

# The Gospel News

## The Priesthood

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*This information was taken from the Minister's Manual of The Church of Jesus Christ with International Headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.*

**T**he Priesthood is the body of men chosen by God and ordained by The Church. This body consists of Apostles, Evangelists, and Elders (Ministers) who are empowered to preach the Gospel and administer the ordinances of The Church. The purpose of their ministry is to help bring about the salvation of men's souls. The Priesthood Authority to preach the Gospel and administer the ordinances was bestowed by Christ upon the Disciples as indicated in the following Scripture:

*All power is given me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach 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 whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:18-20*

The calling, ordination, and order of the Priesthood were stated by Alma in the following words:

*And thus being called by this holy calling, and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach His commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into His rest.*

*This high priesthood being after the order of His Son, which order was from the foundation of the world; or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to His foreknowledge of all things.*

*Now they were ordained after this manner—being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and high priesthood, is without beginning or end. Alma 13:6-8*

Note: In reference to the term "high priest" in the above quotation, the words of Alma were spoken many years prior to the coming of Jesus Christ, who is the last high priest. The Church of Jesus Christ, according to the New Testament Scripture, in both the Bible and Book of Mormon, does not believe that any man should be ordained as a high priest.

The Apostle Paul placed special emphasis on the fact that no man can assume unto himself the honor of serving in the Priesthood.

*No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God. Hebrews 5:4*

In accepting the Priesthood, all ministers are obligated to uphold The Church's Faith and Doctrine, as well as financial and missionary policies, and in the process of working within this body, are expected to fill many roles. Besides preaching, they must guide, teach, lead, and serve their fellowman.

(Continued on page 11)

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June 2013

***“A wise son heareth his father’s instruction...”*** (Proverbs 13:1).

## Blast From The Past





## Purpose Statement

- To fulfill the plan of God by bringing salvation through Christ to all people.

## Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ.
- To draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused on the Native Americans of North and South America.

## Vision Statement

- The full manifestations of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, resulting from living and worshipping in unity and righteousness, stimulate continuous growth of the Domestic Church—even at a rate of doubling over a five year period—while strengthening the International Church.

THE CHURCH OF  
**Jesus Christ**

# Word Up

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

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

*"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).*

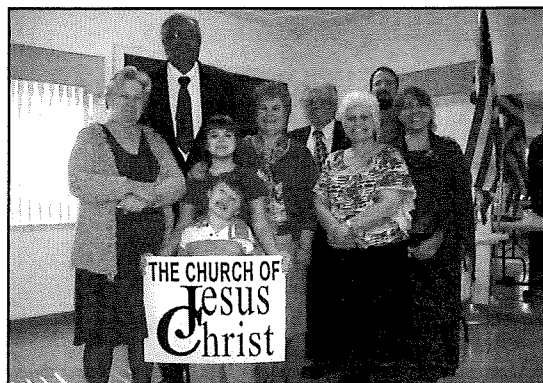
**W**hen coaching junior football, we were losing to the best team in the league with only 6 seconds left. I called time out, causing players and coaches to stare incredulously at me. When my quarterback came to the sideline I gave him the play. He said, "Coach, we've never run that before...and it's raining...and the field is muddy...and..." He was right on all counts, but I couldn't tell him that. "Jake, you can do this. Just throw it to Anthony (who hadn't caught one single pass all season). He'll be open. Believe me!" He went back to the huddle, called the play, threw the ball to Anthony and we won the game. If the impossible can be believable to 14-year-olds, what awaits those who put their trust in someone greater than a desperate football coach?

Jesus had just shared with His disciples how salvation can be difficult for the wealthy. They were "exceedingly amazed" (verse 25) and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus explained His father's mercy, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." While this addressed their immediate question, it also reached much further. How many life situations could be answered with this phrase? Lord, I need a job and no one is hiring; help me. "This is impossible!" Lord, my marriage is falling apart and I'm not sure we even love each other anymore; help us. "This is impossible!" Lord, I have a sickness the doctors said is incurable; help me. "This is impossible!"

If His answer had ended with "impossible," those who love the Lord would remain desperately lost, filled with turmoil. But Christ's reply was first an assessment of the situation. He began, "This is impossible" but finished with the hope-filled infusion: "...if not for my father!" His answer celebrated the impossibility presented because Jesus never missed an opportunity to expose the power of His father. In a similar situation, Jesus was asked whose sin caused the blind man to lose his sight and He answered, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (John 9:3). Sometimes the field is wet and muddy and life presents no apparent escape. Job loss, crumbling marriages, and disease have a way of kidnapping our hope. But Jesus stands coaching from our sidelines, calling a brand new play, "All things are possible with My father! Believe Me!"

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

## Domestic Church — Leesburg, Florida Mission



**T**he Leesburg, Florida Mission was established on September 24, 2005. The seed was planted in the early 1990s when two sisters, formerly from New Jersey, moved to Florida. Over the next ten years, meetings were held in the homes of our sisters. By 2000, Leesburg consisted of an evangelist, elder, two deaconesses and a deacon. Over the years, we have met in five different locations beginning at Orange Blossom Community Center and currently at the Lady Lake Community Center, which is located in central Florida in Lady Lake.

We currently have 11 adult members and two children. Our members include people from the central (Summerfield, Dunnellon, Fruitland Park, Sanford and Orlando), southwest (Brandon), west (Brooksville), and northeast (Jacksonville) parts of the state, who travel to the Leesburg Mission. We meet on Sundays for Sunday School and Sunday Service.

We strive to reach out to our friends, family, and the neighboring community through testimony and opening our doors to those in the area. Our prayer is that we can grow and bring more saints to the central Florida area. We would also like to eventually have a building of our own. Pray for us as we continue to labor in the Lord's work. We may be small in number, but we are BIG on hospitality and love having visitors to share in fellowship.

## International Church — Ghana, Africa



**T**he work in Ghana began by Ford Kankam Boadu searching for the true Gospel of Jesus Christ after being affiliated with several other religions and finding them lacking. In 1974 his search led him to a library where he found a reference to The Church of Jesus Christ and its doctrines which follow the teachings of Christ. After corresponding for 2 years with Brother John Ross, with each communication becoming more serious, he finally requested the brothers to come to Ghana. Brothers John Ross and Nephi DeMercurio met with Brother Ford at their hotel to further answer his questions. Within a week of the brothers' explaining in detail the doctrines of The Church, Ford along with several others requested baptism. On July 18, 1976 Brother Ford was ordained an elder along with five teachers and two deaconesses and the work in Ghana was established.

Currently the Church has five locations in Ghana, with over 320 members. The congregations range from little children to adults and meet in very simple buildings made of mud. The Gospel in its fullness continues to be preached throughout the country to those seeking Christ. Please remember the members and ministry as they struggle with living conditions and those who would seek to discourage them.

### Father's Day *By Elder Don Ross*

**T**he United States celebrates Father's Day during the month of June. This day is set aside to honor and recognize fathers and fatherhood. It is held annually on the third Sunday in June. What is a father? The simple definition found in the dictionary is "male parent; one who functions in a paternal capacity with regard to another."

Father has a far more important meaning in the Scriptures. Fathers are necessary and vital to teach their entire family unit, wives and children, the ways and paths of God and Jesus Christ. They are to instruct the scriptures, both Bible and Book of Mormon. We read in II Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

We begin with God the Father, who had only one Son named Jesus Christ. God sent His Son to preach, teach, and declare salvation, to set up up His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. He "willingly" gave His only begotten Son to save the world from sin. God and Jesus Christ had the same mind, the Holy Ghost. They thought alike and had no differences! Imagine; no differences in thought, word, or deed between Father and Son!

There are many superb examples of spiritual fathers in The Bible and Book of Mormon. The Bible alone lists several such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, and the father of the prodigal son. Abraham taught his son Isaac well in the ways of the Lord. We read Isaac's statement in Genesis 22:7; *"Behold the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* Isaac knew the law, he knew the commandments and he knew the Lord because the Gospel was preached to Abraham! Joshua states in Joshua 24:15, *"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the only side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* This declaration by Joshua clearly captures the importance of a spiritual father. The prodigal son left his father and his Godly teachings. His life deteriorated to one of total degradation, despair, and sin. When he came to his senses, he realized what he had done and left behind. He decided to return home to his father, to a home filled with righteousness and the love of God. When his father saw him afar off, he did not wait at the door for his arrival. The father ran to his son, granted him total forgiveness, and never even asked his son what he had done!

In the Book of Mormon, there are a number of beautiful examples of spiritual fathers. To name a few, consider Lehi, Nephi, King Benjamin, King Mosiah, and Jacob, the father of Enos. The importance of a father who is spiritually minded is found very early in the Book of Mormon. Nephi declares in the very first verse of the Book of Mormon, *"I Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father..."* His father Lehi was a prophet of God, a father who taught his entire family the ways of God and Jesus Christ; the importance to keep the commandments and serve the Lord.

Enos declared, *"Behold, it came to pass that I, Enos, knowing my father that he was a just man—for he taught me in his language, and also in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—and blessed be the name of my God for it."* What happened to Enos? His sins were forgiven; he was blessed because of his faith, prayer, and adhering to his father's instruction.

King Benjamin instructed the people how to teach their children. He stated in Mosiah 4:15, *"But ye shall teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another."* This corresponds to the words of the Lord who said, *"Love ye one another as I have loved you."* You may wish to also read the 14th verse of the same chapter. What a wonderful dissertation about the need to teach children and what to teach them!

It is evident that a father, especially a spiritual father, is so important to families. In The Church of Jesus Christ, we are blessed and fortunate to have a spiritual father and yes, spiritual fathers. We are blessed beyond measure! Let us honor and obey our fathers. When we do, our days will be long on earth. When we do, the Lord will bless our efforts for His Church. When we do, the Lord will bless our families, lead, guide, and direct us in all things, both natural and spiritual. He is our spiritual Father, our leader, our guide, and director. He is our all in all.

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F	<b>FOCUSED</b> —My father taught me the absolute meaning of being focused. It is complete reliance on God, His word, and dedicating your entire existence to the fulfilling of His plan. He taught me to never look back, never doubt, and to make all decisions in life based on the goal of spreading the Gospel, supporting the branch and the Church, and the ultimate goal of eternal salvation. As a young person I admit I resented this straight-line way of thinking. It seemed so rigid. I wanted to live life! As an adult I realized that I get to live a blessed life and gain eternal life too. Whenever life starts to get in the way, I feel the tug from his teachings and get back on track.—Sister Carolyn O'Connor
A	<b>ABIDE</b> —I wasn't sick often when I was little, but whenever I was, I could always count on my dad to come to my bedside after he arrived home from work. The first thing he would say after making sure I was comfortable was, "I'd take it if I could." Now that I'm a parent, I understand his desire to ease my pain. God didn't promise that He would relieve us of all our sicknesses and trials in our natural lives, but He did promise that he would abide with us and strengthen us if we only ask. And when He "could," God sent His Son to "take" our sin so we might have the opportunity to abide with Him in paradise for eternity. —Sister Kim Komjathy
T	<b>TRUST</b> —If I reflect on either my heavenly or earthly father I can truly say that I trust no other more than them. I trust my heavenly Father to provide each and every need in my life. My dad earned my trust when I was just a newborn that he would always love and care for not only my physical needs in this life, but I also trusted that each example that he portrayed was motivated by his love for the Lord. —Sister Karen Pandone
H	<b>HUMBLE</b> —My father was a very humble man. Humility was truly his gift and he always looked for the good in people. As a father, he set a beautiful example of being soft spoken, always ready to help someone in need, and focused on the average person. One of his teachings to me personally was that when dealing with others in a difficult or tense conversation, even if you are right, take the wrong for the sake of peace. He also taught me to respect the apostles, to respect the calling and the office. —Brother Don Ross
E	<b>ENCOURAGE</b> —My father is a very encouraging person. Any time I needed advice about anything He always gave the most encouraging words, especially when it came to the things of God. —Brother Michael Zaino
R	<b>RESPECTFUL</b> —My father, Brother Russell Cadman, was respectful to the Gospel. He gave the highest REGARD, esteem, and consideration to his calling. He honored the Sabbath day and kept it holy. A lunch would be packed to be eaten in the car after Conference Sunday meetings. There was never a restaurant stop for them except for an emergency. Brother Russell always urged his flock in the Fredonia Branch to be REVERENT in the church building. When entering the sanctuary, we were expected to keep loud talk and laughter to a minimum. He had a faithful devotion to The Church of Jesus Christ. —Sister Martha Gehly
S	<b>SAFETY</b> —"Life is filled with problems that exhaust the human mind..." So true! Whether or not you were blessed with a father that was there for you, we are all blessed with our Heavenly Father who is there for us in every moment. Nothing compares to the SAFETY of our Heavenly Father's arms. It is then that we feel "...love close in around us like a blanket." Remember in His arms, "It's all right!" —Sister Dianne Maddox
D	<b>DEVOTED</b> —One thing I admire about my natural father is his devotion to our family and the spiritual family of God. I knew as a child that he was dedicated to our family and considered his roles as husband and father of utmost importance. In his ministerial duties, I've seen him devote his time, energy, and skills to help those in need. Being devoted means doing these things out of love rather than mere duty. I'm thankful for my natural father and how his loving devotion mirrors that of my Heavenly Father. —Sister Michelle Watson
A	<b>ALWAYS</b> keeps His promises—From a very young age, my dad taught me the value of keeping a promise. If he said the "p" word, he'd always (and still does!) come through. Just like my own dad, our Heavenly Father never breaks a promise that He makes with us. Whether it's pledging to never flood the earth again or simply to love us, always—He stays true to His word and never wavers from it. —Sister Natalie Pezzenti
Y	<b>YIELDED</b> —As I began to think about the letter Y, this word—and a fond memory—came to mind. A line from one of the first songs I learned from my dad went like this: "Yielded completely to Jesus alone..." As a 3-year-old, even as I sang it, I had no idea what it meant. But he taught me through a life of yielding, possessing a steady desire to submit to the Lord's will. —Brother Anthony Scolaro



## Familiarity—Oklahoma Mission Visit: 4th Quarter 2012

By Evangelist Wayne Martorana

**A** dictionary definition of familiarity is as follows: Close acquaintance with or knowledge of something; Recognizable based on a long or close association.

Let's apply this definition of familiarity to our service to God and give it a spiritual flavor. What are the aspects of our service to God and our relationship with the Lord that are most familiar to us and recognizable? Several spiritual elements come to mind, namely, preaching and teaching the word of God, singing praises and glory to God, testimonies of praise and thanksgiving, and prayer, including anointing for the sick. Add to that the love and fellowship of the saints and the spirit of oneness and unity that we so often feel.

So many different times, with various people, and in a variety of places, we have felt and experienced this familiar Spirit of God with us and in our presence. At times, we were renewing acquaintances with Native Americans we have known for a few years; while at other times, we were introduced to new contacts among the Native people.

Our desire is to share a portion of those blessings with you, hopefully to the extent that you feel that you accompanied us on this Oklahoma visit. On this trip were: Evangelists Nephi DeMercurio, Sr., George Kovacic, Bob McDonnell, Wayne Martorana and Brother Gary Coppa

In our discussions together, we realized some of the Christian Native American leaders who are quite influential with their tribal members have been given wonderful spiritual understanding, wisdom, and insight. Clearly, God's Spirit and inspiration had visited Oklahoma long before our trips there as a committee. Whenever we discussed such topics, we anxiously tried to share with them how the scriptures support or coincide with their beliefs and what we believe as a Church through the word of God. In the following paragraphs we recount what we saw and heard, followed (in parentheses) by the remarkable similarities we noted to what our Church believes.

One Native leader commented, *"I believe the Jewish people are God's chosen people in the Eastern hemisphere and that the Native Americans are God's chosen in the Western hemisphere."* (We shared with them the lineage of Abraham—Isaac—Jacob, and God's promises made to Abraham and future generations, the children of Israel. We further explained that we could scripturally identify the descendants of two of Jacob's sons: Judah and Joseph, who they are today, where they are, and God's wonderful promises to them. As we follow their lineage through many generations, Jesus Christ is a

descendant of the tribe of Judah, and the Native Americans, including the Choice Seer [American Indian Moses], is a descendant of Joseph).

This same Native leader noted, *"I believe that all Native Americans were originally from one tribe and that over several generations they separated into several smaller tribes, each developing their own language, culture, and traditions."* Another Native leader discussed how in the future, being recipients of God's promises and blessings will depend less on bloodline or heritage and more on being a child of God, keeping His commandments, and living a life pleasing to God. (Interestingly enough, we understand through the word of God, all nations can be recipients of the blessings and promises of God through faith, repentance, and obedience to Christ. Although Israel is the rightful heir to God's original promises, not all Israel will be obedient, not all Israel is Israel [Romans 9:6-7], and likewise not all Gentiles will obey God's commands. We are creatures of free choice!)

Other spiritual wisdom from some Native American leaders included: *"Many people underestimate the importance of our spiritual well-being. Beginning when you are a child, you need a good spiritual foundation ('Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it' (Proverbs 22:6), and then you continue to build on that foundation. I also believe in fasting and prayer—it is necessary to bring a greater portion of God's Spirit upon us."* (We believe fasting and prayer is a key aspect of our service to God and our relationship with Jesus Christ). He concluded, *"When I address my people, I do not believe in prepared speeches. I speak to my people from the heart and I want the Lord to direct me."* He also noted, *"Unless there is a change soon, there will be a great destruction on the land (America), but afterwards there will be peace."* (Compare scriptural writings and promises to those who inhabit the Americas and the consequences of not serving the "God of the land").

One leader shared his personal testimony... *"I was raised in a home that believed in and served God, but as a young man I rebelled severely, became an atheist and no longer attended church services. During this time, I hit the lowest point in my life—I was an alcoholic, lost my job, and eventually lost my family due to my addictions. In this down-trodden condition, a man told me one day, 'Young man, God opens doors.' Shortly afterward I was given a dream (The Church also believes in dreams and the revelation of God in our lives) in which I heard a hymn in my native language. A messenger in the dream said, 'When you hear this song, it will be your time.' A few weeks*

(Continued on Page 11)

## A Blessing in Italy

I am writing to let you know that on this day, March 24, 2013, after a long time of inactivity at the Church in San Demetrio, Italy, Sunday Services are once again being celebrated. It was officiated by Brothers Giovanni Marino and Pasquale Rose. This was a great blessing from the Lord, to Whom our prayers of Thanksgiving were offered.

On January 20, 2013 we had received word from San Demetrio that while Brother Pasquale Rose was praying for sacrament he heard a loud noise like a bomb. As he opened his eyes he saw that the ceiling had fallen down around him. He was uninjured and looked around to see that none of the rostrum furniture had been destroyed but that the damage was all around him. Thank God that he was ok.

We contracted with an engineer who was recognized by Sister Cambina who lived in the town of Mecchia. His name was Marchino. He found that the earthquake in 2012 had caused some cracks in the foundation and that water had begun to damage the wall. We borrowed money for the repair from the General Church and received donations. Any additional donations are welcome.

At the first meeting after the repairs, the contractor's father, a past member of the Church, attended and wants to become an active member again.

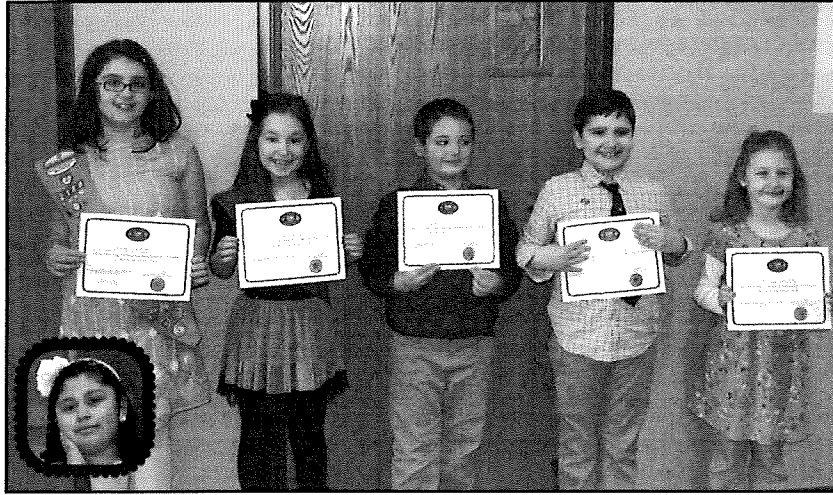
A big thank you on behalf of all the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ for your feelings of love and contributions. God bless you, to all those who have worked to contribute to the repairs of the Church. May the Lord give you all the material and spiritual blessings that you may need.

An embrace from the heart,

Brother Rosario Scravaglieri

## Detroit Branch #1 Kids Earn Their Pins *By Sister Kim Komjathy*

In February 10, 2013, six children from Detroit, Branch #1 Kids' Church proudly received pins upon completion of the GMBA Pin Recognition Program. The GMBA developed the program to educate our young people about the organization of our Church and basic tenets of our faith. The program consists of seven lessons teaching about our natural families, our spiritual family, the ordinances of baptism, sacrament, feet washing, laying on of hands, and the life of Jesus.



Left to Right—Grace Gibson, Eliana Gross, Aaron Scolaro, Calvin Gibson, Allison Komjathy (inset—Angela Mora)

Members of the branch shared the teaching responsibilities and implemented the program over a period of several months. When the children finished their lessons, the branch held a luncheon to celebrate their accomplishment. They each received brass pins bearing the Church logo along with certificates of completion signed by our presiding elder.

The pins can also be worn on scouting uniforms as it satisfies the religious recognition requirements of those organizations. If you are interested in using the program in your branch or mission, contact Sister Stefanie Callens at [stefanie.callens@live.com](mailto:stefanie.callens@live.com) to obtain the materials. What better way to "train up" our children than to begin with the plain and precious parts of the Gospel? May God continue to bless us in our efforts!

## Springtime Revival *By Sister Natalie Pezzenti*

There's something about spring, isn't there? The shining sun; the flowers blooming; the extra pep in everyone's step. As the year turns another page of its book of seasons, there's a sense of renewal that comes with spring that is unique and all its own. There's a promise for brighter days ahead as the gloomy times of winter are left behind.

And, just as the animals are coming out of their hibernation and the earth is waking again to new life, so must we.

Every January we start fresh on the calendar. Resolutions are made and old habits often kicked to the curb. But February and March sometimes pull us back into the same patterns and we can find ourselves backpedaling.

It's my firm belief that that's why God created spring—to remind us that He never left, despite the weather taking a turn for the cold and snowy. He knew we needed a boost and what better way than to wake the earth up before our very eyes. And not just the earth—but us, too.

The beautiful Gospel that we follow speaks of springtime by way of five R's: Rebirth. Rejuvenation. Renewal. Resurrection. Regrowth.

**Rebirth**—Just as perennial flowers rise out of the soil each year and bloom for another season, so must we. Shake the dust from your boots and blossom again. Be revived and refreshed in the Lord. Listen closer than you have in the past and hear Him in the breeze and the birds singing their songs. *"Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind"* Psalm 104:3.

**Rejuvenation**—Challenge yourself this spring. As you place your feet on the floor each morning, may the first words you whisper be those of praise. *"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing"* Psalm 100:2.

**Renewal**—Whether it was a few months ago or more than 30 years, try to relive the feelings you had on the day of your baptism. Close your eyes; picture the water awaiting you. Take a deep breath and remember the peace you felt that day. *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord"* Acts 3:19.

**Resurrection**—The popular song says, "He arose a victor!" And so shall we. God doesn't want us to be enveloped with the day-to-day affairs or dreary times. But rather, *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones"* Proverbs 17:22.

**Regrowth**—Dig your feet deep into the Lord's foundation. Bury them so far that you can't see your toes and the rich soil covers them up. Be so rooted in His love that fears and worries can be cast aside. *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear."* 1 John 4:18.

As King Solomon wrote, *"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come... The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise..."* Song of Solomon 2:11-13. So must we.

Spring is a time for new beginnings; a clean slate; a blank page. May you feel revived in His spirit and reawakened like never before.



## Zeezrom By Brother Kerry Carlini

**A**mong the number of individuals found in the Book of Mormon who challenged the authority of the church leaders, we read of Zeezrom. Cunning and skilled as a lawyer, scriptures tell us that *"he was the foremost to accuse Amulek and Alma...being one of the most expert among them."* Here are five amazing facts regarding Zeezrom's challenge:

- 1** Amulek immediately discerned Zeezrom's attempt to entice him to deny the existence of God and responded sharply *"that the righteous yieldeth to no such temptations."*
- 2** Furthermore, Amulek exposed Zeezrom's lies and deceitfulness to the multitude gathered about, causing him *"to tremble under a consciousness of his guilt."*
- 3** Alma continued in giving a powerful discourse of God's plan of redemption, whereupon many people believed on his words, but the more part were angered.
- 4** Laden with shame, knowing the *"blindness of the minds"* he had caused, Zeezrom cried out, *"I am guilty, and these men are spotless before God."* Nevertheless, Alma and Amulek were brutally imprisoned.
- 5** In time, Alma and Amulek were miraculously delivered. But even greater was the deliverance of Zeezrom when he was later baptized and began to preach the Word of God, even to the point of being used by Alma to proselytize the Zoramites.

Alma Chapters 10:31, 15:12, 31:6

## Ladies' Uplift Circle News



### How Great Is the Love of a Father

By Sister Angela Yoder—General Ladies' Uplift Circle Editor

*"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God"* | John 3:1.

**T**he scriptures clearly reveal how Jesus lived His life as the example of His father. I reflect upon the values that were imparted to Jesus by His father, and can't help but imagine that they are similar to mine. The most important lessons I've learned in my life are ones that my father never actively tried to teach me; he simply lived his life as an example of how he expected his children to live theirs. My father introduced a strong set of family values to us—respect, honesty, love, forgiveness, generosity, kindness, and responsibility, to name a few.

I remember that as a child, I would ask my parents for things that were very important to me. Many times I was disappointed when my father would tell me 'no.' He never explained that my request was denied because what I

wanted was not good for me. That was something that I learned years later, as I grew older. Today, I find myself asking God for things that I feel I need in my life; however, I don't always receive the immediate answer that my father would give. Sometimes we think that God isn't answering our prayers but instead He is being our Father and telling us 'no.' Socrates is credited with saying, *"Our prayers should be for blessings in general, for God knows best what is good for us."* Isn't it the truth?

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June in over 30 countries around the world. It's a day to publicly celebrate the love of your father; a day I look forward to every year. The marvelous thing is that we can celebrate the love of our heavenly Father every day. Our natural fathers will leave us one

day, but God is always with us. While they are with us, we need to tell and show our fathers every day that we love and appreciate them, just like we need to let God know how much we need and love Him.

How great is the love of a father? Your natural father loves you so much that he only wants what is good for you. He wants you to adopt the values that he established so that you will benefit from a blessed life. Our heavenly Father loves you so much that He promised us that if we believe in Him, we will have everlasting life. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). Now THAT is love.



## God's Garden

Every plant was huge. The leaves were abundant; the vegetables were beautiful. His daughter, Sister Joanne, describes it as almost being like a jungle!

Everything was delicious. A watermelon vine travelled along the fence with many melons on it, yet it had been two or three years since Brother Mario had planted any watermelon seeds. This plant grew from a seed that had lain in the earth from an old melon that had broken. The Swiss chard was over three feet high with bright, delicious leaves six to eight inches wide; it also had planted itself from seeds that were forgotten in the earth several years before. The green beans kept flowering and producing crop after crop of tasty, crisp beans even after their normal growing season had passed.

But the strangest thing was the crabapple tree in the neighbor's yard. On the neighbor's side of the fence, the small, wrinkled crab apples were their normal size. But where the branches grew over the fence into Brother Mario's garden, the fruits were the size of regular apples! God had answered Brother Mario's prayer. Brother Gary had never seen such a sight, nor had any of the other brothers and sisters and family who came to Zion's garden in the Coppas' yard.

We have many amazing things to look forward to in the future in The Church of Jesus Christ. We look forward to a time called The Peaceful Reign or Zion, when all good people will live together in kindness, love, and great faith. Fierce animals like the lion, wolf, and leopard will not hurt the lambs or children. (See Isaiah Chapters 2 and 11). Our gardens will be wonderful, even ten times greater than Brother Mario's garden. Can you imagine?!

We worship, trust, and serve our God, the one and only Creator and His Son, Jesus

Christ. They love us and hear our prayers. In the beginning of the Bible it says, *"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed"* (Genesis 2:8). We came from that man, Adam. He gave Adam all good things and He will give them to you, too. God loves us and has a plan for each one of us. We have many wonderful things to look forward to.

With love,  
Your friend,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH—God's Garden

GARDENS	IN
GROW	EDEN
WITH	HE
THE	PUT
RIGHT	ADAM
WEATHER	AND
SOIL	EVE
AND	THERE
WATER	HE
GOD	GIVES
PLANTED	US
A	ALL
GARDEN	THINGS

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

**W**hen I was in my twenties, I had the privilege of going from Michigan to the Muncey Indian Reservation in Canada to teach a lively class every week. The kids were wonderful, the little church was located in the beautiful countryside, and we enjoyed a great love for one another and the Spirit of God weekly. It was a three and a half hour drive from my home so we'd meet our elder in charge, Brother Mario Coppa, his organized wife, Sister Mary, his children, and visiting elders, sisters, and brothers, and we would drive together. I had so many experiences as we went to share the love of the Gospel and we got to know church friends who came from all over. At that time Brother Gary Coppa was a deacon and a driver for the elders and he witnessed the garden in this story. (He later became the Presiding Elder in Muncey).

One spring, Brother Mario was at home, on his knees in the soil to begin planting his garden in the small area behind his garage that he used each year. A neighbor's crabapple tree had branches that leaned over the Coppa family's property and shaded part of the garden. This year, as he knelt, Brother Mario prayed and asked the Lord, *"Lord, will you bless my garden? I wish I could see one tenth of what a garden in the Peaceful Reign (Zion) will look like."*

Brother Mario continued to water, weed, and care for his garden. Weekly he would tell us how amazing it was. Finally, one Sunday when Brother Gary brought him home, he followed Brother Mario out to see this incredible garden.

## The Priesthood

*Continued from page 1*

The Priesthood consists of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists and Elders (Ministers). Their responsibilities are:

### The Twelve Apostles:

The Twelve Apostles are known as the "keepers of the faith." They are called and ordained of God and Jesus Christ. It is without question that they are the spiritual leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Twelve Apostles officiate in all ordinances of the Gospel in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and are to regulate the spiritual affairs of The Church. They have the premiere responsibility of seeing that the Faith and Doctrine is believed in and adhered to throughout The Church of Jesus Christ, wherever it is established and preached in the world. **Matthew 10:1-15, Luke 9:1-6**

### The Seventy Evangelists:

The Seventy Evangelists are called and ordained of God and Jesus Christ. The Evangelists have the authority to administer all of the ordinances of the Gospel except the ordinations of Apostles. They are responsible for preaching the Gospel throughout

the world, especially in new fields. This is their primary responsibility. Their charge is establishing and maintaining the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ, especially in foreign countries, countries referred to as outside of The United States of America. They strive to maintain and carry with them a spirit of revival throughout The Church. **Luke 10:1-12, Ephesians 4:11, II Timothy 4:5**

### Elders (Ministers):

The Elders (Ministers) are called and ordained of God and Jesus Christ. They are responsible for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their primary responsibility is to devote their time to the growth of their branches and missions. The Elders have the responsibility to insure that the rules and regulations and faith of The Church are observed in their branch and mission. They have the authority to administer all of the ordinances of the Gospel except the ordinations of Apostles and Evangelist. They also assist in the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ around the world and work in harmony with the Evangelists and Twelve Apostles to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **I Peter 5:1, Ephesians 3:7, I Timothy 1:12, Colossians 1:23**

The Priesthood only, Apostles, Evangelists, and Elders, perform the ordinances of

The Church of Jesus Christ. These ordinances are: baptism, anointing the sick with oil, laying on of hands for spiritual strength and encouragement, blessing of children, blessing and passing the holy communion (sacrament), consecration (blessing) of feet washing utensils, basins and towels, and communion articles, glasses, dishes, table cloths and coverings, and laying on of hands for the bestowal of the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost).

In the Faith and Doctrine, Article 7, it states, ***We believe that divine inspiration is an indispensable qualification for preaching the Gospel. General information about the world is advantageous to men when properly used. Theological education is good only when spiritually correct; such instruction, however, it not absolutely requisite to teach the Word of God. Furthermore, formal schooling or practical training which fosters the belief that inspiration and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are unnecessary in the ministry of Christ's Gospel is erroneous and harmful. (See II Timothy 3) Moreover, we believe in preaching the Gospel without purse or scrip according to the Saviour's instructions, "... freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). The language is of supreme importance as containing the full force of both Christ's authority and example.***

## Oklahoma Mission Visit *Continued from Page 7*

*later I began attending church again and near the close of the service, they sang the hymn I heard in my dream. God's Spirit overwhelmed me, my addiction was removed, and my life restored. I became an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ which continues until this day as I serve my people."*

With each Native leader, we concluded our visit with prayer that God's blessings would rest upon them and their people. In one case, the leader called all those in his office to join us as we held hands and prayed (just as we do during our services on occasion).

We visited with one family whom we have met with several times before. One of our main contacts with this family is like a New Testament Phoebe or Dorcas of our day, filled with love, hospitality, and good works.

This woman prepared us a full meal and invited several family members so we could enjoy a time of fellowship. (We love to eat and fellowship together). Around the dinner table we discussed family, their Native American heritage, God's goodness to us, and several experiences, both past and recent. She explained a close friend's recent affliction with diabetes and subsequent complications, which resulted in a deep depression. The spirit of love and compassion fell upon us and we offered a special prayer for her friend that God would intervene in a greater way and that a wonderful testimony of God's goodness would result.

After dinner, the brothers gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, *"Marvelous Work and Wonder."* It was based on a related experience that two of the brothers had received prior to this visit. We felt that God's Spirit was directing us as a benefit for our trip. Prior to our arrival, this same woman and host told us, *"I feel God has given you brothers a special message for us."* As we continued with our presentation and discussion, she exclaimed, *"A few weeks ago, the Lord gave me this same scripture (Isaiah 29:14). I read it but did not understand its meaning—now I have understanding. Thank God, the Lord is wonderful!"* (I am sure many of you have received similar experiences where the Lord has given understanding and spiritual enlightenment).

As we traveled to this family's home, the Lord pressed upon one of the brothers to sing the hymn, *"An Angel Came Down,"* for our Native friends. As we sang the chorus, each of them closed their eyes and was absorbing the message and the melody. We noticed tears of joy and longing as we sang, *"Oh Israel, Oh Israel, in all your abidings; prepare for your Lord, when you hear the glad tidings."* (We often feel the joy of the saints as we sing hymns of praise unto the Lord.)

As we concluded the evening, a family member of the hostess mentioned that they are waiting for the American Indian Moses to come. Our hearts swelled with joy and anticipation of God's future work. We formed a circle, held hands, and prayed. God's beautiful Spirit filled the room and we departed fully blessed with what we had both seen and heard—truly we had tasted a portion of God's marvelous work and wonder!



# Blessing Bits

## He Was There All the Time

House hunting can be an exhausting process: researching, looking, cringing, praying, etc. I moved from Cincinnati to South Florida in 2010 and for over a year, I was searching for a house. After seeing many torn-apart foreclosures and beautiful homes that were out of my price range, I became frustrated with the process and started to wonder if there was a house on the market for me. When I least expected it (isn't that how God works?) I stumbled upon a house that exceeded my expectations. God is so good to me. When I began to doubt and lose focus, He was by my side to show me that He was there all the time. *Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr., Lake Worth, Florida Branch*

afraid and insisted there were monsters in the room. I tried to reassure her that there were no monsters in my house and that the angels and Jesus were with us to keep us safe.

This lasted for at least 45 minutes and I even had to turn a small lamp on. She still insisted there were monsters. I then prayed with her and we said good night to Jesus. She then hesitated and looked straight ahead as if staring at something. Savanna then said to me that Jesus was there with us. I agreed with her and told her it is now time to go to sleep. She said, "Nana, Jesus is here with us. He is standing right there" pointing at the foot of the bed. She told me Jesus was standing there watching us and smiling. I asked her what He looked like and she said in that innocent, three-year old logical way, "He looks like Jesus!"

## For of Such Is the Kingdom of Heaven

It was a Saturday night and my three-year-old granddaughter, Savanna, was spending the night with us. I was lying in bed with her trying to get her to go to sleep. She was

I, too, felt a peace and it was very soon after that Savanna fell asleep. I thank God for that experience, knowing that God hears even the prayers of our children and lets them know that He is there for them too.

*Sister Connie Rossi, Spartanburg, South Carolina*


## God Hears Our Every Prayer

On December 10, 2012 I was coming out of a pizzeria and walking across the parking lot, thanking God for the day's blessings. I then heard an audible voice say, "You're welcome." *Sister Mary Ann Pasko, Metuchen, New Jersey Branch*

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)

**Question for this month:** What lesson have you learned from a trial in your life?

**Answer from last month:** Have you attended a spiritual conference, campout, or meeting that was life-changing? What was the year and location and what made it special? At the 1993 campout I was in Brother Chuck Maddox and Brother Doug Obradovich's seminar. One day, the brothers ended up praying for every single person in the class. I had been struggling with smoking for 14 years and wanted to quit, but for one reason or another just couldn't do it. While I was contemplating coming forward and asking for prayer I heard an audible voice say, "It's time, it's time." While they were praying for me, I felt a wave of heat going through me, got up, and knew that I had just been healed from that awful habit. —*Brother Duane Werley, Liberty, Ohio Branch*



...yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion;... Moroni 10:31