Jesus Took the Wheel

I live very far from Church; 130 miles each way. Since I am an older sister and I travel alone, I am not able to attend often, especially in the winter months. I recently had an experience as I traveled home. The sun was shining brightly and I began to get tired and fell asleep while driving. I had the cruise control set at 70 mph. I woke up with a start, not sure how long I had been asleep. By instinct I began to try turning the steering wheel

but it was not movable. It was stuck straight. It was as if God had His hand on the wheel. I began to brake and just barely missed a few cars. At that moment I knew God had protected me by keeping the steering wheel straight and the moment this thought came to me, the wheel became movable again and I was able to continue home. Praise God for His protection.—Sister Eva Cain, Detroit, MI Branch #2

Send us your Blessing Bits [in approximately 150 words] and answer the Question of the Month by contacting us at gospelnewsinfo@gmail.com

Question for this month: *"In the midst of the commercialized version of Easter, how do you make an effort to celebrate the true Easter?"*

Answer from last month: *"Do you have a special memory of VBS or any Church event from your childhood?"* I will always remember learning the children's song, "Deep and Wide" in Youngstown when I was little. Sister Linda Italiano taught me, along with the hand motions. I had the opportunity to help teach it to our VBS in Cincy-Mo a few years ago and it was a blessing to have something come full circle! - Sister Natalie Pezzenti, Cincinnati-Morrow OH Mission

VBS in Aliquippa in the 70's is the memory: 1. Thirty to fifty with lots of friends and family (some who did not often attend church with us) in attendance. 2. It was in the day and always done on Friday with group picture on branch steps with the sisters who did all the hard work! 3. God bless them because we drove them a little crazy but they were Godly examples who loved us anyhow and I remember their patience when we (read: me) were rowdy. . . which was daily. - Brother Paul A. Palmieri, Aliquippa PA Branch and now Gastonia NC Branch.

Honestly, I think one of the biggest things I remember from being a kid in Church is how consistently my parents brought us to every meeting. We never missed Sundays or Wednesday nights. We always went as a family. If my dad was traveling for business, my mom packed my brother and me up, and we went to church. Traffic in L.A. would be so bad on Wednesday nights that we'd usually stop halfway on our route to Church to have dinner at a restaurant and then drive the rest of the way. I really admire my parents' consistency week in and week out. They took us to big things, too, like conferences and camps, but the weekly stuff is what really made a difference for me, I think. - Sister Michelle Watson, Irvine California Branch

Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth... Genesis 27:39