

# The Gospel News

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Blast From The Past**  
Page 2

**April Calendar**  
Page 2

**Gospel News Quiz**  
Page 3

**Word Up**  
Page 3

**Meet the Branch**  
Page 4

**Editorial Viewpoint**  
Page 5

**Topic Series**  
Page 6

**GMBA News**  
Page 8

**Branch & Mission  
News**  
Page 8

**5 Amazing Facts**  
Page 9

**Ladies' Uplift Circle  
News**  
Page 9

**Children's Corner**  
Page 10

**Blessing Bits**  
Page 12

## Make It Personal

*By Sister Carolynn O'Connor*

**J**esus died for me. He allowed himself to be beaten, spit on, and nailed to the cross for me. Before that, He came to this earth and gave specific instruction as to how I could live the best life possible, and more importantly, how I could gain eternal life so that one day I would rise up and go to heaven to meet Him there. He is waiting for me. He cares about me, He forgives me, and He has taken my sin. While this may seem a bit self-important, it's true, and guess what, He did the very same thing for you!

*"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).* What better time of year to be thinking specifically about what Jesus did for each of us than when we celebrate His resurrection and triumph over death?

As I get older, I sometimes find it hard to sleep. When this happens, I sing the song, "My Jesus I Love Thee" over and over in my mind. The first verse goes, "My Jesus I love thee, I know thou art mine." At some point this sentence really struck home for me. THOU ART MINE. He is MY Savior, MY friend, MY comforter, MY guide, My counselor, MY mighty God, MY everlasting Father, My Prince of Peace.

I first connected with this song when Brother Dominic Thomas, past president of the Church and elder of Detroit Branch #2, shared an experience he had that made Jesus' crucifixion personal to him. In this dream he was present at the crucifixion of Christ. He specifically saw the nailing of Jesus' hands to the cross. He could hear the pounding of the nails as they drove through the flesh of Jesus' hands. The sound was intense and when Brother Dominic told the experience, he pounded the rostrum and in that moment, the crucifixion became personal to those of us listening. I remember how quiet it was in the room as we focused on Brother Dominic's words. He told us that when he awoke he had tears in his eyes and he was singing the song, "My Jesus I Love Thee."

Let's make Jesus' life, death, and resurrection personal this year as we celebrate Easter. After all, He did it for US!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 No Fooling about it- Christ gave His life for US!	2 The Flowers Still Bloom	3	4
5 Up From the Grave He Arose!	6	7 Take time to write a Blessing Bit today	8	9	10 Thank You Lord for Saving My Soul	11
12 Sit by someone different in Church today	13	14	15 Pray for the Quorum of 12 Apostles as they meet	16 Pray for the Quorum of 70 Evangelists as they meet	17 Happy 95th Anniversary Ladies' Uplift Circle	18 Pray for all meeting at the General Church Conference
19	20 Pray for the Saugeen Mission- pg 4	21	22 Jesus Loves You	23	24 Hug someone today for no reason	25
26 Rejoice Ye Saints of Latter Day	27	28 My God Thou Seest Me	29	30	1	2 Support your MBA and Ladies' Circle this month

March 2015

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 2015

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 2015

***"And 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

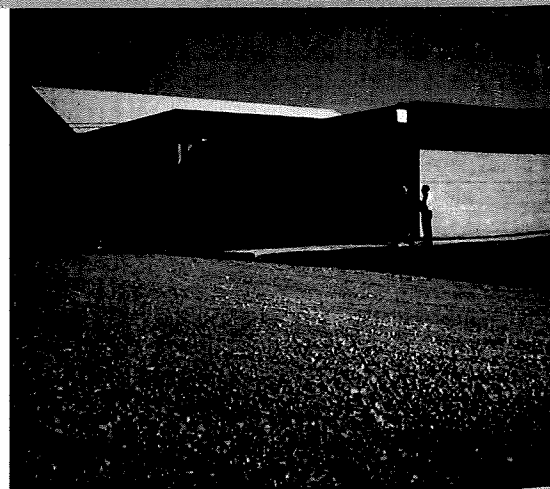
### The Auditorium Dedicated

**N**estled in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains – upon which an inspiring panorama of the beautiful, Pennsylvania country extends for miles – the Church dedicated its new auditorium on the 17th and 18th of this month, 1971. *"I feel quite satisfied, now that the enormous project of erecting the Auditorium has been completed,"* then Church President Brother Gorie Ciaravino wrote, *"that while we have expended our personal labor and time and money I feel quite confident that God has built the Auditorium for our people wherein to worship."* In the 44 years since its dedication, the Auditorium has certainly fulfilled its intended purpose – expanding today to become the World Operations Center of the Church. *The Gospel News*, June

71

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7)*

Auditorium 1971 ►





## 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**

HE IS  
RISEN

*Happy Easter 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"!*

*"Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?" (Luke 6:46)*

**A**n oft-utilized, two-word answer familiar to men appears as a figurative nod of the head, but in fact, it's quite the contrary. In an attempt to pacify, calm, and/or deflect, this seemingly involuntary spasm by husbands squelches questions like, "Do you like my new haircut?", "Did you remember to talk to your boss about a raise?", and "Would you like to watch an all-day marathon of my favorite cooking show this Saturday?" Yes, Dear. Yes, Dear. Yes, Dear.

Maybe this was the type of attitude Jesus was addressing with, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?" He was challenging those who vainly called out His name only when in need; similar to the insincerity of a husband's calculated "Yes, Dear." The use of "Lord, Lord" is, on some level, name-dropping; albeit dropping the most powerful title on earth. To be clear, Exodus 20:7 records ten percent of God's Ten Commandments devoted to, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain." Christ is calling this out as mankind's urgent attempt at instant relationship-building without building the relationship.

A friend of mine was on the plane that famously went down into the Hudson River in January 2009. He told me of his praying/negotiating with God to rescue him, "Lord, if you save me, I'll do this and/or that." In mid-sentence he realized his futile attempt to fool God, and he changed his prayer to, "Lord, I won't do those things, but I will try harder. Please save me anyway." Joe acknowledged he was crying, "Lord, Lord," with no real aim at "doing the things which I say."

Jesus wasn't telling us not to pray when in need, but was teaching us not to wait to seek Him out until urgent situations demand His attention. He said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Imagine never talking to your neighbor until you're ready to move away, and then asking for help loading the truck. Their first reaction might be, "We don't even know each other."

Jesus isn't a hotel, He's a home. He's not interested in temporary housing, but wants to be our permanent place of residence. He clearly states this in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." He's heard too many feigned, "Yes, Dears" in the form of "Lord, Lord." He doesn't want to be pacified, He wants to be glorified. How do I know? He said so.

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

## SAUGEEN MISSION, Ontario, Canada



In the mid-1980s, Brother Matt and Sister Pat Collison (newly baptized and having just attended their first Church Conference) became burdened with a great desire to become involved with the Native work. This resulted in a trip to Canada. While driving past the Saugeen Reservation into the town of Southampton, Ontario, the Spirit of God fell upon Sister Pat very strongly that this was to be their new home. Shortly after returning home to Michigan, they became aware of the following experience had by Brother Matt's grandfather:

*One day in the 1930s a Native man approached Matt's grandfather, a minister of the Church who at the time was a widowed father of two sons. He ferried people back and forth across the Detroit River as his livelihood. This Native man got off the boat and began speaking to him about his sons. The man told him, "Raise them in the ways of the Lord, and when they are young men, bring them to Southampton because that is where my work is going to begin."*

In a leap of faith, the Collisons relocated to the Saugeen/Southampton area and began visiting the Saugeen Reservation. This opened the door for an introduction of the Gospel to the Native people. Early support from the Windsor ministry assisted as membership increased. Over 20 years later, the work continues as a great dedicated labor of love. There are currently eight active members.

## THE RESURRECTIONS—Highlights of the Sequence of Events

By Elder Paul Gehly

### Christ's Resurrection - A

There was a resurrection at the time of Christ's resurrection that included all the righteous believers in Christ from Adam to the resurrection of Christ. The rest of the dead do not come forth till the end of the Millennial Reign. This was technically the first resurrection, but, when we speak of the future, we refer to the next resurrection that is yet to occur the First Resurrection.

*"And there cometh a resurrection, even a first resurrection; yea, even a resurrection of those that have been, and who are, and who shall be, even until the resurrection of Christ—for so shall He be called. And now, the resurrection of all the prophets, and all those that have believed in their words, or all those that have kept the commandments of God, shall come forth in the first resurrection; therefore, they are the first resurrection" (Mosiah 15:21,22).*

*"Behold, again it hath been spoken, that there is a first resurrection, a resurrection of all those who have been, or who are, or who shall be, down to the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Behold, I say unto you, it meaneth the reuniting of the soul with the body, of those from the days of Adam down to the resurrection of Christ" (Alma 40: 16 & 18).*

*"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).*

### Zion/Peaceful Reign

The restoration of the gospel was necessary because there had been a falling away after Christ's death and resurrection. The Restored Gospel – restoration of the original established by Christ – is essential to the kingdom of God. Those who truly obey that Gospel will ultimately be gathered in a Peaceful Reign or Zion. There cannot be a Zion without righteousness. It is faith and righteousness that counts and it has been so in every generation, including our own.

In Zion we are in a mortal state like we are today. There is no sin in Zion. Because of the righteousness of the people that He gathers in Zion Satan has no power over them. All these things must come according to the flesh. It will be a peaceable kingdom. Read Isaiah 11:6-9 also Isaiah 65:20-25. This Peaceful Reign takes place in a state of mortality.

### First Resurrection-B

The First Resurrection includes all the righteous from the resurrection of Christ to the end of the Peaceful Reign. At the end of the Peaceful Reign the end of the world will occur.

*Quote:* We believe in the second coming of Christ, that He shall appear in glory at the end of the world, which takes place immediately following the conclusion of the Peaceful Reign, at which time He will wed His Bride (The Church) to gather unto Himself all the righteous to dwell with Him for a Thousand Years (The Millennium), and then for all eternity. (Faith and Doctrine--Article 24)

### Millennial Reign

Millennial Reign: 1,000 years with Christ upon the purified earth. We understand as a Church, that those who come forth in the First Resurrection, and the redeemed of the earth from the beginning of time (those who resurrected with Christ) will reign during the Millenium. *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished"* (Revelation 20:5.)

*"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years"* (Revelation 20:6).

*"In during that thousand year reign, when the devil is bound that he should deceive the nations no more until the end of the thousand years, we must conclude that in this thousand years there is no sin. There is no evil, because during that time there is no tempter. The devil is bound. He has no power; he has lost his power, and there is nothing upon this earth but righteousness. (Revelation 20:1-4)*

*"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery;*

(Continued on Page 6)



**By Elder Anthony Scolaro**

**T**he Apostle Paul, whose writings comprise nearly a third of the New Testament, addresses spiritual gifts and manifestations in his first epistle to the Corinthians (Chapter 12) as well as his epistle to the Ephesians (Chapter 4). Interestingly, each of these discussions leads into a description of the Church as the Body of Christ. Both accounts bring out several important points:

- Members are gifted to perform different functions; some involve leadership, all are essential;
- God gives these gifts severally (separately) as He sees fit;
- Christ is the "Head; and"
- The members all draw life from one and the same Spirit.

In the same way that God so fearfully and wonderfully made our bodies, He created His Church and conceived of its spiritual workings, intending it to operate as a unit. Unlike our natural bodies, the operation of the Body of Christ does not include involuntary systems or reflexes. The unity of the Church is fragile; it can only be achieved when we as individual members voluntarily follow the leading of God's Spirit.

Anyone who has ever been in a meeting where God's Spirit seemed to flow from vessel to united vessel knows what it is to experience the Body of Christ in operation. As crucial as it is for us to gather together in worship, fellowship, and communion, we must realize that we continue to be part of the Body when we're not physically together as well.

Whether we're together or apart, yielding ourselves to the will of the Father is a choice that presents itself to us every moment of every day. It's a responsibility that each of us carries, as we understand from the scriptures that the health of the Body depends on the health of its individual members. In turn, it is our responsibility individually and as a collective Body to look out for one another (Philippians 2:4). It's no wonder that Paul's discourses on the Body of Christ are "bookended" on one side by the spiritual gifts bestowed upon the Church and its operation, and on the other side by writings about Christ's followers individually demonstrating and putting into practice the greatest of all gifts—Charity, the pure love of God.

When considering a candidate's readiness for baptism, we look for the capacity of an individual to answer for his or her actions. Beyond the questions we answered at our baptism, our going into the water was a public affirmation of the accountability that Alma called out when he asked those gathered at the Waters of Mormon whether they were *"desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and [be] willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; [...] willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places"* (Mosiah 18:8, 9).

Let's pray that we function as the Body of Christ today, and see God move His mighty arm.



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Carolynn O'Connor  
carolynn@xlapack.com  
734-260-0213

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Donald Ross  
donross010@comcast.net  
724-709-8458

**CONSULTANTS**  
Alex Gentile  
Paul Liberto  
Leonard A. Lovalvo  
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**  
Timothy Mott  
tmott@earthlink.net  
614-256-9202

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Daniel Mora  
daisymora17@gmail.com  
586-850-0952

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Consuela Hopkins  
swella1@att.net  
574-287-1040

**REGION EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Michael Zaino  
mrzaino35@gmail.com  
732-289-4191

**GREAT LAKES**  
Kim Komjathy  
komjathy@wowway.com  
248-371-9208

**MIDWEST**  
Ruth Gehly  
gehly001@gannon.edu  
814-476-7519

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

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Chris Nicklow  
rdnj1@gmail.com  
724-258-7392

**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 \$24.00 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.

## His Blood Was Spilled

Written by Brother Jerry Valenti on Tuesday, September 16, 2014. On the Blog



In my 28 years in the ministry, it had never happened to me ... until Sunday, July 27, 2014. On that day, I stepped up to the sacrament table and poured the wine into the glasses as I have done on so many occasions.

This Sunday, as I moved the glasses into position on the table, one of them suddenly tipped right over, banging loudly against the table and spilling the wine across the white cloths. It was dripping off the sides of the table and onto the rug.

My first thought was that I didn't want this incident to break the spirit of what we were doing and take attention away from the Lord's sacrifice, so I asked that we not jump in to clean up the mess.

Then, something very special occurred. It started with comments from the congregation as they observed the spilled wine dripping down: *"It's just like the blood of Christ that was spilled for us!"* As the Spirit of God swept through the room, some of our members began sobbing; some fell to their knees and praised God for the blood of Christ that was spilled to pay for our sins.

As we collectively discussed the incident later, some of those who were observing expressed a feeling that the glass may have had help going over, as they didn't see me collide with the glass such that it could have gone over so forcefully. Regardless of how it happened, it was one of the most powerful remembrances of the Lord's sacrifice I have ever witnessed, and the moment is etched indelibly in the minds of those who were present.

**Praise God for the spilled blood of Christ, the price paid for our salvation!**

*"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* – Matthew 26:28  
*"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."* – John 19:34  
*"We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins."* – Ephesians 1:7  
*"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?"* – I Corinthians 10:16  
*"This do in remembrance of me."* – Luke 22:19

One of our members was so moved by this event that he was inspired to write and record a song in the days that followed. The chorus of the song goes like this:

His Blood was spilt, the Bridge was built for you, for me  
 To cross with Jesus into eternity  
 Thankfully, Eternally  
 Jesus shed His Blood, precious soul-saving blood for you, for me  
 His Blood was spilt, the Bridge was built for you and for me



## The Resurrections Continued from page 4

*we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality"* (I Corinthians 15:50-53).

*"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"* (I Thessalonians 4:15-17).

### Second Resurrection

The second resurrection includes all people from the days of Adam who will not already have resurrected – either at Christ's resurrection or at the First Resurrection. The Second Resurrection will occur at the end of the Millennial Reign.

*"But behold, and fear, and tremble before God, for ye ought to tremble; for the Lord redeemeth none such that rebel against Him and die in their sins; yea, even all those that have perished in their sins ever since the world began, that have willfully rebelled against God, that have known the commandments of God, would not keep them; these are they that have no part in the first resurrection"* (Mosiah 15:26).

*"And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil--for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord; for behold, they chose evil works rather than good; therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house--and these shall be cast into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth, and this because of their own iniquity, being led captive by the will of the devil"* (Alma 40:13).



# Happy Easter - HE AROSE!

## H

**Horn** - Horn of salvation—Christ came to redeem His people, and bring us the hope of salvation! *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an HORN OF SALVATION for us in the house of his servant David"* (Luke 1:68-69).  
—Brother Michael Zaino, Atlantic Coast Region Editor

## E

**Endure** - *"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever"* (I Chronicles 16:34). How blessed are we that we serve a living God! Praise God that as many times as we ask, He forgives. Truly there is nothing that can separate us from His love. Not only do His mercies **endure** forever, but He also abides with us so that we will be able to endure whatever earthly trials and pains may come on life's journey. Blessed be the name of the Lord!—Sister Kim Komjathy, Great Lakes Region Editor

## A

**Am** - *"Behold, I AM Jesus Christ the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I AM in the Father, and the Father in me... And the scriptures concerning my coming are fulfilled. And as many as have received me, to them have I given to become the sons of God... I AM the light and the life of the world. I AM Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end... Behold, I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin"* (III Nephi 9:15-18, 21). Through Jesus Christ... I AM a child of God... I AM loved... I AM forgiven... I AM redeemed... I AM a branch of the true vine...—Sister Ruth Gehly, Midwest Region Editor

## R

**Resurrection** - There are so many powerful R-words that describe Jesus Christ: rock, redeemer, righteous. But what better word to choose for Easter than **"resurrection"**? Jesus told Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, *"I AM the resurrection, and the life."* He's constantly bringing me out of death and into life. When I follow Him and let the "old girl" die, my ho-hum existence is replaced with one of joy and purpose. When my dearest hopes are snuffed, He gives me new heart. I've seen Him put flesh on dry bones. And when this life ends, Jesus promises we'll never die—not really.—Sister Michelle Watson, Pacific Coast Region Editor

## O

**Only** - *"For God so love the world that he gave his only begotten son..."* Begotten means to generate or procreate. Jesus Christ was the only Begotten Son of God. He was born of a natural mother (Mary) and a spiritual Father (God). It's through the love of God for each of us, that He gave His son's life that we might have the opportunity for eternal life with Him. The Easter season should be a time of thankfulness for the ultimate sacrifice made as a direct result of the love that God has for all His children.  
—Sister Chris Nicklow, Penn-Mid Atlantic Region Editor

## S

**Safe** - **Safe** was not the first word that came to my mind when I was asked to write about the letter "S". The words that came to my mind include salvation, savior, saints, songs, saved, and sanctified. The common denominator of these words is safety. In the middle of a trial, my Savior makes me feel **safe**. Knowing that salvation is my reward makes me feel **safe**. Being with the Saints makes me feel **safe**. Singing hymns makes me feel **safe**. Being baptized made me feel **safe**. *"And I'm safe, Jesus saved me. Hear the bells how they ring!"*—Sister Dianne Maddox, Southeast Region Editor

## E

**Eternal** - Christ's death and resurrection prove to us that God is forever. He was speaking to us when He said, *"I go to prepare a place for you"* (John 14:2). Life on earth is marked by change and uncertainty. Things like security, safety, and success are fleeting and temporary at best, and justice and happiness are not guaranteed to us. But the knowledge that God is **eternal**, and that eternal life is promised to us, fills our lives with joy, peace, strength, and courage, as it has for so many who have gone before us. The eternity that we hope for is greater than the best this short life on earth has to offer. *"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"* (I Corinthians 2:9).—Brother Anthony Scolaro, Southwest Region Editor

## 2015 GMBA Campout: Free

July 11th-17th // California University of Pennsylvania

By Brother Ben Hemmings

**C**aptivity is all around us. It is not something that we only hear about on the news but it can sneak into our own lives in just a moment. For some, a life of captivity is a way of living, not knowing what it is like to be released from its constraints. For others, it may have slowly crept back in after the chains have already been loosed.

### Where do you find yourself?

We are all human and because of the fall we find ourselves subject to this captivity. Day in and day out we may participate in the same battles brought upon by the one who seeks to keep us in our captive state. They confront us during our daily struggles: a marriage on the rocks, issues with our children/parents, financial instability, an unhealthy work/life balance, depression, etc. The list can continue. The battles vary from individual to individual but the fight tactics from the adversary are the same... "You will not make it," "the odds are against you," "you have nothing," and "you have no value."

Every day for forty days the army of Israel prepared for battle, only to be stopped by the words of a nine foot tall Philistine (1 Samuel 17). Every

day for forty days the same battle was lost to fear brought on by words that carried the same themes we hear as we prepare to confront our own battles today. Can you imagine the silence the armies of Israel heard when Goliath stopped talking? The silence did not come about through extra training or a strategic battle plan. It was not even brought on by just a shepherd boy with a stone and a sling. The silence came when carnal words were confronted by a proclamation that was authored at the beginning of time.

This proclamation is still true today. When Christ spoke to the disciples of His forthcoming return to the Father, He told them that they would find peace through Him (John 16:33). Even through tribulation we could have joy because Christ had overcome the world...the very same world that we were born into and where our battles have originated. You name it; good or bad, Christ is over it all. It does not end there. We have the opportunity to overcome the world as well. John states those who have been born of God have overcome the world (1 John 5:4-5). It is our acceptance of the freedom that was purchased when Christ died for our sins and overcame the grave

through His resurrection that gives us this victory. It is available to us.

This is not a battle cry. The victory has already been won. Christ has already overcome. The question is whether we have truly accepted this victory. If so, we have now been given the opportunity to confront the world and its struggles and **declare that we have been made Free.**

**Plan to join us for GMBA Campout this summer at California University of Pennsylvania from July 11 through July 17.**

**Registration information will be distributed through the Church email system, Area and Local MBAs, and the social media outlets listed below.**

**Follow us on our journey to camp:**

**#gmbaCAMPaign**

**Facebook: facebook.com/tcojc.gmba**

**Twitter: GMBAlnfo**

**Instagram: @tcojc.gmba**

# Branch & Mission News

## ORDINANCES AND BLESSINGS IN ITALY

By Evangelist Alex Gentile

**P**lanning for a missionary trip, including praying for its success, praying that everyone's health would be sufficient, praying that we would all be a blessing to someone, and anticipating the Spirit of God to be with us; can be as exciting and heart-warming as the trip itself. We anticipated many highlights for this trip. We were planning for a baptism, a wedding, and the possibility of ordaining helpers.

As we organized this trip, we felt directed by the Spirit and we needed our Italian President, Brother Rosario Scavaglieri, to help in all aspects of the trip. Brother Rosario would make all of our hotel arrangements, our visiting schedule of the brothers and sisters, and our meeting schedule. He did not fail us.

Most of us left the states on October 7, 2014. Apostle Paul Benyola, Elder John Buffa, Sister Diane Surdock, Sister Cathy, and I arrived at our hotel in Sardinia 24 hours after we left the states. We were greeted by, and so happy to see, Elder Tony and Sister Lydia Micale, who had arrived earlier in the week.

Our missionaries to Italy had traveled many times, worked hard assisting the brother elders in Italy, and the Lord has blessed the work. Brother Paulo Pacchera, who met the Church for the first time at our Rome conference in 2004, had asked to be baptized. His was to be the third baptism in Sardinia in two years. On Friday, October 10, after a drive down the mountain to a beautiful,

secluded beach on the Mediterranean Sea, Brother Tony Micale reports, "The sea was very rough with strong waves, but beautiful to see. Brother John Buffa came into the water with us and was ready to help us if the water came at us. The water came right over our heads. This was quite an experience. Thank God we were able to baptize Brother Paulo without being pulled under the water."



(Continued on Page 11)



## Miriam By Brother Kerry Carlini

**F**or Miriam, the most significant events of her life were centered on the most basic element of life – water. From the Nile River, Miriam saw her brother drawn to safety. After the crossing of the Red Sea she led the women of Israel in song. Even in her death, God gave to a thirsting people an abundance of water from a waterless desert. And, though in the shadows of her two brothers, Miriam's story shows her incredible role in the preservation of the Hebrew people. Here are five amazing facts about this amazing woman:

- 1** Upon setting Moses into a basket, then into the Nile, it was Miriam who watched from afar. And upon his being discovered by the daughter the Pharaoh, it was she who approached the Egyptian princess and suggested that her mother nurse the baby – thus allowing Moses to be raised by his mother. (Exodus 2:1-10)
- 2** In response to the song of Moses – after deliverance from Pharaoh's chariots – Miriam *"took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances"* (Exodus 15:20).
- 3** Miriam was a prophetess. (Exodus 15:20)
- 4** But, when she once questioned the religious authority of Moses, God punished her by afflicting her with leprosy. (Numbers Chapter 12)
- 5** Finally, in the desert of Zin – when Miriam died and the children of Israel contended against Moses in dire thirst – Moses struck the rock which yielded an abundance of water for the people and their animals. (Numbers 20:1-13)



## Ladies' Uplift Circle News

### Circle History from 1944

*By Sister Lisa M. Champine, General Circle President*

I had a desire to reprint an article that Sister Sadie Cadman, the founder and first General Circle President, had written. She had often contributed to the Gospel News, giving a synopsis of many Circle Conferences and periodically a brief history of the Circle. I specifically looked for an article about the 25th anniversary of the Circle. After searching the old 1945 Gospel News issues, I couldn't find any article for that anniversary. On my second pass through 1945, I saw one small paragraph in an article about the June Conference of 1945 that simply said, *"Before taking up our business we were reminded that the 25th anniversary of the Circle was to have been on June 8th but this had to be postponed until later, because of government restrictions."* With our country in the middle of World War II it seemed that a celebration was not feasible. I cross-referenced this time period in our original minutes books and found that after having postponed it at least two more meetings, there is a line in the September 1946 minutes that the Circle would postpone the anniversary

celebration until 1950, when the Circle would turn 30.

In lieu of a 25th anniversary article here is Sister Sadie's article that was in the July 1945 Gospel News, titled *"Uplift Circle History For 1944"*.

*Another year has passed -1944- with its many blessings, care and troubles. Sorrow and sadness hangs over us as our nation is still at war which affects almost every home. We all long for the day when peace shall reign on the earth, when those we meet will be a brother and a friend. But let us all remember the words of our Saviour—there shall be wars and rumors of wars but the end is not yet. So let us press onward regardless of what may come—trusting God for His guidance and protection.*

*We have met in our General Circle meetings this past year and those who had the privilege to attend enjoyed themselves very much. Possibly you remember our meeting in December 1944 was our 99th General Circle meeting and as we start in*

*March of 1945 it will be our 100th general meeting. I think I have attended them all. Last July and August I enjoyed a visit with some of the Sisters in different branches of the Church in their Circle meetings. I would like to go again among the Sisters of the Circle and get better acquainted. It surely was a blessing for me. May God bless all our Sisters of the Circle. I also visited among the Indian Saints in Muncey and Grand River, Ontario, Canada, and with some friends among the Indian people on the Tuscarora Reserve in New York State.*

*Sister Hannah Skillen was sick in March and not able to be at our General Circle meeting and we missed her presence, as she has always been so faithful to the Circle and always remarks how God opens up the way for her to attend. We had a visit from Sister Ivy Fisher and Sister Margaret Benyola of Hope Lawn, NJ and Sister Cora Fowler of Fairmont, WV at our March meeting. In June at our meeting in Glassport, PA, Sister Nastasi from Warren, Ohio, met with us. We are always glad to*  
(Continued on Page 11)



## The First Easter in the Americas

The prophets also told everyone to serve God because when Jesus died, there would be a great destruction on the land. But the old devil got in there and started causing trouble. Soon the people here started fighting with each other. The Gadianon Robbers tried (and failed at) destroying everyone. Then every family divided themselves into groups and the days of peace (after the big star was seen) had changed.

Soon some people became bad. They did not want to serve God, believe in Jesus, or love others. They became full of pride and hate. The ministers told them of God's love but they refused to listen. The years passed quickly.

In far away Israel, Jesus allowed himself to be put to death. He had come to earth; He had taught everyone the true way to live and He was ready to return to heaven. (See John 10:17-18.)

On that great and terrible day, God sent a huge destruction that hit the land of the Americas. Only the most righteous were saved. Storms and tornados struck; earthquakes dumped great cities into the ocean. A thick mist covered the land for three days and no one could light a fire or see the sun.

Then, in the darkness, a voice unlike any other spoke. It was Jesus calling to the people. The darkness left and as the most righteous came out, they found they were surrounded by destruction. But again they heard the loving voice of Jesus and saw him coming down from heaven.

He loved them; He prayed for them, He healed them and taught them. Twelve good men were called as disciples to baptize and teach everyone. Angels came down and surrounded every child. There was a rebirth. This was the first Easter celebrated in this land. An amazing time of peace came. Everyone was safe. No one had to be afraid of any stranger. Just think, people shared, and helped each other.

You could probably have slept outside anytime, never worried about locking doors, shared all of your toys, and food, and everyone loved God and each other. The years following the first Easter were like heaven on earth. It is still our job to pray for God's will to be a good person. We have learned to repent (be sorry) and ask for forgiveness when we are wrong. We have Ten Commandments plus the words of Jesus telling us to love God and others like ourselves! It is a good way to live life. Don't fight it, pray and ask the Lord to help you.

With love

Your friend

Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

JOHN	MAN	IT
TEN	TAKETH	DOWN
EIGHTEEN	IT	OUR
JESUS	FROM	SOULS
SAID	ME	HAVE
I	BUT	A
LAY	I	REBIRTH
DOWN	HAVE	AND
MY	POWER	LIVE
LIFE	TO	FOREVER
NO	LAY	

H	T	R	I	B	E	R	A	O	B
M	A	N	E	F	I	L	N	U	U
J	P	W	M	Y	M	E	D	R	T
E	N	O	I	H	E	Y	S	E	L
S	H	D	W	T	M	A	O	V	A
U	O	T	H	E	O	L	D	E	Y
S	J	G	A	K	R	I	O	R	H
T	I	J	V	A	F	V	W	O	A
E	M	N	E	T	J	E	N	F	V
D	I	A	S	O	U	L	S	J	E

**W**e like Easter in the Americas because it means spring is here. Up north where I live, the snow melts and where everything was bare, little green plants start growing and growing. It is a time of rebirth and people who don't know Jesus don't realize what we are truly celebrating is not little chicks and cute bunnies.

We are celebrating the fact that Jesus let Himself die and came back to earth after He went up to heaven. He showed us there IS life after death and our souls do live on in heaven. Jesus made many promises to His followers and explained to us the great plans of God. Jesus taught us to love God, forgive our enemies, and to love other people like we do ourselves. That's hard.

I came from a big family with five other sisters and brothers. There were so many times when I would try to get the best thing for myself instead of for one of my sisters or brothers. But my mother serves God. She often had to force us to share, or be fair, or just to think about what other people wanted or needed, too. It was a hard lesson to learn and made me grumpy and mad many times, but down deep I knew she was right. Jesus' way was right. People need love from one another.

In the Book of Mormon, all of the people in the land saw that bright star which led the wise men to baby Jesus. In the Americas the star shone so brightly that even when the sun went down, it was bright as day. The prophets and ministers had told them this would happen on the day our Savior, Jesus, was born as a little baby. He came to teach us about God's way of peace.

## Ordinances and Blessings in Italy Continued from page 8

In service that evening Brother Rosario bestowed the gift of the Holy Ghost and then many of our brothers and sisters asked to be anointed for spiritual and bodily strength. God's love for us and ours for each other was very strong.

The next day, Saturday morning, we arrived at the church for the wedding of Brother Paolo and Sister Stefania Romano. Brother Rosario had translated the wedding ceremony in our Minister's Manual and performed this service for the first time in Sardinia. Sister Diane Surdock had prayed she would be a blessing to this group of brothers and sisters and God used her musical talents to do just that. They had live music at their wedding. She played the keyboard and sang the song "The Prayer" in Italian—the only song in Italian she knew. It is an understatement to say that our brothers and sisters all fell in love with Sister Diane. The reception that followed featured all foods "Sardinian" at a beautiful villa in the mountains.

We all know that if we live a life with Christ He will use us to inspire others. The bride, Sister Stefania, expressed to me that she wanted to be married in the Church because of the example Brother Rosario and Sister Rosanna's marriage has been to her. She could not find a better example. May God continue to bless them all.

At our first priesthood meeting together we had discussed the need for help in Sardinia so the work could continue to grow. We discussed the calling of ordained teachers. We prayed and dismissed our meeting. At home, later that afternoon, Brother Rosario had a revelation and was given the names of three brothers. Returning to church later that day, he expressed his experience to us. We prayed about approaching these three and asked God to be in the matter. Two of them, Brother Georgio Romano and Brother Graziano Loi accepted the calling of a teacher. The third asked for a little more time to prepare. On Sunday morning, Brother Paul Benyola addressed the conference and reflected on all that we had experienced so far. He rehearsed the duties of an ordained teacher and expressed how much help they would offer the congregation. Our Brother Georgio's feet were washed by Brother Nino Romano and he was ordained by Brother Paul Benyola. Brother Rosario washed Brother Graziano's feet, and I ordained him.

On that Sunday, we were 26 members, friends, three beautiful children, young adults who love the Lord, seasoned Saints, elders that have inspired this group, a new convert, a newly married couple, and two newly ordained teachers. We experienced the evidence of God's Spirit and a promise of more members and blessings to come. Praise God!

## Circle History from 1944 Continued from page 9

*have our Sisters from a distance meet with us in our General Circle meetings. A Circle was organized in Warren, Ohio on Tuesday, April 4, 1944 with 12 members—Our best wishes and prayers go to our sisters in Warren, Ohio.*

*We are still helping with the Indian Mission work. We sent 30 Bibles to Grand River Reserve to use in the Sunday School this year, and our donations have helped finance the trips for our Brothers and Sisters to carry the Gospel to the Covenant people. We are glad Brother Ford and Wife and Brother Cowan and Wife have volunteered to go and live among them. They have surely shown their faith by their works. Sorry to report the death of Sister May White an Indian Sister from Grand River. She had not been in the Gospel very long until the Lord called her home. Another Indian Sister, Mary Skylar, the little sick woman with a happy smile, passed away too.*

*Sister Catherine Cavellare saved her small change for the Indian Mission Fund and presented it to the Circle, amounting to \$3.88. Brother Antonio Roso of West Aliquippa, PA, presented a jar of dimes containing*

*\$38.10 to the General Circle for the Indian Mission Fund. We appreciate these gifts from our brothers and sisters. Very few Sisters were able to attend the General Circle on December 14, 1944 on account of the stormy, cold weather, but those present enjoyed the fellowship and blessings of God. We are very sorry to report that on December 15th, the day after our General Circle. Sister Rosalia Mileco of West Aliquippa passed away very sudden. She died in the attitude of prayer. Sister Mileco was a very faithful good sister. She seldom missed our General Circle meetings, and no doubt if the weather would have permitted, she would have been with us on December 14th. We all loved Sister Mileco and will surely miss her. Who would have thought she would have been taken so soon? It should make us more watchful and prayerful for we know not how soon we too may be called; one of our hymns comes to my mind: "Our life is a dream, Our time as a stream, Glides swiftly away." O, that each from his Lord may receive the glad word: "Enter into my joy, And sit down on my throne." May the Lord Jesus help us and keep us all faithful to Him and the Gospel.*

*Sister Sadie B. Cadman*



*...even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4*



# Blessing Bits

## **B** An Answer in a Song

I recently reread Isaiah 52:10: *"The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations..."* I began asking the Lord to let me know His arm was moving. What should we look for? When will we see His holy arm? How will all the nations see and know? We have a hope for the latter day promises to be fulfilled, and often times in the waiting and wondering, we question God. I was praying that the Lord would know my heart as I was seeking to see His arm move in our day and time. Praying throughout the day, I was listening to an instrumental CD of the newer Songs of Zion. At one point, an unfamiliar melody was playing. The Spirit prompted me to look up this song. It was #139, *"The Desert Bloomed."* I had not heard the song before, but as I read, I realized the Lord was answering my prayer. The third verse reads, *"The God of Israel moved His arm this morning..."* That was my answer, praise God!—

*Sister Mandy Griffith, Forest Hills, FL Branch*

## **BB** My Testimony

Now that I am a senior member of the Church, I can truly sing... *"For blessings so great, what return can I make, for blessings so constant and sure"*. As a child I felt God's love among the saints in our home, singing

hymns, praying over coffee and pizzelles, discussing scriptures and blessings. When I was 15, I felt the Lord's calling. I begged Him for more time so I could experience life. I wanted to be baptized when I was married with children. I observed the brothers cutting ice and I asked, *"Please call me in the summer"*. I had other requests about my baptism and when God called me, every prayer was answered. I was married, I had a baby, and I was living in Miami. Brother Alvin Swanson baptized me in the warmest water. My hair never moved! Every prayer was answered! The lake has now turned into an elegant spot with a mall around it. I smile thinking, *'that's my spot and no one except my family knows.'* I will Love Him and Serve Him all the days of my life. —*Sister Eileen Ritz Katsaras, Hollywood, FL Branch*

## **BB** God's Watchful Eye

Recently our family has faced many challenges. Earlier this year, the Lord once again spared me from harm. As I was getting ready to leave for the airport from where we were staying, I noticed at the top of the staircase two bags of garbage to take outside. I picked the bags up and headed down the stairs. My sneaker caught on the rug on the steps. Holding

two bags of garbage, I could not grab the railing. My body plunged forward down seven stairs and my head went through the wall. For a moment the pain in my back and head was unbearable. My head was bleeding and required five stitches. I stood up in amazement as I had no broken arms or legs. Even after this happened I was able to take the flight home to Florida. In Florida I went to the hospital and the x-rays showed two fractured neck bones. They said I was a very lucky man. After three weeks in a head brace, I am feeling well. Praise God once more for His protection and mercy. —*Brother Tony Micale, Cape Coral, FL Mission*

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



**Question for this month:** *Tell us what you think heaven will be like. Describe it for us and ask your kids to share their ideas as well.*



**Answer from last month:** *What would you like to see increase in your service to God?* My desire is to prove faithful to the end, being a light and help to those in need, and God willing, to be still alive when the Choice Seer begins his work in the Americas. The Native Americans have always been special to Jon and me. —*Sister Virginia Molinatto, Gastonia, NC Branch*

*...even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4*

