

The Gospel News

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A New Worker Joins The Seventy

By Sister Christine Martorana

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two..." (Luke 10:1).

On November 16 and 17, we gathered in the Lake Worth, Florida branch of The Church of Jesus Christ to witness this scripture come to life with the ordination of Brother Chuck Maddox, Sr., into the office of an evangelist. God truly blessed the weekend, marking a beautiful start to Brother Chuck's new calling.

Saturday evening featured an evangelist testimony meeting in which six evangelists provided snapshots of the miraculous work happening in the mission fields. The miracles were readily available in these brothers' testimonies, including Brother Wayne Martorana's report that a man in Oklahoma who suffered from polio was made pain free and Brother Charles Hester's account of anointing a man who was healed from the cancer that doctors had said would end his life. The evangelist brothers encouraged us all to act as evangelists by boldly sharing our testimonies with everyone we meet. Brother Scott Griffith said that those of us who have felt the powerful change by the blood of Christ have a responsibility to share it with others. Although we might make excuses about why we cannot share a testimony, Brother Gene Perri reminded us that God can work with anyone: *"We are never too [insert excuse here] to do the work of the Lord."*

Brother Charles shared an experience in which God spoke to him during our meeting that The Church is *"ready to move to the next level in its service to God."* Brother Bryan Griffith added that we will only move to the next level if our faith is sufficient, and our testimonies are signs of this faith. Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri continued this call to testimony, reminding us that we are witnesses to God's greatness and we must share it with others. Whether we find ourselves in Florida or Africa, our testimonies matter. Brother Paul Aaron asked, *"Is God any different in Quincy than He is in Nairobi?"* He continued, *"No. He's the same God. He cares about souls. He cares about us."*

As Brother Dennis Moraco stood to close the meeting, the word of the Lord spoke through him. He proclaimed, *"This is my work, and it will be done!"* Immediately, God confirmed these words, speaking through Brother Scott Griffith: *"Thus saith the Lord."*

The beautiful Spirit continued Sunday morning as we all gathered back together to enjoy, witness, and celebrate the ordination of our Brother Chuck. Brother Wayne started the meeting, describing the office of evangelist as a calling. He said that God looks upon us and calls us to various responsibilities, but the greatest and most important calling of all is the call to follow Jesus Christ. Brother Wayne referenced Jeremiah 1:4-10, explaining that just like with Jeremiah, God knew that Brother Chuck would be called in this way and, just like Jeremiah, we know our limitations. However, God only needs us to be willing. If we are willing, God will add the ability: *"Don't expect to have all the answers when you take the first step. That's what faith is all about."* The God we serve is a multiplier. If we give Him our desire, He will multiply it and our abilities for His honor and glory. Brother Wayne encouraged us to leave behind any doubts and fears. He said, *"Fear is a tool of the enemy of our soul. When we can put away that fear, whatever it is, the Lord will take us to new heights. We can't trust in God and be fearful at the same time."*

(Continued on page 11)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Take time to reflect on the blessings received in 2013	2	3 Renew your commitment to God and the Church	4
5 Pray for peace this year	6	7 Give up the bad attributes and Gain so much more- pg 6	8	9 Plan ahead to attend Church more often	10	11 Resist temptation think ahead to avoid it
12	13 Pray for the Detroit Inner City Mission- pg 4	14	15 Fill out the Editorial for the month	16	17	18
19 Sit with someone new today	20	21 Book out time to serve God daily	22	23	24 Pray for the work in Liberia- pg 4	25
26	27 Ask God for direction in your service to Him	28	29 Set goals to read scripture more often	30	31	1 Support your Ladies' Circle and MBA this month!
December 2013 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February 2014 S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28					

January 2014

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

BFP Blast From The Past

Brothers Ford and Burgess

Suspicious of the weekly border crossing by Americans claiming to do church work among the Indians in Muncey, Canadian Customs and Immigration officer Frank Ford and his friend, Clifford Burgess, were determined to check the story out for themselves, 77 years ago this month on January 10, 1937. Brothers Michelangelo Gioia, Matthew Miller, and Joe Reno from Detroit met them in Windsor to travel on to Muncey. Their 110-mile trip, however, became a harrowing four-hour trek on ice-covered roads.

Although impressed by the brothers' dedication, it would be the testimonies of the Muncey saints that would change their hearts that day. In time, they, too, would become members of the Church and dedicated laborers sowing the Seed of Joseph. Brother Frank and Sister Leata, his wife, would move their belongings to Muncey in 1944, becoming the first resident missionaries on the farm there; Brother Clifford Burgess would be put in charge of the work at the Six Nations Reservation in Brantford, Ontario in 1947—all of this within a few short years of that icy day in January.



Brother Frank Ford



Brother Clifford Burgess on left

Did your branch or mission host a Vacation Bible School last year?

If so, we want to hear from you.

Please either fill out the survey that was sent via the Gospel E-mail system or share your information with us by sending an e-mail to gospelnewsinfo@gmail.com by January 3rd.

Please include the name of your branch or mission, how many children attended, how many of those children do not regularly attend our Church, the theme of the VBS, and any experiences, blessings or important information.

Thank you for your support!

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

Word Up

The Case For Christ: Holding The "Word Up" By Elder Doug Obradovich

Is reading scripture difficult for you?

Do the "thees" and "thous" make Christ's words seem irrelevant, even losing their potency in translation?

Let's take a deeper dive into Jesus' message and see if we can make sense of it all.

If successful, let's agree to hold the "Word Up"!

"Arise, let us go hence" (John 14:31).

Are you thinking this verse is too short to dedicate an entire article? Hmm, maybe there's more there than it seems. If your King James Version was replaced by the lesser known, Doug Version, this might read, "Get up, get together, and get going!" I've always likened this verse to an old James Brown song, "Get Up Offa That Thang." The James Brown Version might just be my favorite interpretation of all!

Christ encourages His disciples to move forward near the end of His ministry. He had just offered words of comfort ("Let not your heart be troubled"), guidance ("I am the way"), hope ("because I live, ye shall live also") and empowerment ("I am in my father, and ye in me, and I in you"). He also warned of His crucifixion ("Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more") and promised His strength would be with them ("The comforter, which is the Holy Ghost... I leave with you").

His words, "Arise, let us go hence" were an urgent plea for His people to band together, move forward, and represent Him in His absence. He introduced His challenge with "Arise." There are few things more tempting than to stay in bed after a night of blissful rest; that's why every alarm clock has the beloved "snooze" button. Why is this necessary? We resist getting up! We must overcome comfort to arise. We can find ourselves in a "Rocky" (classic 1977 movie) moment, after our own 14 rounds of life's beating, tempted to listen to Mick's counsel from ringside, "Stay down!" But Jesus shouts encouragingly over Mick's voice, "Don't stay down—get back up! Arise!" The courageous listen to Jesus' words!

Christ continued, "Let us." "Let" implies an allowance (submission) and "us" speaks to the power of working together. Those who have participated in any team activity know the strength of "us" over "me." Submit yourself to "the team" (The Church).

Lastly, the directional "go hence." Hence is defined as: from this place, from this time or from this source. Christ was telling His people to go from this place of learning. I remember Apostle Peter Scolaro's words, following a very spiritual meeting: "Go out from here. Stay here." That's exactly what Christ was saying, "Get up together from this place, keep my words in your heart, hold onto the spirit you've experienced here and go out and affect others!" It's time for the courageous to get up and get going! Why? Because Christ arose first!

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

Domestic Church — Detroit Inner City Mission



The Detroit, Michigan Inner City Mission was started in the mid 1970s with the desire to spread the Gospel to the urban center of Detroit. These efforts were manifested through much fasting and prayer, and direction from the Lord. Over time, the Inner City Mission has had several homes, including the location at the Rex Hotel in the Cass Corridor, the church on the corner of Brooklyn and Temple, Sister Agnes Garcia's home, the Lithuanian Hall on 25th Street and Vernor Highway, Maybury Elementary school, and finally the current location a couple of blocks from there on Porter and Lansing in Mexicantown. The Lord has blessed us with our own building, which was dedicated in 2002.

We currently have about fifty members, ten children, and a very enthusiastic group of young people that are seeking to do the work of the Lord. Many of our members travel some distance from places such as Windsor, Canada and the northeast suburbs of Detroit. We regularly hold our Sunday School every week, as well as MBA and Ladies' Circle classes on alternate Wednesdays. Every first Saturday of the month is reserved for fasting and prayer.

A strong quality that the brothers and sisters have in common at our mission is the desire to reach out to the community. One event that we hold dear to our hearts each year is our Vacation Bible School. About fifty kids from the neighborhood attend the Vacation Bible School weekend. We hold many activities such as storytelling, singing, and crafts. We also take time each summer to reach out to the neighborhood by providing a picnic for the people of the surrounding community. During the summer, brothers of the mission host a fast and prayer weekend and go door to door delivering the Gospel. During the holidays we like to keep the youth active by going Christmas caroling to some of the brothers' and sisters' homes, and having them participate in programs at the branch for Christmas and Easter.

On behalf of the brothers and sisters of the Inner City Mission, we ask that you keep us in your prayers that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would continue to go forth among the inner city of Detroit.

International Church — Liberia

In May 2010, Brother Joe Perri began corresponding with Arthur K. Clarke, who had contacted him requesting that the Church come to the country of Liberia. In November, after many months of communication, Brothers Ford Boadu and Emmanuel Bonige made a trip from Ghana to Liberia to investigate the feasibility of establishing the Church there. The brothers reported that the vineyard was ripe and many had accepted our faith and were ready to be baptized.

Brother Joe made an initial trip in September 2011, where he taught the ordinances and faith and doctrine to all who would listen. After several asked for baptism, they were instructed to seek out the Lord and ask Him, if this was His Church and they should be baptized, to confirm their desire. The next day, a woman who had requested baptism stated that as she prayed the night before, asking if indeed the Lord was pleased with her decision, a personage dressed in white appeared to her, verified that she had made the right choice, and gave her a white handkerchief which she brought with her on the day she was baptized. There were a total of 22 baptized on October 2, 2011, along with ordinations of an elder, two teachers, two deacons and two deaconesses. To date, there are 32 members in Liberia; however, their desire to share the Gospel is intense. One brother set a goal to have 7,000 members in Liberia in 10 years!



The congregation in Brewerville ranges from 25 to 60 years old. There are many young people as well. A church was built and dedicated at a new location in November 2013. The people of that country speak English, and when given the Book of Mormon, a brother held it to his chest and exclaimed, "Now the Bible is complete."

Please remember this mission in your prayers, as well as their need for Bibles, songbooks, and furniture in their new location.

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By Evangelist Timothy Mott

I have always enjoyed teasing the younger members of my family and peers when celebrating birthdays. Using simple math, one can calculate how far along someone is to reaching old age: "Congratulations on your 30th birthday – you're one third of the way to reaching 90!" Now thirty-five years old, I am reflecting on my place in life as I enter a new year (read Psalm 90:10 and you'll understand the math). I can't help but reflect on last year and consider what lessons I learned, or if the Lord was trying to teach me any lessons that I missed. The process of learning His lessons? It's called wisdom. The Bible says "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13). Take some time to thoughtfully answer the following questions and spend time in prayer. Find the wisdom God has for you to acquire in 2014 and it will make for a Happy Year!

1. No matter my age, am I prepared to meet God if He calls for me today?

2. The Lord is always calling us to reach higher. List one or two areas where you tried to grow in 2013, and how did it turn out?

3. What factors impeded your growth? How can you minimize them in 2014?

4. What factors helped you to grow? How can you leverage them to make even greater strides in 2014?

5. For 2014, how do you feel the Lord is calling you to reach higher?

Now that you've taken a few moments to reflect, take some immediate time in prayer. Well, did you? You better stop reading if you haven't yet! All kidding aside, the process of centering our lives more on the things of God must have a foundation in prayer. For many of us, that's an easy thing to set aside and a hard discipline to maintain. Oh wait, I think I just gave away my answer to Number 5! I look forward to hearing from you and learning of the nuggets of happiness that the Lord has allowed you to find!

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The beginning of the year is always a time for self reflection. For many it is a time to make resolutions to make change in something about themselves or their life. Below are some suggestions of negative traits we can give up, the results of doing so, and the scripture to support the need for these better qualities:

<u>GIVE UP</u>	<u>GAIN</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Arrogance	Humbleness	"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).
Unforgiveness	Being forgiven	"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:" (Matthew 6:14).
Fear	Confidence	"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety" (Psalms 4:8).
Anxiousness	Peace	"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).
Selfishness	Generosity	"Give and it shall be given unto you. . . For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).
Jealousy	Love	"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).
Sorrow	Joy	"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13).
Control	Trust	"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed: for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).
Unbelief	Belief	"Wherefore, he is the first fruits unto God, inasmuch as he shall make intercession for all the children of men; and they that believe in him shall be saved" (II Nephi 2:9).
Confusion	Peace of Mind	"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do; and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4: 8-9).

TS Topic Series

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

VALUES By Sister Stefanie Callens

Value: Congruence

Definition: Doing the things we say we should/will do. Making our actions prove out our claims: our yeas, yeas and our nays, nays.

Vital Verses:

"Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" (Romans 2:21)

"And again he said unto them: If ye teach the law of Moses, why do ye not keep it? Why do ye set your hearts upon riches? Why do ye commit whoredoms and spend your strength with harlots, yea, and cause this people to commit sin, that the Lord has cause to send me to prophesy against the people, yea, even a great evil against this people?" (Mosiah 12:29)

Scriptural Example:

There are many examples in the scriptures about Jesus teaching people to live in accordance with His teachings. A short example of this is with Mary and Martha. Jesus came to their house. Martha was flustered, trying to make sure everything was ready to be served to her guests, while Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening to Him. Martha tried to get Jesus to tell Mary to help her, but Jesus told her that Mary was doing the right thing by listening to Him and His teachings.

(Continued on Page 8)

Believing in God's Great Gifts: Southeast Region Conference

By Sister Christine Martorana

The gold Songs of Zion books are a common sight in branches and missions. Many of us are familiar with the songs, often even knowing the words and melodies by heart. These special songs took on greater significance for the Southeast Region during Region Conference held July 27 and 28, 2013. That weekend, brothers, sisters, and friends gathered together in the Forest Hills Branch, and Saturday night was dedicated to a celebration of The Songs of Zion.

The Songs of Zion are a unique gift from God to our Church, and God selected two specific people to help deliver the songs to us: Sister Arlene Buffington and Brother Eugene Amormino. Sister Arlene has been blessed with the words and melodies to the songs, and Brother Eugene uses his musical talents to arrange the music. We were excited to welcome Sister Arlene and her husband, Brother Bob, to our Region Conference. Brother Eugene was unable to make it but his wife, Sister Donna, came in his place and Sister Lisa Champine joined her. Sister Lisa has been instrumental in distributing the songs to the saints after Brother Eugene writes the music. Together, sisters Arlene, Donna, and Lisa shared their personal experiences with The Songs of Zion and led the congregation in the singing of several of the newest songs.

"We appreciate the gift from God to His people. [And] God still speaks to His people in these days in which we live," Sister Arlene told the congregation. She reflected upon receiving the first Song of Zion in 1976, noting how the great Spirit of God fell upon her, making her feel as if she was being transported to heaven and back. Sister Arlene shared with us that often the songs come to her in dreams, which she says is God's way of speaking with her. She often prayed that God would make His Spirit clear to her—so clear that a child could see and understand it—and she says her dreams are often clearly depicted scenes in which she hears the song and sees the words to the songs.

Not only do the songs contain beautiful melodies, but they also contain powerful words for the Church. "God sent The Songs of Zion to prepare [us] for the things that are coming—for Zion," Sister Arlene said. She explained that they simplify complicated prophecies so we can understand them and so children can sing about them. Just as Sister Arlene has prayed over the years, God has taken different scriptures and prophecies and put them into songs so even the little ones can learn the hopes and expectations of what is to come.

Sister Arlene emphasized the special nature of these songs, sharing with the congregation several experiences in which Native Americans testify to remembering these songs from their childhood and singing the songs by heart. She told us that she receives messages almost every week from Mexican people regarding The Songs of Zion: "I don't fully understand what all this means, but many of the Mexican people say they heard these songs in their dreams." Next, Sister Arlene selected several songs for the congregation to sing together. Before each song, Sister Arlene shared the special experience related to the song. Then, sisters Donna and Lisa sang the first verse and chorus of each song, and the congregation joined in on the remaining verses and choruses. It was truly a wonderful experience to hear the ways in which God delivered each song.

Throughout that evening, Sister Donna shared a portion of her testimony. She recalled Brother Eugene's first trip to Imperial to meet with Sister Arlene, remembering how Brother Eugene played and sang "Sing Hallelujah" when he returned home. At that moment, Sister Donna knew the Spirit and the work had a special meaning for our people, and she knew she needed to support Brother Eugene in his calling to work for the Lord. She said, "It became a lifelong work, and I was always his support. I'm grateful to do my part." She then turned to the young people and boldly encouraged them to never be afraid when God gives a task to do. She added, "Sing the Songs of Zion with joy and your life will be full, because you will know where you're going." The beautiful evening continued with praise through songs and testimony.

The next morning, we gathered back in the branch for the Sunday service. The morning started with the Forest Hills choir offering a spirited medley of "First Love" and "There Is A Name I Love To Hear." Brother Scott Griffith, our Region President, welcomed everyone, including the Region Apostle Brothers John Griffith, Peter Sclaro, and Paul Benyola.

Brother Bob Buffington opened the preaching service. He asked Sister Donna and Sister Lisa to join him in singing #196 from The Songs of Zion: "Watchman, What Of The Night?" As they were singing, a vision was had in which the back part of the sanctuary turned into a wall. Atop the wall were watchmen; the watchmen were holding The Bible and the Book of Mormon in their hands as they looked out over the congregation.

The central scripture of Brother Bob's sermon was Moroni 10:24, "And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth—that if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief." Brother Bob encouraged us to be strong and firm in our beliefs, trusting the Songs of Zion as one of the many gifts that God has given our Church. We have many beautiful gifts in our midst, including revelations, tongues, dreams, visions, and healings. Brother Bob reminded us that we must believe that God can do all things, for we serve an almighty God: "Don't make God small. He's a big God!" He returned to the scripture, restating that if the gifts stop, it's because of unbelief. As Brother Bob said these words, Brother Scott Griffith spoke in the spirit, saying, "And so it will be, thus saith the Lord." We could feel God's Spirit confirming Brother Bob's words: we must believe fully in God's power and in the gifts He gives to us.

Brother Miguel Bicelis followed, remembering the great belief that was required of him when he was directed to travel to Peru and bring The Songs of Zion. Brother Miguel knew he had to answer God's call, for God hasn't given the responsibility to bring forth Zion to anyone else but our Church. When we fully believe in the gifts of God and accept the responsibility of sharing these gifts with others, we put ourselves in the position to receive even more blessings. "Do you want more, brothers and sisters?" Brother Miguel asked. The congregation immediately responded, "Yes! Amen!" "We make our blessings small when we make God small. When we only look at the arm of flesh, we make God small," Brother Miguel said.

(Continued on Page 11)

Youth Missionary Works—The Camp Scholarship Fund

For over 50 years, the GMBA has hosted a week-long summer youth retreat with one singular purpose at heart: the spiritual and moral development of our precious children. In total, it has become one of the most successful domestic youth missionary works while consistently blessing and strengthening attendees of all ages. For many decades, our predecessors have dreamed of a day when all the young people of the Church would have an opportunity to attend this retreat. With ever-increasing obstacles and a recent economic downturn, the GMBA embarked on a seminal program to help make this dream a reality, the Camp Scholarship Fund (CSF).

In late 2012, the GMBA conference approved the CSF pilot and tasked the architects with one simple goal: make it financially possible for all domestic youth to attend camp. We quickly developed a marketing and advertising campaign to make the Church aware of the pilot and our goal. Due to the extreme generosity of businesses, Church groups such as Sunday Schools, MBAs and Ladies' Circles, various Region ministries, and many kind individuals, we were able to raise a substantial sum of money to sponsor our youth (college age and younger). In the end, over 150 young people were able to take advantage of some monetary sponsorship to attend our 2013 GMBA camp/retreat. As compared to the previous five years, our attendance grew by a whopping 40 percent! The attendance of the targeted age group of "less than 22 years old" grew by an even greater 80 percent! This

alone made the pilot a resounding success! More importantly, however, were the testimonies that grew out of this effort. Some of these young people devoted their life to the Lord for the first time. Some renewed their life by re-committing themselves to keep all of their good promises. Many were able to shut the world out and bask in the good, moral, and uplifting atmosphere of our camp. For the very young, we were able to show them that there are good people all around that love and support them dearly, and that they are so very important to us.

With these results and with resounding support, the GMBA conference has voted to continue the CSF program indefinitely. While we do not know its future, we are dedicated to the struggle. We believe that the summer GMBA camp is one of the most important ways to love, protect, strengthen, nurture, and develop the spiritual lives of our young people. We also believe that the CSF provides the best means possible to get them there. Therefore, a donation to the Camp Scholarship Fund is an investment in the spiritual lives of our young people and in our collective spiritual future.

Footnote: The GMBA Officers would like to thank all for their generous donations. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please make checks payable to The Church of Jesus Christ and write "Camp Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. Mail to: Camp Scholarship Fund, c/o Bryan Champine, 2730 Nickelby Dr., Shelby Twp., MI 48316. Thank you!

The GMBA Officers and the YIA Leadership would like to recognize the following locations of The Church and YIA participants for their time, support, desire and effort to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA
(Extended Tour)
Daniel Mora, Jr.
Joshua Boruch

Jared Scolaro
Liam Turley
Ray Zamora

Jacob Goode
Camille Hamet
Alyssa Maddox
Jonathan Miller
Sara Monaghan
Scott Monaghan
Chris Murphy
Chandler Obradovich
Lily Obradovich
Grace Phillips
Athena Severson
Lauren Smith
Lindsay Smith
Corey Vecciarelli

ALBUQUERQUE,
NEW MEXICO
(Standard Tour)
Rachel Alessio
Kaila Calabrese
Elijah Gonzales
Tanner Ivey
Thoms Larmore
Alyssa Maddox
Zarella Mosqueda

FOREST HILLS, FLORIDA
(Standard Tour)
Kayla Ali
Lucas Ali
Joshua Benyola
Justin Benyola
Isaac Catone
Jonathan Checchi
Paul Crupi
Vanessa Difede
Kathryn Genaro



Youth in Action participants in Forest Hills, Florida Branch

Values *Continued from Page 6*

Life Application:

We have all heard the common phrases practice what you preach and if you talk the talk, you need to walk the walk. I'm sure most of us have met someone who does not do what they say. For example, you want to get into shape and lose weight, so you sign up for personal training sessions at the gym. You meet your trainer, and he is more overweight and out of shape than you. Are you really going to want to pay money to be trained by him? Or if you go to a doctor and she tells you how important it is to eat healthy and not to smoke, but she smokes and eats poorly herself. How credible is that doctor? Why would you want to take her advice?

The same holds true to our walk with the Lord. We tell our friends, family, and even co-workers that we are a part of The Church of Jesus Christ, but do our actions always reflect that? Regardless of if you are a young person or a seasoned saint, it is imperative that our actions reflect the church's beliefs. We want to live our lives in a way that pleases God and shines the light to others. We don't want to just be Sunday Saints—we want to be saints of the true and living God every day!

Points to Ponder:

- Have you ever found that you tell someone not to do something but then do it yourself? (i.e. curse, gossip)
- What's more important, pleasing your family/friends or pleasing God?
- Would you stand up for what you believe in even if you are the only one?

Presented originally on the Gospel Blog

The Three Nephites *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

Scriptures tell us that shortly before Jesus departed from the Nephites, He granted His disciples the desires of their hearts. All but three would ask that when their lives and ministries were completed they would speedily come unto Jesus in His kingdom. Of the three who did not answer, however, the Lord was able to read their thoughts and responded, “[Y]e have desired the thing which John, my beloved, who was with me in my ministry, before that I was lifted up by the Jews, desired of me.” Here are five amazing facts regarding these three Nephites:

- 1 They desired never to taste of death, and in this they were more blessed.
- 2 For Jesus said, “This I will do... for ye have desired that ye might bring the souls of men to me while the world shall stand.”
- 3 They were then caught up into the heavens—seemingly in a transfiguration—seeing and hearing unspeakable things of which they were forbidden to utter upon returning.
- 4 And though in time they would face fierce opposition, no power on earth or in the depths of the earth, neither prisons nor furnaces, nor wild beasts, would be able to stop their work among men.
- 5 Finally, from that day unto this day they have been seen among the Gentiles and House of Israel, and will continue to be a strength and edification to the saints of the Church throughout the world.

III Nephi Chapter 28



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Pacific Coast Ladies' Circle Road Trip—November 8-10, 2013

By Sister Virginia Surprenant

Twenty-nine sisters from the Pacific Coast Ladies' Circle gathered in Las Vegas, Nevada for a weekend of fellowship with the 11 sisters there. This was an inspiration that our Area Ladies' Circle President, Sister Deborah McDonnell, had at a conference after hearing a presentation given by Brother Stacy Light. Sister Deborah suggested at our September conference that we take a road trip to support our mission sisters in Las Vegas, and the suggestion was received with overwhelming approval.

The sisters arrived from San Diego, Bell, and Yucaipa. The San Diego sisters arrived with tablecloths, decorations, pumpkins, fruit, and candy for the tables. We all started to decorate the tables with ribbons, flowers, pumpkins, fruit, candy, and candles, and what beautiful tables were prepared! Each table had dishes of cookies, and cups and

saucers ready for the sisters to partake of the spiritual event. The tables were identified with the name of a Spiritual Tea. Each Tea had a definition and a scripture to go with it.

The Spiritual Teas were: **Royalty** (Galatians 4:7), **Personality** (John 13:35), **Honesty** (Ephesians 4:25), **Accountability** (Romans 14:12), **Adversity** (II Corinthians 12:9), **Generosity** (Luke 6:38), **Availability** (Isaiah 6:8), **Laughability** (Proverbs 17:22), **Unity** (Psalms 133:1), **Humility** (Acts 20:19), **Hospitality** (I Peter 4:9), and **Charity** (Acts 20:35, II Corinthians 9:7, Hebrews 13:2, and I Corinthians 13:13).

After opening in prayer, Sister Deborah McDonnell read each Spiritual Tea and shared her thoughts of what they meant to her. Three of our teenage sisters read the scriptures as our Little Ladies' Circle members served by pouring the tea and keeping the cups full. What a blessing to see our future

Ladies' Circle serving the senior sisters! Just seeing the eagerness on their faces was a sight to behold. We feasted on the fruits of our labors and each table shared how they felt partaking of the Spiritual Teas. One sister from each table was chosen to share how blessed their table was in partaking of the tea.

We invited the brothers and children to join us for dinner and then had a “Fun Night” put on by the members of the Mission.

On Sunday, we met for Church. Brothers Stacy Light and Rudy Carrillo administered to us followed by a season of testimony, communion, and several anointings. Choirs of our visiting sisters sang songs in Spanish and English. We closed and promised to meet again soon. We thank God for the opportunity we had to attend this very special weekend and support our mission in Las Vegas.



God Has a Season For All Things

Dear Friends,

When you were a baby and you were waiting for your father or mother or someone to feed you, you would cry or fuss. Even if they called to you from the other room, most babies still are anxious, worried, and upset.

Even though the beautiful soothing voice calls to the baby from the other room saying, "Fear not my little baby, I'm coming," the baby still is restless.

We are very often like that with our Lord. When a problem is too big or too complicated for us to handle, we have to rely on God. Most of us humans are not prepared to patiently wait.

Just like a small child who does not want to wait, we cry, we holler and complain while all the time a beautiful surprise that answers all of our needs is just around the corner.

Humans have not changed much since the beginning of time. When Moses led the children of Israel (grown-ups and families) out of slavery, they were quick to forget God's blessings. They had seen the miracles of the plagues. Their people had been saved from hailstorms, lice, frogs, water turning into blood, and even the deaths of every first-born (older) creature.

The children of Israel were guided by day with a huge cloud and guided at night by a pillar of fire. But they still forgot. They still complained. Some of them even complained bitterly over not being able to eat leeks (onions). They were being saved from slavery but still complained about God in between troubles.

Are we like this? I know sometimes I forget. Sometimes I am like the little baby fussing loudly while the Lord is preparing something truly wonderful.

Sometimes we complain when we are truly safe, comfortable, well fed, and able to worship God freely. These are actually good times to be alive in. In the Bible in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 it says:

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up (pick) that which was planted;... a time to break down and a time to build up: A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance;... a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. ... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak, ... a time to love and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

Be grateful you are living in a time where there is not war. Be grateful if you are in a happy time of laughing. Do not fear if you have lost someone dear to you and loneliness is eating away inside your heart. Reach out to others. Share their happy times.

Do as the Apostle Paul told us to do in his letter to the Romans in Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

In God's own mysterious time, He will bring you what you need. Love Him, Trust Him, He cares for you.

Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

ECCLESIASTES	WILL	LOVE
THREE	GO	ONE
ONE	AWAY	ANOTHER
THROUGH	SHARE	THE
ELEVEN	WITH	APOSTLE
THERE	EACH	PAUL
IS	OTHER	TAUGHT
A	TRUST	US
SEASON	IN	ALSO
FOR	GOD	TO
EVERYTHING	CARE	DO
PAIN	WE	SO

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

(Reprinted from Gospel News October 1996)

A New Worker Joins The Seventy *Continued from page 1*

Brothers Scott and Bryan then offered a touching rendition of "Commonality," a song that affirmed the message Brother Wayne delivered: that we need to look at what we *can* do through God alongside our brothers and sisters instead of allowing our doubts to cloud our vision. Brother Paul Aaron followed, pointing out that it is not about what we can do, but it's about what Christ can do through and for us. Brother Paul Aaron returned to the scripture in Jeremiah, offering a modern day version: "Jeremiah said, 'I can't do this. I'm not qualified.' And God replied, 'You're right. I just qualified you.'"

Brother Paul Aaron then transitioned the meeting into the ordination portion of the service. He reflected upon the meeting in which the ministry discussed Brother Chuck's calling. Brother Paul Aaron said there was a unanimous feeling among the ministry regarding Brother Chuck's calling and there is great power when the ministry is united. He said we must recognize that the ministry is 100% assured that our Brother Chuck was called into the office, and as a Church, we must pray for Brother Chuck and this new responsibility.

After Brother Chuck's children, Sister Christine, Brother Chuck, Jr., and Sister Alyssa sang "Thank You," a song about thanking those who have dedicated their lives to the Lord, Brother Chuck took the seat prepared for the ordination. Brother Scott Griffith stepped forward to wash Brother Chuck's feet. As he knelt in front of Brother Chuck, the Spirit of the Lord fell upon Brother Scott. In a voice so quiet that only Brother Chuck could hear, Brother Scott spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation followed: "My son I have called you and chose you this day with My holy calling, so go forth with confidence. I will bless you and be with you. Thus saith the Lord." Brother Scott stated afterwards that while Brother Chuck was preparing to have his feet washed, he began to pray to God, asking the Lord who would wash Brother Chuck's feet. As he prayed, he had a vision where he saw the finger of the Lord descend from the ceiling and point at him. He knew that God had selected him to wash Brother Chuck's feet.

Following the washing of Brother Chuck's feet, the evangelists circled around him and Brother John Griffith offered a prayer for unity among them. Brother Gene then stepped forward and ordained Brother Chuck into the office of the evangelist. After a spirit-filled prayer and a season of hugs, Brother Dennis asked Sister Dianne Maddox to join Brother Chuck up front. Brother Dennis said, "As an evangelist, it takes a united home to do what God has called you to do." He then shared a dream he had in which he and his wife, Sister Susan, visited Brother Chuck and Sister Dianne. The four of them talked about what it is like to be the wife and family of an evangelist, and Sister Dianne committed to do her best to support Brother Chuck in this calling.

As Sister Dianne and Brother Chuck shared their testimonies, Brother Scott Griffith spoke in the word of the Lord, saying, "I have prepared the way for you. I have chosen. Thus saith the Lord." This was yet another wonderful confirmation of Brother Chuck's calling. Just as Brother Paul Aaron testified and this experience confirmed, there is no doubt that Brother Chuck has been called by God into the office of an evangelist. As his brothers and sisters, then, we must lift him up in prayer and always remember God's promises to the seventy in "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

Believing in God's Great Gifts: Southeast Region Conference *Continued from page 7*

Brother Peter Sclaro continued the message of belief in God's gifts by reminding us that the greatest gift of all is the salvation of Jesus Christ. He shared that when Christ was in the flesh, he was often challenged. He performed miracles to help people believe in the power of salvation. Today, just as in Jesus's biblical time, we have miracles around us. If we believe, all things are possible. Brother Peter returned to Moroni, referencing 7:37, "...for it is by faith that miracles are wrought..." And, if these miracles cease, it is because of a lack of faith. Brother Peter encouraged us to actively work on our spirits and our spiritual relationships. He told us that God is waiting for us so that we are not left on the outside as the prophecies are fulfilled; it is for our own sake that He waits.

Following the communion service, Brother Paul Benyola concluded

the meeting. He reminded us that we all have gifts. We each have the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we each have additional gifts as well, including the gift of a smile, the gift of personality, the gift of singing, the gift of wisdom, and the gift of hugs.

Just as Sister Arlene and Brother Eugene have allowed God to bless their lives with gifts, we must be open to the gifts God has for each of us. We each have a work to do, and all that is required is that we allow our lives to be guided by an unchanging belief in God's great power.

We also want to thank the GMBA Youth In Action tour for providing a Junior Church for our children on Sunday morning. The children had a great time, which also allowed their parents to enjoy our service.



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

Blessing Bits

OB Take No Thought

Having been a physician recruiter for the last 17 years, I have often prayed to God to help me to be successful at my job. I have learned to have faith that He will take care of our needs. It states in Matthew 6:31,32: *"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?..."* Recently my faith was tested and I was struggling with work. One morning, wondering what I could do to help my work situation, I realized that often my prayers are focused more on others and I neglect to pray about my daily needs. God reminded me that He wants us to bring all of our cares to Him. I knelt down and prayed that God would turn this work situation around. As I began working, I opened my e-mails and found a message from a client that had been on maternity leave for three months. She stated that not only did a physician of mine interview with her company without my knowledge, but he signed his contract and was starting in two weeks. God immediately answered my prayer. He has never failed me yet!

—Sister Rebecca Martorana, Mesa, AZ Branch

BB God Grants Our Smallest Desires

I went on vacation to visit my cousins in Texas. Over the past month I had had the desire to sing a solo rendition of "Because

He Lives," but the opportunity had not presented itself. I woke up that Sunday morning with sinus trouble. As I was getting ready, I practiced singing and tried to figure out just how to pull this off. I asked God for help. When we got to Church, I did not get an opportunity to express my desire to sing. The singing was beautiful as we all raised our voices before the Lord at the start of the service. During the singing, the presiding elder came and asked me if I'd like to sing a solo. You can imagine my joy—my heart leapt out of my chest. God saw my desire and used it to set the mood for the service. For that I am grateful!

—Brother Andrew DiNardo, Hollywood, FL Branch

BB Thrice Blessed!

About 13 years ago, I knew it was time to move. Not sure what was ahead, I had never lived away from family or friends. I trusted in God to show the way, and we immediately found a house and jobs. As time went on, we revisited the thought of adoption, as we could not have any children. My husband and I agreed to adopt a boy or two. We went through the process, wanting to adopt children between the ages of 4 and 8. I prayed a lot about this. About a year later, we received a call stating that there was a sibling group, two boys and a girl, that matched our file. The boys were 4 and 7, and the girl was 5. I will never

forget the day we met them. Watching the children playing, I saw the 4 year old come up to the glass window, put his hands on it and smile real big. I asked him later what he was smiling about. He told me, *"I knew you were my mommy."* From that day in 2007, our children have been a blessing from God. Being a mom is something I have always wanted. Now we are blessed three times!

—Donna Jungk (Granddaughter of Brother Mike and Sister Ann Radd of the Lake Worth, FL Branch)

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: We are known by the love that we show for each other. How has the love of the saints positively affected your life? Share a blessing, experience, or comment. We will publish many entries next month.

Answer from last month: The song most voted on as one to give comfort or peace when times are troublesome is #83 in The Songs of Zion *"He'll Take Care of Me"*. For most popular verse, look under the calendar on page 2.

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

