

The Gospel News

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EYE HATH NOT SEEN (I Corinthians 2:9)

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We Brother Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ love you with our hearts and minds fully engaged in hopes for your well-being and salvation. We send this as encouragement to take full advantage of God's offerings and to "see" Him and His promises as He wants to be perceived.

How many unique things have you seen or heard of in the course of your life? Too many to count! While we cannot enumerate all of the scenarios mankind has seen or heard of, these form the basis for all that we can imagine. This is a vast, seemingly infinite scope. When reading scriptures, we automatically use this natural experience base as the raw materials to form our own mental pictures of the things that God has in store for His servants. Of course, we only use the best of our mental conceptions to build the impressions of God's future for us – the rewards of the righteous. But, even in doing that, we still sell God very short.

In fact, the human mind cannot grasp the promises of God - try as we might. Human nature makes comparisons that are conceivable by the human senses, and this can expose us to the wiles of the enemy. For example, consider our first parents in the Garden. The enemy convinced them to use their human imaginations to evaluate the promises God gave them against His requirement of obedience. They could not realistically imagine what they would be giving up by partaking of the Tree of Knowledge. They had never worked the earth to produce a living nor had they witnessed anyone's demise and death. They were confronted with a choice. It was an opportunity to obey God – by trusting spiritually – but they were enticed to accept the suggestions of someone else who said there was a better way. Only trusting God and obedience to His word would have sustained them in the Garden. The knowledge and understanding that they eventually acquired through disobedience was too little and too late to save them.

Comparing us to Adam and Eve, we all confront the choice to serve God or not. It is a choice put before men repeatedly from the beginning until this day (Joshua 24:15 "...choose you this day whom ye will serve..."). We certainly have seen and heard much more of life upon which to build our knowledge reserve and, thereby, the basis of our imaginations and our choices. This suggests that we should be better prepared than they were to engage temptations. Even as children, when we first learned about their experience in the Garden, the little bit of understanding in our young minds caused us to wonder at their choice. To us, their temptation did not seem that it would have been insurmountable. Every child pictures himself obeying God and remaining in the Garden.

However, the true "vision" needed to navigate through life is not found by use of our natural thought. Psalm 110:10 says: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments..." If Adam and Eve had adhered to this simple statement, they would not have been vulnerable, but they convinced themselves to believe a different scenario. It was pursuit of that false scenario, appealing to their egos but falling far short of what God actually offered, that prompted them to choose to put aside God's commandment.

Let's modernize the scene in the Garden and personalize it. Would you process the following scenario with your natural mentality, or would you seek inspired wisdom? You are given a set of instructions (Bible and Book of Mormon) and are told that only by faith in Jesus and obedience to those instructions will you inherit eternal life. Meanwhile, society (friends, family, associates, media, government, etc.) is constantly rebutting those instructions, telling you that they are obsolete, fantasy, unreasonable, unnecessary and that almost any path chosen by anyone

(Continued on page 4)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Enjoy some time viewing God's creations	2	3 Call a brother or sister and share a blessing	4	5	6 Take extra time to pray today
7 Sit beside someone you've never sat with today	8	9 Send in a Blessing Bit!	10	11 Pray for the Freehold Branch- pg 4	12	13
14 Thank God for all the amazing things in your life	15	16 Send a card to a widow or widower	17	18	19	20 Remember the couples trying to have children
21 Happy Father's Day!	22 Summer is here! Give free time to the Lord	23	24 Make plans to go to Campout	25	26 Make plans to spend time with the youth this summer	27
28 Visit with the saints after Church today	29	30	1 Support your MBA and Ladies' Circle	2	3	4

May 2015
S M T W T F S
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24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

July 2015
S M T W T F S
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

June 2015

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

BTF Blast From The Past

Sister Carmela Mazzeo

"I gave one dollar to Bill, and one dollar I used for gas." With that, Sister Carmela Mazzeo – who had been out of work – had only \$1.43 left. That morning, 55 years ago this month, she desired to take her out-of-town guests to visit the saints. But the errand she first had to run nearly emptied the gas tank. So, another dollar of gas was purchased as she and her guests set out. In short time, though, the gas gauge registered empty. Not wanting to upset her guests, Sister Carmela pulled into another gas station hoping to find her seldom-used credit card. Her search would come to no avail. However, flipping through Bible kept in the glove compartment, she found that the Lord had provided in her need a five-dollar bill. Then, silently thanking God, she heard a voice saying, "You gave Me your all, and when you need it most, it will be given back to you."

Precious Memories, p. 29; *Gospel News*, March 1962, p. 7

Sister Carmela Mazzeo ►



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

GOSPEL NEWS QUIZ

Search through this issue for answers to these questions:

- Where did Sister Carmela find her \$5 bill? (Page 2)
- What is a true test of a disciple of the Lord? (Page 5)
- How should we use the Holy Ghost? (Page 11)
- How did the Lord heal Brother Chuck Maddox, Sr.? (Page 12)
- What miracle was performed in Brother Chris Gehly's life? (Page 12)

Wordup

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



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

"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone..." (John 8:7)

I remember my epiphany concerning God's forgiveness. I was tucking my eldest child, Courtney, into bed 20+ years ago, utilizing my made-up bedtime stories about good versus bad. These starred Courtney, the good little girl who always made the right choices and Pourtney, the bad little girl who continued to make poor decisions. Afterwards, on this particular night, I simply said, "Court, do you realize there is nothing you can do that would ever cause me to stop loving you?" In that moment, God's grace and fatherly love was clear. I was letting Courtney know my forgiveness would always trump her mistakes, without providing license to err. I wanted her to understand her good choices were her way to thank me. In that moment, I understood God's love; and I wept over my eight year old daughter.

John 8:7 followed the capture of an adulterous woman ("taken in her sin") by powerful religious leaders (scribes and Pharisees). It's important to note she was guilty, with no excuse for such behavior! These men wielded The Law as their weapon of empowerment to claim severe, justifiable punishment (Leviticus 20:10 - "The man that committeth adultery with another man's wife...the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death"). Then they challenged Jesus' counsel, "tempting Him that they might have to accuse Him." Would He pass the test and honor The Law or blaspheme it before this pious assembly?

Calmly, Jesus stooped down and wrote in the sand with His finger (Brother Dennis Moraco once explained this beautifully, "The same finger that wrote the Law of Moses, rewrote the Law of Forgiveness" – see Deuteronomy 9:10). Jesus ignored their inquiry, so they pressed for His answer. He arose, replied, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone..." then stooped again. In essence, He was saying, "Go ahead, stone her, but begin with you who are perfect." The most experienced ("the eldest") dropped their stones first. Soon all accepted defeat and walked away. Christ was left alone with the guilty woman. Isn't that how it is for all of us?

Our accusers stand ready to judge. But our moment of significance comes when we are alone with Jesus and He firmly encourages us to move forward without making the same mistake. If an inexperienced father, searching for ways to teach his daughter righteousness and forgiveness, can come to such a conclusion, surely God's grace will always triumph over our errors (Romans 5:20). And your good choices will prove how grateful you are. So drop your stones and "Go, and sin no more."

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

MB Meet the Branch

Domestic Church — Freehold, New Jersey Branch

Through experiences and revelations, Brothers Matthew Rogolino, Cleveland Baldwin, and Nathan Peterkin of the Freehold Mission met with the saints in various places in south central New Jersey for Church services throughout the 1950s. In the 1960s, services were held in a storefront located on Mechanic Street in Freehold Borough. Later, an Italian-American Club building was purchased on Factory Street, and after several years of renovation, the building was dedicated as the Freehold Branch.

In the late 1980s, the Freehold Branch started working with the seed of Joseph in Millstone Township, New Jersey with Brother Joe Perri. Church services were held at Brother Juan and Sister Lucy Murrillo's home, and many baptisms were performed there on the farm. Afterwards, the Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters were encouraged to meet with the Freehold Branch.



Activities for the young people in the branch include Youth In Action activities and picnics. The members meet often for Wednesday evening service and Sunday service, as well as Sunday School for adults and children. The Ladies' Uplift Circle assists the branch with fundraiser dinners and activities for the sisters. The sisters are involved in outreach to the community through donating clothes, toys, and other needs for local areas.

Recently, the branch started "Bring a Visitor to Church," and after the service, we have potluck dinners to allow us to fellowship with the visitors. We pray God will touch the hearts of our visitors who bless us with their presence every week, and we are hopeful they will one day enter the fold.

The Freehold Branch has been blessed as God continues to pour out His blessings upon us, as we continue to fast and pray on the last Sunday of each month. We have showers of blessings in our midst, and recently, we had a baptism. We thank the Lord we have been overwhelmed with the Spirit of God.

God never leaves us alone in our times of despair, and we are thankful that Jesus Christ died on the cross for poor souls such as ourselves. Continue to remember the brothers and sisters in the Freehold Branch as we will you in our prayers.

Eye Hath Not Seen *Continued from page 1*

in this life is valid. In fact, popular "wisdom" directly conflicts with the instructions (scriptures) you have been given. Temptation: You might naturally obey some of your instructions, but surely you can sort through and discard the parts that don't suit you.

About 500 years before David wrote the 110th Psalm mentioned above, Job was facing terrific temptation. His challenge was different than Adam's and Eve's in that his losses did not occur as a result of disobedience. In fact, most of the Book of Job deals with his and his associates' struggles and debates over the reasons for his difficulties. In the 28th chapter, Job contemplates: *But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?* He goes on, answering his own rhetorical questions by profoundly stating that wisdom is priceless, not to be found anywhere on earth, nor can it be bought or exchanged for any precious item.

He adds: *"Whence then cometh wisdom?... It is hid from the eyes of all the living... Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof... Then he did see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out. And unto man he said: Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding"*.

Job simply realized that his natural mind would never fully grasp his suffering in terms of why or wherefore. The fear of the Lord opened his natural mind to a spiritual "vision" that embraced wisdom and understanding. He realized that his losses and afflictions presented the temptation to doubt God, but that the only real comfort available to him required that he continue to trust God and avoid evil. In so doing, he was able to perceive God's bigger picture – the one that includes the eternal reward for faithfulness no matter what difficulties are presented in this life. While his spiritual vision was not specific or crystal clear in terms of his afflictions, it manifested within him a joy sufficient to overcome his distress.

This is the spiritual "vision" – wisdom and understanding – that we must fervently and diligently maintain during good times or bad.

Our natural inability to fully perceive God's promises was discussed by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians (I Cor. 2) wherein he states: *"...your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God... we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things that God hath prepared for them that love him"*. (See Isaiah 64.) Faith that rests in human understanding is not sustainable. God's plan has always been in place. However, man – of himself - has no natural reference points (no memories or even imagined wonders) sufficient to fully perceive those things that God has in store for us if we love Him and serve Him accordingly.

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How Are You Recognized? By Elder Donald Ross

How do people know you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ? Is it because they see you going to Church? Is it because you have told your neighbors that you attend The Church of Jesus Christ? There is one way described by the Lord that conveys to the entire world that you are a disciple and member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

You will find the method of recognition depicted by the Lord in John 13:34-35, which states, *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

Please notice that Jesus Christ commanded that we love one another. This is not an option. It is a requirement for Him to extend salvation to you. He said on another occasion, *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."* Christ continues this theme of love by expressing, *"Greater love hath no man than he lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."*

Jesus Christ set the supreme example by sacrificing His life for mankind. He gave His life for His friends. He gave His life for the entire world that if they would obey His commandments, which include faith, repentance, baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost, they would reap an eternal reward in the heavenly kingdom of God and Jesus Christ. These are just a few of His commandments. There are many others, but bear in mind that He told Nicodemus that unless a man is born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact, the Lord told Nicodemus that without this new birth, a person will not even see heaven!

Love is the true test of a disciple of the Lord. It is the true test of a son and daughter of Jesus Christ. It is the true test of a brother and sister in Christ Jesus.

One way we show our love to God and for God is through brotherly love. How can a person say he or she loves God and hates his brother? If a person says he loves God and hates his brother, he is a liar. This is scripture! These are the words of the Lord Himself. It is also asked in scripture how can a man love God who he has not seen and not love his brother whom he has seen? It simply is not possible to love God and hate or despise your brother. You must remember, if you call your brother a fool, you are in danger of losing your soul.

The entire law hinges on the love of God. Jesus Christ tells us we must love God above all and we must love our neighbors as we love ourselves. He goes on to say we must love our enemies. We must do good to those who spitefully use us for their gain or gratification. We have to possess the love of God to obtain a level of righteousness that conveys a saint of God. This means we must love all men and women, regardless of their state or condition. We are not to love the sin. We must love the sinner. The Lord loved all. His examples of forgiveness are based on His love for mankind. He forgave the adulterous woman. He forgave the woman at the well. He forgave Alma, the son of Alma. He forgave the sons of Mosiah. Ask yourself, could you have washed the feet of Judas Iscariot, knowing that he was your enemy and would betray you? Have you ever tried to imagine the Lord bending to His knees, towel in hand, the feet of Judas Iscariot in His hands and Him washing the feet of the man who has come to be known as the son of perdition? This is the kind of love the Lord wants us to possess and exhibit towards our fellow man. This is known as Love Divine, All Love Excelling!

One of the Lord's Apostles, John, is known as the Apostle of love. He tells us in his writings that we know that we have passed from death into a life with Jesus Christ because we love or loved the brethren. Those that do not love their brother or sister abide in death! Those who do not love the Lord, do not love their enemies, their neighbors, their brethren, those that despise you, are in a sad spiritual state.

The love of God is also known as charity. It is the pure love of God. It abides forever and whoever possesses it at their last day, it will be well with them. It is this love that attracts people to the saints of God and The Church of Jesus Christ.

Is your love for the Lord above all else? Do those around you feel and see the love of God that is so characteristic when you become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ? What we send out, comes back! Remember, your love shows that you are a disciple of the Lord. Possess and convey the love of God. It is a commandment!

Editor's Note:

We hope that you have enjoyed the Topic Series for the past several months featuring articles previously posted on the Blog. Did you know that you can read past Blog articles and that you can search by topic to find specific articles? Visit the Church website and follow the links to the Blog. If you have not signed up to receive it via e-mail every day, do so soon. Encourage your kids to sign up too. Reading the Blog in the morning is a great way to start each day!

Originally posted on the Blog on October 23, 2014 By Elder Ben Hemmings

"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7).

This week's Bible passage depicts one of the many times when the scribes and Pharisees tried to discredit Jesus, but the outcome paints a beautiful portrait of God's grace and mercy.

One morning, as Jesus was teaching in the temple, the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who was caught in adultery, a sin punishable by death under the Law of Moses. The scribes and Pharisees weren't trying to hold this woman accountable to the law as much as they were trying to trap Jesus in His teachings.

Their intentions were evident:

- If Jesus' response was casual toward the law, they would have grounds to condemn Him.
- Had Jesus condemned the woman and encouraged the stoning, the Romans could have held Him responsible for the incident.
- To fully justify the law, they should have brought the man as well, but they didn't.
- There was no trial for the woman.

Carrying a shallow righteousness, the scribes and Pharisees had no concern for the soul of the woman.

Christ's demeanour stands out in this story. Through the whole ordeal, Jesus focuses His attention on writing on the ground, as His body language is portraying His disappointment in their misunderstanding of the purpose of the Law of Moses. (Although many speculate about what He wrote, we really do not know.)

In an unexpected response, Jesus tells the woman's accusers, *"Let the person with no sin be the first to cast a stone at her."* Imagine the thoughts that ran through their minds. Imagine what the woman must have thought when she realized that no stones came

(Continued on Page 7)

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Blessed Teaching Funny Supportive Coaching Caring Gentle Dependable Understanding Protecting Dad Love Father Kind Watchful Compassionate Friend Proud Appreciative Giving Counselor Cool Tenderhearted Generous Unafraid Listening Confident

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God"

(1 John 3:1).

As Father's Day is a time to remember our natural fathers, let's also focus on our Heavenly Father and the love He has shown us. We are the sons and daughters of God—there is no higher calling than that!

APOSTLES' MEETING IN ATLANTA *By Sister Bonnie Garmon*

During the week of January 19, 2015, the Quorum of Twelve met in Atlanta, Georgia for their annual meeting.

On Saturday evening the President of the Church, Brother Paul Palmieri, spoke, telling us the story of his conversion. He was attending a Presbyterian college, and one day he heard the voice of the Lord say, "Redeem the time." He said that God can call us at any moment and at any place. He reminded us to redeem the time and be serious about serving the Lord. He explained, "This song we just sang for you [We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord] is us. It is us and our expectations of things to come. It is what sets us apart from other churches."

On Sunday, Apostle Joel Gehly was the opening speaker. He spoke on Matthew 22, regarding the wedding feast. He stated that we are part of that wedding feast, and it pertains to us in many ways. The wedding has not happened yet; it is our job to help ready the feast. There will be a time when Jesus Christ will come to collect His bride, the Church, and we will be part of it. Before Jesus comes to the marriage, there are many things that need to be accomplished. The Gospel needs to be restored to all of mankind: all kindreds, tongues, and people. Everyone is bidden "come," but we all must prepare. Brother Joel likened this to our baptism. When we are baptized, we are all washed white and no longer covered in our sins. We must take care and work diligently to keep our garments clean. By serving our Lord in spirit and in truth for all of our days, we keep them white. The world tries hard every day to dirty our garments, but we are responsible for our own garments, keeping them free from scuff and stain. Jesus wants us to be beautiful and to come to His feast with a clean garment.

Brother Joel told us about the great success in the Erie Branch with their outreach efforts in the community. Their clothing drives have brought several people to the Church, but as Brother Joel stated, "These people don't look like me." We have to be ready to accept them as they are. Most of us are comfortable with those who

look, act, and dress like us, but God expects more of us. About a dozen people who once came to get clothing have now been baptized and are helping the Erie Branch give away clothing to others.

Several apostles encouraged the congregation after Brother Joel's sermon. Brother Jim Crudup spoke about wearing the whole armor of God, Brother Paul Liberto reminded us that through our example others will come, and Brother Isaac Smith spoke about the wedding feasts on the Fort Apache Reservation and some of the customs he has witnessed there. He shared that a wedding is the same anywhere in the respect that men love their new wife. A husband will do as much as he can for his wife because he loves her. A new husband loves his new mate with all of his heart, mind, and soul, and as the years go by, the two become one; that bond gets stronger and sweeter. We, as the Church, have Christ's love, but we must become our very best before we are taken as His bride. The Church must become pure, holy, and acceptable before our Lord and Master. We must wear the robe of righteousness and compel others to come in and partake with us. We, as His people, must remember at all times who we are. We have been purchased by His blood.

Apostle Paul Benyola asked the group to remember him and his family in prayer because of their recent loss. Whether we are in the valley or on the mountain, the Lord is with us, and we should expect to be tempted and tried by the adversary. It is up to us to honor that garment, and to prepare ourselves to pass the tests that come our way. He said we often end our testimonies by saying, "Please pray for me, and I'll pray for you." What this really means is you are asking your brothers and sisters to pray for you when you cannot pray for yourself. It's always important to pray for our brothers and sisters, but especially in the times when they cannot find the strength to pray for themselves.

We thank God for a wonderful weekend!

Topic Series continued from Page 6

flying her way. After all of the scribes and Pharisees had left and Jesus was alone with the woman, He sends her on her way telling her to sin no more.

We've probably found ourselves on both sides of this story.

I'm sure we've been up against the wall in front of accusers, and we've been the ones to grab the nearest stone on the ground. That is the moment when the rough surface of our stone shows. We get offended (sometimes by something that does not even involve us) and we seek our own justification. But, in reality, we forget mercy; we forget grace; we forget forgiveness — we forget our own shortcomings. When we forget these things and grab the stone, our intentions do not coincide with the purpose of the stone.

Stones are not to bring condemnation but to provide protection, mercy, grace, and life...

Questions to think on:

- What did the stones that the scribes and Pharisees picked up mean to them?
- What did the stones mean to Jesus? What about to the woman?
- What can we do to make sure that we use our stones for the correct reasons?



WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND GMBA CAMPOUT?

“To be blessed by enjoying a wonderful escape from the cares of the world!”

-Sis. Dianne Maddox

Life changing experiences with life-long friends, new and old.

-Bro. Bryan Champine

It's a place to start new.

-Bro. Ben Hemmings

It just might change your life!

-Bro. Jon Checchi

“Camp is a time of complete rejuvenation- you leave ready to take on the world.”

-Bro. Chuck Maddox Jr.

Best week of the year!

-Bro. Andrew DiNardo

“To learn how to strengthen my walk with God.”

-Bro. Lucas Martorana

July 11-17, 2015

California University of PA

Registration
Forms
Available Now!

The Resurrection of the Dead - By Brother Kerry Carlini

With the resurrection of Jesus Christ many saints also arose from the dead. The Gospels, of course, tell of three accounts where Jesus brought back to life the son of the widow of Nain, the daughter of Jairus, and Lazarus. Two more accounts follow in the New Testament where Dorcas was raised from the dead by Peter, and Eutychus by Paul. As well, the Book of Mormon tells – following Christ's visitation to the Nephites – that "all manner of miracles did they work among the children of men" even that the dead were raised. However, belief in the resurrection and its actualization had occurred long before the coming of Christ. Here are five amazing facts:

- 1 In obedience to sacrifice his son, Isaac, Abraham believed "that God was able to raise him up even from the dead" (Hebrews 11:19).
- 2 Elijah raised the son of the Zarephath widow from the dead. (I Kings 17:17-22)
- 3 Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman from the dead. (II Kings 4:32-35)
- 4 A man was raised from the dead when his body touched Elisha's bones. (II Kings 13:20, 21)
- 5 And shortly before Christ's visitation, Nephi, the grandson of Helaman, raised his brother from the dead "after he had been stoned and suffered death by the people" (III Nephi 7:19).

Matthew 27:50-53; Luke 7:11-15; Luke 8:41, 42, 49-55; John 11:1-44; Acts 9:40; Acts 20:9-12; IV Nephi 1:5



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

The Midwest Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sister Cheryl Nnadi- Midwest Area President

The Midwest Area Ladies' Uplift Circle is comprised of Circles in the following branches: Ohio-Columbus, Kinsman, Liberty, Lorain and Perry; Pennsylvania- Erie; Nebraska-Omaha; and Indiana- South Bend. The area membership has 95 active members and little ladies.

Lorain, Ohio Branch organized a Ladies' Circle on January 19, 1929 with the assistance of Brothers Vernon Chester and John Frye. Meetings were held every Tuesday evening in the homes of the sisters. There were approximately 19 members.

The Erie, Pennsylvania Ladies' Circle was started in the mid-to-late 1940s when a small contingency of saints seeking employment opportunities relocated from Monongahela to Erie. With growth and expansion of membership in the early 1950s (and through the 1960s), the sisters, many with young children, began gathering in one another's homes to study God's word and share fellowship, thus establishing The Ladies' Uplift Circle. By 1956, Erie dedicated its current building at which time Circle meetings began to be held at the church. From the 70s-90s, Circle meetings were held regularly on the first and third Wednesday of each month with membership averaging approximately 10 members. Occasional fund raising efforts were initiated to assist with special projects in the area or the General Ladies' Uplift Circle; also the sisters participated in making and sending layettes to Anadarko, Oklahoma. From 2000 to 2010, local Circle activity lessened due to an aging population or passing of some sisters. Within the past five years, a new group of sisters has begun to emerge and activity is beginning to increase again. The sisters support monthly dinners at Church and help to coordinate two clothing giveaways as an outreach to the Erie community. They have also begun to assist in making layettes in support of the Midwest Area missionary outreach to the Native Americans.

On June 21, 1947, a meeting was held at Sister Loretta Corrado's home to organize the Niles Ladies' Circle with 17 members. Sister Hannah Skillen gave an inspiring talk of her blessings in the Circle and told the sisters how to conduct meetings. After several years about half the sisters moved to Kinsman and so on June 31, 1956 the name was changed to Kinsman Ladies' Circle. For six years the sisters travelled on Friday evenings – one week in Niles and the next in Kinsman. After 1962 all the meetings were held in Kinsman. The sisters were very faithful in their scripture studies, prayer meetings, and raising money. The charter members sold dish cloths, wax paper, earrings, steak knives, greeting cards,

and candy. The best fundraisers were Sister Anna Dreer and Sister Rose Corrado. The Circle bought pews for the Niles Branch, helped remodel the first Kinsman Mission, and raised money toward the pond and organ. They fed and clothed the needy, sent flowers or fruit baskets to the sick, and celebrated the holidays with dinners and special presentations. The Kinsman Circle has been active through the years and has enjoyed many spirit filled meetings. Only one charter member, Sister Anna Jackson, is still living and a faithful member. God has blessed the Circle and they have continued to support the Church. When the Kinsman Branch built their new building, the Kinsman Circle paid for the kitchen area and are now busy fundraising for helping with the Native American outreach.

When the Warren and Niles, Ohio Branches merged back in the late 1990s, a new Liberty Branch was created along with the Ladies' Circle. They have been established for over 15 years. The circle has grown in number over the past years. They have been focusing efforts on supporting the missionary work of the Church. The sisters have collected fleece blankets every year and send them to the Native American children in Canada. They also have supported the brothers with missionary trips to Kenya, Nepal, Mexico, India, and other IMOC/NAOC efforts. They have a Circle membership of 10 sisters currently.

The Columbus sisters had attended many General Circle activities and had a desire to have a Circle organized in their Mission. On October 20, 2001, the Circle was organized in Columbus. They have 11 members and participate in many activities throughout the year including jewelry making, making crafts, attending craft shows as fundraisers, and having activities with our young teens. They meet in the homes and church building and have also have started making layettes to help with the outreach efforts in Oklahoma.

In 1970, Sister Mabel Bickerton encouraged the sisters in Omaha to form a Circle. In 1991 two sisters from the Omaha mission attended the Circle fellowship weekend in California. They returned home feeling so blessed and inspired that they contacted the Area President and she arranged for Sister Arline Whitton and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio to come to Omaha and organize the Circle on April 6, 2002. From the nine original members, the group has grown to 17. The members work together to complete a variety of projects and activities each year including community outreach, Church fellowship, fasting and prayer, donations for missionary work, and educational programs for the members.

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The Lord Is My Shepherd

When I was young, my Uncle, Brother Alex Robinson, made a list of important promises about God and Jesus that were found in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Everyone in our Sunday School memorized them and stood up to say them in front of everyone. I am so glad he did this because they are now written in my heart. As I grew up and no longer lived with my parents, I had to face many problems and sad times in life. I often prayed and thought about this prayer.

Psalm 23 King James Version (KJV)

*1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

King David wrote this psalm. He was the youngest son of a big family. When he was just a boy, his job was to take his family's large flock of sheep and wander far out in the hills looking for good grassy pastures or places for them to eat. In those days there were no flashlights, guns to protect yourself from wild animals, cell phones to call for help, cars or trucks or bikes to drive away fast in. He was alone; had to survive and do a good job.

There was just one person, a flock of valuable sheep, the dark night and a belief

in the Lord. Wild lions and even bears would sneak around at night hoping to kill and eat the sheep. What would you do if you were the one sitting around a campfire in the dark and listening for things sneaking around you? Would you pray? I would! David prayed, practiced using a slingshot and rocks as a powerful weapon, and actually killed both a lion and a bear. He also had a thankful heart and made up beautiful songs about God's goodness that help us today.

He was a shepherd watching his innocent sheep. God is a shepherd taking care of his people. The Good Shepherd leads His sheep to places with green grass to eat and water that is calm enough to drink, not wild, rushing, and dangerous. God will also find us good things to eat and safe water to drink.

Have you ever been so worried down deep in your heart that your felt sick, or sad, or very sorry for something you had said and done? David promises that the Lord will restore or give you back your peace. You will do the right thing again. As God's follower He can help you get back on the right path.

When someone you love is very ill, maybe so sick that it looks like they may die and leave you, it is like you are in a valley between two mountains and a shadow is on you. It may not happen that someone dies but we do not have to fear something worse will happen. God's love and promises can help you get through this, just like a shepherd's long hooked stick helped him push away snakes, reach for a little lamb that was trapped and pull them to safely, or grab them back from getting too close to a dangerous place. It may be horrible, but the Lord is by your side.

If you meet mean people at school or work that you have to get along with, God's promise is that He will take care of you even if you are surrounded by enemies. King David promises us that if we serve God that we will be blessed. We will be so blessed that it is like someone

pours something that is so good to drink and it overflows. There will be many blessings to you even if your enemies wish bad for you.

Truly, the Lord protects us from our enemies with great mercy. I will serve Him forever. I know you will too. We serve an awesome God. He is with us during the dark times, the scary times, the lonely and worried times. The Lord sees you and loves you. He cares. He will take care of you.

With love

Your friend,

Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

PSALMS	CARE
THE	OF
LORD	ME
IS	DO
MY	NOT
SHEPHERD	FEAR
I	ENEMIES
SHALL	OR
NOT	DEATH
WANT	HE
GOD	CARES
WILL	LOVES
TAKE	US

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

Eye Hath Not Seen *Continued from page 4*

For example, consider the words of Jesus (John 14:2): *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go now to prepare a place for you".* Does this statement stimulate mental images of mansions that you have seen somewhere? Of course it does. In fact, Jesus used the term mansions because He knew that it would stimulate a perception of opulence and luxury beyond that which is attainable by the majority of people. However, to believe that the mansions in glory are duplicates of those on earth today is presumptuous. In fact, the mansions of the first century would not be comparable to those of today – and would not even be aspired to by us. So, it is fair to agree that the people who actually heard Jesus tell of mansions mentally pictured something different than we who read His words today. Nevertheless, reading and digesting His words with the Spirit rather than the natural mind creates the identical spiritual "vision" – understanding (Per David and Job: desire to obey God and avoid evil) – today as did hearing it in the first century. Amazing: the mental pictures may be vastly different, but the inspired "vision" can be identical.

Continuing the letter to the Corinthians, Paul confirms this: *"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit;...the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God....But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ".*

Consider the last declaration of the prophet, Enos (Enos vs. 27) who preceded both Jesus and Paul in the flesh. Though he never met or read either of them, the spirit revealed to Enos that there are mansions in the eternal place of rest with God. Here again, the key was the Spirit of God stimulating spiritual "vision" – wisdom and understanding.

By the laying on of hands, we are given the Holy Ghost – the mind of Christ. We need to use it for our comfort, our guidance, our wisdom, and our understanding: our "vision". We must not allow our natural mentality to create the scenarios that determine our preferences and choices and even limit our hopes. If we rely upon the mind of Christ, we will always be in possession of that true wisdom (the fear of the Lord) and understanding (desire to obey God and avoid evil) that David and Job described.

In the first century, Paul wrote of the natural man's perception of the things of God as foolishness. The 21st century is not the innovator of this conflict. We all know this, but, somehow, it seems convenient or natural to allow that there is something new and more valid about today's thinking. Consider, in popular society:

- Sex outside of marriage is commonly, openly discussed and practiced.
- Official and unofficial mainstream authorities endorse various sexual choices.
- Marriages commonly end through lack of respect for the marriage vows.
- Adultery is common.
- Revelry and intoxication is normal, especially among the younger.
- Literature and entertainment validate many forms of spirituality (e.g.: witchcraft, morbid immortality).

Hopefully, none of the above brings an acceptable scenario to your mind or fits behaviors you engage, but society rebuts the scriptures and pressures us to choose acceptance of these things and participation in them. In Galatians 5:13-21 many of the above are addressed as lusts and works of the flesh. It is spiritual "vision" – wisdom and understanding – that sustains our rejection of them.

In everyday life we also encounter less dramatic challenges to our vigilance that may ultimately lead us similarly off the strait and narrow to destruction. The enemy's flaxen cord (II Nephi 26:22) is presented in more subtle challenges to spiritual wisdom and understanding designed to contaminate our spiritual wisdom with natural imaginations of the flesh. We are challenged by complexities in life that pull us in multiple directions, often making natural priorities seem to take precedence over spiritual. Sometimes short "departures" from the Spirit seem harmless.

Should we use spiritual "vision" – wisdom and understanding – to prioritize our lives in every aspect? Surely, none of us would ever consider "departure from the Lord" as his ultimate destination, but are we sensitive enough to recognize the spiritual direction we take with every choice we make? Each action is a move toward or away from the Lord. We cannot afford to use anything less than God's Spirit to prepare our hearts and minds so that our "vision" is inspired by God and our decisions are made with His wisdom and understanding. Refer to the type provided by Liahona (Alma 37: 37-46). It is easy to be led by Christ, but it is a choice – over and over. *"Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and He will direct thee for good..."* God has not changed and never will. (See Mormon 9:9-15) Allowing our imaginations to embrace variance in God amounts to denial of Him. The way is prepared, and if we look we may live forever.

In the Love of God,
The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

To learn more about The Church of Jesus Christ, with Headquarters in Monongahela, PA, please visit our web site—www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com
The World Operations Center for world-wide missionary efforts is in Greensburg, PA

The Midwest Area Ladies' Uplift Circle *continued from Page 9*

In January 2012, the sisters and lady friends of the South Bend, Indiana Branch started meeting to study the scriptures from the Bible and Book of Mormon. The meetings generated a spirit of unity and love among the sisters and church friends. Sister Karen Baldwin suggested a Ladies' Uplift Circle be established in South Bend. Sister Karen Progar was contacted and the wishes of the sisters to organize a Circle was made known. On March 24, 2012 the South Bend Ladies' Uplift Circle was organized. Fifteen sisters joined the Circle. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month and the lessons are from the Bible, Book of Mormon and The Gospel News. The sisters are anticipating preparing and sending layettes to the Native American reservations.

Blessing Bits

BB God Gave Me The Thumbs Up!

Recently I bought a new seat for my daughter's bike. The seat was in a box enclosed with thick plastic straps. In my foolishness, I took my box cutters from my toolbox to cut the straps. A split second before I began to cut, I thought, "Don't cut yourself," but I continued. Soon my thumb was bleeding heavily and I couldn't move it. As I stood alone in the Target parking lot, I quickly called my friend, Dr. John D'Orazio, Jr., who advised me to go the ER. That was not what I wanted to hear. I finally relented. After being seen by a few different doctors, it was determined that my thumb was not permanently damaged and that I would regain use of it. My wife told me later that as the doctors were checking me, she was texting several brothers and sisters asking for prayer. I went home with stitches. I thank God I have full use of my thumb and for the mercy He shows me.—
her Chuck Maddox, Sr., Lake Worth, FL Branch

BB God's Healing Mercy Is Like None Other

Recently while coming down our basement stairs with our little dog in my arms, I

missed a step causing me to land on my back and slide down the rest of the stairs. Immediately my husband, an elder in The Church, ran for his anointing oil. Placing the oil on my head, he prayed that the Lord would take away the pain from my body and heal me completely from the fall. He also asked that the Lord would heal my shoulder. (Six months prior to this fall, I sustained a shoulder injury that caused aches and pains every morning.) During the next week, I noticed that the pain in my shoulder was completely gone. I am thankful to the Lord and His touch. He Lives!—Sister Brianne Gehly, Erie, PA Branch

BB God Knows Our Future

By age five our son Christopher was ready for kindergarten; however, his birthday was just past the cutoff date for admittance. His preschool teacher wrote a letter to our school district encouraging that an exception be made. As parents, we were disappointed when the request was denied but would later come to realize it was God's providence that overshadowed our son. Traditionally, the middle school holds a dinner/dance for eighth grade students moving on to high school. Sadly, in 1998

an eighth grade student shot a fellow student and killed a teacher at the middle school dinner/dance. Obviously, this incident rocked the world of the families in our school district, but we humbly and thankfully realized that had Christopher entered kindergarten when we had hoped, he would have been in attendance at that dinner/dance, exposing him directly to grave danger.—Brother Joel and Sister Ruth Gehly, Erie, PA Branch

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



Question for this month: *This one is for the young people and kids! What is your favorite summertime activity?*



Answer from last month: *What attribute of a mother would you like to pass on to your children or the young people in the Church?* The most popular answer was "unconditional love." Check back next month for more answers.



...yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Matt 6:26