

The Gospel News

IN THIS ISSUE:

Blast From The Past
Page 2

January Calendar
Page 2

Meet the Branch
Page 4

Editorial Viewpoint
Page 5

Topic Series
Page 6

Branch/ Mission News
Page 7

GMBA News
Page 8

5 Amazing Facts
Page 9

**Ladies' Uplift Circle
News**
Page 9

Children's Corner
Page 10

Blessing Bits
Page 12

NEW BEGINNINGS

Every New Year, many of us start with a list of goals and objectives for the coming twelve months. For most they include some sort of health goals, financial objectives, or career goals. Hopefully most of us also include spiritual goals or plans to work more for the Lord. The New Year is a time to wipe the slate clean and start over. It's a time for New Beginnings. This year, let's focus our goals on re-dedicating our lives completely. Brother Don Ross gives a good guidance to achieve this goal in the Editorial this month and the topic series also encourages us to grow. The calendar suggests some great ideas to get you started in the month of January.

For those of you who are not baptized yet, the single most important thing you can do in 2013 to improve your life is to give it to Christ through repentance, baptism, and the acceptance of the Holy Ghost which will lead, guide, and direct you through each and every day to follow.

Over the next few months, we will be featuring the testimonies of newly baptized members—those who in the past year made the decision to never walk alone. You will notice that for many, it was the encouragement of the brothers and sisters that drew them in. Some have had amazing conversions and others just knew it was time or the right thing to do. No matter how or why, they made the right choice and now their experience becomes a testimony to others.

We share these testimonies for several reasons. The first is to rejoice together for the growth of the Church and the new converts. We also want to get to know our new brothers and sisters. These testimonies will also remind us of the reason that we chose to serve God and hopefully serve as a reminder to re-dedicate our life each month. Finally, the hope is that these testimonies may touch the readers that have not yet made that choice and give them the courage to do so.

Testimony is really the reason that each and every one of us is a member of the Church. It was through the testimony of someone, sometime either recently or in the past that introduced you, a friend or family member to the Church and somehow culminated in your choice to get baptized. It was the account of a blessing, the sharing of love, or the expression of God's goodness that is responsible for the growth of the Church these many years.

The testimonies will be in answer to the question, "Why now?", as in why the new convert chose now to get baptized. We will find out if they had a great experience, a life changing event, were convicted by a particular sermon, or if they just knew it was time.

Brother Dominic Thomas often shared the story of his conversion. He was asked by a sister in his branch, "And you," she asked, "Why are you not baptized?" This is all it took for Brother Dominic to finally seriously consider what was holding him back. His testimony was that simple. We may find the same with others.

The most important part about each testimony is that they DID choose to get baptized and face their journey no more alone but with the Holy Spirit to guide them. The apostles unveiled a mission plan at World Conference, which included doubling the domestic membership by 2015. We are on our way

(Continued on page 3)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Decide to rededicate your life to Christ today	2	3	4 Set your spiritual goals for the year	5
6	7 Pray to God for direction in your life	8 Be still and listen to God's reply	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Remember the day you asked for your baptism and why	17	18	19 Exercise Your faith
20 Set a fast & prayer schedule for yourself	21	22	23	24 Go on a diet from negative thoughts	25	26
27	28	29 Commit to a new routine with more time for the Lord	30	31	1	2

December 2012
S M T W T F S
1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
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23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

February 2013
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10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28

January 2013

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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 12:1-2

BFP Blast From The Past

Sopris, Colorado

It was January 31, 1928, 85 years ago this month, when Apostle Ishmael D'Amico of Detroit arrived in Sopris, Colorado, to initiate one of the more profound evangelistic experiences in our Church history. Received by the Cerames, a husband and wife who had been baptized in Detroit a few months prior but since moved back to their home in Colorado, Brother Ishmael was met as well by a minister of another church, Paul Costa. Accompanied by numerous experiences before and during the trip, the Spirit so moved Paul Costa that when he invited Brother Ishmael to meet his own congregation he announced to them, "From this day on, it will not be my place to preach to you. This man is a man of God, and he will preach to us." Paul Costa and his daughter were soon baptized. Others followed, and in April of that year Brother Costa was ordained an elder and placed in charge of the new mission, set under the auspices of the Detroit Branch.

Apostle Ishmael D'Amico ►



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 worshiping 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 Inter-national Church.

THE CHURCH OF
**Jesus
Christ**

New Beginnings *(Continued from Page 1)*

with 129 new members. Let's pray that these testimonies that we will read in the coming months will inspire others to give their life to Christ and join us in the effort to spread the Gospel to the entire world.

This month we start with a beautiful testimony of a husband and wife, Brother Colonial and Sister Cookie. Let's remember each month to pray for these new converts that they will grow strong in the Gospel and that their testimony will bring others to the hope of salvation and the joy of serving God.

With Love,
Sister Carolynn

Note: If you are newly baptized, please feel free to send us your testimony in 350 words or less by answering the question "Why now?" You can send your submission to gospelnewsinfo@gmail.com

WHY NOW?

My name is Sister Giovanna (Cookie) Peterkin Trower and my husband is Colonial Trower, members of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. We were baptized on April 4, 2012, in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

My parents were the late Nathan and Carmela Peterkin. I was brought up in the church in Edison, New Jersey. I saw many miracles and heard many testimonies. The seed was planted. I stopped going to church when I was about 18 years old, but would visit when I would go see my parents who moved to South Carolina. I always knew this was the only true Gospel and there were a lot of saints so dear to my heart who I thought about often through the years.

After going through life the next 35 years with its ups and downs, I met my husband Colonial and we married in 2008. One day I wanted to show my husband old movies of our family. All of a sudden we saw my husband's name, Colonial, flash across the screen. My father had taken a shot of that name on a building, we were both in shock because I never had noticed it before and why was that name important to him?

Before we met, my husband had been reading the Bible over 10 years and he loved the Lord. He visited many churches,

but felt uncomfortable with all of them. I introduced him to the tapes of my father preaching the Gospel on the radio program he hosted and he wanted to visit the Church so I took him to Freehold, New Jersey. We attended regularly for a while, then stopped going.

There seemed to be a lot of grief and turmoil in our lives. My son, Bilal, had a very serious brain trauma in a car accident in 2011, and was very close to death. I remember Brother Willie Brown visiting to pray for my son and he said, "Sometimes God does things to bring us closer to Him." We started attending service again shortly after.

On a trip to visit our family in South Carolina, we were listening to the tapes of my father preaching. Something came over me. I got chills and I got very scared and felt so sorry that I hadn't served God all of my life and that if I would die, where would I go for eternity? That Sunday we went to service in Spartanburg, the Spirit came over me as I testified and I asked for my baptism. As the elders took me into the office to talk to me, my husband asked for his baptism also.

About a month before our trip to South Carolina, my sister, Carmela, had a dream that our family was preparing for a quick wedding and my mother was in the dream which we later knew was my baptism. As Brother Harold Littlejohn walked me to the waters of baptism, two doves were seen flying above us with their wings extended and they disappeared as I watched the video my sister Ruth took that joyful day.

I was sorry that my parents were not there to witness that special day, but they knew, even before I knew, that one day because of their faith and prayers that I would be baptized. I feel they were there in spirit. God has blessed Colonial tremendously, and has a great work for him to do too.

Why Now? We are living in the last days, time is getting very close, God has been merciful towards me and called us in, now we have to set an example for our children, grandchildren, and family and pray for them as our parents constantly prayed for us, that they will be touched to serve the Lord God and come into His precious Church.

Love in Christ,
Sister Cookie

Domestic Church—Cincinnati-Morrow Mission, Ohio



The Cincinnati-Morrow Mission (affectionately known as “Cincy-Mo” to all who visit) had its beginning with the arrival of one sister, Rose Licata, to the area in 1954. After marrying Angelo Licata and moving from Detroit, Michigan, she was the only member of the Church until Brother Joe and Sister Mary Furnari moved to Cincinnati in 1980 from Detroit as well. Brother Joe, a teacher, Sister Mary, and Sister Rose began having weekly Bible studies around her kitchen table and were soon joined by her family. In 1982, Cincinnati was established as an Ohio Mission under the District Missionary Operating Committee.

From the humble roots of meeting in homes around kitchen tables to meeting in a piano recital hall to purchasing our own building in Morrow (approximately 30 minutes north of Cincinnati) in 2001, the Lord has brought many to the Cincinnati area over the years. Students studying at both Miami University and University of Cincinnati have become part of our mission, attending while they are enrolled. Families have relocated for long periods of time and others for just a quick stay. Regardless, the tiny mission of ten continues to be about the Lord’s work. Despite most members living far from the building (some traveling upwards of an hour every week!), God continues to bless our small group each time we meet. The intimacy of a small group has afforded close friendships and bonds—and every member is well accustomed to holding numerous offices!

In addition to weekly church services and monthly MBA meetings, the members in Cincinnati-Morrow hold Vacation Bible School each summer for local children, a Fall Fest every autumn, and other social activities throughout the year. Active in the Midwest Region, often taking canoe trips down the Little Miami River, Cincy-Mo welcomes visitors with open arms. Please remember this small outpost of the Church and pray that the Lord might continue to see our efforts.

International Church—Dominica



The first trip to Dominica was made in June 1995 and the Church was registered there in December 2005. Brother Richard and Sister Annabelle Santilli, who had been studying the Carib natives after watching a documentary, had a desire to bring the Gospel and Book of Mormon to the Carib people in this land. Their first trip was made after an experience was had saying “prepare yourselves by fasting and prayer.”

The Carib Indians are the indigenous people of Dominica also known as the Kalinago. They are situated on a 3,700 acre reserve known as the Carib Territory. They have an elected tribe chief and their land is held in common; they operate very similar to the Native American tribes.

The current mission is on the Carib Territory with 13 members, along with their children. The brothers and sisters currently are meeting in a very modest wood structure with a tin roof located in the village of Gaulette River. Plans are underway for the construction of our church building that will be a modest block building with a tin roof.

The field committee is raising funds to support the transportation program for the Special Needs School which allows special needs children to have a proper education that they otherwise would not receive. Brother Mathius, the resident elder, is also a scout leader to young boys there.

Please pray for the work and the people of Dominica.

Dedication

Message from a Past Editor—Elder Don Ross

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Do you know the meaning of being dedicated? It is to set oneself apart for a deity, meaning God and Jesus Christ, or for a religious purpose. It also subscribes to the definition of committing oneself to a particular course of thought or action. Does this describe you in your service to the Lord?

Are you dedicated to the Lord? Are you dedicated to His cause and The Church of Jesus Christ? Only you can answer these questions.

It is necessary that we be completely and totally dedicated to the Lord. Why? Without salvation, there is nothing else really worth pursuing in this life. We pursue excellence in our jobs. We pursue excellence in the homes we build or buy, the cars we purchase or lease and other material possessions. In the end, they are all left behind. In the end, it is simply you and the Lord, one on one in His Kingdom and His bar of justice. As it was so eloquently and powerfully articulated in a dream experienced by Apostle Dominic Thomas, *nothing else counts!*

We have no other prerogative but to be dedicated in our service to Jesus Christ and His Father. Yes, we are free to choose. But what choice have you made? Have you made a commitment to Him and if so, are you dedicated to that commitment?

Alma the Younger asked a number of very powerful questions in the 5th chapter of Alma. Most, if not all, of the questions dealt with the dedication of the people to the Lord. The questions were directed to members of The Church of Jesus Christ and to those who had not made the decision to serve the Lord. Alma asked his questions in Church! They were part of a powerful sermon given to stir up the people. The questions commence in the 6th verse and really do not conclude until the 59th verse. Consider some of these questions for your soul's well being.

Have you been spiritually born of God? Have you received His image in your countenances? Have you experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do you exercise faith in the redemption of Him who created you? Can you imagine hearing the voice of the Lord saying to you at your last day, "Come unto me ye blessed, for your works have been works of righteousness?" Or do you think you can talk your way into heaven when your works have not been works of righteousness? Do you think you can tell the Lord an untruth about your behavior and get away with it and He will save you?

Alma continues by asking, "Can you look up to God at that day with a pure heart and clean hands?" Some key questions were, if you have experienced a change of heart, and if you have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, can you feel so now? Have you walked blameless before God? If you were to pass away today, can you say you have been sufficiently humble? Can you say your garments have been cleansed and made white through the blood of Christ? Are you stripped of pride? If you are not stripped of pride, you are not prepared to meet God! If you are not the sheep of the Good Shepherd, of what fold are you?

Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord. It was the place to meet and to worship God Almighty, no other. The Apostle Paul instructs us that we are the temple of God. We are also in a sense, dedicated to the Lord.

The Apostle Paul informs us in his Epistle to the Romans, Chapter 12, verses 1-2, that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service. He goes on to state that we must not conform to the world but we must be transformed, changed, by the renewing of our mind that we may prove what is good, acceptable and the perfect will of God. We are to think soberly towards the things of God. We must be dedicated to God.

We cannot give our life to anyone but the Lord. There is no one else who can offer us eternal salvation in the Kingdom of God. Only the Lord has the power to deliver us and save us from unrighteousness and eternal damnation. He does this through our commitment, dedication and service; to serve Him in spirit and in truth.

In II Nephi 25:23 we read, *"For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."*

There are many wonderful examples in scripture of those who dedicated their lives to God. There was Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, Isaiah, Paul, Peter, Nephi, Alma, Moroni, Pebebe, Lydia, Ruth, Naomi, Job, and many others.

It is important to remember that He, Jesus Christ, gave His life for you, for all. Since He gave His life for you, what have you given Him? Have you given your life to Him? Are you dedicated to Him? With this New Year, make it a goal to fully and completely dedicate yourself to God and His Church.

Train Up a Child

By Evangelist Timothy Mott

Those of us in the United States and Canada live in an increasingly individualist society. The choices we make are paramount to the overall good of the collective population. Elections focus on what candidates will do for you, not what they can do for the betterment of society. Our want of convenience in formats of packaging, scheduling, etc., makes our preference king, but it also leads to a great waste of resources. The danger in the individuality of our society is that it does not encourage us to focus on the greater good of the world around us, specifically, the greater spiritual good that is generated by building up the Kingdom of God.

As I grew, my family was keen to ensure that my growth would be directed to the Lord. Our annual family vacation was a trip to GMBA Campout. Road trips to visit relatives in West Virginia meant a Sunday visit to the remote Elkins Mission would be part of the experience. We attended General Church conferences and Area MBA activities. When I expressed a desire at 14 years old to be a part of the work in Latin America, my mother began selling beaded necklaces to raise money for an eventual airplane ticket. When it came time for letting me go to stay a summer with the saints in Mexico, the family was ready to accept any potential risks.

Solomon encouraged us to *"Train up a child in the way he should go"* so that later in life the child would *"...not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6). Each family must decide for itself how to dedicate the precious resource that is our time. The decisions we make will teach our children the scales of importance for life. From the lessons we give and their own life experiences they will formulate their own nexus of moral and spiritual thinking. That in mind, we have a great responsibility when making decisions regarding the type and quantity of activities where we enroll our children, and what ultimate lessons they will acquire. So let us not underrate the importance of the offerings of The Church of Jesus Christ in the lives of our families. Certainly, let us not underestimate the importance of sincere spiritual mentoring of our children.

As I write this article, my family is enjoying our annual vacation in Colombia. My daughter will undoubtedly remember all the fun she had playing with cousins, visiting the pool, and new wonders like a tropical butterfly chasing her. These moments will live on in pictures posted in her room and in digital slide shows. But my hope is that her life experience will absorb the more important aspect of this trip. The times she witnesses her mother encouraging her grandparents and uncle to serve God in life, no matter the obstacles. Or that she remembers we took time to share the Word of God and to praise His name with a people thirsty for the truth of the Restored Gospel. Some time for us, but some time for building up the Lord's Kingdom.

I reflect on the late Evangelist Richard Santilli and his wife, Sister Annabelle. One day they were watching a program about the beautiful Caribbean island of Dominica. Many of us would have been awestruck by the program's flora and fauna, but our dear brother saw the people. He saw a people that were starving for God's covenant to be restored to them, and for His Kingdom to be set up once again. Soon after, our brother and sister were on a plane to the tropical paradise to seek out the island's Carib people—an indigenous population that could possibly be a remnant of God's covenant people. Even as they spread the Gospel, I am sure our brother and sister enjoyed the sunshine and scenic beauty as well!

As you plan this coming year's time away from the busy pace of North American life in 2013, I ask you to consider how you can impact God's Kingdom. It may come in the form of getting involved with the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ in an existing work, or it may mean being quick to share your testimony in some new place that has not yet heard the Gospel's sound. All the while, realize you will be impacting the next generation as they learn what is important, and what is not. Above all, as you may be enjoying some time away from it all, reflect on the teachings being passed on to the next generation, whether spoken or unspoken.

Forty Years in Preparation—Part Two

By Evangelist Mark Kovacic

Movies have their sequels; the Work of God has its follow-up. Last year I wrote an article with the same title, excluding the Part Two. I noted that sometimes it is hard for us to imagine God working forty years in advance of something we may need. Not only was this one of those cases, it now has a sequel.

Preparing for my third outreach trip to Oklahoma, I decided for some unknown reason to make copies of a Gospel News article from 1971. My grandfather, Evangelist Timothy Dom Bucci, wrote the article. It was an account of his 1971 trip to Oklahoma. That year he had taken me along. It was a wonderful experience for a fifteen year old.

While in Anadarko, Oklahoma, at the 1971 Indian Exposition, my grandfather noticed teenage twins who were preparing to dance. (The exposition is a gathering of plains Indians from all over Oklahoma and other states, with some from as far away as

Canada). The twins were dressed in their full regalia. He asked them to pose with us. At the time, I thought it was a little corny! My grandfather eventually submitted the picture with his article and it appeared in *The Gospel News*. So I felt prompted to carry the article with the picture to Oklahoma this year—forty years later.

During our nine-day 2011 Oklahoma Outreach with Brothers Wayne Martorana, Nephi DeMercurio, and George Kovacic several stops were planned. One stop was to an area that the fiancée of a Native American we had met in 2009 had lived. We had kept in contact with her and called her to meet with us again.

We met her at a museum where she warmly greeted us and led us to where the museum director was waiting. We sat around a table and began to discuss our purpose and mission. They offered some examples of their traditions. She explained some of the mis-

conceptions that the general public held about their traditions. She also related an experience her grandmother witnessed when she was a child. We showed them a verse from III Nephi that mirrored their experience.

As we were preparing to go I felt prompted to show the director a copy of the Gospel News article from 1971 that included the picture of me and my grandfather and the twin Native American dancers. She asked me if I knew who they were and I said no, I never knew. She said they were her uncles. She sees them regularly.

How beautiful God prepares the way before us. A forty-year preparation to create a bond and feeling of friendship. A simple photo, prepared of God to be used at the right time and with the right people.

(Continued on Page 11)

Blessings in Fort Worth *By Sister Darlene Ignagni*

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

The year 2012 has been a season of reaping for the saints in Fort Worth, Texas. It all began in November 2011. After a time of fasting and much prayer by our congregation for growth and a greater outpouring of God's gifts, the ministry felt inspired to organize a community outreach. It was to be a simple event. We hung a banner announcing a free lunch above the church entrance, placed tables and chairs on our front lawn, and got hot dogs, chips, and soda ready to serve to members of our community. The brothers and sisters were encouraged to welcome each person who came to the luncheon and to engage them in conversation. Then we served ice cream sundaes in the fellowship room, which allowed visitors to get a glimpse inside our church building.

The spirit of love and unity the brothers and sisters enjoyed that day was nothing short of amazing. We were united in our effort to meet our neighbors and invite them to experience the Gospel by attending our meetings. We received an extra blessing that day when a group of children who had been a part of our Sunday School for years but had stopped attending as they grew older, came to our outreach and participated in both serving and cleaning up. By day's end over 200 people had been introduced to the Gospel.

From that one event the young people in our community began to return. They have attended our Wednesday night meetings and our Sunday School services. Many times they have outnumbered adults in attendance and have invited their friends and even parents to attend. Because of the need to give these young people a warm, welcoming safe place to fellowship with one another, one

sister was blessed with the idea to have a Thursday Night Youth Group. With a light on the front porch to signal the weekly event, the young people gather in the building with their friends every Thursday evening to play games, finish homework, enjoy a snack, or watch an uplifting movie. God has blessed us with between 8-20 young people every week. Finally, these young people continue to attend both our auxiliary meetings as well as our Sunday services.

With the flock growing in size, the urgency for shepherds to tend to the sheep was evident. The ministry had been praying for God to call servants who could minister to the needs of the group. Finally, the prayers were answered. Several dreams were given to various members. In one dream the branch appeared to be filled with African violets. These beautiful flowers needed special care and feeding. The flowers represented our Church members. Standing among the flowers was a golden flower that signified the calling of a deaconess. Another experience showed a sister carrying a sacramental basket while young men were laboring on a ship. After weeks of beautiful dreams and other experiences confirming God's callings, Sisters Julie Paternoster and Linda Morle were ordained deaconesses, and Brothers Kevin Mashburn and Chris Norton were called as deacons. The building was filled that Sunday with many of those in attendance being people from the neighborhood. God was working after years of laboring in this area.

After the outreach, one family in particular began attending church on a regular basis. They were hungry to understand the

(Continued on Page 11)

A Trip to the Philippines—Spring 2012 *By Evangelist Rick Scaglione, Jr.*

In Spring 2012 Brothers John Mark D'Antonio, Chip Smith and Rick Scaglione, Jr. traveled to the Philippine Islands to visit and encourage our members there. The Church of Jesus Christ has missions in three locations in the Philippines. There are five missions with 130 members in Davao City area of southeastern Mindanao, four missions with 138 members on the island of Bohol, and there is a mission with eight members in Pagadian City. As in every mission throughout the Church, domestic or international, we are always welcomed with great hospitality and the love of Jesus Christ.

Our first stop was the southeastern area of the Island of Mindanao. Brother Ronald "Bouchard" Ledesma is a young man that has been driving for us when we have visited for the past several years. He is diabetic and has suffered much with that disease over the past year. Last fall he spent a month in a coma in the hospital. When we saw him we were saddened by his weakened condition. He had a hard time using his right hand and his speech was very slurred. We anointed him the first chance we had. We had our first meeting at the growing mission of Bunawan. Brother Jovelito Cataluña, the elder in charge of this mission, is a young man with great enthusiasm for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since 2009 Bunawan has grown from 17 members to 41. Brother Joy visits, teaches, and encourages many families in the villages surrounding his home. He holds scripture studies in the homes of anyone that may be interested in the Church. During our meeting a young man from one of those home Bible studies, Ruben Suco, came forward and requested anointing because his leg was paralyzed. We also performed six blessings of small children. When we picked up Brother Joy to go to our Sunday Service the next morning, he requested that we go back to his mission in the afternoon, there were going to be 10 baptisms. When we asked about the circumstances, he told us that Ruben had been healed and requested baptism along with his wife, several family members, and visitors that witnessed the miracle. Our Sunday service was held at the Pantukan Mission where we had 11 baptisms prior to the meeting. During the meeting we enjoyed several special song selections and testimonies. After lunch, we returned to Bunawan and performed baptisms and confirmations. There are two missions that we cannot visit due to distance and travel through areas controlled by militant rebels. At least one day at each location is spent meeting with the ordained officers teaching, enjoying feet washing and communion together and conducting any necessary business. After our meeting on the last day, Brother Bouchard's wife came to meet him. As soon as she saw him, she began to weep at the remarkable change in him; he was able to fully use his right hand and no longer had a problem with his speech. We praise God for His healing power; both naturally and spiritually.

(Continued on Page 11)

It's Monday Again... *By Sister Ruth Gehly*

On Monday, August 20, 2012, four of us gathered to disassemble a small apartment that for six weeks served as home base for two brothers serving on a GMBA Extended Tour. Some say it had been one of the hottest summers remembered. As for a small contingency of saints in Erie, Pennsylvania, we choose to call it "blessed!"

Several years ago our Mission decided to begin connecting with to our local community in order to share the love of Jesus Christ. Our goal: to give expecting nothing in return. Thus began the first of many free clothing giveaways. During our first outreach, the Lord confirmed His delight. Three times during the day a brother walked into the sanctuary for a respite. Each time the Spirit filled him to tears. The third time, the Spirit spoke, *"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"* (Matthew 25:35-40). Never could we imagine what was about to unfold to this small handful of saints.



YIA brothers in Erie, Pennsylvania Branch

Kudos to the GMBA training program in place for the young men we would soon call our own: Brothers Matt Capone (Plumbrook, Michigan), and Aaron Palmieri (Aliquippa, Pennsylvania). While gathering on July 7, the following was given: *"As you go out among men who seek me, I will open the windows of Heaven and pour my blessings upon you—as you go out in faith—believing,"* blessed assurance that God would be with us as we moved outside our "comfort zones."

"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 24:13). Equipped with the power and

love of God, our brothers began to penetrate the parts of town considered rough around the edges—homeless shelters and neighborhoods filled with broken and hurting people.

With a week under our belts, we hosted a picnic supper featuring a presentation by Brother Matt Collison of Saugeen, Canada. Our objective was to share God's love and create common ground by treating our visitors with love, dignity, and respect. In addition to a handful of visiting saints, we provided countless rides and welcomed 30-plus folks from the Erie area. The next morning, a record number of people came to church, a majority of whom stayed to witness feet washing and share lunch. Here are some of the more touching comments received... *thank you for the meal—I really appreciate it; I've never felt anything like that before; I was moved to tears; that was really interesting; oh, I will be back—the Lord is telling me this is where I need to be.*

The following weeks were filled with continuous activity including daily outreach; building relationships; weekly scripture studies; fasting and prayer; pizza nights at the homeless shelter; Kid's Chapel; the annual summer clothing giveaway; visiting Erie saints; sharing testimonies; phone calls; providing ongoing transportation; serving weekly meals; and constant reassessment of our approach.

The final Sunday our young brothers were in Erie, we hosted a Midwest Region Church service. The pews were overflowing, the singing heavenly, the preaching inspired, powerful, and pointed. And just as it began with the Lord's blessing, God sent the three Nephites confirming His purpose to beckon souls to come and dine. Praise God that Kathryn Genaro answered that call.

Brothers Matt and Aaron were scheduled to depart after our Sunday School Picnic on Saturday, August 18. When it was discovered that space was unavailable at a local park, we relocated the picnic back at church. And just as was meant to be, we found ourselves in the right place at the right time. A van pulled up and a man named Mark walked over and joined God's little band, evidently embarrassed by his predicament. He was on his way to Buffalo but had exhausted his means and was living in his van while in Erie. After a

short visit, we filled his gas tank and gave him some money. Then the man named Mark was gone as quickly as he had appeared.

All too soon it was time to say good-bye. We felt terribly low as we watched Matt and Aaron drive away, wondering how this little group of saints would move forward from here. Where we are being led is such a challenging and uncertain place to be and takes such a great amount of work that often is not very comfortable.

Well, the apartment is cleaned and its contents emptied. We have held our first couple of church services on our own and truly, they have been blessed. One visitor is feeling called towards baptism, Praise God! This week there have been counseling sessions and prayer time, a group outing, fellowship around the table, and continued assessment about where we are and how to get to where we need to be. And just the other day there was a message from Mark on our answering machine. He just wanted to thank the Church for helping him in his time of need.

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks" (Luke 17:15-16).

Yes, for this little contingency of saints in Erie it was a hot summer. But most importantly, it has been very blessed indeed! As for Brother Matt and Brother Aaron, the next time you see one of them, be sure to ask them about the rest of the story!

Announcing 2013 GMBA Camp Youth Scholarship!

**Please help send our
young people to camp
by donating to this
wonderful cause.
(our goal—\$30,000)**

**Mail your earmarked check to:
Brother Bryan Champine
2730 Nickelby Drive
Shelby Twp., MI 46316**

*(see gospel e-mail and MBA
announcement for more details)*

Joseph of Egypt

By Brother Kerry Carlini

Joseph had evoked the jealousy of his ten older brothers by the favor of his father and by the position in his family as set by the Lord. We are familiar with the actions of the brothers that led young Joseph to an Egyptian prison and then marvelously to the heights of authority. We are touched, upon the brothers' travels to Egypt, when Joseph ultimately comes to the aid of his family. What follows are five amazing facts regarding the relationships and events that occurred between four of Joseph's 11 brothers and himself:

- 1** It was Reuben, the eldest brother, who spared Joseph's life when his brothers wanted to kill him.
- 2** It was Judah who suggested they sell Joseph into servitude to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver.
- 3** Many years later—when the brothers were unknowingly before Joseph—it was Simeon whom Joseph imprisoned until they returned with the youngest brother Benjamin.
- 4** It was, then, in Benjamin's sack that Joseph ordered his silver cup be hid.
- 5** Finally, in full circle when Joseph threatened to take Benjamin, it was Judah who pleaded before Joseph that his life be bound into servitude instead of his brother.

Genesis Chapters 37-45

Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Organization of Quincy, Florida

By Sister Carol Griffin



Greetings to those reading—WE DID IT! Our last, but not least, organization of the Ladies' Uplift Circle in the Southeast Area has been accomplished with the addition of Quincy Branch. On Saturday, August 4, 2012, the Quincy Branch sisters and friends welcomed our Area President, Sister Gelsa Staley, our General Circle President, Sister Karen Progar, and General Circle Vice President, Sister Lisa Champine in to establish their local circle.

The Quincy Branch sisters have waited a long time for the historic moment of being added to the roster of Ladies' Uplift Circles in the Southeast Area. To begin our day, Sisters Lisa and Karen showed a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the Ladies' Uplift Circle since its inception.

The business portion of our meeting was led by our Area President, Sister Gelsa Staley, who covered the positions of each elected job to be held in a local circle. As she began with the election of officers, the sisters, with much enthusiasm and eagerness, accepted each available position. Quincy Branch has a group of sisters ready and willing to work for our Lord! The organization was complete in no time because of the willingness to step up and work. Praise God for this group of women! As we passed the basket to gather donations for the funding of Quincy's Ladies' Uplift Circle bank account, to our amazement, the funds collected were almost exactly to the penny what was collected at the first ever structured Ladies' Uplift Circle meeting as seen in the PowerPoint earlier. God has His way of showing His pleasure with our efforts and we are blessed for witnessing this moment.

After our organizational meeting the sisters had an afternoon of shopping and fellowship. That evening we all

gathered back at the Quincy Branch under a Western theme of "Willing Women Working for Christ." We all donned cowgirl hats and bandanas for some good ole cowgirl style fun of games, crafts, and yes, more food. By the end of the evening we were all tucked out and headed to our respective corrals for a spot of shut-eye. Yee-haw!

Our Sunday service was just as beautiful as the organization of this Circle. The meeting was spirit-filled and presented in a camp style atmosphere with a season of song, praise, and sacrament. The testimonies came one after another until almost everyone in the filled branch had an opportunity to praise God for His goodness. Quincy once again rolled out the hospitality carpet with another meal before we headed home. We had a wonderful blessed weekend of fellowship while being about our Father's business.

Welcome to the Ladies' Uplift Circle—Quincy!



Dear Boys and Girls,

In a wonderfully interesting book written by an aeronautical engineer named Harold Hill, I read a true story about how modern scientists had to accept the truth of the Bible. Of course many scientists believe there is a marvelous order to the whole universe, and many more accept Jesus. Yet sometimes, you will meet friends and even teachers who will try and tell you the Bible is just a nice collection of stories and myths from the Israelite people. Don't believe them! There was a Joshua! He died on the cross for you and the Lord did shut the lions' mouths so Daniel was not harmed. Our God is alive.

Now this is what happened in the late 1960s when Mr. Hill was working with NASA to land a man on the moon. Scientists began working with huge computers, charting the movements and positions of the heavenly bodies, checking backward in time on the paths of known asteroids and meteors to insure safe passage for our astronauts. That way a satellite or returning spaceship of ours wouldn't hit something or come down on the wrong spot when returning.

The more they worked, the harder it was to understand just why their calculations were off. There was a whole day, a complete rotation of the earth, missing! Finally, one scientist who knew about God told his co-workers something like, "You know, as I learned in Sunday School, we studied how Joshua and the children of Israel were fighting a terrible battle against their enemies. Then the Lord came

and fought the battle for them; first He sent huge hail stones down from heaven which hit the enemies. Then Joshua spoke in front of his whole army and told the sun and moon to stand still. The Bible says (read Joshua 10:13) that the sun stood still for about a whole day!"

The scientists probably doubted their friend, but they tried his idea out anyway. It was almost perfect. Going back to the days when Joshua defeated his enemies, the elapsed time was only 23 hours and 20 minutes. Forty minutes were still missing.

Someone else remembered another Bible story when the sun went backward. This happened when King Hezekiah was dying (read II Kings 20:1-11). When Isaiah told the king he would die, he cried and reminded God that he had walked with a perfect heart and had done what was good in God's sight. God remembered. He promised Hezekiah that he would be healed in three days and live fifteen years longer.

King Hezekiah wanted a sign that this was true. Isaiah asked him, "Do you want the shadow of the sundial to go forward or backward?" Hezekiah answered, "It's easy for time to go forward, let it go backward ten degrees." Isaiah cried unto the Lord and it was done. Now ten degrees on the sundial is exactly forty minutes. The lost day was found. The Bible held the answer.

How was this done? The great scientist Newton demonstrated how the earth could be suddenly slowed down without a violent shock to people. Large meteors striking the earth could slow the earth for a time by striking the earth's mantle. The inner molten core would continue to rotate and would eventually pull the mantle back up to speed. Smaller meteors could do the same thing to a lesser degree.

Explorers in the Pacific Ocean have discovered a huge sinkhole area at the equator, between Hawaii and

the Philippines, where huge meteors struck. Sand deposits in California can be attributed to huge tidal waves that such a meteor impact could cause. This is just one small way that our great God could have slowed the earth so that time stood still.

All we really need to know is that we serve a true and living God. He holds the past; He holds our future. The hailstones in Joshua's day did not crush the people of God; the hailstones of today will not crush us. Each human suffers pain and trouble, which is one way for us to grow. But we who love and serve God in our hearts need never fear that growth. We have faith in the God of Joshua and Hezekiah, who is our God today. Remember, "*Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered and there was no one there.*"

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

GOD	THE	KNOWS
HOLDS	SON	US
OUR	EARTH	AND
PAST	MOON	WILL
AND	STARS	SAVE
OUR	WATER	US
FUTURE	SKY	TRUST
HE	HE	GOD

CONTROLS

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

Blessings in Fort Worth *Continued from page 7*

Gospel and came week after week enjoying the classes, meetings, and fellowship. The matriarch of the family, Loretta Raba-go, had lived with a serious heart condition for most of her life. She was hospitalized several times over the next few months.

She was her constant companion as she worried who would care for her family if something happened to her. But God was merciful. He gave her peace and calmed her fears. The ministry visited and prayed often with Loretta and her family. The members of the Fort Worth Branch demonstrated love and concern for the situation. She began to testify of the joy and excitement she felt coming to church. Loretta wanted to truly know God, and she was happy to see that her adult children were falling in love with the Gospel too.

On March 4, 2012, Loretta and three of her daughters were baptized at the shores of Lake Arlington. The gift of visions was plentiful that day. Brother Apolinar Cruz saw two angels accompany one of our sisters into the water. We all enjoyed celebrat-

ing the gift of having new sisters in Christ. What a joy it was to see them proclaim God as their Savior, and seeing them demonstrate a sincere desire to serve Him. Sisters Loretta, Elizabeth, Lisa, and Karlie have been a beautiful addition to our family. And just a few months later, God had more blessings in store for our group.

In May, our spiritual family grew as two young men asked for their baptism. Brother Jose, a member of Sister Loretta's family, and Brother Daniel Sanchez, a neighbor who has attended church since he was a child, were the two who received God's promise that day. Brother Daniel had been to our Vacation Bible School events and to Sunday School classes for many years. Now, as an adult, he chose to make the Lord the center of his life.

There have been abundant blessings in our meetings and amongst the congregation as we have seen God working to call the people of Fort Worth to come and experience the love found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

A Trip to the Philippines—Spring 2012 *Continued from Page 7*

The second stop of our trip was to Pagadian City in northwestern Mindanao. Brother Edison Abraham, the elder in charge of this mission, started a Sunday School where 20-30 children have been attending regularly. Our brother has struggled, searching for God's direction in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in his area. Many of his friends and neighbors would not listen to his words. The Lord loved him that he was to work with the children. Brother Ed, with support from his wife, daughter, and son-in-law began to hold meetings for the children where they would present a lesson with songs and an art project. Then they would feed the children, many of whom were very poor. When his friends and neighbors began to criticize his efforts by saying that the children were only coming to get a free meal, he responded that it was okay if they were; but first they were going to hear about Jesus Christ. The families of the children have responded that no one has ever shown them love like this before. While in Pagadian City we enjoyed an Easter Program presented by the children. With help from donations from the Ladies' Uplift Circle, the Church was able to provide the children with back to school supplies; items that they would not have received otherwise.

Our last stop was to the Island of Bohol. Bohol is a very rural, mountainous and beautiful tropical island very similar to Hawaii. We can travel freely between the four missions. We conduct meetings at each of the missions, all in a mountain setting surrounded by the Chocolate Hills, a natural wonder unique to this island. Each mission has many small children and each member has a beautiful song or testimony to offer up to the Lord. Through the efforts of Brother Orencio Jaso, the elder in charge of the Church in Bohol, it has grown over the past few years. During the first few months of 2012 there were 21 baptisms between the four missions. Being the only active elder, he conducts meetings in two of the missions on Sunday while teachers conduct the services at the other two locations. He also holds a meeting at each mission during the week, Tuesday through Friday. On Saturday, they have a fasting and prayer service with all the members with the location rotating between each of the missions. Brother Orencio stated that Monday is his day off. We had the privilege of spending Easter Sunday with the saints there.

Just prior to our flight home, we enjoyed a brief visit with Brother Felipe Entoma,

his wife Connie, and their 2 1/2 year old son, Lucky Christian, at the airport in Manila. Brother Felipe is an ordained teacher from the La Victoria Mission on the island of Bohol, but has moved to Manila to obtain a job. They both expressed a desire to return to Bohol and for our brother to resume his duties there. Connie expressed her desire to be baptized as soon as they are able to return to Bohol. We prayed for them that God would direct their lives according to His will. In 2013 we plan to visit another small town a few hours from Manila, where Brother Abraham's brother lives. Through their correspondence, he has learned of the doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ and has asked that we visit with his family and begin a mission there.

Please pray for our brothers, sisters and friends in the Philippines and the growth of the Lord's work there. They face many natural and spiritual challenges in their lives. Like many of our members around the world, they struggle without things that we are blessed with daily. The great work of the Lord has taken the Pure and Unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ and His gift of salvation to many nations throughout the globe. We praise and thank God for the many who have accepted the pearl of great price of the nations of the world and on the islands of the sea.

Forty Years in Preparation—Part Two *Continued from page 7*

On to the sequel. Our contact said she had talked with one of the twins and explained to him my desire to see him. So a meeting was set. Brother Wayne and I anxiously waited outside of a restaurant, when at the designated time, a pickup truck rolled up to the front of the restaurant, a man jumped out and marched over to us and gave us big hugs. He was as excited to meet us as we were to meet him. We talked for a while and he shared with us much of his life story. I showed him the picture, which caused him to let out a great laugh. He said he and his brother performed at a lot of dances back then as high school teenagers. He tried calling his brother, because he wanted him to meet us as well, but was not able to reach him. We presented a copy of my grandfather's book, *American Indian Moses*, and he asked me to inscribe it. We explained the message of The Church of Jesus Christ and offered prayer, and then parted with another hug. How marvelous is our God!

Blessing Bits

B God is Good, All the Time!

Recently my company offered an early retirement incentive. Being under the age of 60, I quickly realized I wouldn't be able to take advantage of the offer but continued to pray about it. The week before the final decision had to be submitted several issues came to light prompting me to investigate further into the option. Within five days circumstances evolved allowing me to accept the retirement but I was still concerned that I would have to secure other employment. By the end of that week I had interviewed with another company and secured part-time employment. So even though I thought I had the answer the Lord allowed me to see His answer and He put everything in place for me. Again I realized that He is in charge of my life. God is Good, All the Time. *Sister Karen Pandone, Detroit Branch #2*

B God Still Performs Miracles!

For several weeks I had been very tired. By the time I went to the doctor, I was barely able to get out of bed. I was told I had a heart murmur which was not too concerning. The next day the doctor received my results and told

me to go to the ER immediately for a blood transfusion and further testing. My hemoglobin had dropped to 4.2. Normal range is 12 to 16. During my transfusion (four units) many doctors came to see me surprised that I was doing so well and that fatigue was my only symptom. One doctor said he came to see the "miracle woman" since my hemoglobin had been so low. I told them that I serve the Great Physician and that He has already taken care of me although I greatly appreciated their help. I returned to the doctor ten days later and he was very pleased with my progress and told me my heart murmur was gone! I thank God for his tender mercies.

Sister Judy Lambert, Detroit Branch #2.

BB God Opens Doors

In March 2011 the sales company that I had been a part of for 26 years finally closed their doors and I found myself unemployed and not knowing what I should do next. I made the situation a matter of continual prayer. After working at a job that was not for me, I felt the urging to pursue a field that I had not been in for more than 20 years. I went to ask


for a job in person at a place where an old acquaintance from long ago worked. As it turned out, he had just transferred out of state and there was an immediate opening. Praise God for his tender mercies. *Brother Charlie Licata, Cincinnati-Morrow Mission*

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

Q Question for this month: What is your spiritual goal for 2013?

A Answer from last month: What ordinance are you most thankful for? Feet washing was number one. "Feet washing service is a time when I feel the most unity among the saints. It is often accompanied by a wonderful season of testimony as we come together to pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters." *Sister Kim Komjathy*

Do you enjoy the Question of the Month section? If so, please send in your answer each month. We need increased participation to keep this section going!



Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 150:6