

The Gospel News

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Can You Imagine – Noah?

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

Can you imagine the voice of the Lord telling you that He was planning to destroy the earth and that you were to build a boat to keep you, your family, and two of every animal safe from the destruction? Can you even imagine going to your spouse, family, and friends and telling them your plans? Even those of strong faith I imagine would waiver or question your sanity.

What must Noah at 500 years old have thought at that moment? The concept of a boat in general or in the very least a boat to live on must have been outrageous to Noah. God specifically instructed him on the size and layout of the boat. It was to be three stories; 300 cubics long, 50 cubics wide, and 30 cubics high. The exact measurement of a cubic is not available to us however, using the estimation of 18 inches this equates in modern times to 450 feet long [larger than a football field] 75 feet wide to 45 feet high. Interesting to note, although not surprising, the ark was constructed with a 1:6 ratio, which is 50:300 cubics. The science of naval architecture reveals that the most stable ratio for an ocean-going vessel is 1:6. All modern day ocean-going vessels use this same width to length ratio.

Obviously Noah was a man of great faith as God chose him. In Genesis 6:5 it says, *"And God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."* In verse 8 it says, *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."* There is no question that he was dedicated to the service. Still Noah must have felt humbled to be chosen yet overwhelmed by the request. Genesis 6:22 says, *"Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."* It was that simple. Noah was an obedient man so when God told him to build an ark, he did it.

The boat aside, imagine how Noah must have felt knowing that very few would join him on the ark and that every living creature that did not would perish. Can you imagine dividing your time between building the ark and trying to spread the word that the end of the world was coming? Just living day-to-day and providing sustenance and shelter were all consuming for the inhabitants on earth at that time.

I cannot imagine how long or tedious it was to gather each of the animals as well. Did he have to go far to search for them? Can you imagine trying to keep them all together yet all-apart as he built the ark? Maybe it is from watching movies or reading children's books that depict all the animals nicely lined up, but I imagine that when it was time, the animals must have known and come to him.

(Continued on page 3)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Last month of summer. Spend quality time with your family.	2	3 Thank a brother or sister for the work they do in the Church.	4
5	6 Pray for the Bell Branch - see pg 4	7	8	9 Praise God for the multitude of blessings in your life!	10	11
12	13 Pray for the work in Peru - see pg 4	14	15 Tell a child why you joined the Church.	16	17	18
19	20 Pray for the children as they go back to school.	21	22	23 Enjoy the bounty of summer food and thank God for the abundance.	24	25
26	27 Pray for those who have fallen away.	28 Give generously to someone in need.	29	30	31 Be proud of yourself for choosing to serve God.	1 Go to Ladies' Circle and MBA this month.

July 2012

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

September 2012

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

August 2012

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

BTP Back From The Pool

Set in a school yard on the Muncey-Delaware Indian Reserve in Ontario, Canada, the first GMBA campout was held 47 years ago this month. Mostly from Michigan and Canada, the small group gathered, as *The Gospel News* would describe, in an "opportunity to share spiritual, social, and educational experiences at one of the Church's oldest missions." The gymnasium doubled for church services and sleeping accommodations for those not in tents. The saints were treated to *Amazing Grace* sung by the Muncey saints in their native tongue and thanked by former chief and husband to Sister Faye, Ken Albert, who spoke of the Church as "a source of inspiration for the reservation."

First GMBA Campout 1965 - Nice accommodations ! ►



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

Can You Imagine-Noah?

(Continued from Page 1)

When it was time to board, I can't imagine the sorrow he must have felt as those he tried to persuade were left aside, mocking him for his faith. Yet there must have been some sense of relief when those first rain drops fell that all that he had done to prepare was not in vain.

I imagine while the ark was large, it must have been crowded with the animals on board. While we don't know just what they experienced, I imagine they had a plan to feed and care for the animals. Was it loud? Did they need to keep the animals segregated, as some are natural enemies? I imagine the smell was not so pleasant as well. What did they do to pass their time?

The Bible lays out the timeline as follows:

- Noah was 500 years old when he learned of his mission.
- Noah was 600 years old when the flood started.

- It rained for forty days and forty nights.
- It was eleven months from the time of the flood until Noah removed the covering of the ark.
- One month later the earth was dry.

How many "Can you imagines" can you imagine in those few facts? Can you imagine being 500 years old? Can you imagine working on a project for about 100 yrs? Sometimes we get impatient when we work on God's work whether it is writing a history, planning for missionary work or even trying to finish an article you have started weeks ago. But can you imagine the monumental task of building an ark for almost 100 years! Can you imagine the sense of completion after working on it for that long and finally being finished?

We often recall the part that it rained for 40 days and 40 nights and it must have been a very hard rain indeed. The Bible tells us that the water prevailed 15 cubics or about 14 feet upward. It must have felt endless.

Often the additional year of time it took before they could leave is looked over. I cannot imagine spending 11 months in an ark with so many animals waiting for the moment when you could be free. Certainly the conveniences of this life we live were not available to them in that time and the size and structure of the ark may have been almost comfortable for them however; they lived life in the open air. They worked in fields and spent much of their time outdoors. I imagine the joy of just being able to stand on the solid ground after they were free to leave the ark must have been incredible. To see the first [rain] bow placed in the sky by God a physical symbol of Gods' covenant to spare the earth of similar future destruction must have been amazing.

Noah's journey is an excellent example of extreme faith and incredible obedience to God. ***For this and the impact his life had on the earth, Noah is my Scriptural Hero.***

**Answer the
"Question of the Month"
by telling us
who your scriptural hero is at:
gospelnewsinfo@gmail.com**

Domestic Church - Bell Branch



The Bell Branch was established on January 31, 1948. It initially started as the Los Angeles Mission under the care of Detroit Branch #3 [now Plumbrook]. In the early 1940's, several brothers and sisters from different locations in the east migrated to the greater Los Angeles area for various reasons. This ultimately fulfilled God's divine purpose to plant The Church of Jesus Christ out west and evangelize the Pacific Coast Region. The Bell Branch played a major role in this effort, initially being designated as the Church district headquarters.

The Bell Branch initially consisted of members of Italian and Anglo descent, but the demographics changed over time. Today, the branch is predominately comprised of members from Latino and indigenous heritage, yet the Spirit of God continues to be the same. Our services now contain both English and Spanish languages. We relish in the diversity of musical instruments [piano, guitar, accordion, etc.], and sing the same songs interchangeably in English and Spanish, including the Songs of Zion, which we have available in both languages.

Overall, the branch has 61 members and many visitors who attend regularly. We are brimming with potential growth, as there are many involved young people and a vibrant group of about 25 children. The Church family is very close knit and has many gatherings apart from the Sunday Services, MBA, and Ladies' Uplift Circle. There are many ongoing engaging activities between house gatherings, outdoor excursions, birthday parties, etc. The branch also offers a Vacation Bible School program each year and other community outreach programs.

We are preparing for the future through outreach programs and by remodeling our church facilities. We recently converted the outdoor patio into a nursery room, children's room, and multi-purpose room. Future construction is in the works. Please pray for the Bell Branch family as we look forward to a spiritually blessed future of growth.

International Church - Peru



The Church of Jesus Christ was established in the land of Peru in 1996. There are currently two missions located in Arequipa and Lima with a total membership of 33; thirty-one in Arequipa and two in Lima.

With the main concentration in Arequipa, we are blessing the children of the third generation. There are a few members that have seen and bore the heat of the day. The majority of members are broken into two categories: the middle-aged (40-55) and the young (18-24). There are approximately eight children under the age of three in the mission.

We currently meet in the garage of Brother Juan Mestas with the hope of securing a new meeting place soon. Our meetings in Lima are also conducted in homes of the saints.

Brother Joe Lovalvo had an experience in 1950 where the ministry of the whole Church was gathered together in a very large room. A brother asked, "Where will the great work of the Seed of Joseph start?" On the large table where the ministry was gathered was a large map of North and South America. While all were quiet, Brother Joe's hand moved from North to South America and stopped, with his fingers pointing on the land of Peru.

Brother Dick Christman, his wife Sister Patricia, and Brother Miguel Bicelis went on the initial trip to Peru in 1995. The first baptisms took place in March of 1996. Brother Juan was ordained into the ministry in March of 2000, and Brother Vicente Gongora in March of 2006.

The young people carry such a beautiful spirit of humbleness, thankfulness and love, exhibiting a diligence to keep the commandments of God and asking God for whatever they need. We ask you to pray on behalf of the work in Peru, specifically as we search for a permanent meeting location.



By Evangelist Carl Huttenberger

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:5-7

Like never before, our faith is being tried as God refines us and prepares us for the great things to come. In a recent experience to the Church, a warning was given that there are those who do not have enough oil in their lamps. This means there are those who are not ready for what God is about to do. Some have allowed impatience to turn their belief and hope into disbelief and rejection regarding the promises of God. I believe we are living in a day and time where judgment will begin in the House of God. We, in The Church of Jesus Christ, will go through manifold temptations, not only risking losing our faith in what we believe and know to be true, but temptations of listening to more logical doctrines, or temptations of the flesh. God is separating the wheat from the tares, and we must stand strong and not be moved in our faith, regardless of how hot the fire becomes. This scripture points to the fact that this trial of our faith will be like fire. Our little problems and discouragements are only a little discomfort to our soul compared to fire. There will be more testing to come. Will you pass the test?

The Book of Mormon points to the fact that if miracles are not evident, it is because of unbelief. Are the Gifts of the Spirit as prevalent as they were years ago? Are the gifts, and things God gives His Church taken seriously, or do we doubt them? Are we losing our hope and dreams of a Peaceful Reign? Are we more comfortable only focusing on today, and not laboring for the future, and for the great work of the Lord? Brothers and sisters, my words are strong and create serious soul searching. They are strong words because the prophecy about our faith being tried by fire in these last days should be a concern to us. We should be concerned about the tighter and tighter

stronghold the devil has on the world around us. We should be concerned about our children and loved ones who have not made a commitment to the Lord, or who are not rooted strong in the truths of the Restoration. We should be concerned that the devil wants to destroy our marriages and our families. We should be concerned that we do not have enough oil in our lamps, and as was pointed out in another recent experience to the Church, Satan is coming at us head on. If these things concern us, then thank God! It is out of concern, that human kind takes serious action. We live in a day when serious action is required on our part to withstand the onslaught of the evil one.

Let us not doubt the gifts and miracles that God is giving. Let us uphold the work of the Church in whatever country we are sent. Let us give the more earnest heed to the things we have been taught and remember that we are not a contemporary church. We do not "change with the times." We may use new technologies to help the Gospel grow, but our faith and doctrine remains unchanging. Let us be the voice in the wilderness crying "Prepare!" Let us be like Joshua and Caleb and believe that a promised land awaits us. Let us be like Elisha and ask God for a double portion. Let us not be ashamed of The Church of Jesus Christ because it provides the power of God unto salvation. Let us hold up our head now and not put it down, and believe that the day we have dreamed of is here.

Be strong my brothers and sisters – strong in the Lord of course, and not of ourselves. And if any slip into the quicksand, let us all reach out to pull them out. Hand in hand, we will survive, and be rewarded with the peace of Jesus Christ in His kingdom that is coming.

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$18.00 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.

The Revelation

The brother of Jared stood atop the Mount Shelem and conversed face to face with the Lord. Because he had exhibited tremendous faith he was permitted to look beyond the mortal veil and view the body of Christ as it would appear when he would take upon himself flesh and blood, approximately 2,200 years later. The Lord gave him two stones and commanded him to write the things that he witnessed, *"for behold, the language which ye shall write I have confounded; wherefore I will cause in my own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men these things which ye shall write. And when the Lord had said these words, he showed unto the brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be; and he withheld them not from his sight even unto the ends of the earth."* Ether 3:24,25 What became of this revelation? Has it already been given to the children of men? Where is it today? Let's examine what God has revealed to us about the vision of the brother of Jared.

In 121 B.C., King Limhi related to Ammon the story of how he had sent forty-three scouts into the wilderness to search for the land Zarahemla. These men journeyed for many days, not finding Zarahemla, but instead discovering a land northward that was covered with the bones of men and beasts. Among the ruins, they found twenty-four plates of gold containing the engravings of an unknown language. Unbeknownst to them, the scouts had discovered the remains of the Jaredites who had been completely destroyed by civil war. The twenty-four plates were eventually delivered to King Mosiah who reigned in Zarahemla. He was a seer, having been given a gift from God, to the great benefit of mankind, in which he could interpret unknown languages by the use of *"two stones which were fastened into the two rims of a bow."* Mosiah 28:13

Mosiah translated the twenty-four plates and learned they were a record of the Jaredites kept by the prophet Ether.

He also found that they contained the vision had by the brother of Jared. Mosiah kept the revelation hidden, however, according to the Lord's commandment that *"they should not come unto the world until after Christ should show himself unto his people."* Ether 4:1

One hundred and fifty five years later, the resurrected Jesus Christ descended upon the Americas. He taught the Nephites His gospel and He commanded that the revelation be made known.

"And he did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that he should come in his glory – yea, even all things which should come upon the face of the earth, even until the elements should melt with fervent heat, and the earth should be wrapt together as a scroll, and the heavens and the earth should pass away;" III Nephi 26:3 The Lord finally revealed that knowledge that Mosiah had been instructed to keep hidden and the saints of God were able to bask in the light of Christ.

To the great sorrow of the latter day saints, the Nephite people rejected Christ within a few hundred years and as a result were destroyed by the Lamanites. In 420 A.D. Moroni recorded upon the plates of Mormon the things that the brother of Jared had seen. *"And now... they have all dwindled in unbelief; and there is none save it be the Lamanites, and they have rejected the gospel of Christ; therefore I am commanded that I should hide them up again in the earth. Behold, I have written upon these plates the very things which the brother of Jared saw; and there never were greater things made manifest than those which were made manifest unto the brother of Jared."* Ether 4:3,4 Moroni was commanded to seal up the vision and the interpreters. He then buried the plates of Mormon in the Hill Cumorah.

When Joseph Smith, Jr., received the Plates of Mormon along with the interpreters in 1827 A.D. he found that a portion of them was indeed sealed and he was not able or permitted to translate them. David Whitmer, one of the Three Witnesses, described the plates. "They

appeared to be of gold, about six by nine inches in size, about as thick as parchment, a great many in number and bound together like leaves of a book by massive rings." As for the sealed portion, Whitmer says it "... appeared as solid to my view as wood." [Book of Mormon Reflections, V. James Lodalvo, page 41] Joseph returned the plates to the heavenly messenger when he had completed the translation of the unsealed portion.

So, what will God do with the plates of Mormon? Nephi, who also was shown many things, explains,

"For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof. And the day cometh that the words of the book which were sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ;"
II Nephi 27:10,11

Jesus said, *"They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord."* Ether 4:6 *"Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will show unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is hid up because of unbelief. Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you..."* Ether 4:13-14

We, The Church of Jesus Christ, can certainly look forward to that day when the Lord sees fit to once again reveal to His saints the greater things. Let us work diligently to bring the Gentiles and the house of Israel to the knowledge of their redeemer Jesus Christ. Only after the trial of our faith will we see the words of the prophet come to life when *"They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine."* II Nephi 27:35

Take the Spirit With You *By Sister Cindy Onorato*

On April 1, 2012, the Brunswick, Maine Branch packed up our hymnals and the Lords' supper and congregated at Brother Bruce and Sister Cindy Churchill's home for our Sunday service. Our brother who is afflicted with ALS was unable to come to us, so we went to him. As we joined together, God's Spirit filled our hearts as bright as the sunshine flooding the room. His Word enlightened our minds and soothed our souls. *Good Morning, God* was sang in unison and in thanksgiving to God for it truly was a good morning.

Our brothers spoke about life, mankind, Gods' purpose, and His great plan using these great examples of faith.

Brother Richard Onorato, Sr., spoke from Isaiah 41 which speaks of man as being nothing, that all is vanity. Our brother pointed out to us that God is interested in one thing, our service. He read from verse 4 where the Lord proclaims; *"Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he."* He also read from verse 17 where it declares that God will take care of His people; *"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them."*

Brother Richard, Sr., talked about Job who was just and upright, who feared God and eschewed evil and how he encountered great loss in his life. He said that the Lord spoke to Job in a great whirlwind saying, *"Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me."* Job 38:3 He spoke about how God asked Job where he was when He created all things and how Job humbled himself and realized he was nothing. He concluded by saying that man cannot depend upon his own knowledge.

Brother Richard Onorato, Jr., quoted King Benjamin asking; *"For behold are we not all beggars?"* Mosiah 4:19 He explained the term beggar is not looked upon as a good thing. As servants of God it is not a weakness but rather a strength and our dependence is fully entrusted to God.

Brother Tom Curtin exclaimed that today our life is the same with God. He spoke from Ecclesiastes 3:1 and how there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven. He explained that it is important that our service has a perfect balance and that Job had a perfect balance being steadfast, maintaining a focus, and knowing the God he served through His word. He finished by sharing that God has spiritual prosperity for us and purpose, that His hands are outstretched to all, that we only have to believe and take hold of it.

Brother Richard, Sr., said; *"It was not the nails that held Him to the cross, it was His love."* We sang, *Touch the Nail Prints, Know For Certain.*

Brother Bruce was anointed and Gods' presence of love filled us. Our testimonies expressed the greatness of God. We touched upon the bond we have for by His Grace we are God's vessels that house His Spirit. We brought His Spirit with us and we were greeted with it as we entered our brother and sister's home. It is a gift from Christ. We extended our love to our brother, sister and family.

Our hearts rejoiced for their lives are fully entrusted in God, the Great I Am.

Truly, a Good Morning, God!

My Tenure as Editor of The Gospel News

By Apostle Paul Palmieri, President (Gospel News Editor 1970 - 1979)

I reflect on being the Editor of *The Gospel News* for nine years as one of the most challenging responsible opportunities I have experienced.

It all started on a bright sunny day in June 1970 at a Board of Missions meeting in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. Brother Tom Ross and I were approached by President Gorie Ciaravino, President and Apostle Nick Pietrangelo to consider being the Editor and Assistant Editor of *The Gospel News*. Both agreed, but after some discussion with past editors, Brother Tom asked if a change would be acceptable.

He wanted to be the Assistant Editor and I would be the Editor. I became the Editor by default.

A difficult learning process occurred that would impact me for the future. Learning to schedule time became a real challenge. Two years prior I was elected as the GMBA Vice President and in 1974 I became the President of the GMBA.

My son, Paul Aaron, was young and active in playing baseball and I had to schedule time and devote attention to the family. The Lord helped me in all

the requirements that came up.

My first project was to organize a committee of typists, proofreaders, and organizers of material. I was blessed with many who helped. They also gave up much of their free time for The Church. We would meet twice a month in my basement to organize the monthly edition of *The Gospel News*.

During my tenure we faced many problems; shortly after I became the Editor, Sister Sara Vancik, Circulation Manager, retired. She was a long time servant and needed the rest. She was a wonderful dedicated person for *The Gospel News*. The

(Continued on Page 8)

Mosiah's Declaration of Independence

By GMBA Editor Brother Daniel P. Stone

On July 1776 our forefathers, under the direction of God, adopted the Declaration of Independence. These men understood the principles of liberty and found it their duty to secure their rights. Thomas Jefferson concluded the declaration by writing, "And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor." These men knew they would be hung if their course of action failed, but the signers pledged themselves to the will of the Father, placing their trust in Him. However, the principles of the Declaration of Independence were not new. The twenty-ninth chapter of Mosiah presents a declaration that parallels the Declaration of Independence. In this chapter, we find the ideals of the United States are actually perpetual principles established by the Lord.

The twenty-ninth chapter of Mosiah relates a history of King Mosiah's

distribution of a declaration of independence. Since King Mosiah could not confer his kingdom upon his sons, he found it appropriate that a group of judges should reign after his death. Mosiah explained, "Therefore, if it were possible that you could have just men to be your kings, who would establish the laws of God, and judge this people according to his commandments, yea, if ye could have men for your kings who would do even as my father Benjamin did for this people – I say unto you, if this could always be the case then it would be expedient that ye should always have kings to rule over you." Mosiah 29:13 Mosiah remembered the iniquities of King Noah and how he caused the Nephites to transgress. He reiterated this concern when he stated, "For behold, how much iniquity doth one wicked king cause to be committed, yea, and what great destruction!" Mosiah 29:17

In addition, the Founding Fathers understood a king can negatively

influence his subjects. Jefferson stated, "accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed." The signers believed as subjects under an evil authority, it was easier to follow a king's dictates rather than rebel. However, as disciples of Christ, we should take heed after Mosiah's and Jefferson's words. We need to rebel against sin, even if it is difficult.

Furthermore, Mosiah believed a monarchy is often oppressive. He related an immoral king "...enacteth laws, and sendeth them forth among his people, yea, laws after the manner of his own wickedness; and whosoever doth not obey his laws he causeth to be destroyed; and whosoever doth rebel against him he will send his armies against them to war, and if he can he will destroy them; and thus an unrighteous king doth pervert the ways of all righteousness." Mosiah 29:23

(Continued on page 11)

My Tenure as Editor of The Gospel News continued from Page 7

Monongahela Publishing Company, who had been printing our paper from its inception, went out of business. We were forced to find a new publisher. We found one in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, some 50 miles east of Pittsburgh. There were times we fell behind in meeting a deadline and we had to drive to Ligonier to deliver the "galley sheets" to the publisher.

I must mention that the Assistant Editor, Brother Thomas Ross, was invaluable as not only an assistant, but an encouragement to me. He wrote 99% of all the editorials for the nine years, and proofread every article.

Our semi-monthly sessions consisted of typing, proofreading, and pasting the galley sheets for every issue of the paper. After each session we would have a social time for eating and enjoying each other's company. Truly

they were happy times.

The Gospel News progressed through many changes, but the news of people being healed, baptized, married, blessed etc., was always a joy as we would open the mail, review the article, have it double-spaced and made ready for the printer.

In conclusion, I thank God for the opportunity to serve in whatever capacity I was asked to fill. While there were many challenges God helped us overcome all obstacles.

I am grateful for His love to me and my family. Without my wife, Sister Eleanor, I would not have been able to accomplish the work of the Lord.

Working for The Church of Jesus Christ is an honor for me.

WHERE WERE YOU IN JUNE, 2011?

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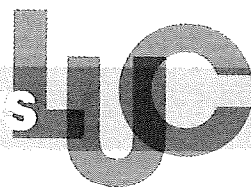
By Brother Kerry Carlini

The first mentioning of Saul tells of his "breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord." Going from house to house, he bound both men and women to be jailed. Greatly feared, Saul's persecution of the saints surprisingly came to an abrupt end when coming face to face with Christ. Amazingly then, we find that no other man could have been better prepared, or successful, in spreading Christianity throughout the known world as Saul, who was also called Paul. Here are five amazing facts:

1. Schooled under the reputable Gamaliel, Paul had been a Pharisee whose knowledge of Jewish laws and traditions would later serve him well when confronting Jewish beliefs and practices.
2. Immediately following his conversion, Paul spent the next three years in the desert of Arabia where the Lord revealed to him His teachings.
3. But, it would take Barnabas, well trusted among the saints in Jerusalem, to persuade the apostles of Paul's conversion and acceptance into the Church.
4. Paul, skilled as a tent maker, set the example for supporting himself in his missionary travels.
5. Finally, the Apostle Paul used his Roman citizenship – unusual for a Jew – to spare his life and grant him invaluable time in Rome where he met with the saints and wrote many of his epistles.

Acts 8:3 Acts 9:1,2 Acts 9:26,27 Acts 18:3 Acts 22:3 Acts 22:25-29 Acts 23:6 Galatians 1:17,18

Ladies' Uplift Circle News



SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

By Sister Carolyn Light

In February, 2012 the Pacific Area Ladies' Uplift Circle held its Women's Fellowship Weekend in Anaheim. With over 70 women in attendance, it was a blessing to all and there was no shortage of conversation, sharing and love! The weekend began Friday night with activities provided by the San Diego sisters. Due to the many events in past seasons, this was our first fellowship weekend in a few years and there was excitement in the air in anticipation of God's blessings.

Saturday morning, Sister Michelle Watson led our seminar with the theme of, "Being a Godly Woman" through all the "seasons" of life. Utilizing the analogy of four yearly seasons, she introduced the topic stating that each season or era in life contains a special purpose, each with blessing and challenges. She utilized the scripture in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, highlighting and expanding upon this point, noting that all seasons are temporary and one thing that remains constant is that life will continue to change! God remains the same as we navigate through them.

Sister Michelle then used sisters at vari-

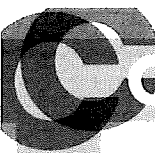
ous ages and stages in their lives to represent and discuss a woman's development through seasons of childhood, adolescence, college, launching a career, wife and mother, empty nest, retirement and senior sisters. This visual depiction was most helpful as well as humorous in understanding phases of our lives.

The women were then assembled according to season, from the youngest to the most senior, representing Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, respectively. In our groups we discussed the various roles, advantages and challenges that take place in our current experience. The theme continued with encouragement to utilize our talents for God and to support each other in the stage of life in which you are. In closing, we all shared our discussions with the remainder of the groups. This resulted in greater understanding and empathy for each other. Finally, we all shared personal prayer requests that were then chosen by others to assist in prayer.

After lunch there was a short business meeting, after which sisters were able to enjoy the remainder of the afternoon. We gathered again that evening to participate in a hilarious Minute-To-Win-It game which was led by Sisters Jerrica and Lori Picciuto.

On Sunday morning, we had a wonderful gathering of sisters from across the area. Sisters from the Spring and Winter Season groups opened with, *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*. Brother David Picciuto then addressed us, speaking from Romans 9:11, stating that God chooses us and develops us individually for His purpose. He then cited II Timothy 1:9, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began". He spoke about the holy calling of being a servant of God and that each of us is given her own purpose.

He referred to the virtuous woman written about in Proverbs 31 and admonished the senior sisters to be "mothers". We felt a spirit of love and unity during sacrament. Many sisters were prayed for in afflictions or need for spiritual strengthening. Many testified that they had been immediately healed or felt their prayers were answered. A wonderful season of testimony followed. A wonderful spirit of humility, caring and love washed over us as we prayed for one another. God truly blessed our weekend, and we drove back to our separate homes rejuvenated and ready to embrace our "Season of Life".



Too Small to Fight

Dear Friends,

When Solomon was king, he gradually disappointed God, and led his nation astray. As an old man, he let one of his new young wives talk him into building a temple for the statues of her false gods.

Soon a great many of the people began to serve all sorts of idols. They built temples and statues, and planted groves of trees in high places in the hills to worship. They forgot the good laws of God, and forgot His promises to them, His chosen people.

When Solomon died and new kings came to power, the nation continued to serve their idols. Many wars broke out among these people and their neighboring countries.

Finally, a king named Asa was born who chose to lead his people back to God. Asa took away the altars of the strange gods, the high places, broke down the idols, and cut down the groves. He even removed his own mother from being queen and leader because she made an idol in a grove to worship.

Thirty years Asa ruled and struggled with his people to serve the one, true, living God. When he died, his son, Jehoshaphat, also chose to follow the commandments of God, and walk in his father's footsteps.

Therefore, God blessed this young king richly. The fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Je-

hoshaphat. They brought him gifts so he would not be their enemy. Some of the Philistines brought him silver, and the Arabians brought him thousands of rams and goats. King Jehoshaphat's kingdom grew richer and more important.

Still, he never forgot what was more important than gold and silver--God's love. King Jehoshaphat sent Levite priests throughout the land to teach the laws of God to all the people. He built up the cities and set honest judges up to rule the people.

Again the Israelite people began to flourish, and the word of God's rich blessings on this people traveled throughout the world. Then a terrible message was brought to King Jehoshaphat: A huge army from across the sea was on its way to attack Jehoshaphat's kingdom. There were three countries coming: the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the people from Mount Seir.

Against such a multitude, the small nation of Judah had no chance. Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord. A fast throughout all the land was planned. No one ate or drank; all of Judah, the mothers, children, and fathers stood before the Lord and prayed for their lives.

King Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation and said to God, *"O our God... we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee."* II Chronicles 20:12 They trusted in God to save them, and He spoke to them by sending His Spirit to one of the Levite priests.

The Lord told them, *"Be not afraid nor dismayed by this great multitude; [of enemies that was coming] for this battle is not yours, but God's."*

He told them that tomorrow they should go down to the cliff of Ziz where they would find the enemy at the brook, before the wilderness. And again the Lord told the people, not to fear because they did not need to fight in this battle. He told them to stand still and see how He would save them.

King Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all the people of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping Him also.

They rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness where God had directed them. On the way, Jehoshaphat stood and said, *"Believe in the Lord your God, and you will prosper!"* Then he appointed singers unto the Lord that went out before the army praising the holiness of God and saying, *"Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever"*.

King Jehoshaphat and his people did this in faith, believing that God would fight their enemies for them. At this moment, when they began singing and thanking Him, God began His work. The huge armies began to fight against each other. The Ammonites and Moabites attacked the people from Mount Seir, and when they had utterly killed them, they began to fight among themselves. Of that huge and great army, not one was left to attack Judah. They had killed one another.

A great fear of God was on all the neighboring kingdoms when they heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel. So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was quiet, and the people lived in peace during the days they served God, and this is our God, too, the God of yesterday, today, and forever.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan Bork

(Continued on Page 11)

GMBA News *Continued from page 8*

With a similar affirmation, the Declaration of Independence addressed the abuses of King George III. And parallel to Mosiah's warning, after the American colonists rebelled, the King of England sent his armies to North America.

However, God did not allow the British armies to defeat the colonists. As Mosiah stated, the Lord established the Western Hemisphere as a land of liberty. He related, *"And now I desire that this inequality should be no more in this land, especially among this my people; but I desire that this land be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike, so long as the Lord sees fit that we may live and inherit the land, yea, even as long as any of our posterity remains upon the face of the land."* Mosiah 29:32 These ideals were paralleled by the Founding Fathers when Jefferson stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Mosiah and the signers understood liberty

is an integral tenet established by God. Consequently, the United States is founded upon this principle.

The United States still possesses the precious gift that is ubiquitously mentioned throughout the Book of Mormon - the gift of liberty. Therefore, let us remember God blessed America with an invaluable privilege. Also, let us remember Mosiah's words when he warned, *"And if the time comes that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you; yea, then is the time he will visit you with great destruction even as he has hitherto visited this land."* Mosiah 29:27 God promised in the book of Ether, *"... this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written."* Ether 2:12

Praise God for our liberty.

It is only due to His mercies we are given freedom.

Children's Corner *Continued from Page 10*

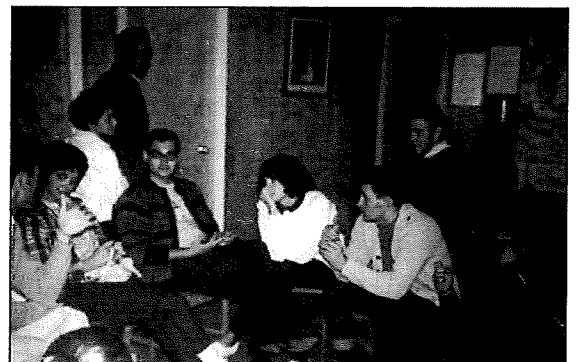
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More photos from first GMBA Campout 1965



Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Psalm 73:24

Blessing Bits

BB God Protects Us My boss Dave and I go to lunch together, nearly every day, in the building cafeteria. But on Fridays, we head out to one of the local restaurants and he always drives. Recently one Friday when leaving the restaurant we came to a red light. As we were waiting for the light, I was given to tell Dave not to go when the light turned green. No sooner than I told him this message a car came speeding through the intersection. We would have been in a serious accident had Dave not waited. God is our forward, always leading the way. He is always there if we listen. **Brother Paul Pezzenti, Cincinnati-Morrow**

BB And A Little Child Shall Lead Them On June 10th we held a Feet Washing Service at the Forest Hills Branch. We found my grandson Allen in this position beside his father (see photo) while Bryan's feet were being washed. I asked Allen, 4 ½ years old, later what he was doing kneeling in that position. He responded without hesitation, "I was praying for my daddy." What limits of blessings has God ever imposed upon us? Through our children great things will happen. **Brother John Griffith, Forest Hills (Pray for Allen. He has a rare autoimmune disease which has caused him to get a cancer called Neuroblastoma.)**

BB Prayers Immediately Answered Have you ever felt an immediate answer to prayer? Over 10 years ago, I was going through chemotherapy. At my lowest point, I had little strength and energy to perform simple daily chores. I was short of breath and could only walk six feet before sitting down. A sister called and noticed how weak I was. After her encouragement, she phoned an elder who began a phone fan out to the saints. Within the hour, I noticed a surge of energy. I was performing and enjoying all kinds of labors around the house. I was feeling not just good, but amazing! Praise God for answered prayers and His love. **Sister Cindy Henderson, Detroit Branch 2**

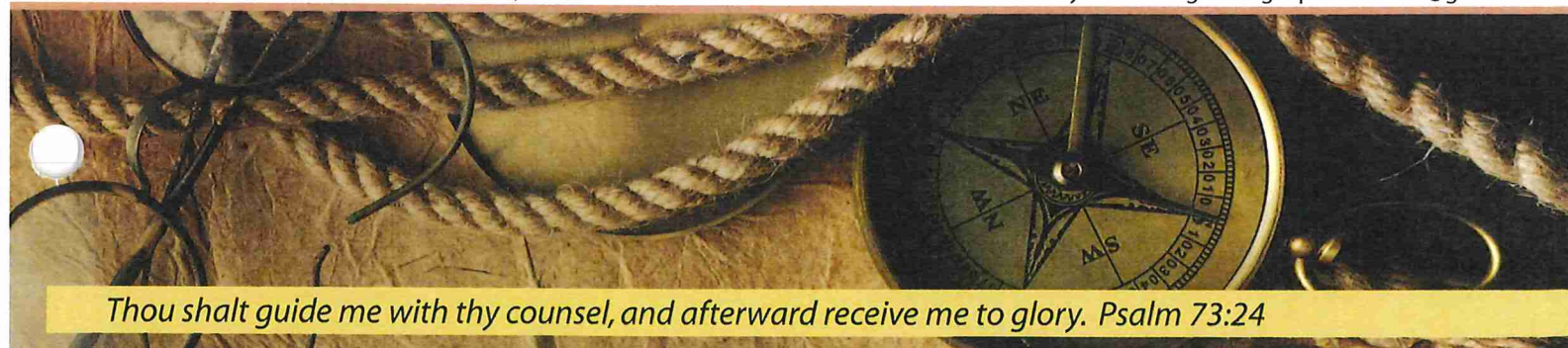


"...and become as a little child..." Matthew 18:3

Question for this month: Who is your favorite spiritual hero? Please feel free to tell us why.

Answer from last month: What branch meeting or activity is your favorite of the year? The Watch Night Service received the most votes. "I take the opportunity to reflect back on the past year, count my blessings and re-affirm my faith that by the grace of God I have made it through another year. What better way to start the new year than forming a circle, and holding hands with my brothers, sisters, and friends at midnight to welcome the New Year in prayer?" **Sister Marge D'Amico, Detroit 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



Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Psalm 73:24