

# The Gospel News

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## THE JOY OF MARRIAGE: BEING UNITED AS HUSBAND, WIFE AND BEST FRIEND QUORUM OF TWELVE APOSTLES

**L**ove is the foundation of a happy marriage. The scriptures teach us that love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered and it keeps no record of wrongs. **When forgiven FORGET.** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. **Love never fails.** The scriptures also teach us that marriage is ordained of God and is Holy in His sight. It is so important that the scripture compares Christ's relationship to the Church to that of a husband to his wife. Christ devoted His life to the Church and died because He loved it so much. Knowing this, men should love their wives with all of the energy of their souls and wives should reciprocate their love.

### *Marriage is a Journey not a Destination*

A wise philosopher once summed up the essence of a successful and happy marriage:

Watch your thoughts for they become words  
Choose your words for they become actions  
Understand your actions for they become your habits  
Study your habits for they will become your character  
Develop your character for it becomes

### **The Essence of a Successful and Happy Marriage**

When we made our vows before God we did not know what the future would hold because life is not predictable. As our separate paths became one, we were able to fill a void within each other that brought joy into our lives. We knew that there would be a unity and love that the family would enjoy. Life would still be unpredictable and there would be peaks and valleys in our relationship with each other and our children. But when we remember the marriage vows that we made to each other and the joy of having a wonderful family we know, with God's help, all problems can be overcome.

### *In Defense of Marriage*

The following portion of our message has been prepared for all members of the Church to affirm God's plan for marriage and that a religious marriage should be between a man and a woman only. DOMA, The Defense of Marriage Act, was recently overturned by the Supreme Court. DOMA, simply stated, was that a marriage "is considered valid between one man and one woman." The Quorum of Twelve Apostles believe that it is now more important than ever for The Church of Jesus Christ to reiterate and amplify our position of supporting the Biblical basis for marriage. A legal contract can bind together same sex unions but that is very different from the principles of marriage taught by Jesus Christ. We, who believe in the Bible, must support the institution of religious marriage. The Church of Jesus Christ will adhere to the commandments of God and His Son Jesus Christ.

(Continued on page 4)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 It's no too late to plan to attend campout	2	3	4 Happy 4th! Praise God for our freedom	5
6 Pray for freedom of religion in other parts of the world	7	8	9 Pray for upcoming Youth In Action events	10 Pray for the Vacation Bible Schools around the Church	11	12 Spend Summer days committed to the Lord
13	14 Pray for the Treasure Coast Branch pg 4	15	16 Show extra love to your spouse today	17	18	19 Campout starts today. Let the blessings begin!
20 Pray for those attending campout	21 Pray for the seminar leaders	22	23	24	25 Campout ends. Carry the blessings home	26
27	28	29 Keep kids busy in summer visiting, helping others, and showing love	30	31 Support the auxiliaries of the Church. Your attendance is needed	1	2

June 2014  
S M T W T F S  
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29 30

August 2014  
S M T W T F S  
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31

July 2014

*"And it came to pass that he rent his coat; and he took a piece thereof, and wrote upon it—In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children—and he fastened it upon the end of a pole" (Alma 46:12).*

## BFP Blast From The Past

### 1967 GMBA CAMPOUT—Arlington, Kansas

Deemed the Summer of Love – when the Hippie counterculture gathered from Greenwich Village to Haight-Ashbury questioning every established norm of society; when the face of our nation was marred by civil rights issues and riots poured into the streets of our major cities; and when protests over the mounting casualties of a seemingly endless war in Vietnam began with a march on Washington – the saints met in Arlington, Kansas for a week of song, services, baptisms, and fellowship. Starting on July 30, it would be the first extended Campout, bringing members from across the country. *"We loved having all the saints from New Jersey to California show up in Kansas – William Bickerton's territory," recalls Sister Jan Bork, a Kansas native. "Brilliant men of God focused on us 'young people,' and we blossomed. We studied scripture and prayed, and the three Nephites visited Apostle Joe Calabrese, calling for three more souls."* Sister Jan was among those baptized at the Campout that year.

1967 GMBA Officers—Chuck Jumper, Issac Smith, Joe Milantoni, Anthony Scolaro, Carl Frammolino, Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, Rose Corrado, and Ruth Akerman ►





# 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.

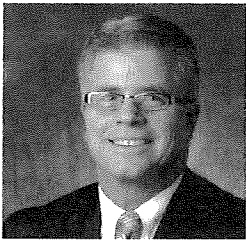
## Vision Statement

- 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**

## 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"!*

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3).**

I currently hail from horse country, where our state (Kentucky) brand proclaims, "Unbridled Spirit." This speaks to the exuberant, uncontrollable temperament born into horses as they run free unless tamed and readied for saddling and riding. Once "broken," they become useful to people. Think in terms of your pets. Imagine providing no training for your dog, yet expecting your furniture, carpeting and sanity to survive. Our animals are much more valuable to us when teachable, transitioning from "richly spirited" to "poor in spirit."

"Rich in spirit" might be defined as unencumbered enthusiasm, an adjective found in many successful people. These charismatics can draw in those lacking such appeal (often ignored, chosen last, and/or passed over for promotions), seen as non-spirited and even worthy of being overlooked (sadly real judgments).

So, why would Jesus bless the "poor in spirit"? I wonder if we, like Kentucky's horses, are most valuable to God when most teachable. King Benjamin stated in Mosiah 3:7, "For the natural man is an enemy to God...and will be...unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit." Paul writes similarly in Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God." Our natural side (our will) constantly battles against our spiritual side (God's will) and we must learn to depend upon the spiritual voice within us; even more so when the voice is audible.

Brother Ken Staley once found himself lamenting a situation in his life and was asking God (as many of us have) "why" and "what if" concerning his dilemma. While self-absorbed in his problems, the Lord stated firmly, "I must be upheld!" Our brother, being teachable and "poor in spirit" immediately gave up his own thoughts and embraced God's command and immediately began praising Him!

This spiritual requirement for submission was modeled by the greatest teacher and student of all, as Abinadi points out (Moroni 15:7), "The will of the son being swallowed up in the will of the father." If we cling to an immature focus on ourselves, possessed by self-serving desires to meet our own needs, we remain "rich in spirit." When we can "bridle all [our] passions" (Alma 38:12) and disallow Kentucky's proud proclamation, "Unbridled Spirit" to overtake us, only then do we become most useful to God. And once you've been deemed teachable by God, "the kingdom of heaven" will be yours and you'll find yourself obeying God's voice to truly "uphold" Him!

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

# MB Meet the Branch

## Treasure Coast (formerly Ft. Pierce) FL Branch



In August 1958, after retiring from work, Brother Patsy Rogolino had a desire to move to Florida. After looking in various places, he bought property in Ft. Pierce. He, his wife, Sister Rose, and their daughter Ruth, attended services in West Palm Beach, 65 miles away, but when they were unable to attend, they held meetings in their home. There were many dreams and experiences showing that God had a work for them in this area.

Fort Pierce was organized as a mission on October 13, 1960 and on October 25, 1963, Brother Patsy donated a piece of land on Palomar Avenue to the Church. Fort Pierce was organized as a branch by Evangelist Dominic Giovannone on March 26, 1968. On May 27, 1962 the first M.B.A gathering was held and the Ladies Circle was organized in 1968.

By 1971, meetings were being held in Leesburg, Chattahoochee, Blountstown, Tampa, and Milton. There were also visits to the Brighton Indian Reservation, and the branch had a total membership of 80 including those in the various locations mentioned.

An experience was given to the branch regarding the purchase of land for a future church building. The saints rallied to purchase a piece of property on Midway Road for expansion. On November 5, 1995, our first meeting was held in the new building and it was dedicated by Apostle V. James Lovalvo. Since then our name was changed to the Treasure Coast Branch as our members reside in the Tri-County Treasure Coast. The night prior to the dedication, the word of the Lord came to Brother Lovalvo as he was preparing himself, *"Stay steadfast and sure to the beliefs of the Church, keeping yourselves righteous, and the Lord will bless your Branch."*

Throughout the years we have held activities such as picnics, nursing home visits, and fundraisers. Once a year we do "Guess Who's Knocking", a Mother's Day event, and have pot luck dinners after feet washing services.

### The Joy of Marriage Continued from page 1

#### ***Marriage as Instituted by God and Reaffirmed by His Son Jesus Christ***

We, The Church of Jesus Christ, accept the teachings of GOD and His Son JESUS CHRIST's position on marriage. We have approached this as believers in the Word of God as written in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

We realize that some may reject the Bible's teaching on marriage, some may try to justify same sex marriage or some may not believe and reject the Bible including the first verse in Genesis which reads *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*

Marriage is a sacred vow between a man and woman and the Bible offers many verses that offer guidance for married couples, husbands, wives, and newlyweds. The Bible teaches us about marriage in relation to God, Jesus Christ, and that marriage between Man and Woman is sacred.

We have accepted a belief system based on God's Word (Genesis 1 and 2) and the teachings of Jesus Christ (Matthew 19) that marriage is between a Man and a Woman. Genesis is very clear on how Adam and Eve should be *"fruitful, multiply and replenish the Earth"*

We do not agree that the Biblical description of marriage should be redefined to include same sex unions. We also do not intend to try and interpret the legal status of unions formed by any one in our society. All of God's creation has Freedom of Choice.

We use the following scriptures to support our position on marriage:

#### ***God's Blessing and Commandments on the Relationship between a Man and a Woman***

##### Genesis 1

27 ***So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***

28 ***And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.***

##### Genesis 2

18 ***And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.***

19 ***And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.***

20 ***And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.***

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## A Land of Promise *By Evangelist Timothy Mott*

**T**he arrival of July signals celebrations of independence for both Canada and the United States. We celebrate liberation from tyranny, and the freedom to serve God as taught by the precepts of our religion. Along with you, I thank The Lord for His divine providence He has given us to enjoy in the form of our land's bounties. At a recent school celebration, my daughter sang patriotic songs of the greatness of this land, "O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain." I often tear when I think of God's graciousness to us as the inhabitants of this wonderful land.

Freedom is a marvelous gift as it allows us to preach the Gospel without fear of reprisal or persecution. Not all of our fellow saints around the world can enjoy this same opportunity. Through the founding of the free nations of North America and God-given prosperity, the Gentiles have been given the tools necessary to spread the Restored Gospel around the world. No other people on the face of the earth are better equipped for such a work in modern times. What a wonderful opportunity, but it also signals greater accountability to fulfill God's plans.

The Lord promised Lehi and his descendants a Land of Promise—through prophecy, a land designed to be free from sin. Because of the sin of others, Lehi's extended family was given the opportunity to inherit the land for themselves as the Lord desired a faithful people to serve Him. However, sin entered, opening the door for the age of the Gentiles. Through Nephi's writings in 1 Nephi 13 we further understand that the founding of the Gentile nations in the Americas was orchestrated by the Almighty. Where the descendants of Lehi (the Lamanites) had much to lose, the Gentiles had much to gain.

Students of the Book of Mormon are given a glimpse of God's greater plan when we read the allegory of the olive tree in Jacob 5. This scripture tells us of a time when God's chosen people, Israel, would disobey, making way for the Gentiles to also receive God's promises. But this same story helps us understand that the Gospel is destined to return to the House of Israel after disobedience by the Gentiles. As The Church of Jesus Christ in North America, we understand that the decay of righteousness in the society around us signals greater urgency for the final phase of the plan outlined in Jacob 5—the restoring of the Gospel to the House of Israel.

Our leadership is planning and implementing a renewed focus on the work with the House of Israel in the Americas. You have read several articles regarding outreach in Oklahoma, but understand that plans are under way to spread the Good News to other tribes of Israel throughout the Americas. The Native American Operating Committee (NAOC) has been commissioned to develop the road map to be followed by missionary teams. Resources and finances are being redirected so that a greater focus may be placed on this work.

As you celebrate independence, remember that it is a gift from the Almighty God, a gift designed to allow us to fulfill our role as Gentiles in the restoring of the House of Israel to the Father's covenants. May God bless all those sincere believers in His promises, and may we as The Church of Jesus Christ be focused on our central role in His plans. Look to future issues of the Gospel News to hear more about the developments and plans surrounding the work before us. Above all, please be prayerful for God's continued divine providence, that we as His people would be fruitful in accomplishing His work.

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

## VALUES

By Elder Anthony Scolaro

### Definition

- Rights: Things due a person by law or tradition
- Respect: Holding another's rights or person in high esteem

### Vital Verses

- *"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (I Peter 2:27).*
- *"Behold, hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of his goodness? Behold I say unto you, Nay; but all men are privileged the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden" (II Nephi 26:28).*

### Scriptural Example

Moroni was angry as he wrote to Pahoran. His armies were losing ground at the front, while the government repeatedly ignored their petitions for men and supplies. In his stern epistle, Moroni demanded an explanation for this lack of action and made some not-so-subtle accusations. The freedom and rights of the people were at stake, and Moroni was ready to march to Zarahemla, if necessary, to root out the problem.

The problem was that the government had been overthrown and a wicked man had been proclaimed king. But Pahoran overlooked the undeserved reprimand—he respected Moroni's dedication to preserving the people's rights. He wrote back immediately, *"...And now, in your epistle you have censured me, but it mattereth not; I am not angry, but do rejoice in the greatness of your heart. I, Pahoran, ...seek...only to retain my judgment-seat that I may preserve the rights and the liberty of my people... And now, behold, we...would not shed the blood of the Lamanites if they would stay in their own land...if they would not rise up in rebellion and take the sword against us...Therefore, my beloved brother, Moroni, let us resist evil, and whatsoever evil we cannot resist with our words...let us resist them with our swords..."*

Read these leaders' spirited letters to each other in Alma chapters 60 and 61, and the wonderful outcome in the following two chapters. For the entire context, begin at chapter 56 with Helaman's epistle.

### Life Application

People have a way of turning the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness into a license to do whatever pleases them. Many thousands of years ago, under a tree, a serpent tricked our first parents into believing that lie.

On a different tree, the Son of God exchanged the honor and respect due Him to be sacrificed for the rights of others. To understand human rights we must likewise abandon our own selfish interests and exercise respect toward all mankind. Had Pahoran been hanging onto the respect owed him as chief judge, he would have taken offense at Moroni's severe reprimand. But he was more interested in what was best for his people. He clearly spelled out in his letter that both words and swords have their proper place. The love that both of these men had for God's people, and their respect for one another, allowed them to work together, under Moroni's Standard of Liberty, to conquer their enemies. Let us respect others — particularly the weak and oppressed — and vigilantly guard their God-given rights — the only rights worth fighting for.

*"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."* – Nelson Mandela

### Points to Ponder

- Which scriptures help you decide which rights are worth fighting for and which aren't?
- What are some ways you can make God's goodness available to more people?
- How are evildoers "invading our lands" and threatening our rights today?
- How do we defend ourselves, and win their souls for Christ, at the same time?
- What about the right to teach our children right from wrong?

*Presented originally on the Gospel Blog*



## "Obey Those Little Things First"

By Brother Michael McGuire

I was reading Brother Ishmael D'Amico's testimony, and one interesting incident which took place in his life really stuck out in my mind. I wish to relate to you as follows quoting from His pamphlet:

In the beginning of August 1919, a friend of mine gave me a Bible. He said, "I know you like these crazy church people, so here is a Bible to make you crazy too." I must say that I was anxious to read it. I went into the house with every good intention of reading and investigating the Holy Book. I wanted to discover by reading just how far from God I was. I had barely opened the book when my wife interrupted me and asked me to put the baby to sleep. I was annoyed, but I thought it better to obey. I put the baby to sleep and returned to my Bible. Then my wife asked me to make a fire in the stove. Her interruptions were really a nuisance. It was a hot August day and she wanted a fire! However I did not want to start an argument, so I dutifully built a fire! I made a good hot fire and returned to my Bible reading. I was very nicely settled when my wife asked me to go to the store for groceries, I knew that we had plenty of food in the house. When she asked me to do this, I was tempted beyond endurance. I was really angry now and I was about to refuse to go when a voice called to me, "If you want to be near me, you must obey." I controlled myself and went to the store. On my way I seemed to hear two voices within me. One said, "The right things are hard to do," and the other voice said, "Are you going to listen to that woman all your life and have her treat you like a child?" Then the other voice spoke again: "If you want to serve God, you must begin to obey those little things first." I laid the Bible down for that day and decided on the following day to go to the top of a nearby mountain and read to my heart's content.

What Brother Ishmael experienced that day is exactly what many of us have experienced at one time or another. We must have patience as he had, as God told him, "If you want to serve God, you must begin to obey those little things first." What was meant by that statement? It was a stepping stone in His life of serving God. In II Peter 1:5-10 we read,

*"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance [self control]; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (love). For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."*

Here we find Apostle Peter instructing the saints on all things that pertain to life and godliness. Seven divine qualities we are to have within ourselves and do our best to attain. By attaining these qualities we shall not be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord. Now I say unto you my brethren, the seven divine qualities we are to attain within ourselves are Virtue, Knowledge, Temperance (self control), Patience, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Charity (Love). These are the fruits of the precious Faith which we are to add to the blessings which God has multiplied to us. They are steps from earth to heaven, starting with faith and culminating in love in the eternal home of God. We shall now go back to the example set by our Brother Ishmael. What qualities did he exemplify? Virtue, Patience, Temperance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, and Charity six of the seven. He listened and obeyed God by not yielding to the temptation of the devil. He could have become very angry and had a heated argument at the time. No, he endured and obeyed, for he came to the realization that God would see what he attained within himself and reward him for his obedience. The next day when he went out to read, God rewarded him for his obedience. The same for us: we as believers of the word have learned to attain the qualities within ourselves, that those qualities may shine outwardly unto the world. "Obey Those Little Things First."

Editor's Note- The testimony of Brother Ishmael D'Amico was also an answer received to the Question of the Month as a favorite lesson studied. - See pg 12

## Southeast Area 2014 Campout – Go to the Rock!

**By Sister Kristy Rogalla**

It was with great anticipation that nearly 200 of us gathered in Bradenton, Florida during the weekend of February 21-23, 2014 to "Go to the Rock," which was our theme for the weekend. This article would be far too lengthy if we tried to encapsulate all of the wonderful blessings received during our weekend, but please read some quotes below from our seminars to get a taste of how we learned to better "Go to the Rock!"

*"We learned about going to the rock by going through a maze of chairs. Not only did we have to go through the maze, but we were blindfolded and had a partner to guide us through. At the end of the maze you had to touch the rock and take off your blindfold, and on each of the chairs was something that pulled you away from the rock and you had to share your testimony. At the end of our seminar we played hot potato and when the ball landed on you, you had to give your testimony on how God had taken part of your life. We had a great time in our seminar!" – Megan Morle, Atlanta 8-12 year old seminar*

*"During the journey they broke us up into groups by ages, 13-15, 16-17 and 18-20. Each of the groups was to get in a section of the room and there were little notes. Within the notes were questions that the group had to discuss in order to climb higher on that mountain. Also, the only way the group could move to the stations was by holding the rope that was given to us at the beginning of the lesson. Overall, I feel that I had a great experience and cannot wait to go back next year." – Alyssa Morle, Atlanta 13-20 year old seminar*

*"We were challenged to learn a few facts about a person that we had*

*hardly ever talked to. After we got more comfortable, there were a few of us who had to go through an obstacle course: one was the guide and the other was guided blindly. We talked about how this must make God feel when He is trying to direct our path. We then went into our seminar and started discussing things that Jesus is to us; strength, rock, fortress etc. We defined these as a group and expressed what these meant to us. We also discussed the differences between being born and raised in the Church or to be invited into the Church. We learned from everyone that there are different struggles that we all have experienced in our walk with Christ, but they are all molding us to become closer to the Lord and that in itself is the greatest similarity." – Sister Cheryl Hester, Quincy 21- 34 year old seminar*

*"As the rock of Jesus Christ abides within us, we have the opportunity to be a rock for someone else through our example of steadfastness, perseverance, and dedication to Christ in our lives. We learned that Christ needs to be the rock of our marriages; the rock of our morality; the rock of our testimony; the rock of our families, etc. We left feeling confident that the rock upon which we stand will help us stand in this world and be a light and example for others." – Sister Mandy Griffith, Forest Hills 35-55 year old seminar*

*"After much discussion it was concluded that three essential things must prevail within us; 1. Continuously acknowledge the Lord as the great Creator. 2. Always express our gratitude for His goodness in both our natural and spiritual lives. 3. Live a sin-free, exemplary life." – Brother Tom Jones, Atlanta 56 and older seminar*

### The Joy of Marriage Continued from page 4

- 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
- 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
- 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
- 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
- 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

#### Matthew 19

- 1 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;
- 2 And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.
- 3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?
- 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female
- 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?
- 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

It is clear that Jesus emphasized God's ideal for marriage: That He intended a man and a woman choosing to be joined together do so in the bonds of Holy Matrimony, for life; that they become one flesh; and, that they never be separated by their own individual desires.

It is important that our Church continues to support and promote the Word of God in all things regardless of changing opinions over time. Jesus said, "continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed..." and He proclaimed that "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Let us always hold the Word of God in our hearts. There are millions of believers throughout the world who also believe in the sanctity of marriage!

May God bless us as we follow His commandments.

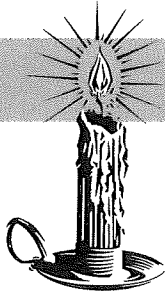


## 5 Amazing Facts

### Angel Moroni *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

On the evening of September 25, 1823, Joseph Smith wrote that *"a personage appeared at (his) bedside, standing in the air...(whose) whole person was glorious beyond description."* This would be the first of several visits over the course of four years in which the heavenly visitor, Moroni, taught young Joseph of the marvelous work that God was to perform and the role in which he, Joseph, would have in this work. In September of 1827, Joseph's work began when Moroni delivered unto him golden plates containing the history of the Nephite people. Once translated by the power of God, this record would be known to the world as The Book of Mormon. Here are five amazing facts regarding Moroni's role as guardian of the golden plates:

- 1 Moroni is believed to be the same person who, as a Nephite prophet and military commander, was instructed to finish the abridgment of the Nephite record upon which his father, Mormon, had so diligently labored (Mormon 8:1).
- 2 Moroni, in his writings, also made an abridgment of the Jaredite record, which told of their journey to the "choice land" as well as the magnificent revelation given to the Brother of Jared (Ether 1:1-2).
- 3 Moroni in his writings speaks directly to the translator of the golden plates, Joseph Smith, and of the three latter day witnesses of these plates (Ether Chapter 5).
- 4 Only in the writings of Moroni are the ordinances of baptism, the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, ordaining into offices, and administering communion recorded in such detail (Moroni Chapters 1-6).
- 5 Finally, upon the destruction of his people, Moroni hid up the plates (Mormon 8:14).



## Ladies' Uplift Circle News

### Let Your Light Shine

*By Sister Virginia Surprenant, Pacific Coast Ladies Circle Editor*

The Pacific Coast Ladies Circle Fellowship Weekend was held on March 14-16 with 77 in attendance. While our time together has come and gone, the blessings that were gleaned from the weekend will be with us forever.

The sisters first gathered together on Friday night to attend a getting acquainted event, which included registration accompanied by many hugs and expressions of love. The excitement of being there was seen on the faces of all the sisters from the oldest to the youngest. Each glowed with joy and they were eager to let their lights shine.

Sisters Carolyn and Erin Light (appropriately named considering the theme for the weekend) chaired the seminar. Their presentation was motivating and left us with many ideas and thoughts on how to be a shining light to the world. It was a blessing and inspirational for all of us.

We enjoyed our five Little Ladies' Circle members singing "This Little Light of Mine". It was a blessing to see them singing with all their heart. It touched us to think that these young ladies are future Ladies' Circle members who

will carry the light that will shine for our Church.

Following our morning seminar, we enjoyed lunch as a group, which provided a wonderful season of fellowship and offered a chance for us to get re-acquainted with each other. It was a wonderful way to show our light to those around us. What really shined was the beautiful prayer offered on the food by Little Ladies' Circle member, Summer Schweitzer. God's light was shining brightly on this child and we were touched by her prayer.

The afternoon was devoted to free time which allowed us to spend time in fellowship with one another. Some sisters went out to enjoy an afternoon of shopping, some gathered around the piano to enjoy some time singing, and others sat and shared testimonies together. We also had the opportunity to participate in a craft class which consisted of making beautiful jars that were decorated and held a candle to help shine the light.

Because the hotel staff kept commenting on how friendly and bright we were, and how much they enjoyed our singing, we asked them to come to the front of

the room and we sang "Let it Shine" to them as a thank you for providing such wonderful service.

That evening, the Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Circle President, Sister Debbie McDonnell and General Ladies' Uplift Circle President, Sister Lisa Champine addressed the congregation.

Later that night, Sister Michelle Watson coordinated a "Fun Night" which was highly anticipated. The sisters enjoyed ending the evening with a night of spiritual fun.

Sunday mornings at Fellowship Weekends are always bittersweet as we realize that our time together is too quickly coming to an end. We gathered for our Chapel service, where the brothers delivered a beautiful message, blessing each one of us. After a few were anointed and many shared their testimony, the meeting came to an end, leaving us with many shining memories.

Sister Jennifer Robertson and her team did a wonderful job of chairing this event; truly shining their lights so bright.



## Prayer Can Change a Troubled Heart

Matthew Chapter 6

**W**hen Jesus walked this earth as a man, He taught us many things about love and how to touch and use the power of God to help us.

God, who created humans, knows everything about us. He knows the way we think, what we think, our secret thoughts, and how we humans get mixed up, worried, angry, afraid, jealous, and even unkind and hateful. Jesus taught us how to pray to God to admit the bad feelings and to change ourselves by repenting (being sorry). Jesus said (see Matthew 6: 8-15) if we do not forgive others for the things they do wrong to us, then God will not forgive us.

Sometimes when I am going through an upsetting, scary time, I don't want to forgive or change, or I feel like I can't or do not know how. I may know it is wrong to have all the bad feelings, but they are hard to give up. Sometimes people I love or friends are also upset along with me. So, I may have to be honest with God and tell him I need help to be willing to do the right thing and change.

I may pray, *"Dear God, I am really, really mad about... (whatever is upsetting me), and I know you want me to do better, so help me be willing to change."* And He will!

Before I know it, I am no longer so angry or upset. I will be able to pray to

change. Maybe I have learned how to handle the problem, or the problem has even gone away. Maybe I am the one who needs to say, *"I am sorry, please forgive me. I was wrong."* God has the power to change our minds, bring us peace and living hope. So, even when things are going wrong in our lives, we can be peaceful, happy, and get through each day.

In the Bible, in Matthew, Chapter 6, Jesus also makes it very plain how to pray and talk to God. He taught us the "Lord's Prayer" in verses 9-13. He also told us to go to a private place to pray to God. He said that when you pray, pray in secret; and your Father (God) who sees in secret will reward you openly. He said not to pray as the heathens do when they repeat things over and over. They think they will be heard for their much speaking but God knows the things you need before you ask Him.

My Mother used to teach me to stop being mean or selfish, or fighting with my family members. She forced us to say we were sorry and admit it when we were wrong. Sometimes I was mad when she forced us to admit our wrongs, but it worked. Sometimes I AM wrong. Jesus can change our hearts. He has changed mine many, many times.

Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. When I listen to His words and try His teachings, when I honestly pray and tell Him what I am upset over, it works! God, who is all powerful, He who knows my every thought and care, can help change me. The power of God can fill us with love; it can protect us and teach us. Our lives can move forward with happi-

ness and without worrying over all the upsetting problems of life because our Heavenly Father is in control. Put your problems and cares in God's hands. Actually admit you have no real power, but our Creator does. Pray and touch the power of God. Ask God to help to change you.

With love,

Your ever-changing friend,

Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

GOD	KINGDOM
IS	COME
OUR	THY
FATHER	WILL
WHICH	BE
ART	DONE
IN	ON
HEAVEN	EARTH
HOLY	AS
IS	IT
YOUR	IS
NAME	IN
THY	HEAVEN

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

We had an overwhelming response to our question,  
"What event in the scripture would you like to have been there to witness?"  
Here are a few of the selected responses:

I would have loved to be with Noah when God put the first rainbow in the sky. I can't imagine the relief, peace, and promise he felt in that moment. What beauty!—*Sister Natalie Pezzenti, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission*

I would like to have witnessed the Lord giving His sermon on the mount. There is so much to learn from that passage of scripture (the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, etc.) and it seems to me it would have been such a life-changing experience to be there and hear Him teach.—*Sister Kathie Perkins, Detroit, MI Branch #1*

I would have wanted to be with Mary Magdalene at the tomb when she witnessed seeing Jesus was alive. I feel she loved the Master with her entire heart for healing her and casting out the demons. She chose to follow Him. She immediately recognized His voice when He mentioned her name. I imagine He showed her the same love He has for us. This is one of my favorites, among many.—*Sister Mary Ann Heaps, Forest Hills, FL Branch*

I would have liked to be there for Lehi's arrival in the western hemisphere.—*Brother Tom Jones, Atlanta, GA Branch*

When Jesus resurrected from the dead, because I want to see God, and because I would get to see the angel also! I would also have loved to see the faces of the people who didn't believe in Him after finding out He was indeed alive.—*Caitlyn Monaghan, Columbus, OH Mission*

The parting of the Red Sea and walking across dry ground.—*Sister Laura Stone, Creekside, MI Branch*

I would like to be at the final gathering when the books are opened and hear God say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant! Enter in!"—*Evangelist Richard Scaglione, Sr., Monongahela, PA Branch*

I would love to have witnessed the miraculous birth of Jesus. The scriptures as well as Christmas songs paint vivid imagery, but to witness this miracle "live" would be truly amazing.—*Sister Linda Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch*

I would have liked to witness Christ and Peter walking on the water, because it goes to show us that through faith in Him, we can do all the things Christ did on this earth.—*Brother Jason Genaro, Forest Hills, FL Branch*

After seeing "The Ten Commandments" on TV at Easter time, I think maybe to be present to see the Red Sea parting might have been very cool, although I'm sure in reality it was a terrifying experience.—*Brother Ken Lombardo, Metuchen, NJ Branch*

What: Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why: Greatest event in history!—*Evangelist Paul A. Palmieri, Gastonia, NC Branch*

Oh, I would have loved to be there when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, and also when Jesus revealed Himself to Mary. Both occasions must have been so beautiful and we would have felt His Spirit of Love.—*Sister Judith Steding, Forest Hills, FL Branch*

Although there are so many events at which I would love to have been present, I am going to select the raising of Lazarus. I have three reasons. Foremost, I would just want to be in the presence of our Lord. Who would not want to see Jesus in the flesh? Second, it would be wonderful to see the power of God. Third, the raising of Lazarus gave Christ great joy. I would want to see Christ joyful.—*Evangelist Frank Naoil, Detroit, MI Branch #1*

I would be with the shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night. Can you picture the Glory of the Lord shining down upon them and a multitude of the Heavenly Host singing praises to God! It would be a sight to behold.—*Sister Pearl Nester, Simi Valley, CA Branch*



All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Psalm 66:3-5



# Blessing Bits

## BB God Sent Me a Spot

One day as I was getting ready for work, I noticed a small spot on my nose, no bigger than the tip of a pencil. Over the next few weeks this spot drew my attention often, in fact it was positioned right in my line of vision so even without looking into a mirror I could see it. I would try to ignore it or tell myself it was nothing, but over and over again my attention was drawn to it. I finally gave in and visited a doctor and found that the spot was pre-melanoma and needed to be removed. While at the doctor's two more spots were found, both in locations where I could not see them. One of those spots turned out to be much more serious and without care could have been life-threatening in a short time. I thank God that He sent me a spot right in the one place where it could not be ignored!—*SisterCarolynn O'Connor, Detroit, MI Branch #2*

God would show me the answer. I had a dream in which I purchased a pair of shoes from the woman with the open position. Once I got the shoes I realized they didn't match and they were men's shoes. On the back of each shoe was a glittery emblem. One glittery emblem quickly fell off. I went back to the woman to return the shoes but couldn't find her. She had my money and I was stuck with these bad shoes. Even after this dream, I still wanted the position, but in my heart I knew it wasn't for me and I decided to withdraw my name. When I met with the manager with the open position and told her that I was no longer interested, she said *"At the end of the day, when the glitter falls off, you have to know that you did the right thing."* I was stunned when she used the word glitter. I praise God because He loves me enough to show me when I'm headed in the wrong direction.—*SisterDianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL*

## BB When the Glitter Falls Off

Recently, I applied for a new position at work. After I applied, I was considering whether to continue to pursue this new position because it would mean a lot of changes. I sought advice from someone I work with and have known a long time. He said to consider what I would be leaving behind. That night I prayed that

## BB Immediate Relief

I've been dealing with chronic heel pain for about twenty years. A recent treatment caused an additional injury to the back of my heel. It was very sore and quite sensitive to the touch. After about six weeks I decided to get anointed. I was immediately healed! The pain, which had

fluctuated from mildly irritating to excruciating, was gone. I'd like to praise God for this wonderful healing!—*Brother Frank Hamet, Detroit, MI Branch #2*

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

# Q

**Question for this month:** *"How will you spend your Summer Days? What will you do to strengthen your relationship with God and/or the Church this summer?"*

# A

**Answer from last month:** *"What is a scripture topic, series of lessons, or theme your branch or mission has studied that you really enjoyed or has made a difference in you spiritually?"* In the Greensburg MBA years ago we actually went through "My Testimony" written by Brother Ishmael D'Amico together. We broke the pamphlet up into sections and each member took a section. All involved seemed to really enjoy the process. People made visuals, maps, and handouts! We truly enjoyed our time learning together.—*Brother Jason Monaghan, Aliquippa, PA Branch*



*All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Psalm 66:3-5*