

The Gospel News

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An Evangelist Ordained

By Sister Linda Walton

We felt a beautiful Spirit of love and unity in the Forest Hills, Florida Branch on Saturday and Sunday November 2 and 3, 2013. Saturday evening our recently ordained Evangelist Brother Charles Hester from the Quincy, Florida Branch spoke to us from the heart. He presented a beautiful message of believing and stepping out on faith. Afterward we gathered for some refreshments and good fellowship.

Sunday morning we gathered to witness the ordinations of Brother Bobby (BJ) Woods, Jr., to the office of deacon, and Brother Bryan Griffith to the office of evangelist. We had in attendance our Region Apostle Brother John Griffith and six evangelists, including Quorum of Seventy President Brother Paul A. Palmieri, as well as our brothers, sisters, and friends.

Brother BJ was set apart and had his feet washed by Brother Marty Gonzalez. He was ordained into the office of deacon by his grandfather, Brother Sam Risola. The word of the Lord was spoken confirming his calling, and also commanding Brother BJ to *"take care of My sheep"* and to *"labor for Me, for I have called you."* Please keep our young brother in your prayers as he begins this part of his service to our Lord.

Our Brother Paul A. Palmieri then addressed us. He walked us through the reasons the Lord calls evangelists. Our brother quoted many scriptures but mostly following Luke 10: 1-12 which states, *"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two by two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. . ."* He said that the peace of God is the treasure many can never find. They go through life looking for peace in their riches and pleasures of the flesh, but they only have to turn to the Lord to find the real peace. Our brother stated that he believes hundreds of thousands will be called into the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Next, our Brother Bryan was set apart and had his feet washed by Evangelist Miguel Bichelis. The ordination prayer was offered by Evangelist Eugene Perri. While Brother Bryan spoke to the congregation; a vision was given seeing a glow round about him as well as a beam of light shining down upon him. A brother elder later confirmed that he too was given the same vision.

Please remember Brother Bryan, his wife Sister Heylen, and their three young sons, Ethan, Connor, and Allen in your prayers as they start this new work in their lives.

All enjoyed a time filled with a beautiful Spirit. Our brothers now have been given added responsibilities. We all have a work to do for the Lord; let us unite and be open vessels to all that this wonderful God has for us.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL!!
2 Show your love to the children at Church today	3 Love that you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ!	4	5 Love the work that you do for the Lord. Find joy in doing it	6	7 Show love to your family today in a new way	8
9	10	11 Pray for the Yucaipa Branch - pg 4	12	13 Love your enemies	14	15 Be charitable to someone in need
16	17 Love yourself - that is how God made you	18	19	20 Show your love to someone new today	21	22
23 Show your love to those up in years at Church today	24	25 Show your love to a brother, sister, or friend in need	26	27 Pray for the San Diego Branch - pg 4	28	1 Support your local MBA and Ladies' Circle and show your love there too!

January 2014

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March 2014

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30	31					

February 2014

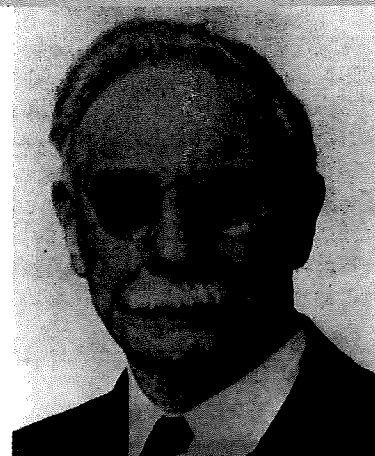
"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

BFP Blast From The Past

As recorded 67 years ago on February 21 by Emil Huttner, a member of the Rodef Shalom Temple in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, Brother William H. Cadman was the "outstanding speaker of the evening" whose message "most enlightened" and "thrilled" the audience. The event, organized by the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith, had included prominent ministers of various faiths invited to speak on Brotherhood. Being much moved by Brother Will's message on Israel's future, Huttner concluded, "His talk was direct from his heart with emotion and a feeling that was directed by the Lord as if the spirit of God had been thrown unto him, and that every word that came from his lips was a word of truth and understanding."

(To read more of this evening see Gospel News, April 1947 pp. 2-3)

Brother W.H. Cadman ►



Purpose • Mission • Vision

Purpose Statement

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

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ.
- To draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused on the Native Americans of North and South America.

Vision Statement

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

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ

For God is Love

(1 John 4:8)

Wordup

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"!*

*"Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:40).*

In the Oldham County Mission, we say this as, "Do the Two!" (I'll add more to this later).

After hearing that Jesus had "put the Sadducees to silence" (verse 34), the Pharisees strategized. These two groups, often in political conflict, together enjoyed the status as spiritual and cultural voices of authority. In a show of solidarity, the Pharisees sent a scribe ("lawyer") to "tempt" (or discredit) Christ with a question aimed at tripping Him up, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" (Matthew 22:34, 35). While some may believe this referenced the "Ten Commandments," there were actually 613 commandments (*Mitzvos*). By selecting just one, Jesus' judgment was being challenged.

His answer was succinct: **love unconditionally** (God and others). Speaking to the ultra-conservative Pharisees, scriptural literalists, Jesus knew this concept would be difficult to embrace. Born into strictness ("An eye for an eye"), how could the Pharisees understand such love? Today the Pharisees might be "Analyticals" (detail-oriented, skeptical, and uncomfortable with emotionally charged "Expressives"). Imagine their reaction when Christ claimed that love defined the two "great commandments." Two thousand years later, we have the same challenge: **love unconditionally**. Christ closed with, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." The law offers guidance to present situations, based upon past actions, and the prophets supply clarity for future endeavors. From this we can infer Christ's stating that everything (past, present, and future) depended upon these two commands.

Everything runs through this spiritual "litmus test" of love! We can measure our decisions by the motivations behind our actions. Have you ever driven too fast, putting those with you or around you in danger, because you were late? Have you ever repeated a story, causing someone embarrassment, while gaining approval from others? Have you ever done something "nice" knowing you would receive praise, public acknowledgement, or personal gain? Were these actions due to love of self, God, or others? Every act demands motive and every motive demands evaluation; all tested through Christ's words "**Love God; love others.**"

We who have received salvation through Jesus Christ need not tread over others for personal gain. While we should never tire of working, the purpose is now to repay God for His goodness, draw others to Christ, and increase our Lord's victory. And this fulfills the two greatest commandments. "Do the Two...Don't Do You!"

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

San Diego, California Branch



The interest for The Church of Jesus Christ in San Diego County began in 1944 with a desire that came from a handful of brothers and sisters from the branches of Detroit, Michigan. The San Diego Branch was established in 1948 in the home of Brother Charley and Sister Josephine Breci. For a few years following, the group grew to around 25 and was in need of a building. The building where we continue to serve our God today resides on 39th Street, built by the faithful members themselves, finished and dedicated in 1952.

We have 89 members, including a large group of young people, three having been baptized this past year. Our MBA is greatly supported by brothers and sisters young and old with a weekly activity or lesson every Wednesday night. We have an active Ladies' Circle that enjoys being involved with the Region Circle in weekend trips to nearby missions, retreats, and charity efforts within our communities.

Every year we enjoy gathering together in fellowship for our Mothers and Fathers Day breakfasts and Christmas program. Vacation Bible School was an addition to the 2013 summer plans for the branch. The community and a group of our own children were receptive to the fun and blessings received that week. Due to our close proximity to Mexico, many of our members are involved with the mission field. Every Christmas, we collect shoes and toys, and a group of our members travels down to Mexicali and Vicente Guerrero for weekends filled with blessings.

We are currently searching for a new building that would be suitable for the demographics of our congregation. Please pray with us that the Lord will continue to direct our path and provide His protection and peace for our Church family. We send our love and prayers and invite all to come worship with us soon.

Yucaipa, California Branch



The Yucaipa Branch started as a small mission in Banning, California. Brothers and sisters held the first meeting at the Banning Ladies' Clubhouse on January 20, 1963. Six years later on May 18, 1969, they dedicated a beautiful little building on a two-acre lot in Yucaipa, an area in the foothills of the San Gregorio Mountains in San Bernardino County.

In 1993, the Riverside Mission merged with Yucaipa and formed the current branch, which now has about 50 members, 35 of which are regular attendees.

We have regular Sunday services with Sunday school, singing, preaching, plenty of time for testimony, and communion. Afterward, many of the saints like to stay and fellowship. We have an active Ladies' Circle which meets every second Sunday. Our youth are excited and sincere about serving the Lord. Once a month, the young people teach Sunday school.

Brother Arturo Tostado and his wife, Sister Rocio, and daughter, Sister Vanessa, started giving their testimony to people on the Torres Martinez Reservation in Indio, one hour south of Palm Springs. Now region elders hold a Sunday meeting once a month on the reservation, and many members in the region support these meetings. This effort is truly blessed.

We participate in many events through the year. We host Mothers and Fathers Day breakfasts, a Ladies' Circle Christmas luncheon, and New Year's church service. The Area MBA holds youth camps in our backyard, where young people have seminars, canvass the neighborhood, and enjoy bonfires. We have sponsored Christian movie nights for the community on our lot, serving hot dogs and popcorn to visitors. We also support the Christmas gift giving to the saints in Mexico.

Our branch is growing, and one of the challenges that we face is that we have no more room in our little building to accommodate any kind of growth. Please pray that the Lord provides a larger building for the gathering of His saints and visitors.

Love/Charity By Elder Donald Ross

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The dictionary defines love as "an intense affection for another person based on familial or personal ties." "A strong affection for or attachment to another person based on regard or shared experiences or interests."

Charity is defined as "the benevolence of God toward man." "The love of man for his fellow men; brotherly love."

Several times in the Scripture, Jesus Christ gave the commandment that we love Him; that we love one another, even as He loved us! A few of those commandments and statements are:

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

"These things I command you, that ye love one another" (John 15:17).

"If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13: 34-35).

The Apostle John tells us in I John 3:1, *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."* According to Scripture, because of the love of Jesus Christ, we are His sons and daughters; we are His children! What a blessing! What an honor! What a privilege!

We are to love God above all. We are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We are to love our enemies and to do good to those who persecute us. What is the first fruit of the Spirit of God? According to the Apostle Paul, it is love, see Galatians 5:22. In Ephesians 3:17, the Apostle Paul instructed them as follows: *"that ye be rooted and grounded in love."*

Jesus Christ was the epitome of charity. He loved the sinner, but not the sin. He forgave the adulterous woman. He was kind and showed love to the Samaritan woman at the well. Because of His kindness and love towards her, she ran to town and bore her testimony and experience of meeting the "prophet," and her action caused others to worship Him and acknowledge Him as their Saviour. Everywhere He went, He conveyed love.

In The Church of Jesus Christ, charity, the love of God, is what sets us apart as the people of God. Love cannot be conditional. We must love the sinner even as the Lord loved the sinner. We must love all people. It is not always easy to love the sinner or all people, but we must, because the Lord commands us that we love one another, that we love as He loved us. Remember, it is a commandment that we love one another. It is not a suggestion!

Nephi loved his brothers Laman and Lemuel in spite of their hatred towards him. They conspired to murder him. They tried to slay him. But the power of Jesus Christ was with him and they could not harm him. In his farewell address, Nephi states, *"Behold, I Nephi have written what I have written, and I esteem it as of great worth, and especially unto my people. For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry"* (II Nephi 33:3). This is love. This is compassion. Nephi went on to say that he was confident that he would meet "many" souls spotless at the Lord's judgment seat. Not a few, not some, but many.

The four sons of Mosiah had so much love for their fellow man, their people; they could not bear that any human soul should perish! Their preaching was among their enemies, not their friends.

Jesus Christ loved us and all mankind so much that He willingly, not grudgingly, gave His life that we might live. He stated in John 15:13 that *"greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends."* We are His friends if we do what He commands us to do, if we keep His commandments. We abide in the light of Jesus Christ when we keep His commandments, when we love one another, and do good to one another.

Moroni writes, *"if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity, he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity"* (Moroni 7:44).

Read Moroni 7: 44-48. These few verses describe charity, what is expected and required of us, to possess charity above all else. Without charity, without the love of God, we are absolutely nothing! When we pass from this life, charity is the only thing we bring with us. Everything else is left behind. Let us be something in Jesus Christ. Let us keep His commandments. Let us possess the love of God that all men will know that we are His disciples, His sons and daughters, His children. Let us love one another as He loved us!

Editors note: The scripture is FULL of verses about LOVE. Turn the page to see just a small sampling of these beautiful expressions and direction given to us to enrich our lives and affect those around us.

CHARITY
IS THE PURE
LOVE OF CHRIST (Moroni 7:47)

THEIR HUSBANDS LOVE THEIR
WIVES, THEIR WIVES LOVE THEIR

HUSBANDS (Jacob 3:7)

YE WILL TEACH THEM TO LOVE
ONE ANOTHER (Mosiah 4:15)

For GOD IS LOVE (Ephesians 4:2)
(1 John 4:8)

THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH
ALL THY MIND (Matthew 22:37)

Becoming humble,
MEEK, SUBMISSIVE,

PATIENT,
FULL OF LOVE

(Alma 13:28)

FOR THEY
LOVE TO

PRAY (3 Nephi 13:5)

FULL OF LOVE,

WILLING

TO SUBMIT

TO ALL

THINGS

(Mosiah
3:19)

THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS
THEYSELF (Matthew 22:39)

THAT YE
LOVE ONE
ANOTHER; AS I HAVE LOVED

YOU (John 13:34)

LOVE YOUR

ENEMIES (Matthew 5:44)

FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN

LOVE (Ephesians 4:2)

(1 John 4:8)

For PERFECT LOVE CASTETH
OUT ALL FEAR" (Moroni 8:16)

I AM ENCIRCLED ABOUT
ETERNALLY IN THE ARMS
OF HIS LOVE (2 Nephi 1:15)

ALL MEN SHOULD HAVE CHARITY, WHICH
CHARITY IS LOVE (2 Nephi 26:30)

BE FILLED WITH

LOVE

TOWARDS

GOD

AND ALL

MEN

(Mosiah
2:4)

It Was the Love of the Saints *By Sister Chris Nicklow*

In 2011 the Monongahela Branch celebrated their 80th anniversary. Invitations were mailed to past members and family of our saints that used to attend as children. We were blessed with many that we had not seen in years. As a result of that invitation Ken and Joann DeSantis continued to attend. Joann's mother and aunts were devoted sisters in our branch. She attended Sunday School and Church with her mother but drifted away as she grew up. Like many, she always considered The Church of Jesus Christ to be her church. Ken and Joann were baptized in 2012, and have embraced the Church and the Gospel with open arms. On February 10, 2013 Brother Ken was ordained a deacon. As the ministry met with Brother Ken, he was so excited to be given this opportunity. Here is our brother's testimony:

"My wife and I were married in the church I was raised in. After a few years of attending my church, she asked me to visit hers, but I always declined. I later became an officer in my church. After being treasurer for approximately 20 years, I felt obligated to continue attending and kept on rejecting The Church of Jesus Christ. However, after a longer period of time, I became disenchanted and stopped attending. Having been a member for 40 years, I realized I was receiving nothing. In all this time, I don't remember ever opening the Bible, not even in the short time we tried Sunday School.

"When the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ was commemorating its 80th anniversary, my wife received an invitation. She begged me to attend and with a little nudge from the Lord, I accepted.

"On the day we arrived, I knew very few members. However, after about an hour, I felt like I had known these people forever.

I couldn't explain how I felt, but the love in this Church is incredible. My life changed that day. Later on one of the elders explained, 'All churches have love, but ours has the love of God.' This helped me to understand why I felt this way, although it is still difficult to explain to outsiders the way I feel. I don't know if the people who were raised in this Church really appreciate and understand what they have. To converts like me and others in the Church, we are overwhelmed by this love.

"After attending the anniversary, I wanted to be present at a regular meeting to see how I would feel. I haven't missed a Sunday since. It's hard to explain, but everything just fell into place. The Church gave me The Book of Mormon, which I read from I Nephi to Moroni. I became very close to one of the elders, Brother Karl Kirschner, and called him every week with questions and he always took time to help me. Then I started to attend Sunday School, MBA, Wednesday night prayer meeting, was baptized, and even signed up to clean the building. All the while I couldn't explain how all this happened. I guess the Lord was just leading and helping me to do what I had always wanted to do.

"Spiritually and naturally my life has changed so much and I am so happy my wife asked me to do this. I thank the Lord for leading me this way.

"The elders have offered to help me any way they can. For this I wish to thank them. I especially want to thank the congregation. Your love motivated me to become a member and I want to thank you. I love you all and God bless you." — Brother Kenneth DeSantis

Topic Series

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

VALUES *By Brother Michael Watson*

Value: Responsibility

Definition: Accepting accountability with reliability; trustworthiness; fulfilling our roles as saints as appointed and as ordained

Vital Verses:

- "And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9)
- "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them" (1 Nephi 3:7).

(Continued on Page 8)

SAMBA Business Meeting and Conference

By Sister Kristy Rogalla

The Southeast Area MBA (SAMBA) excitedly met at the Quincy Branch over Labor Day weekend 2013. We had a great turnout from around the Southeast, with nearly all of the MBA locals represented. After our Area Ladies' Circle conducted their business meeting on Saturday morning (and Quincy fed us a fabulous lunch), the area MBA convened for the business meeting.

During our afternoon session, we had our election of officers. Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr., is our newly elected President, Brother Lucas Martorana is the newly elected Vice President, and Brother Chuck Maddox, Sr., was re-elected as area MBA chaplain. Again, we'd like to thank Brother Brad Kurowsky for his hard work and dedication to the area MBA during his term as president.

This year it was decided to hold our SAMBA campout at Christian Retreat in Bradenton, Florida on February 21-23, 2014. We were very pleased with the new location and all it has to offer our group, and we are excited to be able to fellowship there this upcoming year. Please remember Sisters Alaina Cavill and Kim Morle as they are our camp director and assistant camp director, respectively. All are welcome!

After another wonderful meal provided by the Quincy Branch, we met for our evening service. The spirit of singing was truly evident that evening. We enjoyed many selections as a group. During the meeting, Sister Christine Martorana was asked to prepare groups to sing and to offer their testimonies. She organized various groups, such as those who have been baptized for five years or less, those who have lived in Florida their entire lives, and those who have experienced healings in their lives in the past six months. Some individuals fell into every group. It was a blessing to see even some of the small children singing and testifying along with the adults. After our service, many in attendance gathered at a local bowling alley for fun and fellowship and, I can say that personally it was A LOT of fun!! It did not matter where we gathered, what mattered was that, as a Church, we were together enjoying time with our brothers and sisters.

On Sunday we gathered back at the Quincy Branch and the spirit of singing was evident once again. Brother Kevin Murphy opened our meeting and Brother Tom Jones followed. During the service Brother Chuck Maddox, Sr., felt that we should just continue singing. There was a beautiful Spirit felt during the meeting! Many anointings took place during the service, and we all left with an uplifted Spirit and a blessing.

Values *continued from Page 7*

Scriptural Example:

Judah experienced a remarkable turnaround, going from selfish boy to a man who took responsibility for his actions. Remember when Judah and his brothers visited Joseph in Egypt for the second time? Judah pledged his life to his father Jacob (Israel) that he would bring his baby brother Benjamin back safely from the journey. The visit went well, but Joseph commanded his men to place a silver cup in Benjamin's saddlebag, making it appear as if he had stolen it. When Joseph's men "discovered" the cup and accused Benjamin of theft, Judah quickly offered himself to be Joseph's slave in exchange for his brother's freedom. What a far cry from the young man who sold his brother Joseph into slavery years before. Judah had learned the meaning of being his "brother's keeper."

Life Application:

"With great power comes great responsibility." Do you remember this quote from the movie "Spiderman"? Peter Parker realizes that his superhuman powers had the equal potential to be used for evil or for good. We too have been given superhuman power—we know what it means to really love—a love not given by the world and not produced by another human but only given by God. When Christ's love enters our hearts, we're transformed into God's superheroes on earth. And we are given the great responsibility to care for others. Christ's love drove him to the cross to sacrifice His life for us. Most of us will not be asked to give our physical lives, but we are asked to be responsible for and care for others. This may mean taking out the trash, preparing a lesson for Sunday School, mentoring a young person, auditing the books, or providing a ride to church for someone (to name a few examples). We are to perform each task with equal dedication, even when we don't feel like doing it. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Without a doubt, yes.

Points to Ponder:

- What are the most important responsibilities in your life?
- What responsibilities are you running from?
- How can you more fully permit Christ's love to empower you to fulfill your responsibilities to your family, your church, your co-workers, etc.?

Presented originally on the Gospel Blog

5 Amazing Facts

Apostle Peter By Brother Kerry Carlini

Peter was just a fisherman. But Jesus knew the strength that lay within his character and called him to follow. When confusion arose among men as to whom Jesus was, it was Peter who boldly declared, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:13-20). Jesus knew that God had revealed this truth to Peter, and that upon such revelations His kingdom would be built. Jesus also knew that after His departure, it would be Peter whom God would entrust to "strengthen thy brethren" and lead the Church. Who was this man set aside for such a great work (Luke 22:32)? Here are 5 amazing facts regarding this man, Peter:

- 1** He was the only disciple to step out in faith and walk upon the water, but then cry, "Lord, save me," when he became fearful (Matthew 14:28-31).
- 2** He objected to having his feet washed, but when told that he would have no part with Jesus, he asked that his hands and head be washed as well (John 13:6-10).
- 3** He cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest, but was afterward used of God to raise Dorcas from the dead (John 18:10; Acts 9:40).
- 4** He denied knowing Jesus, but would later preach of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost where 3,000 souls were converted (Matthew 26:69-75; Acts Chapter 2).
- 5** Perceived as unlearned and ignorant by the religious leaders, Peter would withstand their threats, and then boldly continue with the other disciples to preach of Jesus, having many signs and wonders of God accompany them (Acts 4:1-30).



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

History is Our Teacher

By Sister Lisa Champine, General Ladies' Uplift Circle President

"And it came to pass that I beckoned unto them; and I also did say unto them with a loud voice that they should come unto me, and partake of the fruit, which was desirable above all other fruit" (1 Nephi 8:15).

I have been reading through our minutes books from the early days of the Circle. They are a treasure. As I go through them, sometimes chronologically, sometimes just opening one of the books randomly and reading, I marvel at the tenacity and dedication of our early sisters. They did a great work during difficult times.

Much of what I have read is exactly what one would expect in a book of minutes; facts and figures, reports, and deliberations. Nevertheless, our early sisters also knew the importance of attending to their spiritual needs as well. Often there are references to lessons they went over at the general meetings. Many testimonies were shared, many prayers were offered, and the Spirit of God was felt. As I page through these handwritten, fading records, I stumble upon some things that are very special; treasures within a treasure. I came across this short dream by Sister Jane Lewis. It does not reveal a great truth, the world would not be changed by reading it, yet, when I read

it, it impressed me. It did so because of its simplicity and its relevance. The dream is recorded in the minutes of March 28, 1935. I have left the wording unchanged so that you might see it as it was recorded.

"I dreamed that Sister Clara Stevens and I went into the church at Monongahela City with our bibles under our arms, and when we got into the room, the room was full of women, And Sister Elizabeth Foye was standing in the isle with her bible and she beckoned with her right hand—this way. And there was two sisters that I rekonized Sister Rebecca Behan[n]a and Sister Lena Sowers." Your Sister in Christ, Jane Lewis.

The sisters mentioned in this brief experience have received their reward long ago. They have left their mark on the history of the Circle and in their respective branches, to be sure. And although many of us may have never known them or even heard of them before now, I can still identify with them and what they represent in this dream for the Circle

and, by extension, the Church.

The aims and goals we uphold as The Ladies' Uplift Circle have not changed. We still believe in meeting together. We continue to keep scripture study at the heart of who we are and what we do, and we beckon to other sisters and women to join us, to come and see and feel and touch. Those ideals, those truths are just as alive and well today in 2014 as they were in 1935.

What does this mean for us today? Are we willing to be like Sister Elizabeth in the dream and beckon others to Circle and to the Church that they might experience what we have? We don't need to move mountains; we just need to wave over a friend, or invite our neighbor to a meeting, and God takes care of the rest. We simply need to be ready for our moment to share this wonderful fellowship that we have as sisters of the Circle and The Church of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless us as we strive to do His will.



How Can We Change And Make Things Right?

When I was a younger woman I was afraid to admit to anyone that I was often very worried and scared deep down inside. I thought it would be dangerous to let people know in case they saw I was weak and would be mean to me. I was worried if I did not know the right way to do something. Maybe it was just something that people in my family group did not do, or maybe it was just something that I wanted to try but was uncertain how to go about it. If I made a mistake, I was also scared people would find out and stop liking me.

Then I started praying about things. I started asking God to take away the areas I was unable to work in. I started asking the Lord to help me find the right people to teach me and show me things. I studied and read how to do things and then I started trying to do things I was interested in even though I felt shy or scared inside. One time I asked our older elder in the Church, Brother Reno Bologna, his opinion about whether I should take an office in the Church and he told me, *"Sister Jan, stick your neck out a little. It will get chopped and it will fit better!"*

That scared me. I did not want to have someone "chopping me" by criticizing me or bossing me around. Then I had to laugh at myself. What if I felt that way when I was a little baby trying to stand up and walk? The first time I fell and got hurt, I learned something about balance, or holding onto furniture, or bending my knees.

It was important not to give up. I had to keep trying. And when my Mother scolded me for touching a hot stove or doing something unsafe, when she gave me a little "chop," I may have

cried or been mad or pouted, but I did learn. I learned how to proceed in life so I was safer and fit in better.

When Jesus walked the face of this earth, he met a selfish, greedy tax collector named Zacchaeus who was an unhappy man. When he did his job of collecting people's money for the government, he cheated everyone and was hated and feared.

When Jesus came to teach in his city, Zacchaeus climbed in a tree to see Jesus. Jesus called to him and told him to come down, and went to Zacchaeus' house to eat. As He told the unhappy man about the right way to love and care for others, Zacchaeus was sorry for all he had done wrong. He wanted to learn a new way to live and act.

He promised Jesus, *"Lord, I will give half of all I own to the poor. I also will think about anyone I've cheated and I will pay them back four times what I took!"* (See Luke 19:1-10.)

Can you imagine how shocked people were when he said he was sorry and gave them money? He was not afraid to let people know that he was weak and had done the wrong thing. He did not stop himself from changing to doing the right thing.

Today, when we are wrong, Jesus will give us the courage to admit it and work bravely to make it right also. The Lord can make our hearts soft and honest enough to say we are sorry, and to take back our mean words. Then Jesus will keep on working in our hearts and lives to keep us feeling good and clean about ourselves down deep inside. Talk to Jesus. Think about what you've done wrong and beg Him to show you how to make

it right. Listen to His answers. Ask the Lord to help you change. Then pray for the courage to do the right thing, as Zacchaeus did.

Your Friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

BE	TO
HONEST	CHANGE
WITH	BE
YOURSELF	LIKE
PRAY	ZACCHAEUS
TO	LUKE
GOD	NINETEEN
ABOUT	ONE
THINGS	TO
YOU	TEN
WANT	

F	W	T	L	L	E	N	B	S
L	A	S	I	U	N	E	U	N
E	N	E	K	K	O	E	C	I
S	T	N	E	E	A	T	H	N
R	U	O	T	H	H	E	A	E
U	O	H	C	I	T	B	N	T
O	B	C	N	N	I	I	G	E
Y	A	G	E	O	W	W	E	E
Z	S	T	T	Y	A	R	P	N
Y	O	U	T	E	N	G	O	D

It was the LOVE of the Saints...

I felt the greatest love for me from the Anaheim Saints in 1982. I was scheduled to have a craniotomy to remove a tumor from my brain. They began a 24-hour "Ready Alert Prayer" for volunteers, beginning at 12:00 a.m. on the day of my surgery. I was covered with prayers every minute on the day. After surgery I had complications and the saints showed such love that they were willing to set the alarm at all hours of the night so that they could fulfill their time committed in prayer. Jesus said to love one another even as He loved us. Our saints have this love that Jesus mentions and it is felt and shown by our actions and the great concern we feel for one another. I still have the "Ready Alert Prayer" sign-up sheet from 31 years ago. It is on my dresser and I look at it often, and as I look upon the names, I pray for them with a grateful and loving heart. Twenty of those saints have gone on to their reward. Thank you, dear brothers and sisters for your love from the heart. Thank you, Jesus for your love and mercy towards us.—Sister Mary Ann Heaps, Forest Hills, FL Branch

When my husband had to have surgery, he received so many calls, e-mails, cards, visits, and food—the love of the saints was so abundant.—Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA Branch

In the last week, I went to my brothers and sisters in the Church (via our Gospel e-mail) and requested prayer. I received so much love from them. I received some wonderful e-mails telling me that I was in their prayers. It touched me and meant so much to me. I was actually in the waiting room at my doctor's office and read an e-mail, on my phone, from a sister I have not met (she's from the east coast and I am on the west coast). While reading e-mail, I felt warmth surround me and felt the love of God. God is good. It is nice to have our extended family in Christ from coast to coast...we can share our faith in the Lord and our love for others in our Church with our Gospel e-mail.

I was introduced to the "love" and hospitality of the saints at an early age from my home branch in Aliquippa as well as in many branches throughout the Church. Brothers, sisters, and friends in Detroit Branches #2 and #3 were my second homes as well as in Edison, NJ. I can picture the saints in the congregations and am overwhelmed by the memories of love bestowed on me! What a wonderful opportunity to grow up in the Church! Thank you and God bless you.—Sister Donna Bogle, Aliquippa, PA Branch

At the close of the October General Church Conference at the World Conference Center I fell and broke my femur in two places. While I was in the hospital I received well over a hundred cards from brothers and sisters from all over the country. What a blessing! My husband and daughter taped them all over one wall in my room. All the nurses, doctors, therapists, and others that

saw them commented that they had never seen anyone receive so many cards, that I must be someone important or else I had a big family. I said, "Yes, I have a large family of brothers and sisters from my Church." As I read each card, I felt the love of the saints, through Jesus Christ. I thought of the song, "Isn't the Love of Jesus (and my brothers and sisters) Something Wonderful?"—Sister Lucetta Scaglione, Monongahela, PA Branch

One of our young boys in the Windsor, Ontario Branch, Riely Mattews, was participating in handing out care packages to the needy as part of our Christmas endeavors. He had \$5 saved to buy his dad a gift for Christmas, but saw a homeless man on the street near the project and thought giving it to him was something the Lord would want him to do with that money instead, so he did. Later that week he shoveled snow for one of our sisters and she gave him \$20 for doing it. It was a blessing to see our children learning.

The love of the saints has given me so much joy and peace that I share it daily with my co-workers and others that I come in contact with.

The love of the saints is unequalled by anything else in this world! I have yet to find (and never will find) greater moments of peace and love in my life outside of the times I have spent with the saints of God. It is the "trademark" of The Church of Jesus Christ...letting others know we are His disciples.—Brother Patrick Monaghan, Columbus, OH Mission

As an only child, I am often envious of my friends who have natural siblings—it's truly a special bond. But, thanks to The Church of Jesus Christ, I have an endless supply of siblings—special people God has placed in my life to love me just as I am.—Sister Natalie Pezzenti, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission

It was the love of the saints that guided me as a young person to want to learn more about the true Gospel of Christ. Love inspired the brothers and sisters to reach out to me and share what they had both spiritually and naturally. Love motivated them to care for me, setting a Christlike example that I could follow. Their ongoing service inspires me to share Christ's love with others so that all may experience His peace, love, and joy in their lives.—Cindy Henderson, Detroit, MI Branch 2

Editor's Note: Thank you all for the wonderful responses to our Question of the Month. We had so many members write in that we could not fit them all in this issue! We will print the remainder of the responses in the March issue.



Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter. Psalms 74:17

Blessing Bits

BB A Divine Healer

I was sick with fever and a sore throat; however, I still went to work. Subsequently, I was sent to the medical clinic where I work and they took a throat culture for analysis. The analysis revealed strep throat, which is a highly contagious infection that can be quickly passed to others. I was then sent to an urgent care clinic. At the clinic, another throat culture confirmed the diagnosis. I went home with antibiotics to be taken four times a day for seven days.

Around 6:00 PM, I took my first antibiotic pill and was supposed to take the second dose six hours later, but I didn't. Instead, I prayed to the Lord to heal me as He has in times past. At that moment, I felt the Lord in the room, and I started to praise Him. While praising the Lord, I was instantly healed of the fever and sore throat. My eldest son, Joshua, who was also spiking a fever, was also healed! I threw away the antibiotics!—*Brother Anthony Cardinale, Anaheim, CA*

BB Walking on Water

I recently had cataract surgery. Due to three separate eye problems, I needed four different eye solutions. One of those solutions was an antibiotic. I had never used eye drops before. It was a thick solution which seemed to pour everywhere but into my eye. After three days of premedication with eye drops, I went in for surgery. On

day two following the surgery, I had an office visit. To my dismay, I still needed to use the antibiotic. I mentioned to an assistant at the doctor's office about my eye drop dilemma. She showed me a simple method for applying the drops. On day three, I turned the bottle over and nothing came out. I set it down on the counter and prayed. *"Lord, you know that I can't afford another bottle of medication. I need a miracle."* Then I tried again, and like the Apostle Peter, I walked on water. I waited in faith believing. One drop of solution came out of the bottle. This happened three times a day for the next four days. Each time, exactly one drop of antibiotic came out and went directly into my eye.—*Sister Diana Houlihan, Clinton Township, MI*

BB Miracles Still Happen!

On October 19 I texted Brother Sal Rios at 10:00 AM to apologize for missing our Proverbs reading that day, and said that my 4-year-old daughter Sarah was sick with a fever and crying all morning about a bellyache. He said, *"Let me petition the Lord and pray for her"*. I thanked him. I then texted Sister Pat Valenti and she also prayed. I told Sarah they were praying. Within ten minutes, Sarah turned to me and said *"Mommy my belly doesn't hurt anymore, God fixed my belly."* I was so excited I texted Brother Sal and told him what happened but that she was still feverish. He said, *"I will continue to pray."*

I feel a connection with you." I thanked him and texted Sister Pat. She continued to pray. Amazingly, in 30 minutes, the fever broke. Now I am shaking, I again texted Brother Sal, I said *"I know it's a lot but let's try for one more answered prayer: her nose is running, red, and sore."* He prayed that *"it would be gone by 2:00 PM"* and told me to have faith. Yes, it was gone! Sarah went from being terribly ill, to not even looking like anything was wrong with her. It was a real live miracle in my home. PRAISE GOD! I had almost taken Sarah to the E.R. We both attended Church the next day and this was my testimony. You could not even tell anything was ever wrong with my precious little girl.—*Sister Barb Weiszgerber, Levittown, PA*

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: *"How do you make time during the day to be 'alone with God'? Is there a specific time or place you have learned that works best for you?"*

Answer from last month: *To read the answers on "How has the love of the saints positively affected your life?" turn back to page 11. Thank you all for your beautiful entries!*

Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter. Psalms 74:17