

The Gospel News

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A Serious Search for the Truth

By Elder Malcolm Paxton

Ford Kankam Boadu was born in Ghana. After going to school to become a school teacher, he joined the Christ Salvation Church and stayed with them for a number of years. However, the pastor began introducing doctrine that Ford did not agree with, so he left in search of a true doctrine.

In 1972, he decided to start his own church in his home village of Adarko Jackie. Not long after, a Nigerian minister invited him to attend a conference where an American missionary was speaking. Her name was Mother Waddles and she had traveled from Detroit, Michigan, to speak and establish an outreach in Ghana. After meeting with Mother Waddles, she was so impressed with young Ford, that she convinced him and other men to join with her organization: Perpetual Soul Saving Mission. She presented the men, including Ford, with certificates; officially making them ministers and writing on Ford's certificate the phrase, "little boss".

Sadly, the other men became jealous of the "little boss" title because he was a younger man and as soon as Mother Waddles returned to the United States, the men began to give Ford a hard time. Ford wrote a letter to Mother Waddles after some time, sharing that he couldn't continue to be part of her organization because it was very difficult to get along with the other ministers and wanted to leave. Mother Waddles responded with a telegram, not to Ford, but to the other ministers, saying that if they didn't work with Ford, she would stop sending funding to Ghana. When the men received the telegram, they threatened to kill Ford if he left the organization. Ford's mind was made up and he insisted that he would leave. Within a matter of days, seven of these ministers jumped him and began beating him. In an effort to defend himself, he picked up a large tree branch and struck one of the men, knocking him out. The other six ran, calling the police and Ford was taken to jail. Eventually, witnesses came forward and explained that Ford was only defending himself and he was freed, but because of the continued persecution, he was advised to leave the area.

In 1974, he decided to take the advice and move to the village of Nwamase, where he started to preach. Still searching for a true doctrine, he went to a library and researched many churches, and came across The Church of Jesus Christ in the United States and requested information, writing to Brother John Ross. After numerous exchanges of communication between Mr. Ross and Ford, each growing more and more serious, a request to visit Ghana was made.

On July 11, 1976, Brothers John Ross and Nephi DeMercurio traveled to Ghana to meet with Ford Kankam Boadu. The brothers from the United States met him in a hotel and explained the doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ in greater detail face-to-face. Ford was so im-

(Continued on page 3)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4 Pray for those in search of a spouse	5 Do something nice for your spouse today	6	7	8 Ask someone baptized 50+ yrs to share their testimony	9
10	11 Pray for our family members that are not in the Church	12	13	14 Flag Day Wave the Flag of Zion!	15	16 Involve your kids in a Church project this summer
17 Father's Day Honor thy father Exodus 20:12	18 Pray for the sick throughout the Church	19	20 Give your family extra hugs today!	21	22	23
24	25 Pray for the upcoming OMBA Campout	26	27	28 Tell someone that God loves them	29	30 OMBA CAMPOUT HERE WE COME! Let the blessings begin!

May 2012
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

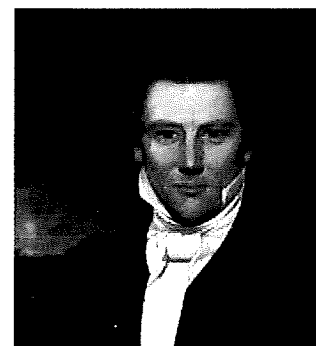
July 2012
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

June 2012

UNITY- On the calendar are suggested activities to complete on specific days as a way to unite the membership throughout the Church. Let's focus our prayers every Monday!

BTF Blast From The Past

One hundred sixty-eight years ago this month, on Thursday, June 27, 1844, an angry mob stormed the jailhouse in Carthage, Illinois, that held Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum. Killing them both, the martyrdom of Joseph Smith would throw the early saints into a contentious struggle for leadership that would ultimately result in Sidney Rigdon, first counselor to Joseph Smith, taking his followers east to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From there, a young William Bickerton would be baptized, ordained into the ministry, and Quorum of Seventy to be used of God, in time after the breakup of Rigdon's group to organize The Church of Jesus Christ in Greenock, Pennsylvania, in 1862.



Joseph Smith

GMBA CAMPOUT 2012

Where: University of California, PA

When: June 30-July 6, 2012

Theme "GLORIOUS DAY"

Info and Camp Updates:

Facebook – GMBA Campout 2012

or e-mail – 2012@yahoo.com

TIME TO SIGN-UP!

2012

YOUTH IN ACTION TOURS

Levittown, PA YIA - July 20 through July 29
Hollywood, FL - July 27 through August 5

Please register today at the following link:
<http://www.gmbayouthinaction.org/yia.asp>

Any questions can be directed to:
Brother Mario Zaccagnini

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**

A Serious Search for the Truth

(Continued from Page 1)

pressed with the doctrine and the spirit these brothers carried, that he invited other men that he had been preaching to, to come and listen to them. During the seven day visit, they were so convicted that Ford requested baptism along with others.

On July 18, 1976, The Church of Jesus Christ was established in Nwamase, Ghana. Brother Ford was ordained an elder along with five teachers, two deacons and three deaconesses. Over the next few years, the group continued to grow to over 200 members.

On one occasion, Brother Ford was traveling home after a Sunday morning worship meeting and saw a group gathered who were informally meeting and preaching. He stopped to listen to see what they were saying and asked where the church was located. That evening, he attended their Sunday night meeting, to learn and listen to them. In fact, he attended meetings for the next three days, silently listening and observing. On the

fourth day, he attended and began to ask questions, however, they were unable to answer many. Soon they began to ask Brother Ford if he knew the answers to these questions and he quickly began to share the true doctrine of Jesus Christ as taught by his Church. By the end of the discussion, the pastor invited Brother Ford to return the following evening and offered to give him two hours to address the entire congregation. Those who came the following evening marveled at his words and asked him, "What shall we do?" The Lord opened the door of opportunity and Brother Ford introduced them to The Church of Jesus Christ! Many who attended that evening followed Brother Ford and expressed a desire to come to his Church. They soon repented and were baptized [and faithfully serve the Church today as ordained elders and deaconesses].

Over the past 36 years, the Lord blessed the Church with many souls and countless miracles resulting in five established branches throughout Ghana. A recent example of the

manifestation of the power of God occurred when Brother Ford broke his back. The doctors at the hospital told him that he would never walk again. He was discharged and returned home. After being anointed by the ministry and bedfast for three weeks, he stood up and walked without pain!

On February 8, 2012, Evangelist Ford Kankam Boadu passed the mantle of responsibility to Brother Joseph Fordjour to oversee and lead the Church into a new generation as Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in Ghana. Brother Joseph and his counselors, along with all of the elders are committed to growing the Church, focusing on training existing members, outreach to those who need Christ and translating the Book of Mormon into their native language of Twi.



Nyame Nhyira Mo
(May God bless you all).

Domestic Church --Detroit Branch #2



Detroit Branch #2 was established in 1929 in the home of Sister Anna Carlini. It was primarily made up of Italian immigrants who came to this land in search of a better life. Over the years we have met at five different locations, starting in Detroit and now currently in a suburb of Detroit called Allen Park in a small residential area.

We have 85 members ranging from 22-101 yrs in age and we are blessed to have over 25 children that attend on a regular basis! We remain active throughout the year. Some of our regular events include an Easter Breakfast, Memorial Day Picnic, Watch Night Service, Vacation Bible School, a gradation luncheon, ice skating parties, an October outdoor evening event, and a big Christmas program.

We also try to plan a branch trip every few years. We rent a bus and travel to an area of the Church where we can meet with the brothers and sisters. Some of our past locations have been Hill Comoruh, Cincinnati, and the Creation Museum in Kentucky. These trips and events have served to strengthen bonds of friendship and love. We also participate in several fundraisers throughout the year including the scrip program, which has allowed us to raise over \$20,000. We have an active Ladies' Circle that meets every other Monday and MBA on Wednesdays except for the last Wednesday of the month, which is reserved for Fasting and Prayer.

Many of our members are active in the missionary work of the Church in Italy, South America, and India and also heavily support the work among the Native Americans in Six Nations and Muncey.

One challenge that we are facing right now is that we have decided to re-locate to a central location and it is proving difficult to sell our building and find a new building to meet our needs. Please pray for us during this transitory time. We invite you all to come and worship with us soon!

International Church -- Italy



Did you know that our first foreign mission in the Church was in Italy? The work started in 1917 when a brother from the US went to visit his family and while there he baptized his natural brother, Brother Vincenzia Scambalogna. In 1948, the Church recognized Italy as an established mission field.

At one time there were seven buildings where our Church met and had as many as 260 members. Currently there are three missions with two buildings spread far apart. The membership now totals 26. There are seven in Milan, nine in San DeMetrio and eleven in Sardanias with one child that attends who is two years old. There are four elders that service the missions. In recent years there have been many experiences where the Lord has blessed His people there and attendance is growing.

The Italian influence can be seen throughout the Domestic works of the Church. There is a love for this land and its saints. Each year typically five trips will be made to Italy to support and encourage the brothers and sisters there. There have been many obstacles including the persecution of the saints as they leave the religion of their land. We are excited to have the Italian Book of Mormon ready for print and forward to sharing it with the saints there soon.

When you think of Italy, picture your brothers and sisters there that have the same dream as you do here in America, to see The Church grow! When you think of the saints there please pray that their congregations will increase with young members dedicated to the Lord and His Gospel. Dio ti benedica [God bless you]

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he . . ." Proverbs 23:7

By Evangelist Carl Huttenberger

The root of every action is a thought. Our thinking determines what we do or what we avoid. In fact, the mind is a powerful tool that drives what we become in life. What we think shapes what others will think of us. A lot of time is spent on watching our actions, but our actions are unavoidable unless we first control our thinking.

If you were to be asked to describe yourself, chances are you would describe someone that you really are not. Most would describe a more ideal person, and not reveal some of the hidden thoughts which might be offensive to others. The problem is that by not coming to terms with our thoughts, no matter how hard we try, our actions will never match that "ideal" person we think we are. If we truly are going to change our behavior to reach a higher spiritual mind, then we have to begin by changing our thinking. In fact, the truth is, faith begins in our mind. Faith is a thought which produces an action, and pleases God, and causes Him to move on our behalf.

"Finally, bretheren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" Philippians 4:8.

If we make a conscious effort to fix our thinking on these virtues, not only will our actions be affected, but we will actually "feel better!" Stress and depression are a result of our thoughts. Negative, angry, confrontational thinking leads to a reputation of always being in a bad mood. People like this never seem to do anything noble, honorable or wonderful in life. They are usually the complainers, who complain about everything but never participate or contribute to anything. Do you know anyone like this?

If we look at this verse in Philippians carefully, it describes specifically how we need to program our mind every day. It is more

specific than just "thinking good thoughts." We should think how blessed we are to have the "truth" of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ! Think how special we are to know the "truth" of the future events; the Peaceful Reign, Paradise, Heaven with Jesus forever and ever. We should think about the virtue of "honesty." When we can be "honest" with ourselves, we will never find ourselves having to lie, or cover something up. We can feel such freedom when we can think upon things that are "honest." We should think about things that are "just." Isn't it wonderful to know that the evil actions of some will never win-out in the end? Justice will always be served for things that are right. We should think about things that are "pure." Go back to the day of your baptism, [if you are baptized] and think about the "purity" you saw in all the brothers and sisters, and everyone around you. Remind yourself everyday of the "purity" that does exist in all your brothers and sisters, and focus on that, and not what you perceive to be their "faults." We should think of things that have a "good report."

Often times as I travel to work on the bus every morning, I think about the testimonies of the brothers and sisters, and how God has worked miracles in their lives. I think about my own life and the incredible blessings God has given me and my family. This is what is meant by a "good report." We should think about things that are "virtuous" and things "praiseworthy." Do you know that if we REALLY try to program our minds this way, every day, all day, we will find ourselves escalating to a higher spiritual plane? We will find ourselves being happier. The devil creates a battlefield in our mind, but if we force our thinking in this way, [I know it's hard, but we can do it], we can win the battle. Think about how God can use a person like this! Think about how the blessings and miracles can flow to a person who has re-programmed his or her thinking in this way! Remember brothers and sisters and friends, you are NOT what you eat, but you ARE what you think!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carolynn O'Connor
carolynn@xela-pack.com
734-260-0213

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Donald Ross
donross01@comcast.net
412-424-2225

CONSULTANTS

Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovalvo
Anthony Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

TYPESETTER

Erma Draskovich

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Ken Lombardo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Karen Pandone

QUORUM OF 70 EDITOR

Carl Frammolino
frammonio@comcast.net
724-375-1459

GMBA EDITOR

Daniel Stone
dstone01@gmail.com
954-778-6467

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Angela Yoder
angelaandericyoder@hotmail.com
412-526-5771

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
mrzaino35@gmail.com
732-289-4191

GREAT LAKES

Kim Komjathy
komjathy@wowway.com
248-371-9208

MIDWEST

Natalie Pezzenti
natalie.pezzenti@gmail.com
513-659-3694

PACIFIC

Michelle Watson
mhutt82@aol.com
480-276-2697

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Martha Gehly
mcgehly@embargmail.com
540-631-0787

SOUTHEAST

Dianne Maddox
dianne29@aol.com
937-545-5786

SOUTHWEST

Anthony Scolaro
ajs@cox.net
732-259-3861

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Part 2 – Restoration *By Elder Duane Lovalvo*

A Forgotten People

In 420 A.D. Moroni finished his additions to the Nephite history which task his father, Mormon, had given to him. His people, the Nephites, were gone, destroyed by their brethren the Lamanites. The Lamanites now turned on each other and the death and destruction continued throughout the land in an endless series of wars. His work completed, Moroni hiked up the side of the Hill Cumorah one last time. He placed the golden plates, along with other ancient relics, inside of a stone box which he sealed up and buried in the moist earth. The Nephites and their glorious past were soon forgotten by the Lamanites who later inhabited this northern wilderness. History became legend and legend turned into myth and for only one and a half thousand years any knowledge of the descendants of the tribe of Joseph was lost.

1816 A.D. was an ominous year for New Englanders. Irregular spots could be seen on the sun with the naked eye. Freezing temperatures froze the ground solid in July followed by four months of no rain. For yet another season the crops failed. This odd meteorological event added to the immense difficulties associated with farming the stony and infertile Vermont soil. Faced with imminent poverty, Joseph Smith, Sr., decided to take leave of his family and head west in search of a more promising land. Having found such a place within a short time, he sent back word for his family to sell their belongings, pay their debts, and come join him in the bustling town of Palmyra, New York. On a cold summer morning Lucy Smith and her eight children finished loading up their remaining possessions into a buckboard wagon and headed out on

the wheel rutted Great Western Turnpike. Joseph Smith, Jr., was only ten years old when his family made the journey to Ontario County, New York. They were leaving behind their home in the mountains of Vermont for the newly developed and presumably more fertile western lands.

Western New York was a beautiful and mysterious place. Towering forests, teeming with wildlife, blanketed the rolling hills and valleys. Great freshwater seas bordered a bountiful land watered by many lakes, rivers, and streams. The Iroquois Confederacy of Six Nations occupied the Finger Lakes region for hundreds of years until their ally, Great Britain, was defeated in the American Revolutionary War. By 1816, most of the Haudenosaunee [People of the Longhouse] had moved west or north into Canada. Their legends, however, abounded in the region. One particular Iroquois legend maintained that a certain burial mound contained the skeleton of a powerful giant.

As American settlers migrated into western New York and began to clear the land for homes and farms they stumbled across hundreds of mounds and great walls built of soil and stone. Thousands of skeletons, many exceeding seven feet in length, were unearthed during this time, as recorded by early American historians. Moving throughout the state in the mid 19th century, archaeologists documented dozens of these earthworks, describing many of them as elaborate defensive fortifications that, in their opinion, required advanced knowledge and steel implements to construct. Many Americans speculated about who these mound builders were and wondered what

had happened to this lost civilization. None could predict that the time was at hand for the Lord to reveal the identity of this once mighty nation.

The Smith family worked hard in Palmyra. By 1818 they had saved up enough money to place a down payment on 100 acres of forested land two miles south of town. This property just happened to be very near the largest of the drumlin hills [the Hill Cumorah]. They built a large log cabin and set to work clearing the land for their farm. It was in the spring of 1820 that a religious fervor blew into Palmyra. This movement was part of what modern historians refer to as The Second Great Awakening, which had its roots in the east and consisted of an effort by the religions of the day to eliminate the sinful ways of society.

Young Joseph Smith, now fourteen years old, attended these camp meetings, listening to the excited preachers. Soon, he realized that the people in the region became divided in their support for the various religious sects. Recognizing that the competition for followers was intensifying, the ministers began to contend with one another over whose doctrine was correct. All of the clamoring and strife confused Joseph. His mind struggled to come to a conclusion, which church was the right one to join?

Joseph Smith states, "While I was laboring under extreme difficulties... I was one day reading the epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse, which reads: *'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'* Never did

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Our Motto *By Brother Anthony Cardinale*

The Bell Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ has a motto. A motto is a short saying that expresses a rule to live by. The motto we have chosen is important and sacred to us — and also difficult to fulfill. We have adopted Paul's epistle to the Philippians, and this inspirational text has persisted as the focal point of many classes and sermons this year. The epistle primarily speaks about encouragement and joy in times of adversity. The motto we have chosen is from Philippians 4:4. *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice."*

The difficult part of the motto is to rejoice in the Lord always regardless of whatever negative situation we encounter. Paul later states in Philippians 4:11, *"for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."* Truly, to be content in unpleasant circumstances is a learned behavior and not a natural response. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we can accomplish this calmness in our heart and soul during unpleasant times, even though we know we should believe that He is always faithful to help us.

Throughout history, like-minded people have chosen to live and die by different creeds, ideas, themes, and mottos.

We Christians adhere to live and die by the "things of Christ," which encompasses our code of conduct patterned after our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We joyfully pledge our heart, soul, mind and strength to the will of God and Christ, and He reciprocates back to us the peace and joy we most cherish. In John 14:27, Christ says to us *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

Paul states in Philippians 1:21, *"for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* He had willingly consecrated his whole being to Christ and His work. Although he wrote the epistle while he was under house arrest in Rome, he was not discouraged; he knew the gain of eternal life that awaited him. In spite of his hardships, he had the peace of Christ rejoicing in his soul. We might not be in literal bonds, but we all face obstacles. However, when we face our adversities with Christ, we can rejoice that we have the Almighty Father working on our behalf so that the best result will come to fruition. We might not initially see the best outcome with our physical eyes, but by faith and in time we will see the best outcome due to our patience in Christ.

To reinforce our motto, the Bell Branch made shirts with the Church logo on the front and the statement "I Rejoice" on the back. All our members and friends got one to wear. Furthermore, in these difficult and trying times, the Church officers and members encourage each other to maintain our joy in spite of adversity. We must acknowledge and protect this special peace as our most precious gift from God, which we have through Christ.

Unfortunately, Satan tries to take away this peace through the worries and cares of this world, but we must not give into the fears. Peace must overcome our fears. We cannot allow the anxieties of this life to steal our peace. Fear and peace cannot co-exist, just as light and darkness cannot live together. Christ is our peace [Ephesians 2:14], and in honor of Him the Bell Church family will continue our motto to rejoice in the Lord!

Message from a Previous Editor

Who Are You? *By Evangelist Ken Staley (Gospel News Editor 1979-1984)*

We are so often asked this question as it relates to our church affiliation, that we seldom REALLY listen to our own verbal response, to accurately assess the impact of our words in the ears and the heart of the listener. I am asking this question of you our reader, not for the purpose of criticizing your response, but instead, to encourage you to consider your reply from the perspective of the listener. I recently had the very occasion to do so myself, and would like to share with you the results.

In the forty-five years that I have had the privilege of being a part of the Kingdom of God, regardless of my physical location or circumstances [we have lived in five states and founded ten different branches or missions of The Church of Jesus Christ], never before have I been asked the question "who are you" as frequently as I have been asked this since I

relocated to Middle Tennessee in 2004. Over the past eight years I have received numerous telephone calls from well meaning brothers and sisters around the Church, asking me to contact a friend or relative of theirs who lives in my general vicinity. Often times when I do, I eventually determine from talking with the friend or relative that they actually live quite some distance from me.

It was probably for that reason that when another such call came earlier this year from a brother in Christ who lives in Florida, that I approached his request with a skeptical and hesitant mindset. However, after a more detailed inquiry as to his friend's exact location, to my amazement, it turned out that I was being asked to call someone who lived only 20 minutes away from me, someone who had grown up in Florida as

a childhood and life-long friend of this brother, and someone who was in desperate need of help at the present time.

Upon making the initial contact, I quickly learned that our brother's friend was recently unemployed, recently experienced a failed marriage, and recently turned to substance abuse to deal with his circumstances. I had been through a job loss of my own in 2009, but, candidly, I confess that I struggled to personally relate to the totality of his problems.

Nonetheless, I began talking with him via telephone on a regular basis for the next several months, simply in an effort to be a listening ear. Admittedly, even though I earnestly prayed before each telephone

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The saints of the Southeast Region, along with visitors from Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio, came together with hopes that the Spirit of God would move among us. God moved quicker than we had anticipated. As the seminar leaders met for a few moments on Friday evening to prepare for the following day, God's Spirit was demonstrated. After this brief meeting, a circle was formed and a prayer was offered, during which a brother had a vision. He saw the ground in the middle of the circle rise; it rose above the circle. He saw a white flag on top with Jesus Christ standing next to the flag. As he relayed this vision, another brother spoke in the gift of tongues, with the interpretation saying, "I am in your midst, thus saith the Lord."

Saturday morning began with a prayer meeting. As a brother was praying, the gift of tongues was given while another brother saw the standard of liberty flying.

He then saw the heavens open up and he heard a mighty voice saying,

"My children I give thee My Holy Spirit that ye may raise your standard unto My glory for the inhabitants of the earth."

Saturday evening we were blessed as Brother Scott Griffith led us through an electronic presentation of the work of the church taking place throughout the world. Many experiences and blessings in several countries demonstrated how God is working throughout the entire world. After the presentation, several brothers spoke, reminding us that we will be met with opposition and that when something is raised, one must fight against gravity. Each brother spoke encouraging us to "raise the standard" in our lives. After the meeting, we gathered

around a campfire, enjoying a "s'more buffet" and songs of praise.

Parents and grandparents alike enjoyed a peaceful Sunday morning as our children were taken to Junior Church. Brother Chuck Maddox reminded us of the importance of bringing our children to church, even when it's difficult. He said to "raise the standard" for today's meeting and anticipate great things. He mentioned our s'mores last evening and how the standard was raised with several types of chocolate, marshmallows and graham crackers. The s'mores were good but the fellowship was better and how we are nothing without the Spirit of God. After singing and prayer, Brother Brad Kurowsky asked if we are able to commit to "raising our standard"?

Brother Kevin Murphy spoke about a vision he was given two weeks ago showing

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Who Are You? *continued from Page 7*

call, I often felt helpless and quite "in over my head" by the end of these calls. In one such telephone conversation in early April 2012, I was astonished when the man asked me the question "who are you, and what can you do for me"? His tone was not cynical, but sincere. Obviously through the Holy Spirit of God, at that moment I imagined myself in this man's shoes. Consequently, I replied, "I am someone who can meet you in person and present you and your needs to God through the laying on of hands and prayer of strength" [NOTE: we had not yet met in person, and I had no idea what reaction to expect, based on our previous talks].

His response was one of a desperate man, "Okay, where and when?"

As it was mid-week, I asked him to come to our Wednesday night scripture study at a brother and sister's home, located near his home. Sure enough, promptly at 7:30 PM that evening this man entered the home of complete strangers for the sole purpose of receiving a prayer for strength.

To say that the Love of God demonstrated by the brothers and sisters present that evening overwhelmed our visitor would be a gross understatement. Since we knew that he was alone and learned that it was his forty-eighth birthday, we celebrated with cake and coffee at the conclusion of our meeting. We also invited him to come to dinner on Sunday, and he readily accepted. We parted that evening feeling that God had heard our plea, but not knowing how He would move on our dear friend's behalf.

Unknown to us, the next day this man received some distressing personal news and, as a result, resorted back to his substance abuse. He literally disappeared from sight for the next three days.

On Sunday he did not keep our previous dinner engagement and was not reachable. Out of concern for his personal welfare, and after wrestling with the notion of locating his home and making a surprise visit there, God relentlessly prompted me until such time as I did just that!

Despite obvious signs that he was inside, I was unable to reach him or confirm his condition. I called the brother in Florida and he contacted the man's family to obtain permission for me request the police to break into the house. After doing so, the police confirmed that they had just reached him in sufficient time to spare him from an overdose death.

PRAISE GOD! Had we not met for the purpose of prayer just four days earlier, perhaps nobody would have found him in time to save him!

This salvation testimony is not yet finished. While, as a result of this incident, our new friend has found relief from his substance abuse, he still requires your prayers that he might also find life more abundantly through Jesus Christ and His Church!

The next time somebody asks you, "Who are you", put yourself in his or her shoes, and remember that your response could actually save them, in more ways than just one!

ALL GLORY IS TO GOD!

By Brother Kerry Carlini

The Faith of Rahab

On the eve to one of Israel's most miraculous events, Joshua – the successor to Moses – sent two spies into the city of Jericho in preparation for battle. There, a common, Canaanite woman – a prostitute nonetheless – would be used of God to hide and protect the spies from being discovered. It would be her faith in the Lord of Israel, however, that would set her apart as truly remarkable. Here are five amazing facts about Rahab:

1. After expressing to the spies "that all the inhabitants of the land faint" for hearing of Israel's successes, Rahab proclaimed, "(T)he Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in the earth beneath."
2. Rahab arranged with the spies for her family and herself to be spared during the attack, using a scarlet cord hung from her window as a sign to the invading soldiers toward their safe keeping.
3. In time, Rahab would marry a Jew and have a son, Boaz, who would one day – as a wealthy and prominent man – marry a lowly gleaner, a Moabite widow. Like Rahab, Ruth had been a stranger to the Israelite people, when – upon the death of her first husband – she passionately pleaded to his Jewish mother, "(T)hy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."
4. Following the generations of Rahab, from Boaz, Obed, and to Jesse, the Lord would ultimately have a man "after his own heart" to be King of Israel, David.
5. And, as God promised David, through his lineage and in the fullness of time, He brought forth His son, Jesus Christ – making Rahab an ancestor of some 31 generations. What remarkable faith!

Joshua Chapter 2

Ruth Chapters 1 and 2

Matthew 1:5

Hebrews 11:31

James 2:24, 25

Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Be Bold *By Sister Lisa Champine, Vice President*



Enjoy this article from the Ladies Circle Blog. Since 2006 the Ladies Circle Blog has had 43,000 unique [different] visitors to the site. Included in this number are visitors from ten countries including Russia where 798 different visitors have read the blog. To subscribe to the blog, go to generalladiescircle.org and click on blog to enter your information.

I am not bold. There are many times in my natural life where I wish I could be. When I was in school I would rather take a lower grade than stand before the class and give any kind of oral report or speech. When I couldn't get out of it my anxiety levels would go through the roof. I have always admired those who are able to speak easily to strangers or in front of a crowd. In a natural sense I wish I had their courage, their ease, their boldness.

In a spiritual sense, being bold takes on a very different meaning. Through Jesus Christ and His Spirit we are able to do things that in any other situation we would never be able to do. For me the wrestle is can I put my own natural tendencies down, that I may be bold for Christ?

I say wrestle because I know that when

I am able to lay aside my fears and to focus on Him, when I step out of my comfort zone, I can feel His Spirit and I am able to do the very things I thought I would never be able to do. When we are in that place God can take our inadequacies, the limits we place on ourselves, our fears and overcome them and use us to fulfill His plan. The key is we need to let go of those things that hold us back and allow Him to fill us up that we might do His work. God provides whatever we might need, strength, faith or even boldness, when necessary, to do His work.

To be bold for Him we also need to be sensitive to the leadings of His spirit. He'll direct us when we need to be gentle and meek or when we need to stand and be courageous. Without His Spirit and His direction we will never be able to do His work in the way He wants it to be accomplished. We don't know what we can be

until God takes control of us.

Being bold will never come easy to me, but my prayer is that I will never fail to stand up for Him, that I will always be open to His direction and His plan for my life. And when He prompts me to do a work for Him, even when I think I'm not up to the task, that I will trust in Him and not hesitate to do whatever He asks of me. Because when He is with me I can do whatever He asks.

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

Philippians 1:20



By Sister Jan Bork

God Sees Us Wherever We Are

Dear Friends,

Once when I was grown up I heard two women at work talking about taking a trip to see beautiful Maya ruins in Mexico. I was so interested I asked them if I could go with them and their big group of friends. They said, "Sure, here's how to buy your ticket." I started planning for an adventure. I prayed about it and was so excited!

What I did not think too much about was that I really did not know these places outside of work at all. I just thought they were nice, safe and I would have a real adventure. The problem was, they were too wild for me. The trouble started when we were on the airplane far, far away and they started drinking a lot of alcohol.

After we landed, the first place we went to was not for me-more drinking. I wanted out of there. I told them, "Show me where the bus back to the Hotel Zone is, I'm leaving." I went out into the warm breezy night, got on a bus and looked at the starry sky as we drove down the busy two lane highway. All of a sudden I realized I was the only tourist on the bus and everyone else was a tired worker at the end of a long day. The lady next to me told me "No, we go away from Hotel Zone". I realized I was in trouble. I quickly started praying as the dark night flashed by.

I don't want to end up farther away from our hotel in a deserted bus

station, so I pulled the rope to stop the bus, hopped out in the dark and prayed fiercely. "Lord, no one in the whole world knows where I am but you. Please, keep me safe and help me find the way back to my hotel! Help me cross this highway too!" Then I ran back across the road to a place where people were, asked if the bus came back this late, and waited until I had a ride back, past where my friends were, to the safe place I was staying. I was so thankful to God! I'd made a mistake but He helped me.

I thought about the Apostle Paul when he was being taken across the ocean to Rome as a prisoner. Three times terrible storms came up and the ship was thrown around from the top of the waves to deep bottoms. (see Acts 27 and 28) There was no safe place to go and not one of Paul's friends even knew where he was. But, do you think God knew? Yes! God always knows where we are and where we are going.

Paul began praying and God sent an angel that night saying, "Fear not, Paul; you are going to Rome to see the ruler, cheer up, for God will save you and all the people who sail with you." Paul knew God saw him in the darkest storm, he told the others.

The next day it happened just like the angel promised. God helped them land on an island safely. This is the same God we serve; He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Wherever you are, whomever you are with, whatever is happening to you, God can help! God can deliver. We are never alone.

Love, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

PRAY	AND	OUT
PSALMS	THE	OF
THIRTY	LORD	ALL
FOUR	HEARS	THEIR
SEVENTEEN	THEM	TROUBLES
THE	AND	GOD
RIGHTEOUS	DELIVERS	SEES
CRY	THEM	

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

that the Lord is preparing to release His power. Brother Kevin said in Illi-
n^ophi the people came together; they
not worry about things that would
hold them back. He asked us if we are
ready to accept God and are we ready
to raise our standard? Brother Bryan
Griffith spoke and said we all came
on different roads to get here, from
different walks of life, to arrive at the
same place. He used an example of
a road near his grandparent's farm.
When he was boy, it was a dirt road,
soon it turned into a paved street, and
now it is a highway. This is an example
of casting up a highway and that we
need to do the same for our brothers
and sisters, by raising the standard
for them. We should think of the
person behind us and give our broth-
ers and sisters our best. Brother John
D'Orazio spoke about Moroni and the
title of liberty. He said we should all

have role models and they should not
be professional football players, but
they should be the saints of God who
strive to do the things of God. They
should be those that carry the stan-
dard. Brother John reminded us that
we should support the young people
by doing the following. "When MBA
meetings are going on, be there. When
Sunday school is going on, be there.
Be a standard bearer. Be faithful- be a
fulltime saint." Brother John Catone
said that as we were singing "*Taste The
Grass On The Summit*" this morning, he
heard the Lord say, "My son was dead,
but now He is alive, I send you forth as
sheep, go, go and bear witness to His
name." Brother John continued, "We
should be a pillar and not just a post.
Josiah became king at eight years old,
so, young people don't think you can't
do anything".

As Brother John Griffith arose from his
seat, he was overcome with the spirit
and spoke to the brothers to his side

in tongues. From the podium, he
then spoke to the congregation in
tongues, interpreting as he spoke. The
full interpretation was:

***"What does the world know
of this man, Jesus Christ?
What do they know of the
standard of righteousness?"***

A blessing was felt by all as we felt un-
worthy to witness such a great thing.

What a blessing was felt as the chil-
dren returned to our meeting, singing
"*The Standard of Liberty*", waving their
white flags.

Brother Kevin Jasmin arose and said
that as he saw the white flags, think-
ing that white flags often mean
surrendering, it was impressed upon
his heart that we must surrender our
lives to Jesus. We thank God for the
blessed weekend He gave us.

A Forgotten People *Continued from page 4*

...y passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine."

Inspired by these words, young Joseph was determined to do just that, ask God for the answer. On a beautiful sunny morn-
ing, Joseph walked about a quarter mile from his home and up a gentle slope to a place where tall sugar maples stood.
In the quiet calm and solitude of the woods, he knelt down and began to pray to God. He states, "I had scarcely done so
when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me...thick darkness gathered around me,
and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction." Joseph cried out to God for deliverance. At that
moment, he saw a pillar of light over his head that descended gradually, completely dispersing the darkness that had sur-
rounded him. When the light rested upon him he saw a Personage standing above him whose brightness and glory defied
all description. The voice of God spoke to him, calling him by name, and saying "*This is my beloved Son, hear him.*"


Joseph gathered himself and asked the Personage which church he should join. The Lord answered that he should join none of
them, "their creeds and doctrines were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; they draw near to me
with their lips, but their hearts are far from me..." The light dissipated and the vision came to an end. Joseph found himself lying
on his back, dumbfounded. This being his first experience, Joseph Smith could not have fully comprehended that the Lord was
going to use him to perform a work to restore knowledge of a forgotten people and in turn re-establish Christ's Church on the
earth.

Here's your very own GN Scripture Bookmark to clip and mark your favorite passages. God Bless You!



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son... John 3:16

Blessing Bits

 May 1, 2003, was the day my world was turned upside down. My sweet little baby girl was diagnosed with a rare liver disease. The first two years of her life were filled with many medical complications. She fought through a serious infection causing her to go into septic shock with renal, respiratory and liver failure. She had multiple liver infections resulting in countless days in the hospital. She also had a life-threatening upper-GI bleed when she was ten months old. She was blessed to receive her liver transplant on November 5, 2004. Marisa is now seven years post transplant! She is nine years old and very healthy. Our God is so good. I am very blessed to be able to call myself the mommy of a miracle. --Sister Shannon Hamet, *Detroit Branch #2*

BB After my wife Isabella passed, I pleaded to God for weeks that I would be able to see her again. One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was sitting in the living room and I heard a rustle in the other room. From around the corner she walked into the room. She looked like she had been traveling a long way by her appearance and she sat down in a chair and fixed her skirt

and looked up as if to say, "Ok I'm here- you can see me". She then got up and left the room and I heard the door close. I was left with the feeling that it was difficult for her to come back as I requested and that it was a very long way that she had come. It was also very clear to me that she was happy where she had come from and anxious to get back there. It was at this point that I began to heal from the loss of her passing. -- Brother Reno Bologna, *Detroit Branch #2*

Editor's Note: Brother Reno passed away in May shortly after submitting this experience. His dream will bring peace to those who mourn.

BB I was near San Diego, and I drove past a beautiful Mormon temple along the freeway. It appeared to be made of white limestone or marble and was very elaborate. I drove past it twice more. The third time, I thought "What a beautiful temple", and I felt a little saddened that our Church hasn't yet grown to the point that everyone knows about it (like they must know about that temple by the freeway).

While contemplating that, the following words came to my mind: "I was born in a manger. The temples I dwell in now are the hearts of men. Is your heart that beautiful?" (meaning as beautiful as the temple I saw). I was very blessed to receive that thought, and it made me think about what I can do better to have a beautiful heart, both to honor the Lord's gift of the Holy Ghost and to attract others with a beautiful heart. Thank God that He is always communicating with us. -- Brother Tom Komjathy, *Detroit Branch #1*

Q **Question for this month:** What branch activity or meeting is your favorite of the year? Please feel free to tell us why.

A **Answer from last month:** The votes are in--"It is Well with My Soul" was chosen the favorite song. Brother Frank Natoli wrote: "Sung the first day I attended in the Niles Branch July 27, 1980, and I fell in love with the words and melody because the Spirit of God touched me for the first time that day!"

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

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son... John 3:16