

THE CHURCH OF  
**Jesus Christ**

International  
Headquarters in  
Monongahela,  
Pennsylvania

# The Gospel News

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## What's on Your List of Resolutions?

By Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri

In John 8:6 it says, *"...But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not."*

The scripture above pertains to the time when the woman taken in adultery was brought before Jesus. We know of the forgiveness that came from Jesus, but what about His writing on the ground? We read in this scripture that he wrote twice on the ground (see John 8:8). While we may have speculated what He wrote, we know for a fact is that His writing had a profound impact on this woman AND the men who were ready to stone her to death before she obtained mercy from Christ! We can find out what those writings were when we get to Heaven!

Given that He wrote something (more than once) that was compelling, I would ask that we consider these writings might have been a list of items. Scripture states in several places where God gave lists to humanity, it was always for our good. Some examples in the Old Testament include the do's and don'ts in the Garden of Eden (and yes, disobedience to God's commandments did have consequences and still do) and of course the Ten Commandments, a list which is still used today! In the New Testament, Jesus gave a short list of two commandments upon which, Christ stated *"hang all the law and the prophets."*

Men of God have also developed lists for the cause of Christ. A favorite example is Captain Moroni's 'title of liberty,' a list of what he was committing to and what he was asking others to commit to. This list included *"...our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children"* (Alma 46:12). All of these examples show that God does give lists, and inspires His servants to create lists or resolutions for the good of His people.

Given that this is the season for lists and resolutions, it would be good to ask ourselves, if our resolution lists were written for all to see, would they impact ourselves only, our families and those close to us, or would they affect many for good? I cannot answer this for others but I do know that Jesus wants us to be examples for others, so our lists of resolutions should benefit not only ourselves but those we interact with, as Jesus stated, *"Ye are the light of the world"* (Matthew 5:14).

Let us use our time to create a list of New Year's resolutions to do good. Let Jesus direct your list. In fact, if we ask Jesus to develop our New Year's resolutions and then follow them all year long, I firmly believe that 2015 will be one of the greatest years of our lives, and a great year for His Church!

In closing, Godly lists are important, and we all want our names to be listed in the book of life (Revelations 20:15), so that, as we sing so often, *"when the roll is called up yonder I'll be there."*

*Happy New Year*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 Happy New Year!	2 Begin the New Year in prayer	3
4 Greet a young person and ask their hopes for the year	5	6 Pray for the San Carlos Mission - pg 4	7	8 Pray for the new elders in the Southwest Region	9	10
11	12 Share your testimony with someone	13	14 Did your New Years resolution include more time for the Lord?	15	16	17 Consider sharing your hospitality with someone new tomorrow
18 Call your favorite hymn	19	20 Read your favorite scripture today	21	22	23 Thank God for getting you through the week	24
25 Visit a saint that could not be at Church	26	27	28 Listen to Christian music today	29	30	31

December 2014  
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 2015  
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# January 2015

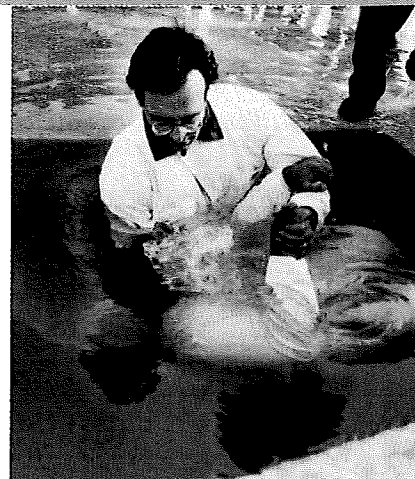
*"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5,6).*

## BTP Blast From The Past

### "Come All Ye That Thirst"

In a dream, Sister Inez Cotellesse heard the Song of Zion, "Come All Ye That Thirst" filter through the Mexicantown community of Detroit and saw—as the words took hold—people gathering at the storefront mission on 25th Street and Vernor Highway. Upon hearing the dream, the members of the small mission took heart. Yet Raphaela Baez, living just a few houses down—who often stood outside the mission door listening to the hymns sung in Spanish—could never find the courage to enter. Not until one Sunday night in the fall of 1990. Suffering from a severe earache, Raphaela sent her granddaughter to the mission for an elder. Immediately, the ministry left to anoint Raphaela, and upon being healed she decided to go to the mission that very night to thank the Lord. Referring to the "miracle church," she brought her son David as well. This night would be the beginning of what would culminate with the baptisms of Raphaela, her brother Anastacio Baez, her son David Lopez, Jeffrey Bork, and Diana Parker through the thick ice of the Detroit River off of Belle Isle—24 years ago this month, on January 27, 1991.

David Lopez being baptized ►





## 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.

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Christ**

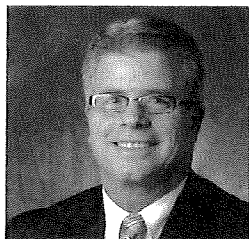
## GOSPEL NEWS QUIZ

Search through this issue for answers to these questions:

- What examples of "lists" do we find in the scripture? (Page 1)
- Why is it important for us to climb down the ladder instead of up? (Page 3)
- Finish this popular and important reflection—"While we are waiting, God is. . ." (Page 4)
- Why should we be careful when listening to Contemporary Christian Music? (Page 6)
- Who saw the arrival of Columbus in a vision more than 2,000 years before it happened? (Page 9)

## Wordup

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



Is reading scripture difficult for you?  
Do the "thees" and "thous" make Christ's words seem irrelevant,  
even losing their potency in translation?  
Let's take a deeper dive into Jesus' message and see if we can make sense of it all.  
If successful, let's agree to hold the "Word Up"!

*"And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant"* (Matthew 20:27).

Lessons learned in our natural lives can prove contrary to God's teachings. Paul warned, *"Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed"* (Romans 12:1). No one wants to believe they are influenced by "this world," but who hasn't worn brand new "torn" jeans, leisure suits, pants that sag, mullet haircuts or simply "popped their collars"? And I'm so exhausted from switching flat bills to snapback to rounded brims; I just want to shield my eyes from the sun!

Two thousand years ago Christ was answering the mother of two of His disciples (verse above), who was requesting the best seats in the house for them (in Heaven), *"Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom"* (Matthew 20:21). Mankind has always been subject to prideful self-love, putting themselves and their own before others. Personal success in our natural lives equates to benefits, so status as "chief among" can mean money, prestige, and power. Jesus recognized these natural rewards and established a higher standard for His followers; He taught that the recompense for position was serving others.

Jesus wanted His own to understand that the "ladder of success" was upside down. Ladder climbing is reinforced through many natural examples (corporations, politics, organizations, sports, etc.). Most of us have either been witnesses to or benefactors of such hierarchy, so it's understandable how one might parlay such learned natural behavior into their spiritual life. Example 1: Coaching youth sports, parents can utilize their positions to assure their own children get ahead, sacrificing more deserving children, in turn penalizing teams and/or organizations. Secondly, their children's success self-servingly reflects on themselves. Nepotism must be discarded in spiritual settings. Example 2: In the workplace, underlings feed their superiors' egos with flattery to gain unfair advantage over worthier co-workers. In spiritual environments, insincere back-slapping and/or game-playing is unacceptable (*"Do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ"* – Ephesians 6:6). Both examples are devoid of the servant

ership that Jesus identified. Like fashion shifts, outside influences can convince us to leverage natural strategies for spiritual personal advantage. We must resist. Whether teaching Sunday School, running a business, running Ladies' Circle, or simply leading a discussion, we must be spiritually minded in adopting Christ's instruction: *"Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant."* So, you've just received a promotion? Congratulations. Now, please step down another rung on the ladder!

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

# Meet the Branch

## Domestic Church — San Carlos, Arizona Mission



In the early 1960s Brother Dan and Sister Delores Picciuto, along with a group of dedicated saints, moved to Arizona under the inspiration and direction of God to begin the work on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona. After many dedicated visits to the reservation, the door opened for a meeting with the tribal council and a parcel of ground and lease were granted to the Church. The property granted was situated in sight of three mountains and a river beyond plateaus, exactly as was seen by Brother Dan in a dream many years before.

Through the years, God's love and power were manifested in many blessings and healings. In 1989 a new church building was constructed to accommodate the growth and expansion of this humble work. There are currently about 40 active members, and services are held on Sunday and Wednesday. Sunday School often brings 15 children, and Vacation Bible School is held yearly, often hosting over 100 children.

### Waiting While He's Working *By Sister Natalie Shawver*

There's a small post-it note on my computer monitor that says, *"While we are waiting, God is working."* I read at least 20 times each day. I think about it; I ponder the depth of its meaning. I do a little more work, and then I read it again. And again. And again.

The sentiment hits us all, doesn't it? We're seemingly always waiting for something.

To graduate from high school or college.

To find our mate.

To save up enough money for the down payment on our house.

To get the corner office.

To retire.

Life has a way of leading us to believe that there is a particular time frame we must do things in in order to feel successful or that we've accomplished something. If we happen to wait too long, we grow impatient and decide something must be wrong—or perhaps God's forgotten about us.

Take for example one item on the list: finding a mate. Society says the national average to get married is 27 for women and 29 for men. When I was in my early 20s, this notion of getting married young was everywhere I turned. It was an overwhelming feeling, and as I grew older I began to feel as

if something was inherently amiss with me because I wasn't married yet.

And all this time, God was still working. I just had to wait a little longer. I didn't walk down the aisle at 27, but rather the right time according to the Lord.

In our family, we have a tendency to interrupt each other while we talk. Our intention isn't meant to be cruel or rude, but rather we're just so eager to contribute to the conversation or ask a question that we pipe in quite frequently. In the same way, I often wonder if that's what we're doing with the Lord. We're interrupting His work, His plan, His perfection. Thankfully He loves us enough to remind us that everything will happen in His time and He understands our confusions and worries.

*"Oh, if you only knew the blessing that is awaiting you,"  
He whispers. "I'm still working."*

As with any new year beginning, we feel refreshed and have a blank slate of 12 months before us. Instead of trying to plan the next step on the continuum of life, let's lean a little more on Him. Let's wait and be content in the specific season we're in. Let's let Him work at His pace and put the pieces together as only He can. Let's take solace in the fact that He's in control, and who is greater to do so?



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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$24.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINTHOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

*By Elder Anthony Scolaro*

Time is a defining component of our earthly existence. The movement of the heavens and earth that God created dictates how we arrange our activities, day by day and year by year. At the beginning of the New Year we replace calendars, start new ledgers, and take inventories. People resolve to adopt new habits and change old behaviors. In making plans and setting goals we look back in hindsight, hoping to learn from past mistakes and not repeat them.

The Lord inspired the Preacher to write about the times and seasons of our lives (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). But the God of our everyday lives is also—and more so—a God of the eternal. The Lord exists completely independent of time, in a realm that is beyond the ability of our mortal minds to grasp. His course is one eternal round (1 Nephi 10:19). Jesus alluded to this when He stated, paradoxically, *"Before Abraham was, I am"* (John 8:58).

God's principles are eternal; His covenants cover entire dispensations of time. His plans of redemption and restoration, prepared from the foundation of the world, attest to God's desire to bring mankind back into His presence, and the earth back to what it was when He created it—to heal all that was broken by sin.

The cover article of this month's Gospel News asks what we hope to achieve in our lists or resolutions for the coming year. As partakers of Christ's salvation, do we fully understand our role, and strive to align our plans and goals more closely with His eternal purposes?

We as a Church have developed statements regarding our Purpose, Mission, and Vision, drawn from scriptural teachings and examples. They are printed each month in The Gospel News (on page 3), and could serve as a quick reference on which each of us can base our own goals and motives, our lists and resolutions, not just once a year but continuously throughout our lives.

While we look forward to an eternity in God's presence, we also understand that through His Everlasting Gospel, God has great things in store for the earth and its inhabitants, even "while time remains." Let's allow God's salvation to grow within us to where we look for all of God's eternal covenants to be restored, and all the prophecies to be fulfilled. Though it is God's work, performed in God's time, let's allow His purpose for The Church of Jesus Christ to energize our lives and influence our personal goals toward working to save lost souls, restore Israel, and see Christ's salvation fully expressed in the kingdom of Zion.

## Today's Music: As Modern As the World We Live In

By Brother Andrew DiNardo

Contemporary Christian Music, sometimes referred to as CCM, dates back to about the 1960s and has become a fixture in a lot of our homes, our car radios, and even our Church services. It provides a break from mainstream top 40 music with a message that's uplifting and can touch us to the very core of our soul. While it's much better than anything being put out by the secular world, we still shouldn't throw caution to the wind with what we allow into our ears, hearts, and minds.

In a time when we're under constant attack by the evil one, we're looking for ways to fill our lives with things that bring our focus back to the Lord. An easy way to do that is to turn on the local Christian station or listen to our favorite Christian artists on our iPods or iPhones. Psalm 100 gives us the way that we should approach the Lord's throne by making a joyful noise unto the Him, to serve Him with gladness, and come before His presence with singing. So what better way to do so than by praising the Lord with all our technologies?

To be completely honest, I went from a time in my life when ninety percent of my iPod was secular music to currently having the complete opposite and having about ninety percent of my iPod and iPhone filled with CCM and Southern Gospel/Quartet music. It's made a huge change in my life, from listening to angry music when I was upset, to listening to Christian music, which brought my focus back to the Lord. But in a day when there are so many different denominations of Christianity, and so many different interpretations of the Word of God, the messages that are delivered by some of the current CCM and Southern Gospel artists may differ a bit from our beliefs and views.

In I Peter 5:8 it says, *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* We need to be aware and constantly on guard that Satan is trying not only to deceive us but also to destroy us. Is CCM or Southern Gospel music going to destroy us? I doubt it. But since we need to be cautious about what goes into our ears, heart, and mind, and with so many different interpretations of the scripture, we need to be aware of the messages being put forth. If we're not in the Word of God ourselves, we could be singing a message that we as a Church don't agree with at all. There's a song that I personally love and would like to share on social media that talks about just wanting people to know that Jesus loves them. I always refrain because there's a verse that talks about the person becoming saved by receiving Christ into their heart. The message is beautiful and impactful but even just that one part keeps me from sharing it. Of course it's true on the most basic level, but we know the scripture teaches us there's more to receiving salvation than faith alone.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not bashing any current Christian artists; you can find most of them on my playlist and I have received manna from on high by listening to them. But we must be ever watchful. I've experienced the blessing of being surrounded by 20,000 other Christians lifting the Lord's name on high and been overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, and then just minutes later at the very same concert, feeling like a complete outcast as they sang about lifting the cross high and not our Savior who died on it. I've been in my car singing at the top of my lungs only to realize I've sung a lyric that I don't believe. What's my point? Praise God, at all times. But also be sober and vigilant in your praise and service to the Lord.

So what do we do? Do we throw away all of our CCM and Southern Gospel music? Do we discount the many blessings we've received by listening to these songs and albums? No. That's not necessary. There needs to be a better understanding of what we believe as a Church. The scriptures need to be opened more than just on Sundays and Wednesdays. Prayers need to be uttered more frequently. Why? So we're better in tune with the Spirit and have a better knowledge of what we're listening to.

Most importantly, our Church has been given musical gifts from on high, like The Songs of Zion. And look at how many wonderful inspired hymns have been written over the years by our own people! Collectively, our own songs can be used for spreading the Gospel in these last days. Let's take advantage of these wonderful songs.

I'm not saying that contemporary Christian music shouldn't have a place in our lives, as we've sung many of these songs on Sundays and Wednesdays, in choirs, at campouts, and even around bonfires. Contemporary Christian music was brought about to reach a wider audience, and in doing so the lyrics become broadly ecumenical and reduced to the most common denominators of the evangelical world. For every style of music in the secular world, there is a Christian counterpart today.

We, however, have been blessed with the Restored Gospel to reach a greater audience. Through time and by the devices of man, plain and precious things have been removed from the scriptures, which cause man to stumble. God restored His Gospel to clear those stumbling blocks away. Our call is to reach the world with an even higher purpose, and an even higher commitment to live righteously in every aspect of our lives, way beyond just the music we listen to.

Together let us focus on having our hearts continually drawn out in praise, and let our worship and thanksgiving be to God for His wonderful Church.

**Editor's Note-** We hope that you enjoyed the Topic Series on Music the last few months. Thank you to Brother Ken Lombardo for arranging it. Sing songs of praise today!





## Treasure Coast Branch Blessings

*By Sister Terri Benyola*

**G**reetings from the saints on Florida's Treasure Coast! God has certainly blessed us in so many wonderful ways.

August 2014 was a whirlwind of blessings and activities. Just two days into the month we were blessed to host the Southeast Region Conference, we said farewell to Brother Justin Cason who has headed off to boot-camp, and we participated in our annual Sunday School Bowling and Pizza Day! But wait, it's not over. On Sunday, August 10, brothers, sisters, family, and friends met to witness the baptism of Sister Sherry Barns, the daughter of Sister Carolyn Johns, and Brother Raymond, the husband of Sister Susan Harris.

Sister Sherry and Brother Raymond were both baptized by Brother David Checchi, and what a beautiful day it was! After the baptisms, the saints met back at the branch for donuts and coffee, awaiting many more blessings for the day. Sister Sherry was confirmed by Brother Rocco Benyola, and Brother Raymond was confirmed by Brother John D'Orazio.

Several of the ministry spoke on maintaining God's Spirit throughout our walk with Him. They said that nothing is IM-POSSIBLE with the Lord! Remember, God's way is perfect, man's way is muddy. Stay close to the Lord and do His will, and He will direct our paths. A moment was taken in song and prayer for all the students and teachers heading back to school this year, that the Lord would bless them.

We ask you for your prayers on behalf of Sister Cindy Dahl, who is recovering from surgery, and will undergo chemotherapy soon. Our sister has a wonderful attitude and knows that nothing is impossible with God! An experience was had while she was at the hospital in Orlando. She was told there were no available rooms, and the operating rooms were also booked. Sister Cindy and her two sisters, both natural and spiritual, immediately made it a matter of prayer. A short while later the doctor returned with news of a cancellation in the operating room for the next day, and also that a bed would be available. Praise God for His mercy, goodness, and care He gives to His children!

## The Southeast Region is Blessed With Four New Elders

*By Sister Dianne Maddox, Southeast Region Editor*

**O**n August 17, the Forest Hills, Florida Branch was blessed as they witnessed the ordinations of Brothers Jim Draskovich and Dan Risola into the Priesthood. Several visitors were in attendance, including Brothers Jerry Valenti and Dennis Moraco along with Brother Jim's mother, Sister Erma Draskovich. It is difficult to recite all of God's blessings that transpired that day. Brother Jerry emphasized that all of us are in the process of writing our own book about God's blessings in our lives, which will also serve as our spiritual legacy. He spoke many encouraging words, as did Brother Dennis and other brothers.

A dream was read confirming that the Lord was calling our brothers into the Ministry. Apostle John Griffith prefaced the ordinations with several supportive scriptures relative to this holy calling. Brother Jim's feet were washed by Brother Kevin Murphy and he was ordained by Brother Scott Griffith. Brother Dan's feet were washed by Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. and he was ordained by Brother Sam Risola.

The following week, on August 24, many were present at the Hollywood, Florida Branch on a beautiful day to witness the ordination of Brother Justin Onorato into the Priesthood. Visitors included Brother Justin's parents, Brother Darryl and Sister Kathy Onorato, along with Brother Justin's aunt and uncle, Brother Richard and Sister Cindy Onorato, all from the Brunswick, Maine Branch. As Presiding Elder John Catone welcomed everyone, he spoke about the scripture that asks, "How can they hear without a preacher?" He shared multiple experiences that were given over the last several years confirming the calling of our brother into the Priesthood.

Apostle John Griffith explained the process of recognizing how God calls men into the Ministry. He said that God manifests Himself to us and we clearly understand His will and His timing. He also stated that when a minister is called, his whole family is being called to this responsibility.

The ordination of our brother began as Brother Kevin Murphy from the Forest Hills Branch washed our brother's feet. Brother Darryl Onorato then ordained Brother Justin into the Ministry. It truly was a day of rejoicing in the Hollywood Branch.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## Midwest Area MBA By Sister Brianne Gehly

Brothers, sisters, and friends of the Midwest Area MBA enjoyed each other's company as they gathered on Saturday, October 18 to celebrate the annual Fall Fest at the home of Brother Mike and Sister Linda Italiano. The weather doesn't hold too many back from enjoying fellowship at this annual event. "I look forward to this time of year because of the Fall Fest," was just one of the many comments made at this special event that included lots of yummy food, games, crafts, caramel apples, and homemade apple cider.

The Teen Bake-Off was a huge success, with eight scrumptious entries. First prize went to Armand Giovannone. Not happy with the way things were going with his original dessert idea, he almost withdrew from the contest. After giving it second thought, he was inspired to create a chocolate mousse truffle with mini cakes – taking first prize – much to his delight! Adriana Garcia took second prize with her delicious Pumpkin Poke Cake, followed by third

prize winner (and birthday boy) Brother Anthony Francione with his Strawberry Cheesecake Pie. A very big thank you to ALL of the participants as well as our delightful judges: Brother Patrick Monaghan (Columbus), Sister Megan Garcia (Youngstown), Sister Christina Miller (Kinsman), and Sister Carey Naro (Lorain).

Six specially selected young people excited the crowd as they took on the great "Pumpkin Gutting Challenge." Charged with scooping and cleaning the insides of their pumpkins, Olivia Seibert (Liberty Branch) was proclaimed the winner by the judges!

As the Midwest kicks off another great year, a huge thank you goes out to all those who helped make this special event a success, from food, to set-up, to tear down. We are most thankful for brothers and sisters like Mike and Linda and their daughter, Sister Gina Rine, who make this venue possible. It is saints like these that make the Midwest Region such a special and fun place to be!

## More Answers to the Question of the Month continued from Page 12

A couple of years ago, my husband and my five children were going through a financial difficulty. We were worried about our rent and the day before the rent was due, I received a phone call from the apartment manager and she told me that someone who wanted to remain anonymous came in and paid my entire rent for the month of December. I thank the Lord for His blessing and that He may also bless the individual who out of love helped my family and me in our time of need.—Yolanda Hart, Albuquerque, NM Mission

Member being fairly new to the Church and married just a couple years. I was baffled that my husband Rob suggested that we spend New Year's at Brother Tony Micale's house. I had never heard of such a thing. It was the first of several that we attended. What a wondrous way to end/start the year...spending it with the saints and praising our Lord.—Sister Suzanne Beeman, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch

When I was younger, I was a Sunday School teacher for 11 years at Detroit Branch #1 for the little children. The Christmas Program each year was such a joy. The kids loved to sing and tell their parts. I loved all of them. Many of them have grown up and are now my brothers and sisters in Christ.—Sister Lorraine Thomas, Detroit, MI Inner City Mission

When our three children were in elementary school, we had a financial setback that hit us hard shortly before Christmas. We knew that some extra money would be available after the first of the year, and my husband and I promised the children they would have some "belated" Christmas gifts. On Christmas morning, each of our children had only one small gift to open, and then we sat in a circle and had family prayer focusing on praising God. Many years later, my son gave my husband and me a card that he wrote. He thanked us for raising him to know the Lord, and he told us that the best Christmas he could ever remember was the one when we each received only one gift, then we spent the rest of the morning in prayer, giving thanks to God and feeling His Spirit!—Sister Cathy Gennaro, Forest Hills, FL Branch

Our special blessing came on December 26, 2002 when our youngest daughter Megan was born, she was the greatest gift that year.—Brother Ron and Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA

Each year, we help bring Christmas to two poor Mexico missions. Over a decade ago, a few brothers traveled six hours into Mexico to hand out a few bags of rice and beans, and a sister desired to buy shoes for the barefoot toddler walking in the rain. This labor of love grew to two blessed weekends passing out donated food, shoes, and gifts to families; and over 200 kids! In these moments, the joy of Christ brightly shines; on a boy's face as he wears socks for the first time, in a girl's arms as she holds the only gift she'll open Christmas morning, and on an older sister's ear-to-ear grin, wearing the most colorful, hand-knit beanie she could find.—Sister Erin Light, Irvine, CA Branch

A special memory for me was bringing my children to the New Jersey Local MBA. We had such wonderful Christmas Programs every year and all ages were involved. It was such a special blessing to me and my family. For the first time Sister Julia Krempa came to one of them and she said the love she experienced that night will always stay in her heart. She kept singing all the way home the song, and the gift goes on. That was a very special program and I will never forget it.—Sister Lydia Zaino, Edison NJ Branch

My husband and I prayed for many years that the Lord would make a way for us to have children. December 1984 was a very difficult time as we once again planned a Christmas without children. Our hearts were just not into the holiday celebration. On December 19, 1984 we received a phone call that a little boy needed a foster home. This child had been abused and needed someone to care for him. The Lord made the way for us to provide this precious little boy with a wonderful Christmas, not just for him, but especially for us. Little did we know that this child would remain with us until the Lord provided us with two children to adopt by February 1985. This little boy left us soon after that, and we pray that he has been blessed in his life as he surely was a blessing to us when we needed it. Is there anything that God cannot do? We can never stop thanking God for this miracle in our lives.—Sister Wilma and Brother Dale King, Vanderbilt, PA Branch

I remember as a young child growing up in Detroit Branch #1, all the Sunday School Christmas plays that I practiced for and how this was such a big event to prepare for. I loved learning from my brothers and sisters how to sing in the choir for our Christmas programs. I will cherish the fun, laughter, and good memories that I shared with my Sunday School class.—Sister Cindy Giovannone, Liberty, Ohio Branch



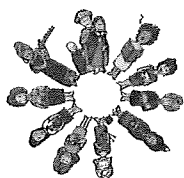
## 5 Amazing Facts

### Nephi's Vision *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

**B**earing the royal standard of the crown of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, Christopher Columbus set foot upon the first of the Bahama Islands on October 12, 1492. Laying claim for Spain, he named the island San Salvador, translated "Holy Savior." Recorded in his journal, he wrote, "*There was no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous illumination from the Holy Scripture . . . For the execution of the journey to the Indies I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics, or maps.*"\* As Nephi saw in vision, more than 2000 years earlier, he wrote that "*the Spirit of God . . . came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters.*" Here are five amazing facts regarding Nephi's amazing vision that foresaw the establishment of the United States:

- 1 Nephi saw Columbus upon his arrival at San Salvador greeted by the Seed of Joseph (1 Nephi 13:12).
- 2 Nephi saw the arrival of the Pilgrims, Puritans, and other Europeans, and their prosperity through God's blessings upon them (1 Nephi 13:13-16).
- 3 Nephi saw the Bible brought by the Europeans – having many "*plain and most precious*" parts removed – but also saw that the Lord would later bring forth much of His gospel (Book of Mormon) "*by the gift and power of the Lamb*" (1 Nephi 13:20-35).
- 4 Nephi saw the colonists' struggle against the "*mother Gentiles*" (France, Great Britain, and Spain) and their deliverance "*by the power of God*" (1 Nephi 13:17-19).
- 5 And, even of our day, Nephi saw "*the church of the Lamb of God (the Restored Gospel) . . . upon all the face of the earth . . . armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory*" (1 Nephi 14:10-14).

\*Eidsmoe, John. Columbus and Cortez. Green Forest, Arkansas: New Leaf Press, 1992. Print.



## Ladies' Uplift Circle News

### 95 Years in the Great Field of Labor

*By Sister Lisa Champine, General Ladies' Uplift Circle President*

**T**he year 2015 marks the 95th Anniversary of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. I have to admit that this fact is both thrilling and daunting to me at the same time. I'm thrilled because this organization that I cherish has weathered many things in 95 years. When I go over our historical documents I can see that like any organization there were growing pains and growth spurts and through it all our early sisters were inspired by God to forge an organization for the sisters in the Church where they could be helpers, spiritual mothers, and nurturers. I am daunted by those same things because I hope and pray the next 95 years will be just as wonderful and inspired as the past 95 have been.

When I was looking through the history I found a sentence that our founding Sister Sadie B. Cadman wrote in which she describes the work of the Church and the Circle as "*The Great Field of Labor.*" I love that thought. The Ladies' Uplift Circle has been blessed by God from the beginning to do whatever we can to aid the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ both foreign and domestic. It is by God's grace that we have been able to sustain the aims set forth in 1920, and I feel fortunate to be a part of those efforts.

It is not my intention to recount the entire history of the early Circle in this article, but I would be remiss if I didn't share one wonderful bit of information relating to our beginning for those that may not be acquainted with the origins of the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

In January of 1920 Sister Sadie was inspired with an idea that she presented to the General Church. She asked to form an organization for the sisters in the Church. In Sister Sadie's own words, she explained, "*I felt such a burden resting upon me in regards to this matter that I explained to Brother Alexander Cherry, President of the Church, what was on my mind. He told me if I could do any good to do so. He announced in the Conference that any sisters interested should meet at my home.*" The rest, if you will pardon the expression, is history.

In 2015 our contribution to the Gospel News will consist of an historical retrospective of the Ladies' Uplift Circle at large. As members of the Circle these reminiscences are not new to us. We cherish the records that have been passed down to us over time. We know and understand the legacy of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. My hope is that in the coming issues you will get a better idea not only of who the Circle was back in the early days but also of who we are today.

Sister Violet Sarver, who is credited with the naming of the Circle, wrote a poem recounting the first meeting of the sisters. It is her words I leave you with.

(Continued on Page 11)



## Who Can You Forgive? God Teaches Us to Forgive

*"Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy"*  
(II Nephi 2:25).

**N**ot too long ago I found out someone was really mad at me. I was shocked because I had not done the thing that they were telling others that I'd done. I tried talking to them on my computer with e-mail but they said to someone else that they could not get my e-mails. I called them and left messages that they never answered. Then I thought about going over to their house but I wondered if they would just keep the door shut and pretend I was not there. Really made me sad. I worried and prayed about it over and over. Then I listened in Church and heard one of the brothers there talk about forgiving each other.

It says in the Bible (See Matthew 18: 21, 22) that Jesus told His follower Peter to forgive someone seven times seventy. That is four hundred and ninety times! Wow! That is a lot!

It made me think about what Jesus would teach me to do, and I realized that I cannot change anyone. There is absolutely nothing I can do except pray for them and do not talk bad about them no matter how mad and hurt I feel. God does know what every problem in our life is all about. God does care. In fact, God loves me AND that other person. Wow! Part of me doesn't want God to love the mean people in my life, but God does, and since He loves me even when I make many mistakes, or am not perfect, I must understand that He loves the other person too.

I want God to forgive my mistakes, and the Bible says to forgive other people too.

In Matthew 6:14 Jesus teaches us that if you forgive men their trespasses (things they do wrong against you) then your heavenly Father, God, will forgive you. If you do not forgive them...then your heavenly Father will not forgive you.

So then, what is the next step? The Bible says to pray for those that spitefully use you (those who are mean to you for no reason). So I will. I will pray that God will help this person and bless this person. Maybe someday we will work it out. I will put the problem in God's big hands. It is what Jesus tells us to do.

When Laman and Lemuel in the Book of Mormon were jealous of their younger brother, good Nephi, they actually tried to kill him. Several times God sent an angel to stop them. But finally, there was nothing else to do but leave. (See II Nephi Chapters 5 and 6.) Nephi gathered his family and the true believers in God and left his mean brothers.

Sometimes when you can't work things out, you must pray and move on. Trust in God, forgive over and over, be gentle and kind, and be safe!

With love,  
Your friend,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

WE	ANSWERS
SERVE	US
A	JESUS
POWERFUL	TEACHES
AND	US
LOVING	TO
GOD	FORGIVE
HE	OTHERS
HEARS	AND
OUR	HAVE
CRIES	JOY
AND	

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

## The Southeast Region is Blessed With Four New Elders

Continued from Page 7

September 14 was a day of rejoicing in the Quincy Branch as Brother Lucas Martorana was ordained into the Ministry. Several visitors were in attendance, including Brother Lucas' family, Brother Wayne Martorana, Sister Tina Moore, and Sister Celisa Beca.

Apostle John Griffith led the meeting and spoke about the weight of this calling. After a few more words, he then turned to the ministry behind him and asked that whoever felt inspired to share a time when they felt the authority of being a minister. Several brothers spoke including Brother John D'Orazio. Brother John stated when he was first approached about being a minister he felt humbled and thought *"Who am I that I should be used?"* He prayed about it and while at a GMBA Campout in Massanetta Springs, Virginia, he had to leave the meeting for a few moments. As he was walking back to the meeting, he whispered a prayer that if God wanted him to be a minister, that he would hear the song "Because He Lives" when he returned. When he walked into the meeting room, the ministry was gathered together in the front of the room singing "Because He Lives." He knew at that moment that he was being called as a Minister.

Brother Horace Huggins washed Brother Lucas' feet. The ministry then encircled our brother and Brother Wayne Martorana ordained Brother Lucas.

Please keep all of our brothers and their families in your prayers as they take on this new role in their lives. As stated in every meeting, the weight of this calling is great, and our brothers must have the support of their family to perform their duties. We thank God for these new workers in our region.

## 95 Years in the Great Field of Labor

Continued from Page 9

### Naming of the Circle

By Sister Violet Sarver

How well do I remember,  
We on a journey went  
To organize the sisters,  
For we, by God were sent.

Quick as a flash it came to me,  
I spoke it loud and clear -  
"The Ladies' Uplift Circle"  
We should name the sisters dear.

How peaceful was that meeting,  
We were of one accord,  
We had a great desire,  
To get closer to the Lord.

And truly we do feel  
The Circle has its proper name,  
For God has blest us each,  
To live up to the same.

The spiritual and the temporal  
Parts, were all provided for.  
Yet one thing we must decide,  
There was one thing more,

We sing, we pray and try to be  
A help to all mankind,  
The sick, the faint, the poor, the weak,  
The tired and weary mind.

What name should be given,  
To the sisters, oh so few  
Who organized this meeting,  
Our dear Lord's work to do?

So from that first Circle,  
Today exists two and seven  
On the great resurrection morn,  
May our Circle meet in heaven!



Has't thou entered into the treasures of the snow? Job 38:22



# Blessing Bits

**BB** When I was eight years old I was hospitalized with stomach problems. The doctors did not know what the cause was. I remember one day the nurse took me down for an x-ray and left me alone in the hallway. I was so scared. I remember praying to God with all my heart that God would help me. My condition grew worse and the doctors wanted to perform surgery. My parents called for the elders of the Church to come and anoint me. The next day when my parents came to the hospital I was jumping on the bed; I was fine. The doctors could not explain it and told my parents to take me home. Praise God!

—Sister Doreen Dino, Denver, CO Mission

**BB** In 1947 I was five years old and I had just received my first two-wheel bike. I was anxious to learn how to ride it. Our driveway was steep and had large stones, and I crashed. Very sharp stones and gravel poked my knee to the bone. My dad washed out my wounds and bandaged them. It was a Saturday afternoon, and during those years no doctors or ERs were available. On Sunday, the elders anointed me. On Monday my dad took me to a doctor. The doctor said it was a very bad injury, and because it was so deep, it was likely a

permanent injury that would affect the function of the knee. He was amazed that I walked as well as I did. Only now in my senior years am I compromised by that injury, but it never stopped me from climbing trees or bike riding. I played in the snow, water skied, and more. As young as I was, I felt the sincerity of the prayers offered on my behalf, and had a peace about the injury, never truly feeling any pain. How merciful is our God! Praise be to Him for this Love and Compassion.—Sister Winnie (Pastore) Lens, Forest Hills, FL Branch

**BB** My two grandsons were burned from a fondue pot because of leaky fuel. Eli, age 10, sustained first- and second-degree burns on his neck, arm, and hand; Kody, age 7, sustained second-degree burns on his face, chest, arms, hands, and leg. Both were brought to the hospital, Eli by ambulance and Kody by helicopter. Eli was treated and released; however, Kody was admitted to the hospital. Praise God, the next day Kody had no pain, and was released to go home. The doctor stated that because Kody had food in his mouth, it prevented him from inhaling the flames. It was like he had a mask (or a

hand) over his mouth and nose. The Sunday after this occurred, the Lord gave me the song as I was driving to church: "I Know Who Holds My Hand." It spoke from the depths of my heart as I clung to Him in prayer all week. I also know the Lord was holding my grandson's hand in His. The food that Kody had in his mouth at the time was angel food cake. Sound like a silly coincidence? I don't think so.—Sister Sherri Bukoski, Erie, PA Mission

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

**Q** **Question for this month:** *If you could spend an afternoon talking with anyone in the scriptures, who would it be and why?*

**A** **Answer from last month:** *The Christmas season can bring so much joy and create special moments. Do you have a special memory of a Christmas program, Church event, or blessing that happened this time of year?*

I remember we always had our Christmas Programs on Christmas Eve. The building would be filled with so many people at times there wasn't room for all to have a seat. The music of the season would fill the building. This was at Detroit Branch #3, MI.—Sister Olivia Parravano, Detroit Branch #1, MI

Turn back to page 8 for more answers to this question.



*Hast though entered into the treasures of the snow? Job 38:22*