

# The Gospel News

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## 75th Anniversary at Six Nations

*By Sister Ruth Gehly*

In 1937 a young sister named Jane Dotson of the Muncy Canada Reserve had a burning desire within her heart to be a living witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This desire led her to strike out on a journey that would change the course of history in behalf of the Kingdom of God. With small means and no transportation, she began walking to reach her destination of Grand River—100 miles away and the home of her uncle, Hugh Beaver. Along the way, a car pulled over and the driver offered to give her a ride. Even though he had not planned to travel the complete distance to her uncle's home, the driver generously delivered her to her destination. After exiting the car, Jane turned to thank the driver, but to her amazement the car and its driver had completely disappeared. Ultimately, Hugh and his wife, Lillian, welcomed both their niece and the Gospel into their home and their hearts. Shortly thereafter, Brothers William Cadman and Thurman Furnier, both fully convicted that the Gospel must be preached to the seed of Joseph, arranged for the Church to begin holding meetings and worked diligently to ensure the beginning of a very firm foundation on the Six Nations Reservation.

Just as this young woman greatly desired to share the Gospel on this special reservation, saints from Muncy, Windsor, Saugeen, Michigan, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania also greatly desired to gather to reflect upon and celebrate the great history of a 75-year missionary endeavor directly tied to the covenant given by God to Abraham. This everlasting covenant is an offering of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ to all mankind coupled with a birthright promise to His chosen People, the House of Israel, through the seed of Joseph; a covenant fulfilled in part by those who belong to and are native to the Six Nations Reserve; those who have yearned for the Master's touch and have tasted of His sweet goodness by answering His call; and those who stand as a living testimony that flesh and sinew truly can be restored.

*"Thus said the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 37:4-6).*

Beautiful singing and heartfelt testimonies set the tone for remembrance and appreciation of those who, down through the years, have endeavored to nurture and grow this marvelous work. PowerPoint slide presentations served as encouraging reminders of the great promises in store for Joseph and all those who love and serve God. Acknowledgement was expressed by a member of the Tribal Council for the Church's contribution to the surrounding community; haunting melodies were sung in native tongue accompanied by native instruments; prayers were offered in native language; sweet hymns of praise and thanksgiving were sung; and pictures and memories of faces and days gone by echoed the peace and joy that has filled this place for these many years. And, of course, wonderful words of life were delivered by a priesthood to the nearly 100 in attendance, many of whom were visitors from the reservation. The messages echoed a theme of anticipation, expectation, and deliverance, providing vision of a covenant fulfilled that will culminate in a condition of righteousness that allows the Kingdom of God to flourish in complete fullness.

Truly the outreach made in this place over the course of a lifetime has not been in vain; rather, it has been part of God's plan to restore His chosen people as rightful heirs to His kingdom established in the promised

*(Continued on page 3)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2013 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	April 2013 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	26	27	28	1 "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"	2
3	4 "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted"	5	6 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth"	7	8	9
10 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst, after righteousness..."	11	12	13	14 "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy"	15	16
17	18	19 "Blessed are the pure of heart: for they shall see God"	20	21	22	23 "Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God"
24	25 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake..."	26	27 Pray for the work in India	28 Pray for the Edison Branch	29	30
31 Happy Easter! Up From the Grave He Arose!	1	2				

# March 2013

Calendar Scripture Matthew 5:3-10

*"...Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which is crucified: he is risen: he is not here: behold the place where they laid him" (Mark 16: 6).*

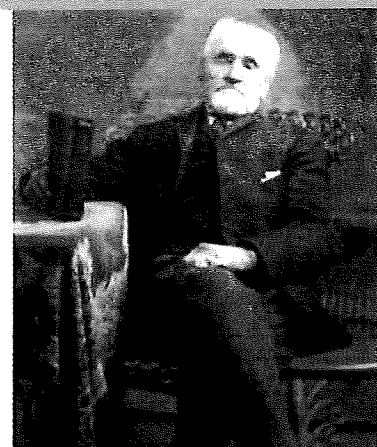
**He Arose! He Arose! Hallelujah! Christ Arose!**

## BFP Blast From The Past

### This Church Stands...

One hundred fifty-three years ago this month, an experience was recorded at the Pine Run conference "being testified by the power of the Spirit that *'This Church stands just as the Church stood in the days of Alma.'*" At the time it had been eight years since Brother William Bickerton denounced the Utah group for such practices as polygamy and thus started the events that led to the establishment of the Church in the Pittsburgh area. Brother William Cadman would later compare Bickerton's role as that of Alma who fled the wickedness of King Noah and "built up in those parts again the Church of Christ in righteousness."

William Bickerton ►





## 75th Anniversary at Six Nations Continued from Page 1

of America. God continues to manifest Himself in mighty ways today as He did when He began this work in 1937:

- A little child's earaches healed within minutes of the touch of holy oil
- Severe chest pains of a heart attack completely removed through faith and prayer
- A sister, bedridden for long intervals for many years due to vertigo, held tight to the Book of Mormon in the hospital praying for God to reveal Himself to her as she faced surgery that would stabilize her condition at the cost of a complete loss of hearing; following surgery, the doctors were stunned to find their patient completely stable with perfect hearing intact
- A brother preparing to travel north for this very celebration entered his study to do some packing; there on the floor next to his desk was a folder he never noticed before containing handwritten notes by his father of the history of Six Nations dating as far back as 1937
- The presence of light shining down during the Saturday presentations
- The word of the Lord given—"Thus saith the Lord, I will gather My people and when you speak to them they will hear My voice... Thus saith the Lord."

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the ongoing missionary work in Six Nations, we honor all the brothers and sisters who have spent countless hours in defense of this latter-day work; preaching, teaching,

### 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**

ministering, serving, sharing meals and fellowship, anointing, driving, and hosting Vacation Bible Schools. And as we consider the great harvest that lies ahead, we pray for our dear brother and resident elder, Marvin Green, and all those who will continue to assist as nursing mothers and fathers in leading by example and gently guiding an ancient covenant people back to God—encouraging and teaching them how they too can become "doers" of the word.

**NEW SERIES—**  
for young members of the Church

## 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"!

**"Agree with thine adversary quickly whilst thou art in the way with him"** (Matthew 5:25 / III Nephi 12: 25).

Christ often challenges us to go against our very nature. Here He advises us to work through conflict in an unnatural way, suggesting our making peace with our adversaries (anyone with whom we are arguing) quickly, while we're still angry ("whilst thou art in the way with him"). This seems much too soon, certainly against my nature. I want to win every argument, often droning on long after I make my point, looking for my adversary to cry, "You win!" Holding my tongue mid-argument seems like cruel and inhuman punishment, if not impossible.

I have always interpreted "quickly" in this verse as making my case, proving myself correct, and then forcing my opponent to surrender to my way of thinking fast enough to shorten the argument. Unfortunately, that doesn't account for "whilst thou art in the way." Is the expectation actually to make peace "during" the fight? What gain could this possibly bring me? It wouldn't feed my desire to hear "You're right" and/or "I'm wrong"; and isn't that, ultimately, the reason we argue?

Why does Christ complicate things? He may have suggested a more tolerant, "Agree with thine adversary once thou maketh thy point, receiveth their counterpoint, alloweth for some back-and-forth; limit thy shouting and if thou cometh to no agreement, turn thyself from the stubborn heathen and claimeth victory in silent gloating." Why frustrate by disallowing such victory? Could He be teaching us about loving beyond self while valuing the other person? Too often arguments breed resentment and disdain, destroying relationships. When peace is reached only after giving into exhaustion, there is no victory in overcoming; and Christ is in the "overcoming" business. When God is left out of situations and "nature" takes over because the poison has simply worked itself through our systems, God has not provided the peace; and God is in the "providing peace" business.

"Agree with thine adversary quickly" requires God's Spirit to heal wounds, tear down pride, and overcome oneself. When "me" is less important than "we" and love replaces vindication, peace is gained to God's honor, glory, and pleasure. Clearly, Christ was guiding us to fight against the natural man, to submit to the spiritual man. Let's agree to agree quickly, give into God's will, and accept responsibility for peace on earth...one argument at a time!

Do you have a favorite verse you'd like us to dissect? Please send it to: "Word Up" 477

## Domestic Church — Edison, New Jersey



**W**hat is known today as the Edison Branch was established as the Stelton Branch on Knapp Avenue in Raritan Township, New Jersey on February 4, 1940. At the dedication, the Spirit of God was manifested throughout the day, and the gift of tongues was spoken, with the interpretation being, "My people must be one." Also, while prayer was being offered before serving communion, Brother Turano saw a personage dressed in white standing between Brothers Rocco Ensana and Patsy Rogolino. He had an umbrella, and when he opened it, it covered everyone in the building.

The branch has not moved from where it was established; however, in 1954 the township was renamed after Thomas Edison, whose Menlo Park laboratory was located here. Over the years, ministers from our branch have worked to establish missions (now branches) in Freehold, New Jersey and Levittown, Pennsylvania. We have approximately 40 members, and have been blessed with several baptisms this past year. There are seven young people, and about ten children in our branch. We hold a regular Wednesday night service, Sunday meetings, and enjoy hosting Area MBA events. We also have potluck dinners occasionally after our Sunday meetings, for an added time of fellowship. We enjoy hosting the Youth in Action in our branch to assist with our outreach efforts, and members of our ministry help out with missions within our region and travel to Africa.

God has immensely blessed our branch. Please continue to pray for our branch that we would grow spiritually. May God bless all of us in our service to God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## International Church — India



**T**he work in India began in 1981. The work started when Brother Joe Calabrese began corresponding with Brothers Dev and Livingston. They embraced the Gospel and eventually were both ordained elders. Thirty-two years later there are 69 locations with a total of 3,470 members. Eighty percent of our members live in smaller villages and many are very poor.

Most families only have one or two children. The members there are humble and grateful for the Restored Gospel. There are three humanitarian works: Saved By Grace Orphanage with 38 sponsored children; Desire India Daycare that freely cares for, feeds, and teaches 45 children so their parents can work in the fields and their older siblings attend school; and Compassion Care that provides free medical care to villages.

Recently there are 30 congregations without a meeting place. Land costs have accelerated in many areas and the cost of material and labor to build the buildings has tripled in the last ten years. The manifestation of God in India is tremendous. Many miracles and healings are seen as we bring them out of the darkness of Hinduism. Many independent ministers are interested in the Church as well, which can bring future growth quickly. Please pray for the continued work in this land.

## To Be a Saint in the Crucible of Life

By Elder Duane Lovalvo

Life is difficult. This statement has rung true since the day that Adam and Eve were cast out of God's presence in the Garden of Eden. On that day God said to Adam "cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life...Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee" (Genesis 3:17-18). Although six thousand years have passed and technology has changed the manner in which we live from day to day, life continues to be difficult. What is God's purpose in this? I would like to present the example of the crucible.

A crucible is a heat-resistant container in which metals are melted. When used in the process of manufacturing high-quality steel the crucible, containing iron ore and carbon, is placed in an oven and heated to 3,000 degrees. It should not come as a surprise that the word crucible is often used to describe a very difficult and trying experience that refines or hardens an individual.

Certainly the crucible can serve as an excellent metaphor for our journey through this life as saints in The Church of Jesus Christ. Like the steel (or gold) that is purified within the crucible as it undergoes its tremendous heating process, we also are spiritually refined through our exposure to the trials of life and the manner in which we respond to those challenges. In the same way that Israel is being prepared for a restoration, we as individual saints are in the process of preparation for the resurrection.

*"Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction"* (Isaiah 48:10).

Good steel is created within the crucible when the iron melts and forms molecular bonds with the carbon. If something goes wrong during the process, an impure and brittle metal of inferior quality is produced. Likewise, if we don't bond with the Holy Spirit when life deals us devastating blows, we become susceptible to spiritual brittleness; in other words, weakness and sin.

What does the furnace of affliction represent? Many times we think of these trials as sickness. This may be true, but it also signifies many other types of challenges. It may mean persecution, backbiting, mockery, shame, depression, temptation, poverty, issues at work, childlessness, marital problems, etc. The list is endless. But enduring these trials righteously, with patience, prayerfully, and relying on the Holy Ghost while we work through them; this will bring us closer to God. After enduring much, King David was able to reflect on the benefits gleaned from his trials:

*"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes"* (Psalms 119:71).

I personally have witnessed many of the saints of God bearing their illnesses, poverty, and persecution with great patience, praising God continually for His Son. This has been a blessing to me; their examples give me strength to keep going.

Appropriately, the word crucible is derived from the Latin word *crux*, meaning cross. Is there a more difficult experience than what Jesus endured? Jesus said to His disciples, *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24).

These words became manifest in the literal sense when Simon the Cyrenian was compelled to carry Jesus' cross and follow Him up the hill called Golgotha. Christ doesn't give us any excuses for failing, but instead He offers forgiveness. Whatever our crosses are in this life, we must carry them until either the Lord removes them or we have reached the finish line where He will be waiting.

*"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"* (2 Corinthians 4:17).

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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$21.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINTHOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-6402.

## Why Now? Enjoy these two testimonies from our new members

**A**fter watching a family member get baptized on July 22, 2012; a repentant spirit came over me. I wanted to do it right then. Suddenly my husband, Brother Michael, ran to help a sister that had fallen and I left the water's edge without asking. On our way back to the church, I talked to Michael. He supported my decision and instructed me to talk to the ministry of the Church. Excited about seeing two souls come to the Lord and moved that I, too, would cleanse my soul, rededicate my life to the Lord, and become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, Brother Jonathan Olexa and Brother Bobby Pizaia supported my decision after speaking with them.

Being baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ was the best decision I ever had to make. My husband is a teacher in the Church. He never pressured me. It was my decision alone. I have always walked with God my whole life, served Him, and loved Him; however, sometimes the things of life distracted me. My baptism changed my life. On July 29, 2012, I dedicated the rest of my years to the Lord. My life changed because I now pray and read more than ever. I get on my knees and pray. My actions now are pleasing to the Lord.

My life has not been easy. I have had good times and some very bad times. I have prayed during those times. I know I found my husband because of God. The Lord put us together; I can bear witness to that. I realized that because of this perfect union, there was no way I could live without the Lord. After we were married, I wanted to become closer to God as I realized all that He has done for me. I am grateful for all the miracles He has given me.

In closing, living through some tough times has shown me that I cannot live without the Lord. On July 22, a repentant spirit came over me that showed me I needed to be closer to God and walk closer with Jesus Christ. Like I said, it was the best decision I've made in life. I am very grateful for all God has done for me. I vowed to repent of my sins and to love and serve God all the remaining days of my life.—**Sister Rose Sharon Zaino, Edison, New Jersey Branch**

**W**hen I was 14 years old, I asked for my baptism, but my family and I decided that I was too young and didn't fully understand the commitment. I continued going to church and was seeking the Lord, but asking for my baptism became a battleground in my mind. I was constantly fighting the thought and coming up with reasons to put it off.

On July 3, 2012, I was at the GMBA Campout. Before I fell asleep that night, I saw a dark image standing over the bed of my roommate, Sister Cassandra Calderon, who was asleep. I thought I was imagining things and dozed off. I awoke when it was still night, and I saw a scary bluish figure staring at me. Before I knew it, it was on top of me, choking me. I couldn't speak or breathe. I was frightened. Silently in my head, I rebuked it in the name of the Lord, and it immediately went away. Sister Cassandra awoke and she began to read scripture to calm me down. The scripture she happened to read was all about God's promises to those who are baptized.

The next day, July 4, in my seminar, the teachers asked each person to share what they wanted to get out of camp. I said, "The courage to ask for my baptism." Later that day, I went to the waters to witness the baptisms of several others, and when the ministry asked if anyone else wanted to be baptized, I allowed the Lord to give me the courage to make my commitment. I didn't want to be bound by Satan any longer. I wanted to commit myself to Christ. When I came out of the water, Sister Cassandra hugged me and said, "He didn't win." Jesus had the victory that day, and I am so thankful.—**Sister Zarella Mosqueda, Irvine, California Branch**

## Seed of Joseph Outreach in California

**T**he first official meeting of The Church of Jesus Christ was held on the Torres Martinez Reservation in Thermal, California. The Torres Martinez Band is affiliated with the Cahuilla Indians. Their tribal lands cover 24,800 acres and is one of California's poorest American Indian reservations.

The Tostado and Vasquez families of the Yucaipa Branch have been visiting this reservation for over four years, giving their testimonies, singing the Songs of Zion, passing out Church literature and food baskets, and reaching out to the people on the reservation. Over the past year they have met at several different homes. Interest in The Church of Jesus Christ has grown, and it was time to take the next step.

Brother Arturo Tostado, Sr., went in search of a place to hold Sunday Services. He found a church to meet in near the home of someone who had become interested in our Church. Our prayers were answered regarding some obstacles, and a commitment was set to meet on Sunday, May 6 and the first Sunday of every month afterward. During the first meeting we enjoyed a season of song and praise. The congregation sang many Songs of Zion, and several groups blessed us with hymns of praise and thanksgiving.

Brother José Diaz from the San Diego Branch was the opening speaker. He read from Acts 3:19 and shared the plan of salvation. He explained how we all need a spiritual conversion in our lives to ensure that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, never to be blotted out.

Brother Abelardo Granados, President of the Church in Mexico, followed using Acts 34:32-34. He reinforced the importance of repentance in our lives and urged us not to procrastinate this most important event. He explained that we only have this life to prepare to meet God, and we must improve our time while we have the opportunity.

## By Sister Cheryl LaVella

Brother Bob McDonnell from the Bell Branch followed and shared an experience he had when he entered the building today. As he walked in, everything looked familiar—the people, the furnishings, and the building—almost as if he had been there before. We all felt welcome and comfortable in this building, so we trusted that God was in the matter.

Brother Bob continued sharing his love and desire to work with Native American people. He said he could relate to the lyrics in the Songs of Zion, "The better part of a life time in defense of a dream." Brother Bob thanked all of the saints who have diligently labored and visited the reservation over the years. Because of their efforts, the Church now has the opportunity to conduct monthly Sunday services and share the message of the Restored Gospel. Brother Bob closed, thanking God that the scripture he had in mind, Romans 10:13-15, was the same message preached by our brothers.

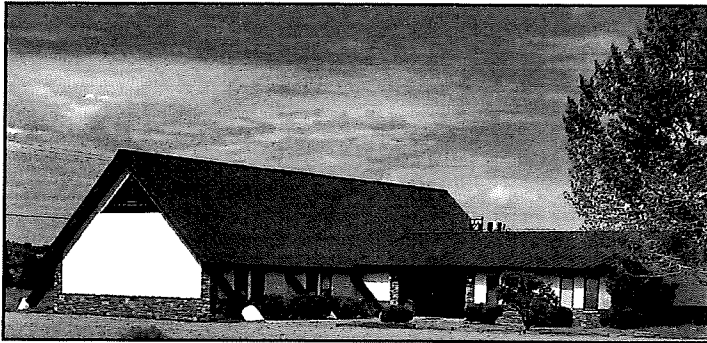
Brother Tom P. Liberto from the San Diego Branch was the last speaker, and he emphasized that the Church must grow and that the way for that to happen was by us telling others about Jesus Christ, just like the saints had done on this reservation.

Many of the saints from the Pacific Region were in attendance to support the Tostado and Vasquez families. There were saints from Bell, San Diego, Irvine, Yucaipa, Monongahela, and Tijuana, Mexico. There were 47 people in attendance; 18 were from the neighborhood. The meeting started out with only four from the neighborhood, but every time the door opened, more of the neighbors entered. Many of the visitors asked for anointing and prayers.

We all stayed after the meeting and continued in a time of visiting and fellowship. We are looking forward to many more blessed meetings on the Torres Martinez Reservation.

## Tse Bonito Branch 40th Anniversary

By Sister Wendy Heinz



The Newly Remodeled Tse Bonito Branch Rededicated on August 12, 2012

The Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch congregation hosted the Southwest Regional conference in August 2012. On Saturday evening there was a video presentation on the history of the work in Tse Bonito and a singing presentation. The next morning, on August 12, the newly remodeled branch was rededicated to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We had many visiting elders, evangelists, and apostles, many members from around the region, and some visitors from the community attend that weekend.

The year 2012 represents 40 years since the first exploratory visit to Window Rock and 39 since the mission began. As the young brothers and sisters planned for trips to Navajoland, they were in uncharted territory. Under the leadership of Side by Side and the San Fernando Valley Branch, the first work project was launched. The inaugural trip in 1971, which included 60 volunteers almost entirely from Southern California, was so successful, that a second was planned for the following year. This one, which was co-sponsored by the California Area MBA, featured twice as many volunteers who came from branches as far away as the east coast.

After the trips to Chinle, Side by Side became dedicated to the self-sufficiency of the Navajo people. When the Redlake Chapter granted us a lease on ten acres of land for a demonstration farm, it became apparent that we would need a permanent presence in the area. After much prayer and fasting, a small exodus, primarily from the Valley Branch,

commenced—led by young men and women and their families. The first to move was Brother Larry Watson, in August of 1973, followed shortly thereafter by others in the fall of the same year. In November, Brother Larry was ordained an elder. The influx of members continued and in the summer of 1974 a branch of the Church was established.

After a number of years working and worshipping in the Red Lake Chapter of the Navajo Nation, our numbers began to grow. Several members desired to find a place where they could build homes for their families. This led to the acquisition of land just east of a small community called Tse Bonito, New Mexico, three miles east of Window Rock, Arizona, the capital of the Navajo Nation. A new building was built and dedicated in May of 1984. Many years of beautiful services, Vacation Bible Schools, and outreach have taken place there over the years. "The Latter Day Theme" was the late Apostle Robert A. Watson's theme song. He lived and worshipped here for many years and this same hymn resonates for the rest of us as well. "The better part of a lifetime in defense of a dream ..."

This commitment has been severely challenged in the past few years. A visual image of this challenge and how it has been met may be found in a review of the saga of the battle to save and restore our beautiful building.

Anyone who lives here knows only too well just how severe our weather can get. Over a period of just two years' time, two major storms hit our area causing flash floods that each slammed into our building leaving layers of water and mud in its wake. We did our best to clean up, but the aftermath left virtually all of the flooring and some of the walls permanently damaged and ruined from mildew.

We appealed to the Church's disaster relief committee and they came through with desperately-needed funds. We went to work to do major excavation work around the building, repairing the flood channel, contacting the State Engineers, etc. Inside, we replaced the flooring throughout with either carpet or tile, and repaired some of the interior siding. We also had major repairs to the interior beams and the roof.

(Continued on Page 11)

## Dateline: Erie Mission; Erie, Pennsylvania; December 2, 2012; 2:47pm

The building is empty. I walk around the sanctuary, straightening a few hymn books, picking up wrappers from some crayons that were deposited on the floor and thinking about the day. Driving around picking up friends and visitors, helping get coffee for David (wheelchair bound), teaching Sunday School, helping serve the Christmas dinner after the service, washing dishes, cleaning up the fellowship area; talking with the new visitors, were just a few of the activities. Nonstop action for about six hours. It has been another exhausting Sunday. How awesome is that!

I reflect on the fact that we had nine visiting adults today, including two first-timers. Kids are now coming out of the woodwork; we had only seven in attendance today (sickness is starting in the schools), but we will have at least one child blessing next week. We had a former member back in Church today after a 10-year absence. How great is God!

My warning to all readers; be careful how you pray. A few years ago, we had a mission that was quiet and always in good order. No crayon wrappers on the floor, but also hardly any visitors and almost no kids. We prayed for God to send people and to bless our mission. God showed us what to do. It was right in front of us the whole time. "And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23). Also, don't pray that prayer unless you are willing to WORK, willing to be exhausted. God will do His part, after you do your part.

We are stretched to the breaking point. The effort is great, the exhaustion is real. We never thought it would happen or that we could do it. But, God's blessings are overwhelming. The testimonies heard today in glory to God were incredible—healings, repentance, tears, visitors standing for the first time, people testifying to God's blessing 2-3 times, singing...

More is yet to come. More people, more kids, more effort, more exhaustion, more crayons on the floor, more souls delivered by the power of Jesus Christ. It was a great day.

Reporting from the Erie Mission, Apostle Joel Gehly



### Dropping the YOLO Mentality *By Sister Erin Light*

It's always a little behind the culture of trendy abbreviations. Beyond popular ones such as FYI, BRB, and LOL, it's hard to keep up. But I heard one the other day that really caught my attention: YOLO.

YOLO, or You Only Live Once, is so very appropriate to describe the inappropriate times we're living in now. Essentially, YOLO is an excuse to do immature or bad things. It means if there's something you want to do, regardless of the risk, you should do it anyway because you only live once.

Should I berate my professor for giving my paper a bad grade? YOLO. Should I go to the party this Saturday night, knowing I'll probably miss church on Sunday? YOLO. Maybe it's something "less risky" like daring your friend to steal some chips from the store or jumping out of a moving car. YOLO is a great excuse to check off our worldly pleasure bucket list without too much regret, because let's face it. You. Only. Live. Once.

But is that true? Do we only live once?

#### Only One Life to Live?

We may only live once in this life. But if we use this life to live for God, we're going to live twice. We know this because we already understand the plan of salvation how Christ died in our place and gave us an opportunity to serve Him in life and live for eternity with Him. But how are we going to live twice if we're YOLO-ing all over the place?

Mark 8:36 says, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

If we're only on this earth for one lifetime, why not be here to promote the Lord? God gave us 10 commandments, but they can be summarized in two main instructions: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31).

#### Afraid to Be Different

So you might be thinking, "But what if I'm the only one who is upright, and I stand out because I'm different?" Throughout the scriptures, countless youth dropped the YOLO mentality in favor of being different.

Think about the story of Esther; she realized that her purpose as queen wasn't for her benefit. She dropped the YOLO mentality with a few simple words, "If I perish, I perish," and stepped out on faith to save her people (Esther 4:16).

Helaman, a young man, was encouraged by his father Alma to "learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God" (Alma 37:35). Helaman believed his father's words, and he promised to follow the commandments. Less than a decade later he was leading 2,000 stripling young warriors into a battle with no casualties among them (Alma chapters 53, 56).

Trust me when I say it's good to be different. If we're fitting into this world, we're not standing out enough for Christ. We are unlike other young people in our generation because we represent The Church of Jesus Christ. We can be proud that we have the opportunity to show others that we serve a living God, that we are witnesses to miracles, and that we embrace God's gift of salvation. There's really no need for a YOLO mentality; it's not about us, it's about Him. We are part of a bigger story.

#### Letting Go of YOLO

Instead of using the YOLO mentality to impress friends and make excuses for taking part in worldly pleasures, take the real risk and live for God. Be daring, be courageous, and stand up for what you believe in. Be an example for others.

That guy who sits behind you in English class who's always behind on his work? Maybe it's time to offer him some assistance. Maybe my elderly

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### Thoughts on Scripture "...Come now, let us reason together..." *By Apostle Joel Gehly*

#### Two Sticks...Jesus Christ

##### Ezekiel 37:16-17

"Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand."

##### Ezekiel 37:19-22

"Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes."

Friends in Christ, I want to comment on these verses and to bring our attention to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Word of God. The Gospel of John states, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). This is Jesus Christ. In the prophecy of Ezekiel, the Word of God is described as two sticks. The stick of Judah (Bible) and the stick of Joseph (Book of Mormon) is the Word. The prophet Ezekiel was speaking of a period of time in the future when the Word would be given to two groups or nations of people. In God's perfect plan, Christ came to Judah, and God commanded them to write (Stick of Judah). Christ also came to Joseph's descendants on America, and God commanded them to write (Stick of Joseph).

Once the records of Christ were written, the prophet stated that God would command these two records to become one—because they are one. One Word of God. Two records, two continents, one Word—one Jesus Christ.

Now I believe this is the key for the latter day work. The single Word will be in our hands (Gentiles), and shall be a singular Word (eventually) in the hands of Israel. Christ—and only Christ—will be the Word that is used to accomplish the great latter day plan that we can read about in the subsequent verses of the prophecy of Ezekiel. Israel, and all who love Christ, all who love the Word, will establish the great Kingdom of God on the Earth (in the flesh). This key to the latter day work, the singular Word, may seem obvious. However, almost everyone in the world (Gentile and Israel alike), has additional belief systems, I'll use the term baggage, that we like to assume are equal to the Word. We see this baggage carried and honored just like the Word. What am I talking about? God said in Ezekiel— "...they shall be one...". One and only, is my thought. There cannot be anything that we place in the same category, on the same level as the Word—Jesus Christ.

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## The Waters of Mormon

By Brother Kerry Carlini

**A**lmost 600 years before Jesus was baptized by John, Nephi was given a profound understanding of the doctrine of Christ and His commandment that the children of men be baptized. Four hundred years later—after Alma had fled the wickedness of King Noah and repented of his sins—he taught his followers the words of Abinadi regarding the coming Christ, and at the waters of Mormon baptized over 200 people. Here are five amazing facts regarding the waters of Mormon:

- 1 It was there, being a land at times infested by wild beasts, that it received its name from a king.
- 2 It was there, springing from a fountain of pure water, that the waters of Mormon flowed.
- 3 It was there, in a thicket of small trees, that Alma hid himself from the searches of King Noah and established the Church of Christ as first mentioned in the Book of Mormon.
- 4 It was there that the first baptism in the Book of Mormon was recorded as Alma buried himself and Helam in the water.
- 5 And, 450 years later, it was after the “land of Mormon” that a prophet was named—who would abridge the Nephite record that would bear his name, the Book of Mormon.

Matthew 3:13-17

II Nephi 31

Mosiah 18

III Nephi 5:12

## Ladies' Uplift Circle News



### We Are His Handmaiden

By Sister Lisa Champine

*“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her” (Luke 1:38).*

**A** few days before our October General Circle Conference I was at work and this thought came to me: “If the Church is the bride of Christ, then the Ladies’ Uplift Circle is her handmaiden.” At first I wasn’t quite sure what to make of that, but I wrote it down and tucked it away to consider later. Over the last few months I’ve thought about that phrase with some regularity; wondering what it might mean, debating its significance.

Recently, I received letters from two of our International Circles, Nigeria and Zambia. To say I was thrilled to receive this correspondence is an understatement. As I read their letters I was struck by the thought that their work and desires for their part in the vineyard are the same as the sisters here in the domestic Circle. They want to aid and help those that

are less privileged, they raise funds to help the branches they attend, they study the scriptures, they support their fellow sisters, and they are living the mission statement of the Circle just as we are.

All these works, whether great or small, aid The Church of Jesus Christ. When we are in Conference it is easy to feel the strength of our sisterhood and the spirit that we share. When we leave those meetings and go back to our home Circles it is sometimes a little more difficult to tap into that source; however, the size of our group does not lessen the strength of our commitment to be handmaidens.

I know that there are times when we feel we are unequal to the task that is before us. Consider this, when the angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her of the great work that she would be

used for, Mary did not completely understand how it would be done. But after everything was explained to her, Mary’s response was simple. She said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.”

If the Church is the bride of Christ, then the Ladies’ Uplift Circle is her handmaiden. Some might say that a handmaid is a slave. I’d prefer to think of it this way: A handmaid is a servant that God employs to execute His purpose. If we are involved in His work, no matter what that work is we are His handmaiden. When we as sisters of the Circle engage in any work that aids the Church then the Ladies’ Uplift Circle is her handmaiden. Let us be worthy to the task and prayerfully proceed in those things that are pleasing in the sight of our God.



## Jesus Changed The World

for them to be forgiven and let all be well. Now Jesus was saying that all people need is to offer to God a broken heart and contrite (sorry) spirit.

The new religion of Jesus was making a lot of people mad. They decided to lie and say Jesus should be put to death for causing trouble.

days of darkness covered the earth as people cried and prayed.

But Jesus' Spirit was not dead! He began appearing to His followers around the world. He showed them His wounds and reminded them of God's power. He appeared in the Americas, taught them and chose twelve disciples.

He taught all people to love one another as themselves, and to love God above all else. He is our living Lord. He came to earth as a tiny baby. He was baptized by His cousin John and He began preaching and teaching to all about the love and forgiveness of God. He has all power. He died and was resurrected. We can make our hearts right and call on Him. Those who love Him are precious to Him.

With love,  
Sister Jan Bork

### WORD SEARCH (Matthew 26:53)

IF	COULD
JESUS	CALLED
CHANGED	SEVENTY
HIS	TWO
HEART	THOUSAND
TO	ANGELS
NOT	AND
BE	GOD
LAST	WOULD
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T	E	D	E	L	L	A	C	E
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O	S	G	O	D	E	I	A	T
U	L	N	T	V	E	S	N	N
S	E	A	A	I	O	E	D	E
A	G	H	R	J	W	N	L	V
N	N	C	N	O	T	T	U	E
D	A	W	O	U	L	D	O	S
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E
H	E	A	R	T	S	A	L	B

**W**hen I was young, it bothered me that Jesus died on a cross and that He was treated so horribly. When I was older I read the scriptures in the Bible and realized that Jesus had all power from the beginning. Jesus allowed those bad people to take Him prisoner. He allowed Himself to be sacrificed. In John 10:17 & 18, Jesus told His followers *"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."* At any time He could have called for help, but He was teaching a new religion. He was trying to teach His disciples a new way of living.

For centuries the twelve tribes of Israel had been waiting for a wonderful leader called the Messiah (Jesus) to come and lead them to freedom. When Jesus did come, He was so peaceful that people did not understand.

Jesus told people to love each other, forgive each other, serve each other, and share with each other. This is not what people were looking for. This really is hard to do sometimes. God knows our hearts, and Jesus teaches us to have a broken heart for the things we do wrong and the people who need care. Now Jesus was teaching that we each can and should go quietly to the Lord and talk about what makes us scared, mad, jealous, and upset. We should give up bad, hateful, fearful, bitter feelings.

Before Jesus came, special prayers were offered for all occasions. If someone had been sick, or done something wrong, they brought an animal to sacrifice to the temple and asked the priests to pray

Jesus knew this was coming. He had a last supper with His disciple friends. He broke bread, prayed, and passed wine to His followers, telling them to do this to remember Him. (We call this sacrament or communion.) Jesus also prayed for them, washed their feet and told them to love one another (See John Chapter 13). We also do feet washing with great love.

Jesus asked His friends to go with Him to a quiet garden to pray. They all fell asleep. God sent an angel to comfort Jesus for the terrible hours ahead (Luke 22: 43).

At first the soldiers were afraid to take Him. They backed up and fell down. The Apostle Peter picked up a sword to fight and cut off the ear of one of the mob. Jesus healed the man and told Peter, *"... [T]he cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"* (John 18: 6-11). Again Jesus did not run away or fight the enemy. He was so willing to be the last sacrifice to God. Jesus said that He could pray to His Father and He could send more than twelve Legions (6,000 soldiers equal one legion, so this would be 72,000 angels) but then the scriptures (and ancient prophecies) would not be fulfilled.

Jesus allowed them to take Him. He endured a terrible trial. He had all power but He allowed them to put Him on the cross. When the crowd mocked Him and asked Him if He was the son of God, to prove it and come down from the cross, He loved them.

His body died on that cross after He said to God, *"Forgive them, they do not know what they do."* The curtain in the temple (in the room where the High Priest went once a year) tore in half as the earth quaked and darkness fell. In the Americas, a great destruction ripped across the land and three

## Dropping the YOLO Mentality

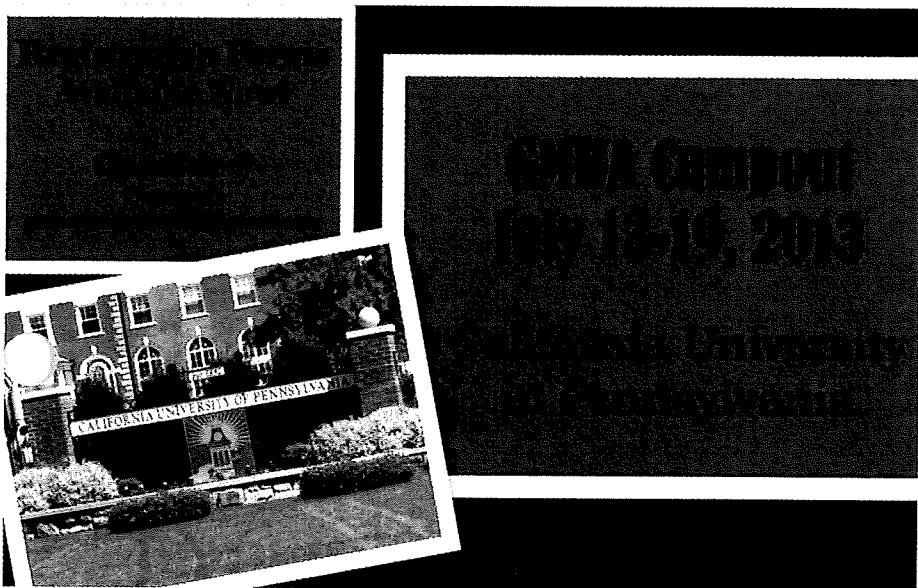
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neighbor, who walks every day from the store carrying multiple bags of groceries, would appreciate a ride home. If we feel like we need to participate in questionable activities to fit in with our friends, then maybe those aren't the friends for us.

But we do fit in with Christ's crowd. He called us and gave His life so that we wouldn't have to fit in with the world. Imagine a YOLO life without Christ, and compare that to your life with Christ.

Instead of YOLO, we should LGLO. (Wait, what's LGLO?) LGLO stands for "Love God, Love Others." If we love God, as we promised the day of our baptism, we will seek to please him and strive to be a better servant every day. And if we love others, we should want to serve those around us so that they can see that we are different and we stand for righteousness. LGLO.

If you'd like to learn how to stand up for Christ but aren't sure you know how, that's OK. It's the perfect time to learn. Find a brother or sister who you think shows good LGLO qualities and shadow them for a while, watch how they shine the light. Then go light up the world around you with your own flame.



## Thoughts on Scripture

*"...Come now, let us reason together..."*

*Continued from Page 8*

Currently, Israel has many things before their eyes that redirect their attention, ie, additional baggage. Jews have "rabbinical teachings", and Native Americans have all types of traditions and prophecies such as the "Code of Handsome Lake", Mayan prophecies, etc. Gentiles have other books and teachings that divert people into strange religions and doctrines. Even Restorationists have been carrying extra baggage such as the Doctrine and Covenants and prophetic revelations. All of these beliefs are excess baggage that must be dropped and left aside to accomplish the purposes of God in building the great Kingdom of God—through the singular Word.

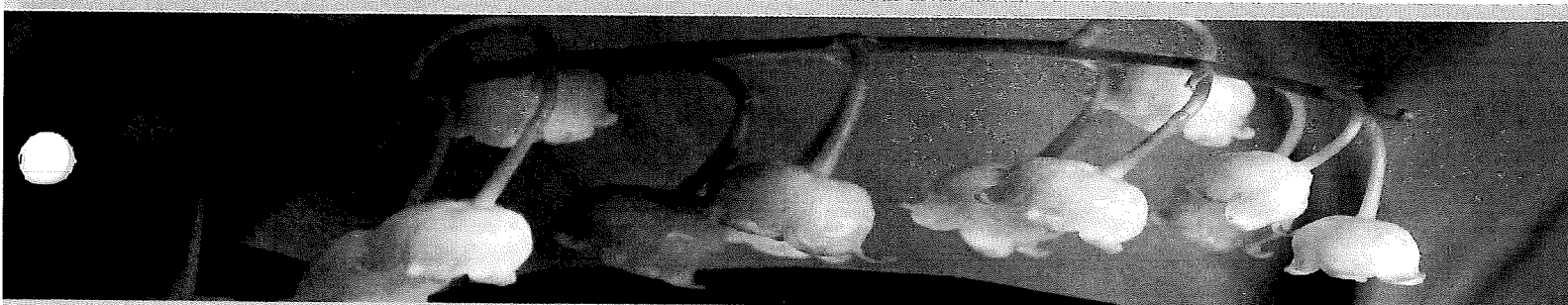
Even saints of The Church of Jesus Christ can fall into this trap at times. We must not allow anything—revelations, dreams, opinions, gifts—to rise to the level of Jesus Christ. Nothing should be an equal to the Word, the two Sticks, that God has entrusted to us—The Church of Jesus Christ. Please don't misunderstand me; I absolutely love the manifestations of God's revelation to the Church through dreams, gifts, blessings, healings, and the power of the Holy Ghost. But Jesus Christ—the two sticks—the Word, is the standard to which we all must adhere to.

Christ and Christ alone will be the One Lord, the One Faith, the One Baptism, the One God—that will be used to build Zion. Nothing else, no other word can compare. Jesus Christ is the restoration. Jesus said, "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). Nothing else can compare, nothing else can give life. Jesus Christ is the Word that will allow all—"every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people"—to drop all extra baggage and to serve God in spirit and truth.

## Tse Bonito Branch 40th Anniversary *Continued from Page 7*

We consulted with professionals within and outside the Church and then began the immense task of tackling these projects. It was becoming more apparent that the time had come for us to face all of our challenges head on—holding off would only make things worse. Financial and other assistance was provided by the Quorum of Seventy, the Native American Operating Committee, the Southwest Region, the Ladies' Uplift Circle, the Finance Committee, and the General Church Board of Trustees, just to mention a few. The remodeling took us over two years to complete.

Time does not permit us to speak of other pieces to this initiative, such as new counter-tops, utility sink, lighting, etc. However, we do want to say this—the most important part of this restoration project cannot be measured in terms of the renovation of a building; but far more significantly in terms of the restoration of a community of saints; and yes, dare we say, with the help of almighty God, we envision the restoration of a nation. After all, it's not really our work, it's not even our Church—it's The Church of Jesus Christ—and that means that all the Glory, and all the Honor for what has been done here, both now and in the future, really belongs to only one individual—the Son of God.



*I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. Song of Solomon 2:1*



# Blessing Bits



## God Knows Best

"Thank God I found you, you're an answer to my prayers" is the way an in-house recruiter began our conversation on a recent Sunday evening. Having been out of work since April, I had been applying to various companies, which included sending my resume to a company in which I had limited interest. What a surprise to receive a call within a few days, asking me to interview for a newly created position. Following three separate phone and personal interviews, THANK GOD I began my new position on July 2. "See, I told you God answers prayers!" was said by the recruiter when she called to tell me the good news. Continue to pray for me, that I may be used effectively, not only in my new job, but to spread God's word to others.—*Brother Joe Rogalla, Atlanta, Georgia Branch*



## God's Timing is Always Perfect

Sister Karen Tucker from the Bell, California Branch got off work early on a Monday, which seldom happens. After her husband arrived home around 4:30 p.m., she told him she wanted to bring some cabinets to the remodeled nursery room at church. They live 45 miles away, and traffic is typically awful at that time of day. They soon left for the church building and arrived at 5:20 pm. The traffic was not heavy at

all! After unloading the cabinets, Sister Karen knelt down to open the boxes and noticed that her knees became wet. Her husband discovered that a lawn sprinkler outside was broken, and half of the nursery room carpet was soaked. Water was entering the adjoining classrooms and running into the kitchen. The water had even entered into some walls, wetting the insulation. If God had not inspired Sister Karen to go to church that day, the flooding would have lasted the whole week since this area of the church is only used on Sundays.



## God Is Our Physician

My blood pressure was so high that my doctor said, "If you don't take these pills, you will die." I agonized, knowing that once I began taking these pills, I would always have to take them. That evening I prayed for God's healing and no pills. During thenight I awoke and, unable to sleep, I prayed for my healing. The Spirit stopped me, and I realized I needed to pray for others. After praying all night, I was awakened by the sun. Soon I went to the place where the bottle of pills was and asked God if there were any other way. I then heard the Spirit say, "You don't need them, I am here." Within a few weeks, upon returning to the doctor, my blood pressure read normal. The doctor was happy until I showed him the full

bottle of pills, not having taken one. After seven years, my blood pressure is still 118 over 72. "...pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16).—*Brother John Straccia, Sterling Heights, Michigan 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:** Have you attended a spiritual conference, campout, or meeting that was life-changing? What was the year and location and what made it special?

**Answer from last month:** My goal for this year is to visit my elder brothers and sisters, to hear their testimonies, and learn from them before they are gone.—*Brother Bryan Champine*

Do you enjoy the Question of the Month section? If so, please send in your answer each month. We need increased participation to keep this section going!



*I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. Song of Solomon 2:1*