

The Gospel News

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What's New on the International Front?

By Evangelist Frank Natoli—IMOC Chairman

With over 16,000 members in 21 countries outside the United States and Canada, The Church of Jesus Christ faces a number of unique challenges and opportunities.

Let me explain what I mean by 'challenges' and 'opportunities' . . .

First, the CHALLENGES: It may come as no surprise to anyone who listens to or reads the news, that conditions in the world are worsening: Governments rise and fall practically overnight. Political gatherings become riots that lead to bloodshed. Economies crumble into bankruptcy within weeks as the standard of living in every country declines. More specifically, of the 21 countries where the Church is established, in the last six months, one country's leader died and the government is in turmoil and uncertainty; the United States Department of State has issued travel warnings for seven of the countries; and all 21 have an inflation rate that is higher than the United States, averaging 9.4 percent annually compared with approximately one percent for the United States and Canada.

When our missionaries travel to many of these countries, they're asked at times for thousands of dollars in bribes in order for our Church to be registered, which we refuse to pay. They struggle with rising fares and operating expenses due to inflation and unstable economies. At times they're watched by secret police and the military who view Christian ministers as possible troublemakers. We've had our church buildings and property vandalized, requiring legal involvement and adding unplanned expenses to an already stretched budget. Clearly, these are not conditions that we can easily control, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Ephesians 6:12). However, these are some of the challenges and conditions that we face.

We could simply bow to the pressure, reduce our missionary efforts, and retreat from the strongholds the Church has established beginning in the 1950s. Yet we know that *"in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [w]ithout natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, [t]raitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [h]aving a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away"* (II Timothy 3:1-5).

Now if I stopped here, you might set your Gospel News down in discouragement, once again being reminded that we live in the Latter Days, that challenging conditions exist at home and abroad, and you'd have felt better if you hadn't been reminded of it all, but wait. . .

(Continued on page 11)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 Pray for God's direction in your life	2 Follow the direction God gives you	3
4	5 Great summer reading choices- The Bible and Book of Mormon	6	7 Practice your faith today. Put the day completely in God's hands	8	9	10
11 Be the first to give your testimony God is Good!	12	13 Pray for the Atlanta Branch- pg 4	14	15 "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust, and not be afraid.." (2 Nephi)	16	17 Pray for the work in Columbia- pg 4
18	19	20 "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble.." (Nahum 1:7)	21	22	23 Reach out to someone that is struggling in life	24
25	26 Take on a role in the Church outside of your comfort zone	27	28 "Trust and obey, for there's no other way.." sing the song today	29	30	31 Support your local and regional events

July 2013
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

September 2013
S M T W T F S
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

August 2013

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3: 5,6).

BTP Blast From The Past

The Detroit Mission's First Ordination

Ninety-two years ago this month Brother Ishmael D'Amico, Sister Anna Frammolino, and her daughter boarded the train from Detroit to Cleveland. Though members of the newly established Detroit Mission, Sister Anna's ordination as a deaconess would take place at the Cleveland Branch, where another deaconess could participate in the ordination. Once they got off the train, however, the group lost their way, and after a few futile attempts to locate the branch, Sister Anna could only reply, *"The Lord will provide."*

"Suddenly, a man appeared to me!" Brother Ishmael would exclaim and relate as well, that this stranger not only directed the group to the right streetcar, but boarded with them and began to unfold many scriptures and prophecies. Finally they arrived at their destination, held the ordination the following day, and returned home. It was upon their arrival in Detroit that the three travelers learned that Sister Anna's husband, Brother Ralph, had seen in vision a messenger of God assisting them in their time of need.

Brother Ralph and Sister Anna Frammolino ►



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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

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"!*

"What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." (John 13:7)

Years ago the Midwest Region YIA visited our mission for a weekend of seminars and outreach. On Saturday, the young people took part in a "trust fall" and although they fell from atop picnic tables, I was comfortable knowing they would be caught by the group below. My assurance was disturbed when their faithful driver, Brother Mike Nuzzi, climbed to the lofty perch. As I was gathering my thoughts (okay, I was actually praying urgently), his body was already plummeting through the air. In the following 3.4 seconds, I mentally called the EMT unit, constructed my explanation to his wife and mailed my Minister's license back to Greensburg; at 3.5 seconds I heard the squeals of delight as Brother Mike was snatched to safety by 16 trustworthy arms.

The verse above requires the same trust possessed by those falling from tables. When Peter questioned Jesus about his feet being washed by the Savior, Jesus said, *"You don't understand it today, but you will soon. Trust Me."* When prayers go unanswered, Jesus whispers *"Trust Me."* When life deals unexpected blows, Jesus whispers *"Trust Me."* When we're left in bitter disappointment, Jesus whispers *"Trust Me."* He acknowledges this is based upon blind faith, *"What I do, thou knowest not now,"* but infuses hope, *"thou shalt know hereafter."*

Given these examples, we might understandably demand instant satisfaction; but Christ requests patience. In any of these cases we might frantically plead for immediate answers; but Jesus asks us to remain calm. Any of these instances might bring discouragement, but He promises encouragement is forthcoming. There is no explanation for our clinging to hope when things seem hopeless, listening to the voice of reason at our most unreasonable moments, or simply not giving up, as this would be the easiest escape. An oft-repeated statement supports Christ's promise: *"God's delay is not His denial!"*

In the midst of such pause, Jesus whispers *"Trust Me."* Hearing His whisper, the desperate find confidence, the disappointed are filled with hope, and the broken-hearted are rekindled to believe joy just might again be within reach. Like Brother Mike Nuzzi many years ago, in our most challenging moments, we stand alone, arms crossed over our chests, ready to fall backwards into loving and certain arms. As Jesus promised long ago, we may not understand what He's doing today, but we must believe He will save us. With the same required trust as our brother, we tumble backward, awaiting our Lord's rescue!

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

Domestic Church — Atlanta, Georgia Branch



In 1975, the Gospel came to Atlanta after those living in the area, mostly members of one extended family, requested that the Church establish a mission there. Brother Jim and Sister Eva Moore temporarily moved to the area. The first meeting was held in East Point, Georgia with approximately 13 in attendance. Brother Frank Rogolino assisted with this work, making the drive from Fort Pierce, Florida along with his wife every weekend.

There followed a string of four baptisms within a few short months. The group met in several places; however, adversities crept in and most of the group had to move away for one reason or another. The Lord brought in other elders to take charge and in the spring of 1987, Brothers Malcolm Paxon and Tom Jones moved to the area for work. Their families followed soon afterward. Meetings were moved to homes and the small group (even smaller now) continued to meet.

The group began to grow after many years, and today there are around 34 members plus young people ranging in age from infancy to 18, with six elders now in residence. Three of our members are college students. We now have our own building in Fayetteville, Georgia and what a blessing it has been to finally have a home for the Lord after many years of renting facilities that never quite met the need.

The branch has an active MBA including an MBA for the children, as well as a Ladies' Circle and an active Sunday School. Each year, the Sunday School sponsors a yard sale and proceeds go primarily to the Native American work. We have a spring picnic each year followed by a bonfire in the fall. The Ladies' Circle also raises money for missionary work. Several brothers in the Atlanta Branch ministry are active in missionary work in Africa and with the Native Americans. We endeavor to support them, both financially and spiritually. It is our goal to help in some little way, to support and spread the Gospel to any and all that will listen.

International Church — Colombia



The Gospel was taken to Colombia in 2000 after an experience was had by Sister Rocío Conti of Detroit Branch #2 where she saw the Church in her country before she came to America and was baptized. Currently there are 30 members in four locations; Bogotá, Armenia, La Mesa and Santander. Brother Pedro Cuelar is the elder in Armenia and services all locations on a continuing basis. The congregations are made of mostly young people and middle-aged members, although there is one member who is 95. A rented facility is used for meetings three times a week in Armenia. In recent years they have held very successful VBSs in Bogotá, Armenia, and La Mesa, with 30-55 children in attendance.

Over time, many experiences have been had in Colombia, but two stand out: In the first, a visitor was brought to Church and anointed after a bad fall where the bones in her arm were visibly out of place. After she was anointed, the arm was straight and normal. She left the meeting to tell her family of her miracle. Another experience involves a younger deaconess, Sister Carmenza Torres. Internet meetings were held in Bogotá using Skype, and during one meeting Sister Carmenza was visibly ill and said that she was scheduled for tests. At the next meeting she looked worse, and said that she needed surgery to remove the cancer from her breast and stomach. Immediately the whole group went into prayer, and a prayer request went to the IMOC. Two weeks later, the brothers were in Colombia and planned to visit her in the hospital. Sunday she praised God that when she had the surgery, there was no evidence of any cancer or disease!

Please continue to remember our members in Colombia who desire to build a place of worship in Armenia in the future.

By Elder Anthony Scolaro

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The need for balance in our walk with Christ is something that none of us can afford to neglect. In the same way that our understanding of the Gospel must be based on all of the scriptures rather than on selected parts, our lives and attitudes must be properly balanced, fine-tuned by the Spirit of God, for us to successfully complete our journey and help others along the way.

Like all good roads, the path we travel to heaven is crowned—higher in the middle than at the sides. Should we wander too far to the right or to the left, we place ourselves in jeopardy of falling off altogether. Yet while the middle of the road is a better place to be than on the side, it requires an effort on our part to obtain and maintain that position. The human nature we must all fight to overcome would have each of us drift, to varying degrees, toward one side or the other. As we yield to the Spirit of God, however, we find ourselves gently guided and lifted to a position closer to the middle, where Christ Himself walked when He blazed the trail.

Ironically, if we desire to stay at the extreme right or left of the road, we can find isolated scriptures to support our position. If we adhere only to those principles and read no further, we can become separated from the mainstream, and soon lose the road entirely. The further we drift from center, on either side, the more difficult it is for us to see with the spiritual eyes required to make the journey, and the less tolerant we become toward other travelers—even those who closely follow the steps that Jesus trod.

On the one hand, we can be inordinately strict, adhering to more laws and regulations than the Lord Himself ever required. We can grow so rigid, rational, and structured in our service to God that all variety and spontaneity—even if divinely inspired—is squelched. In the icy, hollow atmosphere to the right of the road, we plod along as if in a dirge, never allowing the warmth of God's Spirit to be fully manifested in our lives.

At the other extreme, we can be overly indulgent, and allow liberty with no regard for responsibility or accountability. We can permit individual feelings to rule to the point where all order—even that brought by the Spirit of God—is abandoned, and confusion reigns in its place. In the mayhem that abides at the extreme left of the road, each one marches to the sound of a different drummer, but we never experience the Unity which moves God's Church forward as a group.

While few of us lean entirely toward either side, we must all be aware of the danger of losing our balance. From time to time, both liberality and conservatism will be required of us, as they were of the Lord. Only a moderate, balanced approach will allow us the flexibility to change lanes without appearing—and feeling—hypocritical. Rather than take a verse or two out of context and hang on to them in support of our personal ideology, we must know the entire word of God and work, with the help and guidance of the Holy Ghost, to strike that balance which is so essential to our successful walk with Christ.

Faith Love/Charity Hope Unity Righteousness Congruence
 Responsibility Empathy Loyalty Leadership Honor Rights/Respect Duty

VALUES

By Evangelist John DiBattista

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"
 (Romans 12:2).

Did you know that all of our behaviors are a result of our personal value system? That's right, we have these deep-seated beliefs or values that determine what we do in every facet of our lives from work to recreation to worship.

By definition, values are mental constructs about the worth or importance of people, concepts, activities, or things. They provide us with a deep sense of meaning and purpose in our daily lives as expressed through our thoughts, emotions, and actions.

Values are derived from our beliefs and assumptions about the world. For most people, values are unconscious motivators. However, a key characteristic of people who live fulfilled lives is that their values are conscious motivators. In other words, these people know what their values are and why they are important to them.

Organizations like our church have values as part of their strategic plans. However, the church, or for that matter any organization, may not have values, but the people who are members of the organization do. When an organization develops a set of values, the hope is that the members aspire to those values in an effort to generate the behavior that the organization wants to be known for and to be successful in meeting its vision, mission, and fulfilling its purpose.

For example, here is one of Apple's values statements that has led them to innovative dominance in the computer world because their people live it: *"Apple is committed to bringing the best personal computing experience to students, educators, creative professionals and consumers around the world through its innovative hardware, software and Internet offerings."*

One of our church's values is **Love or Charity**.

The basic definition: God's love for mankind. Man's devotion to or adoration of God.

The application: Loving each other with the same Love that God has shown for us.

The fundamental teachings of Jesus show us that our church must demonstrate His values if we are to be the living example of Him to the world. Every member of the church must hold **Love/Charity** as a personal value and demonstrate it in their everyday behavior.

Over the course of the next several weeks, we are going to share with you the church's values, their definitions, and applications. Tomorrow's blog post will kick off the first value: **Faith**. Next, you'll see values articles written by elders, members, the young and the not-so young. We hope to draw on a multitude of perspectives as we communicate these values to you.

It's our prayer that you find these values in complete congruence with the words of our Master and make them your values as well. If you do, your mind will be transformed to the mind of Christ and we will certainly change the world.

Presented originally on the Gospel Blog

First Ordinations at the Albuquerque, NM Mission

Sunday, March 24, 2013 was an historic day at the Albuquerque Mission. It was the day of the first ordinations to take place there. And not just one ordination, there were two! Brother Bernard Nelson to the office of a deacon, and Sister Yolanda Hart to the office of a deaconess.

We were very blessed to have many visitors with us. Among the visitors was Evangelist Larry Watson, who opened our meeting. He spoke from the familiar scripture in Acts 6:1-5, about the calling of seven men filled with the Holy Ghost to serve the church. He emphasized that to be a leader you must be a servant.

Brother Craig Meo followed, welcoming all the visitors and thanking them for coming to support the ordinations. He continued by telling of his petition to God for help in our mission. Brother Craig heard God's voice speak to his heart saying, "*Brother Bernard will be your helper.*" He continued by describing the duties of a deacon and deaconess. He spoke about the women of the early church who might have been considered "deaconesses," mentioning Phoebe, Priscilla, Dorcas, and Lydia.

Brother Craig and Sister Vicki Meo had prayed much about the calling of brothers and sisters of our mission to ordained offices. Eventually Sister Vicki was impressed upon to mention the name of Sister Yolanda to Brother Craig. That same week, Sister Yolanda told Sister Vicki of a dream she had where she was working with a group of church people.

Brother Bernard's feet were washed by Brother Craig Meo and he was ordained by Brother Larry Watson. Sister Yolanda's feet were washed by Sister Vicki Meo and she was ordained by Brother Craig Meo.

After some congregational singing and testimonies, Sister Vicki escorted Sister Yolanda to the communion table and assisted her in setting it. It was such a blessing for all to witness a blind Sister setting the communion table!

A wonderful lunch was provided, and everyone had a great time fellowshiping. A wonderful ending to a most wonderful day. God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

Atlantic Coast Region Gathering with the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

By Sister Mary Perri

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles visited the Atlantic Coast Region the week of June 3, 2013. Our Sunday gathering was held in the Mt Laurel Branch. All of our region's branches and missions closed to come together to spend Sunday, June 9 with our brothers of the quorum. An overflowing crowd was in attendance.

Brother John Griffith, quorum president, introduced each apostle to the members and visitors in attendance. He informed us that Brother Paul Palmieri and his wife had to return home because of illness in the family. Brother Joel Gehly also had to return home because of the serious health of his grandmother, Sister Ethel Cadman, who was in her last moments of life.

Brother John related the words of Apostle Paul Benyola, when he said that it was up to the quorum to sound a warning to the saints to draw close to God because of the difficult days that lie ahead for our nation and the world.

Brother Phil Jackson was the opening speaker and read from the Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 22. His theme was the need for the Saints to be close to God because of the events that are happening in our day. He shared that the righteous need not worry or fear. He asked the question, "How do we bind Satan?" He answered saying that it will be by the righteousness of the people of God. He also asked us if we thought that God could bless and protect us if we yield ourselves as subjects to the evil power.

Brother Phil emphasized the need for us as the people of God and members of the Church of Jesus Christ to have a greater love for each other and to be close to one another.

Brother Peter Sclaro read a few verses from II Kings, emphasizing that the zeal of God will be on our side and He will do all to keep us from the power of evil. He said that we need to have the mind of Christ and that we must be the light of the world. He encouraged us with the words of Christ when He said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:29).

Brother Paul Liberto again reminded us that the righteous need not fear. He told us that the righteous must keep our eyes focused on Christ to see the greater things God has in store for His Church.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo read about the rod of iron. He spoke about the excitement and the great hope we should have for the future events of the Church. He told of the near tragic accident he was involved in and God's miraculous healing of being restored back to health.

Brother Ike Smith followed, speaking on the great future of the Church and how we are laboring to bring forth Zion, otherwise known as the Peaceful Reign. He spoke of our forefathers and the labor they performed among the Seed of Joseph. He said that by our righteousness God would make bare His arm among the nations.

Brother Tom Liberto advised us all to beware of those who will try to lead us astray. He warned the young people to seek the Lord first, and emphasized the need to help each other.

Brother John Griffith pleaded with all present to live a life close to Christ because conditions are becoming worse in this evil world.

A light luncheon was served together with fellowship that ended a beautiful day.

Looking for the GMBA article?

Check back next month for the two page campout spread!

Winter 2013 Meeting of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists

By Elder Brett Gibson

On Friday, January 25 the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists met at the Mesa, Arizona Branch for their winter meetings. The weather was unseasonable, according to those who live there, but visitors like me from the Great Lakes Region, which was getting six inches of snow that day, were perfectly happy with 65 degrees and rain. What we found was that the weather may have been unseasonable, but the Spirit of God was certainly in season.

The Friday meetings were designated as a strategic planning session, focusing on growing the domestic work of the Church. The responsibility of the domestic work is owned not only by the Evangelists, but also the Regions of the Church, including every branch and mission in the United States and Canada. As president of the Great Lakes Region, I was invited to attend and act as a facilitator in the planning session.

The president of the Quorum of Seventy, Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, introduced the Friday session. He referenced Ether chapter 2, where the Lord instructed the Brother of Jared regarding their preparations to journey to the Promised Land. God directed them to the seashore, where they pitched their tents. For four years they did not move and they did not call upon the Lord. They had become comfortable on the seashore. Eventually the Brother of Jared called upon the Lord and, after receiving stern correction, the Lord instructed him to *"Go to work and build."* Brother Paul Aaron exhorted the brothers that we do not have the luxury to be *"comfortable on the seashore,"* as the work of the Lord is great and it is our work to perform. We must go to work and build.

After handling some business items, the meeting was turned over to Apostle Peter Scolaro who gave a presentation of the Purpose/Mission/Vision and key strategies of the Church. He referenced Proverbs 29:18 *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* He encouraged us to work as a team, reflecting the Lord's light as a city on a hill, functioning in the righteousness and power of God. To do so, we must rid ourselves of the things that hold us back and then we will go forward, ultimately fulfilling the vision of the Church. He then reviewed ten key strategies of the Church that support the Purpose/Mission/Vision. The two strategies that we are to focus on for growing the domestic work are 1) Initiate at least five special projects per year with five select high performance/high potential branches to draw in new members, and 2) Start an ethnic outreach with the African American, Eastern European, etc. communities as was done with the Italians during the 1920s and 30s in urban areas.

As Brother Peter was speaking, Evangelist Ron Mazzeo spoke

in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was that the Lord wants us to stop looking at one another's faults and to love each other. Brother Peter continued speaking on maintaining operational relationships within the Church, stressing the collaboration of regions with various committees and quorums. He exhorted us to be not conformed to the world but transformed by the renewing of our minds. He used the example of Moses and how the Lord prepared him in the wilderness for his task. When it came time to face Pharaoh and Moses witnessed Pharaoh's power, he had to decide then and there if he believed the power of God was greater. He continued on, reminding the brothers of their calling as evangelists and what that calling truly is. As he was speaking regarding the calling of an evangelist, Evangelist Scott Griffith spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was that we should hear the words of the Lord's servant going forth with the Spirit and power of God, and that God would provide us with all we need to fulfill His mission. An open discussion then ensued among the evangelists regarding their calling into this office. The brothers discussed their commitment to the Church, their accountability, and their focus on the vision of the Church going forward.

The brothers then split up into breakout groups by region. The region presidents were given the task of facilitating the exercise of developing three to five growth opportunities in the form of outreach activities that align with the two key strategies. Each region president then presented their list of activities to the entire group.

After a delicious lunch provided by our sisters, the breakout groups reconvened and elaborated on one of the identified activities that they felt would be the most successful. Each team then took their one idea and created a detailed plan for implementing that outreach activity. The plans were then presented by the region presidents to the group. There was a wonderful spirit of energy and information exchange among the brothers, some of whom had experience in conducting similar outreach activities.

The task was given to the region presidents to take the results of the workshops back to their regions and refine the results with their respective ROLTs (Region Operations Leadership Teams), which includes the region Q70 and presiding elders, into action plans that result in bringing our friends and neighbors to Jesus Christ. The Quorum of 70 and the region presidents solicit your prayers and whatever efforts you as a brother or sister in Christ can contribute to the success of this wonderful work.

5 Amazing Facts

The Brother of Jared By Brother Kerry Carlini

Jesus Christ taught that "faith as a grain of mustard seed" can move mountains. Of the many heroes of faith mentioned throughout the scriptures perhaps none was as great as the Brother of Jared. Here are five amazing facts regarding his faith:

- 1** When faced with the confounding of his language at the Tower of Babel, the Brother of Jared cried unto the Lord, and the Lord—having compassion upon Jared and his people—did not confound their language and promised to lead them to a choice land.
- 2** But, surprisingly, after being led to a temporary place of rest, the Brother of Jared failed to call upon the Lord for 4 years—whereupon he was chastised by the Lord for 3 hours before being instructed to resume the expedition.
- 3** When faced with the prospect of absolute darkness within the ships he was instructed to build, the Brother of Jared did molten out of rock 16 small stones and petitioned the Lord to touch them—which the Lord did, and the stones were illuminated and gave off light!
- 4** Upon seeing the finger of the Lord touch the 16 stones, so great was the faith of the Brother of Jared that the Lord could no longer hide anything from him, for even Christ Himself ministered unto him and showed him in vision all the inhabitants of the earth and their doings from the past and into the future.
- 5** Finally, like the example Christ used to demonstrate great faith, Moroni writes of an instance when the brother of Jared actually commanded the mountain of Zerin to move. And, amazingly, it was removed.

Matthew 17:20 Ether 1:33-43, 2:14-3:28, and 12:30

Ladies' Uplift Circle News



Circling the Circle—Omaha, with a Side Trip to Chicago!

By Sister Lisa Champine, General Ladies' Uplift Circle President

One of my desires since serving as a General Circle officer has been to visit as many Area and Local Circles as possible. Often, distance and expense prevent sisters from attending our General Circle Conferences and Fellowship Weekends. I wasn't sure exactly how I would be able to fulfill this desire but I prayed about it and felt that when the time was right, God would provide a way.

After being elected General Circle president in October 2012 I was greeting some of our sisters and I came upon Sister Dorothy Miller from Omaha, Nebraska. After we greeted each other I looked at her and said, "Sister Dorothy I'm coming to Omaha." On my way home from Conference I spoke to Sister Gelsa Staley, the newly elected vice president, and she was immediately on board with me. We contacted Sisters Sherri Wright Harris and Janeen Dednam-Wright, and our trip to Omaha was on!

On March 1, 2013, Sister Gelsa left the warmth of Tampa and I left Detroit to fly to Omaha. We coordinated our flights

so that we could meet in Chicago and then fly together to Omaha. When making our reservations we realized that we had a significant layover in Chicago, and thought we might be able to meet up with Sister Kathleen Furitano, have dinner, and visit with her. To say we were excited was an understatement. But as the scripture says, there is opposition in all things. Flight delays caused our time together to be less than we expected. But never let it be said that the sisters of the Circle are not flexible: We called Sister Kathleen, who was waiting for us on the other side of the security line. Sister Gelsa and I bought sandwiches, and we had our visit at a deserted ticket counter at the airport! We had a wonderful time with Sister Kathleen. As we talked and laughed, it was the very best beginning to our weekend.

We arrived in Omaha quite late, and Sister Sherri picked us up and brought us back to her home. On Saturday morning we visited first with Sister Valerie Wells and then went to Sister Janeen's home to have our Circle meeting. In preparing for this weekend, the Omaha sisters had asked me what I wanted to do. I told them that as long as

we were together I didn't have any preference. I was not disappointed in the least. The Omaha Circle gave us the red-carpet treatment. Sister Gelsa and I were able to hear the history of Omaha and their Circle. I was blessed to see that the zeal and excitement had not waned nor grown dim. My sisters still possessed the same enthusiasm they did when they first organized. They still work actively as a Circle to spread the Gospel in their part of the vineyard. I pray that they will never lose their desire.

We spent Sunday in the home of Brother Clifton and Sister Valerie Wells for the Sunday service. Our brothers spoke on the value of the Circle and how it has impacted them. We were blessed beyond measure and grateful for the opportunity to begin our "Circling the Circle Goodwill Tour" in Omaha. I would ask that you pray for the Omaha Mission. Their great desire is to find a new church building they can worship in. I know that God will bless their desire. Sister Gelsa and I left Omaha with many wonderful memories and a promise to return. To borrow an oft-used expression from Gospel News articles of old, "A good time was had by all."



Let Your Light Shine

like a little salt on a lot of food. We are the salt of the earth.

Jesus also said that we are like lights in a dark world. You know, when you're happy and someone really loves you, and you see that loving smile in their eyes? Well, we are supposed to show our love and kindness to others too.

basket or bushell! Let your love and your light shine for everyone to see. And then, when people wonder how you got to be so loving, tell them about Jesus. Tell them how Jesus has heard your prayers and healed you and loved you. Invite them to Sunday School. Pray in front of them and let your love and light shine, shine, shine.

The Lord said to let our lights shine.
Don't light it and then hide it under a

With care,
Sister Jan

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you ever walk into your school or your classroom feeling very shy and nervous? Did you ever look at other kids and say to yourself, "They're smarter than me (or prettier, or better in some way)?" Did you ever really feel terrible about yourself and hopeless that you could ever change?

Well, you can change. Especially if it is to change for the better. There is a wonderful, powerful, simple way to change the way you feel inside. That way is named Jesus. The Book of Mormon and the Bible are full of ways to overcome our fears through the help of Jesus.

Jesus tells us, "I am the light of the world." He is stronger than any evil. He can protect you from harm, and He can give you courage. The great apostle Paul was sent to Rome, the most powerful city in the world during his day. His job for Jesus was to tell the sinners there that there was a Savior born who loved them. His job was to be a witness for the love and power of Jesus. He went to tell the emperor and all the fancy rulers that they should repent of the bad things they had done and start a new way of living.

The new way is to forgive enemies, to love God, to ask for our needs in the name of Jesus and have faith that He will give us what we need. We do this by praying.

And that is something you can do any-time, anywhere. If you are at school, and someone mean is there, you can ask Jesus to help you. He can change their heart towards you and teach you how to get along better with them.

In the book of Matthew, Chapter 5, the Lord Jesus Christ tells us that we are very important in this world. If people are like food, we are like salt. Think how food tastes plain without salt. The Lord said that even though there are fewer of us; it's just

WORD SEARCH—Matthew 5

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H	E	F	I	F	T	H	L	O	V	E	S
I	F	T	L	A	S	R	L	O	R	D	T
M	O	D	P	Y	J	A	W	U	J	S	J
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D	E	R	O	S	H	F	A	R	E	E	S
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THE	MATTHEW
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WORLD	HIM

Hey Kids,

Summer is a great time to spend some free time focused on the Lord. Here are some suggestions of things you can do:

- ☺ Call or visit an older sister or brother
- ☺ Make and send a card to someone who is sick
- ☺ Read the ten commandments (Exodus Chapter 20)
- ☺ Tell your parents that you love them
- ☺ Offer to help around the house
- ☺ Spend time praying for the Church
- ☺ Ask God to direct your life
- ☺ Offer to help a neighbor do a chore like watering flowers
- ☺ At Church shake everybody's hand and say "God Bless You"
- ☺ Ask if the kids can sing a song at Church
- ☺ Read some favorite stories like:

Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel Chapter 6) and
David and Goliath (I Samuel Chapter 17)

- ☺ Ask your Sunday School or MBA teacher, or your Presiding Elder what you can do to assist your branch

Have a great Summer—Sister Carolynn

What's New on the International Front? Continued from page 1

There are wonderful blessings and great OPPORTUNITIES that accompany these times as well: This too, may come as no surprise to anyone who is familiar with the Word of God. Jesus said, *"...this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me; and I bear record of the Father, and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me; and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me"* (III Nephi 11:32). To this end, our Purpose as a Church, **'To fulfill the plan of God by bringing salvation through Christ to all people,'** will not be redirected or altered by time or conditions in the world. The International Missionary Operating Committee (IMOC) continues to press forward, just as the Native American Outreach Committee (NAOC) and the domestic efforts have been increased. In fact, over the recent months, two unique trips were made.

In the Mexican state of Oaxaca, we have begun an effort to gather members and spread the Gospel in an effort to establish the Church among the Native peoples in Southern Mexico. The first visit took place in April/May of this year and resulted in a series of wonderful meetings, anointings, singing, and outpourings of the Lord's Spirit, accompanied by the spirit of repentance. As a result, a baptism was performed there, being the first we are aware of in Oaxaca since the apostasy of the Nephites and Lamanites almost 1600 years ago!

An exploratory trip to Argentina was made in June, seeking out the indigenous Native people while also enjoying a wonderful time of fellowship with a 76-year-old brother who has been alone for many, many years. Statistics tell us that there are over 600,000 Native people in Argentina who claim to be one of the oldest cultures in the Americas.

The IMOC continues to push forward with printing the Book of Mormon in the native languages of Italy, Malawi, and the Philippines. Nearly \$150,000 has been donated toward these efforts because of the importance of everyone having the opportunity to read the Word of God in their own language. We're also offering podcast-like Spanish sermons for our members in Central and South America while using Internet applications such as Skype to train and communicate with some mission fields. As a result of the many Sunday Schools across the United States and private donations, nearly \$20,000 was raised in less than six months to help with

special projects in every mission field. And since we know how important it is to have an understanding of what Christ taught, the IMOC Field Committees are taking an active part in ensuring that every congregation in every mission field in each of the 21 countries has an established Sunday School along with a special mid-week focus on the children and our youth.

To be honest, it's easy to get discouraged over the many challenges we face, but when compared to the commission the Lord has given us and the many blessing that accompany the effort, the opportunities and associated blessings far outweigh the challenges!

As Chairman of the IMOC, I've been privileged to be on the 'inside,' so to speak. I'm given the opportunity to read every trip report from every country (approximately 30-40 trips per year, some for a week to nearby locations and others for as much as six weeks to Africa or Asia). I read about the many blessing, healings, and manifestations of the power of God, which we try to share through the different communications venues that exist in the Church. I read about baptisms where candidates have 'lined up' awaiting their turn to be taken into the waters of regeneration. I've been honored to have traveled to many of these countries and witness firsthand the preaching of the Restored Gospel in languages I couldn't understand, but with the same familiar Spirit we each have felt. I've stood in muddy rivers, dammed streams, and large lakes, invoking the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost to baptize. I've witnessed the lame walk and evil spirits cast out. And despite all the challenges and obstacles, the limited funds that sometimes require our brothers to sleep in rundown hotels and eat 'less than desirable' meals, there is one reoccurring theme that motivates the IMOC.... *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved"* (John 3:16-17).

We're motivated by Christ's love and sacrifice, that we might share the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ and the hope of eternal salvation with ALL mankind. Our individual challenge is whether you and I have the dedication, the determination, and the desire to help fulfill Christ's and the Church's Purpose.

May God bless us all as we labor together.



Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free... Galatians 5:1

Blessing Bits

BB

My husband and I were driving to Church one Sunday deep in conversation. We came to an intersection where we make a left hand turn. We had the left turn signal to go and my husband paused in the median for some reason. A car coming in the other direction ran the red light and if my husband had not paused, would have hit the side of our car. We continued on praising God for watching over us. When we came to the next intersection and stopped for a red light, the car next to us who had seen the whole incident, rolled down his window and said "God was really watching over you". We said "Yes He was and we were truly thankful".—Sister Gelsa Staley, Forest Hills, Florida Branch

BB

Visiting my more "experienced" brothers and sisters was a big part of my young spiritual life (along with my spiritual brother). One day (around the age of 16) as I was walking to "Sister Martha's" house, I asked the Lord... "Lord, if you are happy with me visiting Sister Martha, let me see a man walking in a black and white dog." As I turned

the corner, I immediately saw a man walking a black and white dog! I RAN the rest of the way to her home! She would give me hot water, lemon, saltine crackers, and honey. My visit was always sweeter than the honey!

—Brother Jason Monaghan, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch

BB

After a sudden job loss one week before Christmas, Sister Cindy and I did our best to reign in the expenses and returned most of the gifts we had purchased. We let our three girls know it was going to be a simple Christmas. At one meeting a dear brother handed me a \$20 bill and I tried to refuse it. God had provided for us up to that point. But He had another lesson for me to learn. My brother said God put it in his heart to help. So I accepted his love. On our way home to Canada we came to the toll booth at the border and I asked Cindy for money because I had put my last in the collection. She had done the same. How were we going to get home? First a sense of panic and then a quick prayer answered. God reminded me of the \$20 in my

shirt pocket. I will never say no to God's charity displayed in others again. I almost robbed my brother of a blessing and myself of a testimony of God's provision for our family.—Brother Larry Henderson, Detroit, Michigan Branch #2

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

Question for this month: *What spiritual gift or attribute do you pray for most for your children or the children of the Church?*

Answer from last month: *Have you taken on a role in the Church that was outside of your comfort zone and if so, were you blessed for it?* I became the Sunday School superintendent at a time when, as a Teacher, I had very little knowledge of scripture. I had a Bible and Book of Mormon which neither had hardly a fingerprint in them. It didn't take me very long to realize that Sunday School is led by the Lord in reality. And God never gives you a task without also supplying the ways and means for you to accomplish that task. Years later, I'm still Sunday School superintendent and find it to be one of my favorite privileges.—Elder Charles Love, South Bend IN Branch

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free... Galatians 5:1