

# The Gospel News

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## Fifty Cents

*By Sister Ruth Gehly*

**A**t our mission in Erie, Pennsylvania, we encounter many less fortunate people. To be quite honest, I never took much notice of them until the GMBA Extended Tour came our way a few years back. Since that time our Mission has been hosting a clothing giveaway twice a year, which has presented the opportunity for our congregation to be exposed to and help folks from all walks of life. It has been so humbling and gratifying to watch as our little church building transformed into a place where no one goes away empty-handed. This outreach has also served to create a greater awareness of the reality of the challenging day and time in which we live... challenges not unique to our day and time alone...

*...A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him (Luke 10:30-33).*

Last summer I walked from my office to a local shop, debit card tucked in my pocket and ready to make a purchase. It was a busy day on the streets of Erie. As I approached the shop, I noticed a man sitting on the sidewalk, a sight that has become all too familiar. The man spoke to the group of individuals walking ahead of me but they shook their heads and continued on.

As I approached, the man did not speak a word to me, nor I to him. I felt relieved; yet, my sense of relief was very short-lived. Soon my heart began beating rapidly and thoughts of what to do invaded my mind. I had no cash – only my debit card – and I was in the shop to make a specific purchase to complete “my” mission. I even considered exiting the shop and walking back to my office by a different route. Instead, however, I decided to return the way I had come, still uncertain of what to do, and secretly hoping that the man would not speak to me - or that he would be gone. “Do you have fifty cents?” he asked as I passed by. Ashamedly, I told the man that I did not and began to move on. Immediately, as the words fell from my lips, a voice sounded: “You are just like everyone else.”

I cannot tell you the devastating and ongoing effect those words had on me; I was haunted by them and for a long time felt void of the Spirit. I could have stopped; I could have acknowledged the man; I could have asked his name; I could have treated him with dignity and respect; I could have taken him across the street – my debit card in hand – and purchased him a cup of coffee. However – I did not. I was the priest; I was the Levite; I was salt that had lost its savor...

*(Continued on page 4)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rejoice in the Lord today!	2	3	4 Hum your favorite hymn	5	6 GMBA weekend in Irvine starts	7 Pray for the GMBA weekend
8 GMBA weekend ends- pray for continued blessings	9	10 Sign up for the Gospel Blog	11	12 Think of the first time that you felt the Spirit of God	13	14
15 Invite someone over who is alone	16	17	18	19	20 Spend time with a senior member of your branch	21
22 Give your testimony today	23	24 Pray for the Monongahela Branch - pg 4	25	26 Ask God for direction in your life	27	28
29 Spend a few moments with a young child today	30	31	1	2	3	4 Support your MBA and Ladies' Circle this month
February 2015 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 2015 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					

March 2015

*"For thy loving kindness is before mine eyes; and I have walked in thy truth"*  
(Psalm 26:3).

## BTP Blast From The Past

### The Testimony

**B**orn in Detroit, Michigan, Brother Anthony DiBattista moved to Pennsylvania as a young man, where he met the Church and was baptized at Glassport in 1920. Blessed with a remarkable experience confirming the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, it would be his testimony scripted in a letter to his cousin, Anna Frammolino – ninety-four years ago this month – that would trigger the chain of events leading to the Detroit Mission. For when Anna took the Book of Mormon from the package, she was suddenly overcome by the Spirit of God. With tears flooding her eyes, she embraced the book and immediately knew that her search for the true Church was over. She had found the Gospel Restored through her cousin's testimony.

History of The Church History of Jesus Christ Volume 2, pp75, 174-175

Brother Anthony and Sister Fraolina DiBattista ►



## 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:

- Who was overcome with the Spirit of God when they received a Book of Mormon as a gift? (Page 2)
- What famous movie quote is referenced in regards to bringing the Native Americans to the Church? (Page 7)
- Why is it important to prepare for our spiritual journey? (Page 8)
- Who was Miriam? (Page 10)

## Word Up

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



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

*"What seek ye?" (John 1:38)*

I love playing "Hide and Seek." What I remember most were the hiding places where I was never found; crouched behind the vacuum cleaner in the closet under the stairs was my best childhood spot. It was very similar years later when I played with my children. I discovered new favorite spots, as the kids never found me kneeling down in their bathtub.

The day after baptizing Jesus, John the Baptist stood with two of his disciples as Christ walked by. John identified the Savior, "Behold the Lamb of God," which caused them to leave and follow Christ. When Jesus noticed them, He asked, "What seek ye?" Imagine the Son of God asking you face-to-face, "What are you looking for?" How would you answer?

Are you searching for peace? After suffering years of torment due to traumatic childhood experiences, a sister in Christ told me, "I felt like a boulder was lifted off me and I could breathe. I wouldn't have known that peace if I didn't join this church." Philippians 4:7 describes, "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Are you seeking peace? Christ can provide all you need.

Are you looking for power? A young man (Mike Meador) speaking at his father-in-law's (Tim Capone) memorial service, attended by more than 250 parents and children at the elementary school that had employed Brother Tim, stated, "I fly helicopters for the United States Army, so I know powerful. But seeing all of you here today shows true power." Mike was acknowledging the power of God in his father-in-law's life. Is it power you're seeking? Christ can bring "true power" into your life.

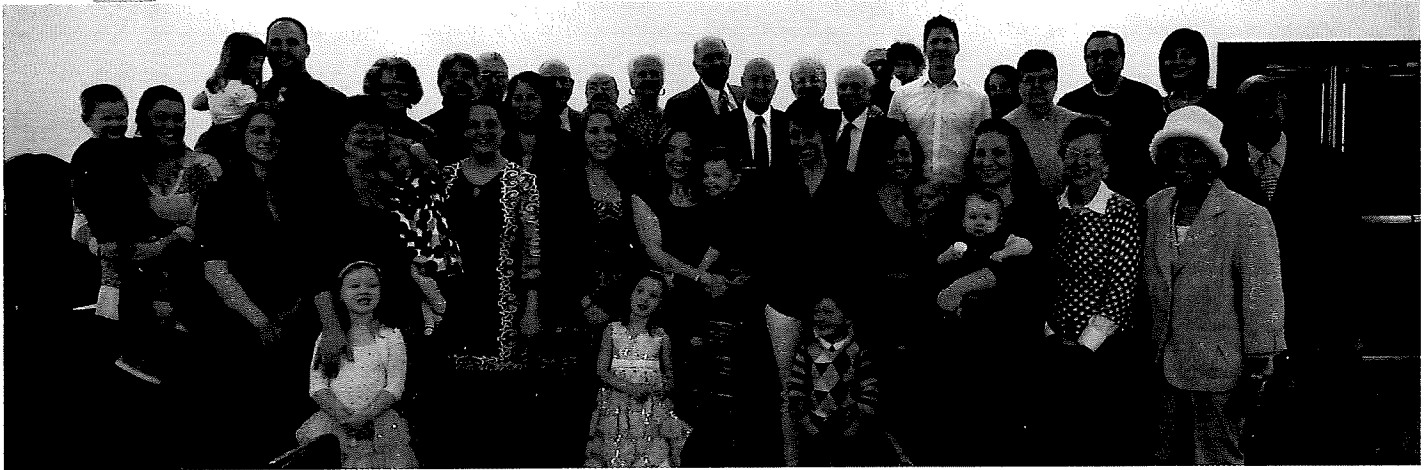
Are you hunting for a healing? Following Brother Ryan Ross's healing from brain cancer in 1978, his spirit-filled testimony included, "The doctors gave me no hope. Yet, God healed my body. And as glorious as that was, the healing of my soul was much more important. I am living proof our God is a God who heals." Are you in pursuit of a healing? Whatever your sickness (i.e., physical, emotional, mental, spiritual), Jesus heals.

So what seek ye? Maybe like a good game of "Hide and Seek," Christ simply has the best hiding places. He's willing to uncover them if we're willing to search. Close your eyes and instead of counting to ten, pray to God. Then open your eyes. Be sure to check His closet under the stairs; you just might find that healing you've been seeking!

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

# Meet the Branch

## Domestic Church — Monongahela, PA Branch



**A**t the General Conference of 1929, it was decided to erect a building in Monongahela identified as the General Church Headquarters. The location was selected because of the great historical significance in the early Church in this area. With the help of the Ladies' Uplift Circle, property was purchased. The July Conference of 1930 was held in the building, although it was not yet fully completed. The dedication service was held on October 19, 1930. Although we have added on since then, we continue to meet in this same building.

Our branch has been privileged to witness many great manifestations of the Spirit and Power of God over the years. It has been the site of many General and Region Conferences, and the membership has a long history of supporting the missionary works of the Church. The branch ministry have consistently taught the Restored Gospel, and members have participated in missionary efforts among the Seed of Joseph throughout the Americas. Foreign mission efforts in Africa and India, as well as domestic works, are equally supported by the members and ministry.

Today we are blessed with an active congregation which includes 58 members and 24 children under the age of 12. They are all involved in branch meetings and Junior Church services. We are blest by our past and have great hope for our future.

### Fifty Cents Continued from page 1

*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men (Matthew 5:13).*

After that incident, I placed fifty cents on my dresser as a daily reminder of that moment...yearning for the Lord's forgiveness; seeking forgiveness within myself for not heeding the prompting of the Spirit; hoping it was not too late for another chance to be salt and light...

*Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).*

His name was Eddie. He was standing on the same street corner. He looked different than the other fellow but I felt as if I had seen him before. He was tall and his skin color different than mine. His eyes were brown, and he was bundled up in a parka that could have been given away at one of our clothing giveaways. Our conversation was brief...he shared his need...I asked a few questions. Then I told him I would return.

After my purchase I exited the store and proceeded with purpose the exact same way I had come, giving no thought to going a different direction. I wondered if Eddie would still be there. Thankfully, he was. Placing what I had in his hand, I looked him in the eye and invited him to come to church. We shook hands and he thanked me. Then he said, "God bless you."

Walking back to my office my thoughts were drawn to the fifty cents on my dresser and to the man I had passed by so many months ago. Then suddenly, I felt it...the Spirit that had departed so quickly had returned – sweetly filling me to overflowing. Forgiveness never felt so good.

*"Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven" (Luke 7:47).*

I wonder what's next.

### Judging By Elder Donald Ross

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**T**he word judge has a number of meanings. According to the dictionary, it can mean: To sit in judgment upon; to pass sentence upon; condemn; to arrive at or draw a conclusion; to have as an opinion or assumption; suppose.

As you read these definitions, is it any wonder that, the Lord commanded all men that we are not to judge one another? In Matthew 7:1-2 He emphatically commanded, *"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."* He went on to ask why we see the mote that is in our brother's eye, but do not consider the beam that is in our own eye? Those who judge in this manner are called hypocrites by the Lord. He states we are to cast out the beam in our eye before we can "clearly" cast the mote out of our brother's eye.

Human nature is such that we look at the faults and shortcomings of others without seeing our own, and make quick and immediate judgments. According to the Lord, this is not acceptable. When we do this, we withhold the Gospel of Jesus Christ from them. Many would never have had a chance to repent and have it accepted in human terms. Consider a couple of examples from scripture.

The scripture informs us that Zeezrom was a lawyer and expert in the use of words. He was also an expert in the devices of the devil. He gave Alma and Amulek a very difficult time, trying to twist their words and convey to the people that they were not telling the truth. Zeezrom was so cunning that Amulek, under the Spirit of God, called him a *"child of hell!"*

Not long after this encounter, however Zeezrom sought out Alma and Amulek for a different reason. He was inwardly tormented, and realized what he had said and done was wrong in the sight of the Lord. Because of his iniquities, Zeezrom's soul was in spiritual pain. He was also very sick with bodily pain and fever. What did Alma and Amulek do? Did they ignore his plea, his call for help? Did they go another way? Did they pass judgment upon Zeezrom? The answer to all of these questions is No! Neither Alma nor Amulek judged Zeezrom. In spite of all the difficulty and trouble Zeezrom had created for them, Alma and Amulek went to see him, to try to heal his body and more importantly, save his soul through the power of God and God's word. Alma and Amulek did not let their human nature interfere with the work of God. Their role was to preach salvation and bring redemption to a wayward body of people. Alma preached salvation and redemption, and Zeezrom accepted, repented, and was baptized in the name of the Lord. If Alma and Amulek had judged Zeezrom, he would never have become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

According to the law, the adulterous woman was to be stoned. She was brought before the Lord by the Scribes and Pharisees. They wanted to see how He would handle the situation. Those who gathered around her wanted to carry out the law and their judgment. What happened? The Lord was there and simply said in John 8:7, *"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."* When the Lord made this statement, they were convicted by their own conscience. They all left the scene, leaving only the Lord and the adulterous woman. The Lord then addressed her, *"Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? Her response, No man, Lord."* The Lord then said to her, *"Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."*

(Continued on Page 11)

## A Kind Word Goes a Long Way By Sister Michelle Watson

(originally published on the Blog)

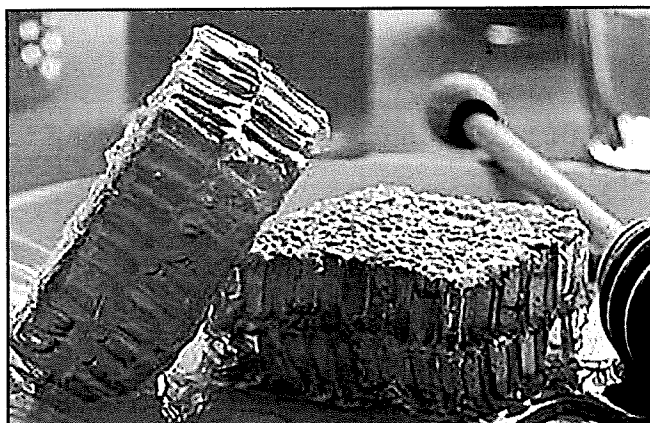
I'm a words girl, not a numbers girl. My husband is the numbers guy. He's the one with the budgeting spreadsheets and the mental calculator in his head. I, on the other hand, basically bring a lot of adjectives to the table. Beautiful, splendid, magnificent, wonderful words.

The thing I love most about words is their power. I guess it's the thing I fear most about words, too. They have power to shape the mind, inspire the soul, and motivate the body to action.

Words also have the power to destroy, deflate, and discourage. Proverbs 18:21 says, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."* But I don't want to talk about their negative impact. Maybe another time. Today, I want to talk about the power of a kind word.

Proverbs 16:24 says, *"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."*

When you say something nice, it's like giving someone this:



Mmmm!

I don't know about you, but when someone gives me a compliment, thanks me, or says something nice, I can literally feel the endorphins flood my system. I flush, smile, and then I feel like sharing kind words with someone else so they can feel good, too.

Have you ever woken up on the wrong side of the bed all grumpy? Or maybe you're just discouraged. It's amazing how quickly you snap out of it when you say something nice to someone else.

Paul told the Colossians, *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt"* (4:5). Isn't that a great mental picture? Imagine walking around all day sprinkling the soul-saving salt of God's love with each word that falls from your lips. Imagine every word you say being part of your testimony.

To me, that's powerful.

Proverbs 15:1 says, *"a soft answer turneth away wrath."* There are times when I'm talking with someone, and we aren't agreeing, and I can sense that the conversation is escalating, and we're both simmering in anger, ready to boil over. It's amazing how quickly a gentle word can diffuse an ungodly spark.

Solomon said, *"the tongue of the wise is health"* (Proverbs 12:18). Wow! Do you have any diseased relationships that could use some healing? Is there someone out there who is spiritually sick? Salty words have the power to restore spiritual health.

Speaking of restoration, I also think that kind words aren't all rainbows and unicorns and skittles.

Is it possible for kind, loving words to not feel kind and loving? I think so. Proverbs also says, *"faithful are the wounds of a friend"* (27:6). I have a responsibility to hold my brothers and sisters in Christ accountable to the word of God, and I want them to do the same for me. If I have a problem, I need the saints to give me the words of life (or the wounds of love, as Rich Mullins calls them). That means I may hear things that make me uncomfortable, but it's for my own good, to restore me.

I'm a scaredy cat when it comes to confrontation, so I pray that God gives me the salted, grace-filled, love-drenched words that cut in just the right places (Hebrews 4:12) so that He can use them to restore a brother or sister to His path.

The Lord knows full well the power of words.

When Jesus rose and went to be with the Father, what did he leave us? His Spirit and His word, the scripture. In the restored gospel, we enjoy the privilege of knowing both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. And we crave the words that are yet to come, which reconfirm the same marvelous message that Jesus is Lord.

Till then, I'm asking God to fill me with kind words and give me the discernment to speak them wisely.

## If You Will Go – They Will Come By Sister KarenJo Pandone

**D**id you ever see the movie *"Field of Dreams?"* The famous quote, *"If you will build it, they will come"* reminds me of what the Church faces going to the Native Americans.

For years we've had several established works – Muncey, Six Nations, San Carlos, White River, to name a few, that have had gone through blessings, large numbers attending, tragedies, very few attending and yet we, as a Church, know that God has a plan.

The Lord has been directing us for years to spread His Gospel, yes – the scriptures tell us *"go to the four corners of the world,"* but He has given us the specific direction to bring His Word to His Chosen People.

As the daughter of an evangelist (Brother Joe Milantoni) who had the Native work in his very soul, I watched as he drove the miles back and forth to Muncey every weekend for years with some success, only to be faced with obstacles at every turn. When our family relocated to San Carlos I saw him anoint the sick who were instantly healed and mourn with those who had tragic deaths in their families. One time Dad had an open vision while closing in prayer where the Lord Jesus Christ stood before him and he lamented to the Lord on how the people were not hearing the message. The Lord replied to him three times, *"But you must love and serve Me in righteousness, Brother Joe."* My father finally bowed his head and answered, *"Yes, Lord."*

As the NAOC renews its efforts among the Native Americans we are again facing the same obstacles as those who have labored before us. The phrase *"If you will go – They will come"* resounds in

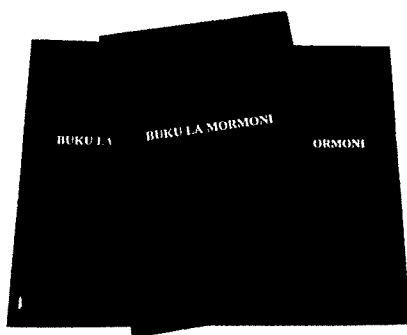
my head as we drive hundreds of miles to keep appointments with Elders, Chiefs, and Spiritual Leaders in the area surrounding Calgary. Some of the meetings have been so blessed that I sit in awe as I watch the Lord work His wonders! On the other hand, we have also been turned away after having several what we thought were, successful meetings. Last year a certain Native Leader gave a very cold shoulder to the outreach. This past September the very same woman sat with us for over an hour, listening to our message twice, and at the end of the second meeting said, *"I believe you weren't just sent here for me but with a message for ALL my people to hear."* Praise God!

Not only have we met with the various Native American tribes but we've had the opportunity to share the Gospel with friends of the Turley family who have attended our meetings. We've had our first baby blessing in Alberta on September 7, 2014, Brother Michael Pandone blessed Lucas Boxuan Song while his mother held him in her arms. And the work begins with a babe!

So when you hear, or read, about the NAOC works in Oklahoma, Montana, the Dakotas, Oaxaca, Mexico and Calgary, Alberta, take the time to say a prayer for those who are in the fields *"going,"* so that they *"will come"*. Stop for a moment and reflect on all God has done for you and what more He has planned for His Chosen People while He waits for their return. Be active in supporting the Missionary work of the Church, whether it's making a donation, saying a prayer, or assembling a layette.

*If we do the work—They will come.*

## They Have the Word! By the Malawi & Mozambique Committee



**T**hank you, dear brothers and sisters! Your donations have made it possible for 5,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ to finally be able to read the Book of Mormon in their language. Five thousand copies of the Book of Mormon were recently delivered to the country of Malawi for distribution to members there, as well as in bordering areas in Mozambique where Chichewa is spoken. Praise God!

Imagine, as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, not being able to read the precious Word of God. Some brothers and sisters accepted the Restored Gospel when it was first introduced to Malawi over 11 years ago and only now are able to read and fully appreciate all of the beautiful words in the Book of Mormon. A few of the elders, teachers, and members can read English, so the Book of Mormon has been diligently studied and taught to the membership; but oh what a difference to enjoy the Word oneself!

As English-speaking members of the Church, we might take for granted what we have been given. How wonderful it is to enjoy the Restored Gospel with the Bible and Book of Mormon, the two sticks that have *"become one in thine hand"* (Ezekiel 37: 17). As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ this belief in both sticks is fundamental; this understanding that the Bible and Book of Mormon are one in the hand of God is essential. Of all the people on the earth, few have this belief and understanding.

Now, thanks to you and your love for the Saints, our brothers and sisters in Malawi and Mozambique can enjoy this precious gift. The Bible and the Book of Mormon are now *"One in Their Hand!"*

**Note:** The cost per book, including translation, editing, formatting, printing, and shipping was less than \$6.00. Your donations were used efficiently by the Translation Committee, and we are very thankful to all who worked hard on making this dream a reality. Knowing that there remain thousands of members of The Church of Jesus Christ who still can't enjoy the Book of Mormon in their language, please continue to give generously to the Book of Mormon Translation Fund. Thank you and God bless you.

## If I Had Only Prepared How Ready Are You To Run Your Spiritual Race?

By Elder Ryan Lesperance  
(reprinted from the Student Support Program)

*"If I had only prepared"...I remember saying that at mile 20 of my first marathon.*

**M**y wife and I had a goal of finishing a marathon together. If you don't know, a marathon is an event where you pay to run 26.2 miles. I know that sounds pretty dumb. But, in any case, my wife and I had this burning desire to be "dumb" together.

We had one year to train. About three months into our training, my wife got pregnant, so she was out. No marathon for her. It was all up to me to stay on track with the training. Needless to say, I did absolutely none. It felt like I blinked my eyes and race day was here. I hadn't prepared at all, but I was in decent shape. In the past, I had done this before with smaller races. I would train very little, show up on race day, and finish. I thought I'd do the same with this race.

I felt OK until about mile 20. My lack of training hit me. Not only was I having a hard time running at this point, but every step hurt. It took everything inside me to take the next step. It felt like my feet could break in half at any moment.

I ended up finishing the race, but I was hurting pretty bad. It turns out, because my joints and feet were not conditioned for the hours of pounding on the pavement, I ended up with stress fractures in both feet. It was very painful to walk for about two months after the race. I finished, but I paid a price for not being prepared.

### How Much Do You Want It?

Preparation is one of those non-glamorous kinds of things. We dream about crossing the finish line with music pumping—but not those early morning runs.

Spiritually speaking, we dream about converting hundreds of souls but not scripture study or fasting and praying. In reality, though, preparation is what makes running the race possible and running it to your fullest potential. When you want to be prepared, consider two important elements, time and effort. You must put in both to be prepared.

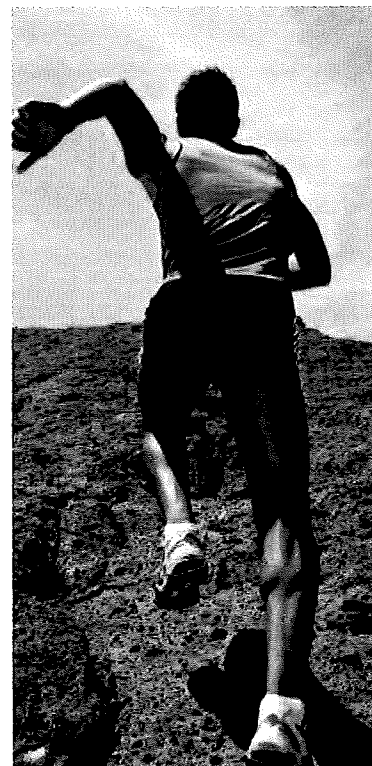
Consider Enos when he broke his heart to the Lord through the night (Enos 1:3-6).

*"Behold, I went to hunt beasts in the forests; and the words which I had often heard my father speak concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep into my heart. And my soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication for mine own soul; and all the day long did I cry unto him; yea, and when the night came I did still raise my voice high that it reached the heavens. And there came a voice unto me, saying: 'Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed.' And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie; wherefore, my guilt was swept away."*

His time and effort prepared his heart to receive salvation.

### Ready For Your Race

There is no quick or effortless way to prepare. Just do a little each day. To quote Bob Wiley from the movie "What About Bob," he says, "I'm baby steppin'. I'm doing the work. I'm baby steppin'. I'm not a slacker." Just take baby steps every day. Make Jesus more of a friend today. Read His word a little more. Trust He'll take care of you even when you're afraid. No matter how spiritually conditioned you are, these baby steps can get you prepared for any race.



## Land of Promise *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

**W**ith the signing of the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776, the United States established itself as a republic—guaranteeing “certain unalienable” rights of the people. Acknowledging God, from whom these rights are derived, our country and all the peoples before and after have a profound and lasting connection to the Lord’s promises upon this land. Following are five amazing facts, as laid out in the Book of Mormon:

- 1** Nephi recalls the words of the Lord: “...*Inasmuch as thy seed shall keep my commandments, they shall prosper in the land of promise*” (I Nephi 4:14).
- 2** Lehi prophesied: “*Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them*” (II Nephi 1:7).
- 3** Mosiah established judges “...*that this land be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike, so long as the Lord sees fit that we may live and inherit the land, yea, even as long as any of our posterity remains upon the face of the land*” (Mosiah 29:32).
- 4** Moroni “...*prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of liberty to rest upon his brethren, so long as there should a band of Christians remain to possess the land*” (Alma 46:13).
- 5** Finally, Christ explained to the Nephites that “...*it is wisdom in the Father that they [the Gentiles] should be established in this land, and be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these [the Restored Gospel] might come forth from them unto the remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel*” (III Nephi 21:4).



## Ladies' Uplift Circle News

### The More You Do For Me, the More I Will Bless You

*By General Circle Historian, Sister Karen L. Progar*

I have the privilege of being the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Historian. A few years ago we prepared our history for an upcoming General Church History Book. I would like to share a portion of that history with you.

When the Circle was organized in 1920, the clear purpose was to provide a spiritual education for the women of the Church, while serving others and supporting the missionary efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ.

In June of 1924, Sister Minnie Kennedy had a dream that the brethren were assembled in conference, and she looked through a doorway where she saw the sisters, members of the Circles, all busy weaving a large thing like a net, of gold and precious threads.

Flash forward to the present and Brother Jordan Champine submitted the following experience:

On this night I was given a dream. I found myself in a foreign country with my wife. I was leading her by the hand down a dirt road towards a village where I knew we needed to go. Upon entering the village we saw many people who we recognized as unbelievers. In a word of encouragement I said to my wife, “*Don't worry, the greater number of people here believe.*”

We were introduced to a man who was to take us into a building and show us around. The multitude was so large however, that they all had to step aside to create an aisle for us to get through.

When we entered the building we were eagerly brought to a large room where we saw the General Ladies' Uplift Circle president and several other sisters

working. As I looked around the room I saw that it was stocked with first aid kits and blankets, and many other provisions. There were several gurneys in the room and the sisters were diligently making preparations to help more people. I quickly realized that these sisters were working here as nurses, tending to the wounded, the sick, and the needy. A tremendous spirit of thanksgiving and love was poured out among us in an unspeakable measure. Great joy swelled in my heart as I began to realize that the multitude of people who greeted us were all those who had been treated and tended to by our sisters. We all wept for the blessings we shared together, and I awoke in this state of gratitude.

Many years separate these two experiences; however the theme of the sisters at work in support of the Church is consistent.

(continued on Page 11)



## The Mysteries of God Or, Why Miriam Was So Brave!

The Princess decided to protect the baby and keep him alive. She paid Miriam's mother money to take care of the baby for her. She named him Moses, which meant he was taken from the water. As he got older, she had him brought to her (See Exodus 2:3-10), and called him her son.

Can you imagine how shocked all the neighbors were that one little baby boy of a certain age group was protected and allowed to live when soldiers killed all the others? Right away, people must have known there was something different about this baby Moses.

And when the Egyptian Princess took Moses to be raised apart from his family, God had a plan. This boy was going to learn and have an incredible education because his adopted mother was one of the country's rulers. He would not be hurt and enslaved, but would be taught all about things a ruler must know.

When Moses became a man, he saw a Hebrew slave being beaten and fought with and killed the cruel soldier. He hid the body in the sand, but people knew what he had done. Moses had to run far away from Egypt as fast as he could.

This part of his life was over. He lived with a wise man of God, became one of his shepherds, and took one of his daughters as a wife. They had children. Moses lived a very different life than that of the son of a Princess, living in a fancy palace. Years passed. Yet, back in Egypt, things became even worse for the Hebrew people.

An angel of God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and told him he was going to go back to Egypt to deliver his people out of slavery. Moses was scared. He told God, *"I'm not a good speaker."*

God answered him, *"I made your tongue. I will give you the words."*

Moses still worried. So God told him that his brother Aaron would help him and was on his way to meet him.

It happened just as God had planned. The people kept praying and crying out to God, and he made a marvelous plan to get them out of Egypt and into a new country. He sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians before they would free the slaves. He led them in the desert with a cloud pillar by day and pillar of fire by

night. God fed them with manna, which fell from heaven. God also gave them the Ten Commandments, a way to live.

They were led by Moses, the baby saved from death, trained in a palace to lead, and brought to a faraway country to learn about God from his wife's father. It took years, but the true plan was unfolded.

We do not have to be afraid either. Like Miriam and the family of Moses, our job is to watch, be of good courage, and pray. God has a plan to work things out, big or small. Have a grateful heart and trust in Him.

With love  
Your friend who trusts,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

IT	PRAYED
WAS	AND
HARD	GOD
FOR	SENT
MOSES	HIM
TO	HIS
GO	BROTHER
BACK	AARON
TO	AS
SCARY	A
EGYPT	HELPER
HE	

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

**Y**oung Miriam and her family were Hebrews. Her nation, Israel, had come to Egypt four hundred years ago and now were slaves. The ruler, like a king, was called a Pharaoh. As the years passed, he and his men in charge realized that the number of Hebrew people was increasing. They were afraid the Hebrews might rise up and fight them to be free. The Pharaoh decided to start killing every newborn Hebrew boy so that there would not be a big army of Hebrew men in the future. They made a law that every nurse had to report mothers having babies. As soon as baby boys were born, soldiers went and killed them.

Miriam's mother had her new baby without a nurse's help. She already had a three-year-old son, Aaron, and her smart daughter, Miriam. Now they had to hide their little baby boy so no one would find out about him. Can you imagine being scared every time the baby cried, or made a sound? For three months they were able to hide the baby close. But then, he was starting to get too big.

The family wove a basket to hold the baby and put tar on it to make it waterproof. They quickly and quietly carried the baby down to the river at a spot where there weren't many people. Miriam floated the basket on the stones at edge of the water and hid in the bulrushes (tall water plants like cattails) to watch that Moses was safe.

You can imagine how much the family was desperately praying for help. As Miriam huddled at the river one day, the Princess, Pharaoh's sister, came down to the water with her maids to bathe. They heard the little baby's sad cry, and one of the servants picked up the basket.

Right away she knew that this was one of the Hebrew children whose family must have hidden him so he wouldn't be killed. Her heart was touched. Miriam bravely stepped out and asked, *"Would you like for me to find a Hebrew nurse to take care of him?"* Pharaoh's sister agreed, and Miriam ran home quickly to bring her mother back.

## Judging continued from Page 5

Can you imagine the feeling of this woman, who was about to be stoned to death? She had been judged and condemned by her peers. But the Lord did not stone her, or condemn her for her sin. She was forgiven by Jesus Christ.

These two examples show how man judges, and has difficulty extending mercy to a wayward individual or individuals. They also show what happens when we allow the mercies of Jesus Christ to be manifest in our lives. They depict what happens when we follow the Spirit, grace, and love of God. When we carry these things, we will not judge. We will work with sinful individuals to bring them the message of Jesus Christ, which is redemption and salvation. We must remember that we were sinners, and Jesus Christ forgave us. Who are we not to forgive those around us who stand in need of forgiveness? We must possess the love of God so we will not judge, but rather extend mercy, understanding, and forgiveness to those who need it. When you see someone that needs the Lord's help, please do not judge that person. Instead, remember that person in your prayers. Petition the Lord that He will have an effect on that person and rescue their soul through the preaching of His word and by the example of the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ. Please do not judge. Remember, that is the Lord's business. Pray for those that need the Lord's help. He will reward you for your goodness and mercy.

## The More You Do For Me, the More I Will Bless You continued from Page 9

As I worked on the history project, I was most impressed by what our sisters had done to support the Church. The projects that the Circle sponsored are numerous. The sisters have printed hymnbooks, testimonies, doctrine-related tracts, and cookbooks. The sisters have bought bicycles, motorcycles, sewing machines, cars, and even trailers for the Native American work. They have provided funds for travel, as well as funding new missionary efforts. In Africa, the sisters assisted in securing a school and mission house, even educating several girls in that country. Building projects were supported in India.

Circle provided pajamas and undergarments to assist. The Circle provided funds for the construction of the kitchen at the World Operations Center, as well as buying the dishes and a freezer. The sisters staffed that kitchen for many years, providing for the needs of the ministry as they met in conference. While a lot of what many of the sisters did was financial, much was done by the sweat of the sisters' hands.

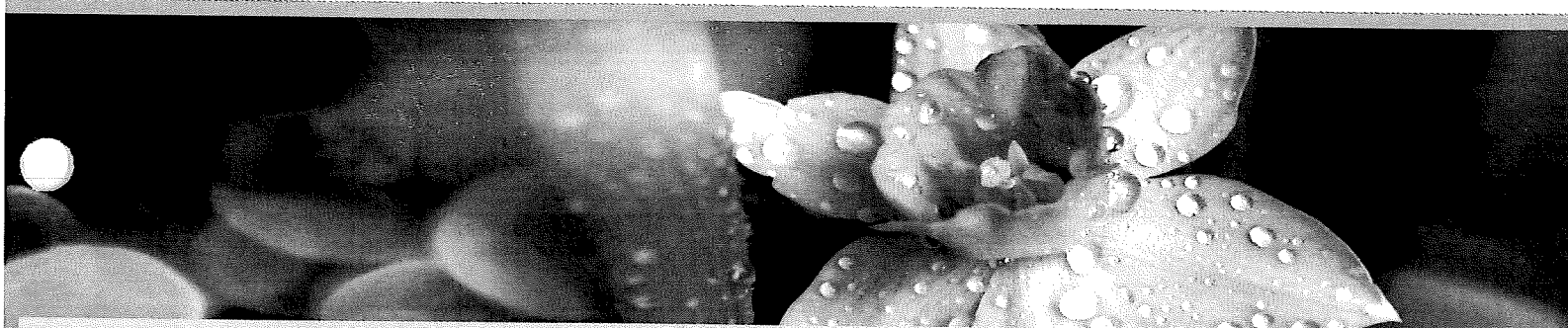
Today I wonder, what more can we do? We have a rich history, but there is much need for our assistance in the future.

The sisters created layettes, provided clothing and shoes, and assisted with Vacation Bible School efforts among Native Americans. As the work in the Bowery in New York began, the

Several years ago, the Circle was given a message from the Lord: **"The more you do for Me, the more I will bless you!"** Circle Sisters can attest to this.

## More Answers to the Question of the Month continued from Page 12

There have been many brothers and sisters who have done this to me through the years, and have impacted my life. But, two sisters that will always stand out to me are Sister Linda Italiano and Sister Cathy Genaro. No matter what was going on in their lives, they both would go out of their way to show Christ's love. Not just to me, but to everyone around them. Love radiates from their hearts and it shows in their smile and kind eyes. They have said many things to me that stays on my heart and they will always be special to me.—*Sister Colleen Moore (Capone), Columbus, OH Branch*



...even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

# Blessing Bits

## BB God Is Good, All the Time

Recently, we enjoyed holiday visiting with family, which involved quite a bit of travel. A last-minute decision led us on a different route home, allowing time for dinner and fellowship with Church family along the way.

The drive was uneventful, except that our car did not sound quite right. Still some miles from our destination, our engine began losing power just as we "happened" to be passing a local dealership service center. As we pulled into the parking lot, our car died.

A new alternator was not exactly on our Christmas list, but we were definitely blessed during our trial: God placed us near a dealership that provided excellent service, got us back on the road in time for dinner (including a restaurant coupon), and even called us the next day to make sure we arrived home safely. God is good – All the time – All the time – God is good!—

*Brother Joel and Sister Ruth Gehly, Erie, PA Mission*

## BB Showers of Blessings During Feet Washing

During a visit to a neighboring branch, I participated in feet washing, as I had experienced numerous times before. Before the sister began praying over me while washing my feet, I said a quick prayer that I would know

that God is with me in my life. As the sister began washing my feet, I was reminded of a cut on my foot that hurt whenever her hands would touch the cut. However, every time she touched it, the cut hurt less and less, until eventually, my foot did not hurt at all. The cut was completely healed by the time she was done washing my feet! I praise God that He answered my prayer instantly and reminded me that He is alive today and is always with me.—

*Sister Alyssa Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch*

## BB He Cares For Us

During our feet-washing service in September 2014, the sister that was washing my feet told me that the Lord revealed to her that I was a cigarette smoker. She told me that I needed to quit NOW (and she kept repeating that). She also told me that the Lord let her know that if I did this, He would cleanse me. Why would the Lord care about me and this burden that I had brought upon myself? HE DID CARE! I stopped cold-turkey that day, the minute He asked me to stop, and never suffered any withdrawal. I praise God today and every day - He didn't scold me...He told me that He loved me and would help me. As the song goes, "He took my burden, and left me with a song"!—Sister Wendy Woods, Forest Hills, FL Branch



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



**Question for this month:** *What would you like to see increase in your service to God?*



**Answer from last month:** *Has someone done something that was especially kind or showed their love for you in an unexpected way? Share an example of how love from a brother or sister made an impact on you.* As a 19 year old visitor to The Church of Jesus Christ, I traveled from Niles, Ohio, to Lorain, Ohio (about 90 minutes) and planned to spend the weekend. I was told not to worry about needing a place to sleep, that someone in Lorain would take us in. I recall being so impressed, not only by their willingness to let a stranger stay in their home, but by the fact that Brother and Sister Alessio gave me their master bedroom and fed me like a king! It was the first time I experienced the true "hospitality of the saints".—Brother Frank Natoli, Detroit, Branch #1 MI

Turn back to page 11 for more answers to this question.

...even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4