

The Gospel News

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That Israel Might Be Saved

By Evangelist Bob Nicklow, Jr.

"Brethren my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1).

The heart's desire of Apostle Paul, as expressed to the Saints in Rome AD 60, was echoed loudly and clearly as the mid-winter session of the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists (Q-70) convened on January 17th at the Irvine, California Branch. Evangelists from each region of the domestic church gathered together for the two-day conference. It was a special blessing to have with us our most senior member of the Q-70, Brother Leonard Lovalvo of the Pacific Region. Per Brother Leonard's direct comments, *"There were many agenda items (internationally and domestically) that I feel were presented in a humble Spirit, so we can move the Church forward and accomplish the work of the Lord. I have never seen the brothers gathered so unified and desirous to accomplish the work of the Lord, in recovering Israel and the children of Joseph on this land. Prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes, and we can see God moving in different places of the country where we have made contact with them."*

The Q-70 officers welcomed all in attendance to the two-day session, and asked that each brother present be willing to accept what the Lord has for us to understand at this gathering. Brother Wayne Martorana addressed the conference using the above verse. He followed with impassioned testimony and words and scriptures concerning the role of the modern-day Church in addressing this fundamental principle of the Restored Gospel. Through the restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ our God will use this Church to bring about the salvation of Israel.

Brother Paul A. Palmieri followed, relating an experience had at the October 2014 Q-70 conference session where God gave a vision of revelation to Brother Bryan Griffith. As per the October 2, 2014 minutes it is recorded that our brother reported; *"As I entered the blue room of the World Operations Center this morning I saw a long rack with what appeared to be identical robes. Brothers Paul and Wayne were working very intensely in rearranging and re-ordering the garments. The vision ended."* Brother Paul continued speaking with extreme intensity explaining how he felt that vision and the message that God has for us in this gathering are relevant to the bringing about of the promise that Brother Wayne spoke on in his opening comments. He related that God had revealed to him and Brother Wayne in separate ways a unified call to action for the Q-70 in this meeting. While in prayer for this meeting, Brother Paul related, he asked God what specifically it was that He would want the Q-70 to do. He was awakened the next morning hearing the song *"I Ought to Do Something for Jesus"* being sung very loudly. While discussing this with Brother Wayne it was inspired that God is calling the Quorum to do more than ever before to accomplish the work of the Gospel. The vision is telling us that we must *"intensely"* evaluate our priorities and levels of individual and collective commitment as the Q-70 of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was declared that we each must be willing to evaluate and as needed rearrange ourselves, our priorities, and our focus to be more pliable for the use of God in accomplishing the latter day work of the Gospel. In conclusion, Brother Paul emphasized again that this is something that must be done with *both intent and intensity*.

As the session was left open, many comments of unity and concurrence came forth on the need for us as individuals to re-order our priorities; including a full and keenly deliberate recollection of God's promises to Israel. We must also shift our collective mindset away from what may seem to be limitations to the work to embracing the opportunities for the work. It was concurred by the body that as we envision the

(Continued on page 4)

MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	June 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	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Call a hymn today that reminds you of Spring		Support the mid-week service at your branch		Send a card to your Spiritual Mother		Thank the Lord for ALL He has done for you
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!			Remember the saints in the Maine Branch		Call someone today who you have not talked to lately	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Matthew 18:20 Where two or three are gathered in my name...		Take time to prayer for someone in your branch		Plant a flower and watch God's beauty grow		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Take extra time to fellowship today	Memorial Day A special thank you to all our veterans today		Send someone in the ministry a card to tell them you are praying for them		Praise God all month long!	
31	1	2				

May 2015

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee"
(Exodus 20:12).

BTP Blast From The Past

"One Dollar"

It was the missionary budget adopted 54 years ago this month at an Elders Conference that would eventually provoke a new plan for the Church in its fundraising efforts. By 1961, the Church was newly organized into districts – Michigan-Canadian, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Atlantic Coast Districts, with the California District having been established in 1954. Requests for missionary funding would now originate in the districts to be passed on to General Conference, where the total expected missionary cost would be fixed for the new accounting year. Each district then would be responsible for raising funds for its allotted share. In the following month, Michigan-Canadian District President Brother Gorie Ciaraavino, proposed to the district ministry that in order to meet their need – based on the district's active membership of 446 – each member of the district would have to donate "one dollar" to cover the missionary needs for the upcoming year. By 1965, this plan would become the basis by which the General Church would generate all of its funds.

Brother Gorie Ciaraavino ►



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 is the most senior member of the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists? (Page 1)
- True or False: It is good to be a biscuit-eater. (Page 3)
- At which stage does the body begin to consume itself when one is climbing Mt. Everest? (Page 5)
- According to the author, what is the purpose of Brother William H. Cadman's article from 1953? (Page 6)
- How long did it take for Sister Brianne to receive a job after her family started to fast and pray for employment? (Page 12)

Wordup

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



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

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 6:1).

On the floor in the corner of the back room lay two books, one note pad filled with questions and comments and one pencil. This pile seemed so out of place in the immaculate home. After her mother's (Sister Jennie Ross) sudden, unexpected passing, my wife (Candace) found these treasures in the back sitting room. This was Sister Jennie's place of solitude, where she read through both Bible and Book of Mormon from cover to cover. In and of itself, this would have been extraordinary, but after being baptized at age 79, Sister Jennie didn't begin her reading until age 80.

She never intended for anyone to know this story, but there was no denying the undisturbed evidence. In the privacy of her home, she had studied the Word, without ever wanting to receive any recognition from anyone; she was simply getting to know her Savior better. Most have experience with someone who's done things for man's recognition, focused on receiving credit for their accomplishments. This is not unprecedented, as Jesus was clearly addressing this behavior 2,000 years ago. He warned us ("take heed") if things are done with the intent to receive recognition from "men," further blessings from God should not be anticipated.

Dog trainers have long known positive reinforcement is a powerful means to achieving desired results from their subjects. More specifically, each time a task is completed, a small biscuit is rewarded. We must be careful ("take heed") not to become biscuit-eaters in our doing good works ("do not your alms before men, to be seen of them"). The desired "biscuit" can represent private pats on the back, public acknowledgements, or even the reward of an ordained office.

Christ identified God's power of revelation (Matthew 16:17 – "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven") as the foundation of The Church (Matthew 16:18 – "And upon this rock I will build my church"). Any attempt to circumvent this process with a man-made reward system weakens "the rock" upon which The Church of Jesus Christ stands.

A pure-hearted motivation in giving money ("alms"), time, and effort to the Lord can bring the greater reward; and God's greater reward is the ultimate pat on the back ("Reward of your Father which is in heaven"). Find your own back-of-the-house sitting room to get to know your Savior better. And remember, no one else needs to know.

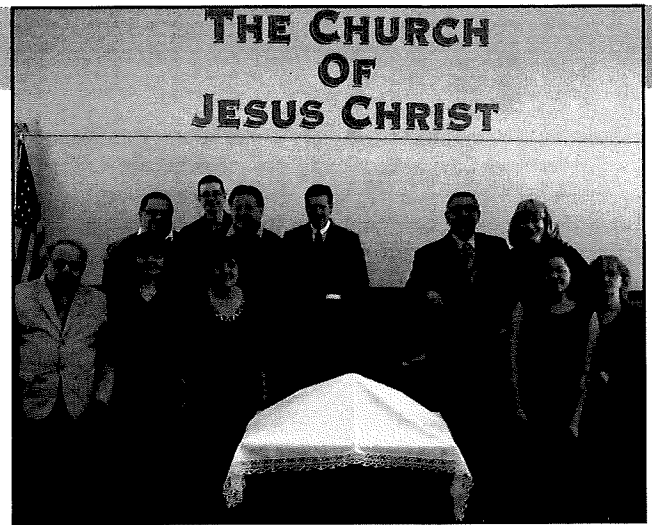
Do you have a favorite verse you'd like us to dissect? Please send it in to: "Word Up"

Meet the Branch

Domestic Church — Brunswick, Maine Branch

The Maine license plate says, "Vacationland," and this is where it all began. Brother John and Sister Elizabeth Onorato and family, members of the Brooklyn, New York Mission, vacationed in Maine. They petitioned the Lord in fervent prayer about moving to Maine, and it was shown in a dream that the way was clear to go. In 1968, the family made the move to North Edgecomb. Through desire and much fasting and prayer, a mission was organized in 1972. They converted their garage into a church. Brothers and sisters traveled from the Atlantic Coast Region to service the mission. In 1981, the mission moved to Brother Richard Sr. and Sister Mary Onorato's home. In 1986, God provided a church building in Brunswick, Maine, which was built in 1800. Total renovations commenced as the saints were eager to have a place to put the title, "The Church of Jesus Christ." The brothers and sisters moved into the building in 1988, and it was dedicated to the Lord in 1991. What a glorious day that was! The small group of saints became an established mission in 1997 and a branch in 2003.

God has truly blessed us with many experiences, gifts, manifestations of the Spirit, ordinations, blessings, baptisms, and much more. We hosted the first YIA tour in 1996, and as a result, three young people were baptized. We currently have 21 members and an active Ladies' Circle. We have members involved in missionary work in Dominica and in the Dedham, Massachusetts Mission. We have had spiritual gatherings from our region and visits from many brothers and sisters throughout the vineyard. The winters may be long here, but our dedication to the Lord has made the Maine Branch the main place to be. We welcome you.



That Israel Might Be Saved Continued from Page 1

will of God in accomplishing the opportunities, He will resolve the limitations. The body of evangelists present could collectively feel the presence of the confirming Spirit of God in the tone and nature of the comments being made. A spirit of unity embraced the meeting and remained with us throughout the weekend.

A blessed time of discussion ensued on the work and need for detailed evaluation of the various locations being serviced under the International Missionary Operating Committee (IMOC). We also had representation of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, as the Presidency of the Church was conducting meetings in California at the same time the Evangelists were in session. The Apostles in attendance included Brother Paul Palmieri, General Church President, his Counselors, Brothers Thomas Liberto and Peter Scolaro, Brother Joel Liberto, Apostle Liaison to the IMOC, and Brother Joel Gehly, Chairman of the Native American Outreach Committee (NAOC). The afternoon session was initiated with a presentation on domestic issues and evangelism at the branch level. In his presentation Apostle Peter Scolaro reminded us of the directives to the Q-70 from Christ as recorded in multiple locations in the scriptures. Brother Peter emphasized that our branches are opportunities that each and every one of us have today. There needs to be a purposeful sharing of our strengths. Each location must know what their strengths are as well as those observed areas for improvement. He stressed that we cannot be content with the fact that each location has a core membership that are stirred and fed by our efforts, yet others beyond that core share our belief but do not have the same fire of the Spirit upon them. What followed for the balance of the afternoon were presentations by representatives of select small, medium, and larger branches of the church on various methods of outreach. It was a very insightful time of calculated discussion on developing broader avenues of outreach in each of our branches and regions. The Saturday session was devoted in its entirety to scriptural studies and presentations by Brothers Joel Gehly and Scott Griffith as officers of the NAOC. They reviewed scriptures on the role of the Church and the Q-70 in relationship to the restoration of Israel, beginning with the Seed of Joseph. Brother Joel began with Malachi 3:8-12 exhorting the Q-70 that God has allowed certain periods of time for us to work with His people. Although there has been much work, our vision must be more single-minded. There is a tremendous blessing when we fulfill our responsibility concerning the promises of God to Israel. We will see the hand of God move upon us in ways we have never conceived or witnessed when our efforts are more honed in focus and purpose. During the session the group was addressed by Brother Abelardo Granados, the elder working in Oaxaca, Mexico with the IMOC and NAOC jointly. Brother Abelardo related glorious experiences given while doing the work of the Lord in Oaxaca. As our Brother spoke through an interpreter, Brother John DiBattista saw the presence of the Lord resting upon our brother. At a later point in the session Brother Joel was prompted that Brother Abelardo should be prayed for. As hands were laid upon him the gift of tongues was spoken by Brother Scott Griffith with the interpretation given; *"Thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord, blessed are those, blessed are those, who seek to do My will in these the latter days. For they shall receive the crown of righteousness, the crown of glory that I have set aside. Thus saith the Lord."* True to intent, the day was concluded by capturing a detailed list of action items for immediate response to the spirit-driven direction of the two-day session. The vote for a resolution was unanimous: We believe as a Quorum of 70 the restoration of the house of Israel should be the greatest desire of our heart. It should be supported by every member of the Q-70 by deliberate action in the following manner: We as a quorum commit that we will preach the restoration of the house of Israel and that it be taught in full to our younger generations. We further recognize that in completion of the work there may be stumbling blocks such as finances or other issues. We do believe however, that God will provide the means to accomplish the work and it is we who must change our mindset to embrace the opportunity and not focus on the limitations. The specific, deliberate steps to be taken by the Q-70 were determined by consensus through a very open and blessed discussion.

Our weekend of activity was brought to a conclusion, an overwhelming manifestation of unity was poured out upon all. Brother Chuck Maddox, Sr. of the Southeast Region summed up the thoughts of all in this statement: *"As I attended the winter Q-70 meeting in Irvine this year it was a blessing to witness the unity and focus of the brothers. As we discussed our ongoing efforts, internationally, domestically, and on the reservations... among all the business we made time to dedicate in prayer and study the scriptures so it was wonderful time spent together. I came away from these meetings encouraged to witness God's willingness to bless us even more as we focus together on His work."*

Conquer Your Mountain By Elder Duane Lovalvo

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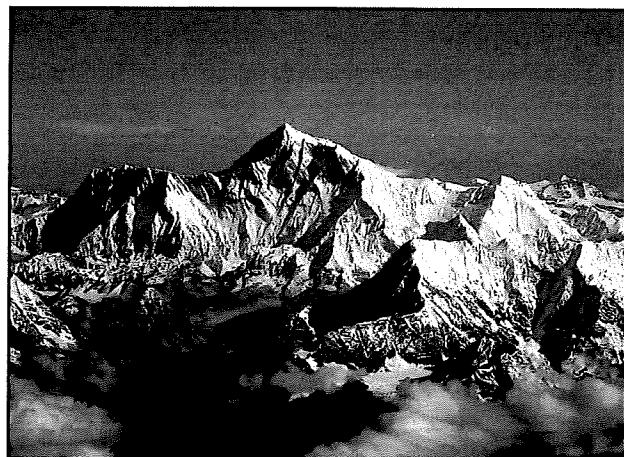
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THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$24.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINTHOUSE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, 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 15601-9998.

The Lord and His Church provide us with unlimited strength. This power helps us to overcome obstacles in our life that may seem insurmountable. Speaking of obstacles, most people are familiar with the analogy of a mountain representing a trial. We are often taught, rightfully so, that by exercising our faith we can move that mountain out of our path. The prophet Ether provided us with the real-life example of the Brother of Jared, who "...said unto the mountain Zerin, Remove – and it was removed. And if he had not had faith it would not have moved..." (Ether 12:30).



What do we do if God wants that mountain to remain in our path?

High in the Himalayas of Nepal, Mount Everest stands as the tallest mountain on the face of the earth. At 29,029 feet, the peak of Mount Everest reaches up to the cruising altitudes of modern airliners. Most climbers agree that getting to the summit of Everest is one of the ultimate achievements in mountaineering. Let us examine what it takes to conquer this mighty mountain and then utilize what we have learned to overcome the mountains we face in our spiritual lives.

Preparation – Every May, hundreds of mountain climbers arrive at Base Camp, on the flanks of Mount Everest, 17,700 feet above sea level. They will spend two weeks here preparing their equipment, minds and bodies for a grueling ascent. Their circulatory systems will have to become acclimated to the thin air before they can even attempt crossing the treacherous Khumbu Icefall and reaching Camp 1 at 19,900 feet. Ephesians 6:14-15 refers to our spiritual preparation, "*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.*"

Teamwork – Nearly every climber on Mount Everest depends on other climbers and on the hundreds of native Sherpas who, having been born and raised at high elevations, are able to withstand the altitude while earning a good wage helping the climbers. These Sherpas set up ropes and ladders and haul up equipment and supplies for the support of the expeditions. Likewise, we in the Church must love one another. "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*" (Galatians 6:2).

Patience – After tremendous exertions, climbers ascend the Lhotse face on fixed ropes to Camp 3 at 24,500 feet. After weeks of struggling upward, in both extreme heat and cold, the expedition has become an exercise in pain tolerance. At this altitude, the body, lacking oxygen and unable to digest food, begins to consume itself. The temptation exists to keep pressing onward. Most climbers, however, require a couple days of rest and acclimation before moving into the Death Zone above 26,000 feet. Likewise, we want our trials to end quickly. Yet the Word instructs us, "*...we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure*" (II Thessalonians 1:4).

Perseverance – After resting for a few hours at Camp 4 (26,000 feet), climbers are ready for the final push for the summit. It will take about 12 hours to climb the remaining 3,000 feet. Every step requires intense concentration because one slip can lead to a 10,000-foot fall. Finally, after two months of labor, climbers stand atop the mighty Everest. Hebrews 12:1 states, "*... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*"

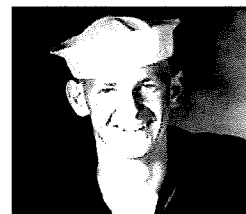
Through this example of ascending Mount Everest, we are able to see that the Lord and His Church provide us with what we need. If we cannot move our mountains, we can surely conquer them through faith, preparation, love, patience, and perseverance.

Originally presented on the *Gospel Blog* submitted by Sister Mary Ann Heaps

I want to honor the Lord for protecting my late husband Rusty Heaps in battle during his service with the U.S. Navy during WWII.

May is a good month for me to tell this story – May 1 is “May Day” (an international stress signal), May 8 is VE Day, May 16 was Rusty’s birthdate, May 17 is Armed Forces Day and May 30 is the traditional Memorial Day.

When Rusty was in training, he left the U.S. on a large seafaring vessel. He was later promoted to coxswain (an enlisted sailor who controls a boat small enough to be carried aboard another vessel).



The miracle occurred when Rusty was 18 years old, controlling an open boat transporting his team onto beachfront battlegrounds. He dropped off his team on the battleground during the invasion of Normandy and witnessed his friends being killed at the shoreline when they got on the ground.

As he began returning to his boat in the ocean, he was surrounded by explosions. He watched the horror of his allies drowning, and the last thing he saw of them were their hands straight up and slowing disappearing downward.

Witnessing the dying men and knowing that he was also in great danger, he feared for his life. Out of panic, he screamed out, “MOTHER!” and he thanked God he made it back to the boat unharmed.

After Rusty returned home, his mother asked him what was happening on a certain date and what danger was he facing. She told him she was awakened at 4 a.m. on that date because she heard Rusty’s voice calling out “MOTHER!” with terror and fear.

Feeling that he was in great danger, she immediately knelt by her bed and prayed, asking the Lord to watch over him, protect him, and keep him from all harm. Because of the 9-hour time difference between the U.S. and France, they realized she awakened at the exact hour when Rusty called out her name. This, indeed, was a miracle in Rusty’s life, confirming that God keeps His promises to us.

Rusty served our country and received an Honorary Discharge along with an Area Medal, two Battle Stars, and one Victory Medal. To me, he was a hero, and I’m so thankful to God for preserving his life.

B&M Branch & Mission News

THE LESSER AND GREATER THINGS By Apostle Joel Gehly

In the October 1953 issue of The Gospel News, Brother William H. Cadman wrote the following:

Third Nephi 26 chapter. And beginning at the seventh verse, I read as follows: “But behold the plates of Nephi do contain the more part of the things which he (Jesus) taught the people. – And these things have I (Mormon) written, which are a lesser part of the things which he (Jesus) taught the people; and I (Mormon) have written them to the intent that they may be brought again unto this people, from the Gentiles, according to the words which Jesus hath spoken.” (The lesser things spoken of here, are the things contained in the Book of Mormon. WHC)

“And if it so be that they (the remnant of Joseph) will not believe these things, (the things in the Book of Mormon) then shall the greater things be withheld from them, unto their condemnation.” (I take from this, that the greater things shall not come to the seed of Joseph, until after they receive the lesser things, which are the things in the Book of Mormon. WHC) (verse 10)

“Behold, I (Mormon) was about to write them, all which were engraven upon the plates of Nephi, but the Lord forbade it, saying: I (the Lord) will try the faith of my people (the seed of Joseph).” (verse 11)

There has been much said about the great things of God today, relative to the WORK among the covenant people of God. If I understand plain English as it is used in this scripture, I say without fear of contradiction, that the Lamanite people (known to us today as Indians) must come to a knowledge of these things through obedience to the Gospel, and if it is not preached to them, how can they obey it? The Apostle in Romans, Chapter 10, has asked some questions as follows: How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? The seed of Joseph are ready to listen to those who are sent, at least such is my experience in visiting among the Indian people. May I ask a question now instead of Paul: After all our preaching, ARE WE SENT, OR ARE WE NOT? — President W.H. Cadman

Brother W.H. Cadman, my great uncle, was a dedicated preacher that was sent by God to the Native American people in his day. In his writings, Brother Will brings out a number of great points from the scripture in III Nephi:26. I trust he would not be opposed to my additional comments.

I believe the purpose of this article was to educate and to inspire to action. As this article was published in 1953, Brother Will capitalized the word “WORK.” I feel certain that this was deliberate and necessary. Any great endeavor by mankind may have first started with thought and deliberation, but achievement is only realized by the application of thought, i.e., “WORK.” Brother Will’s father, William

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THE LESSER AND GREATER THINGS continued from Page 6

Man comments in the Church pamphlet *Religious Experiences and Expectations* "that we (Gentiles) were not Israel, in the sense of being beneficiary under the covenants made to Israel, until we (Gentiles) were incorporated with Israel, and that we would not be incorporated with Israel until we had carried the Gospel to Israel."

I guess you could say, like father – like son. They are both commenting on the same theme. Diligently studying the scripture about Israel and preaching about Israel to other Gentiles will not make Gentile people spiritual partakers of the benefits of the covenants to Israel in the latter days. If I may reiterate the scripture used above and apply it today -- the greater things of God, in the glorious restoration era, will only come to the Gentile Church if we "believe" and "apply" our belief.

Therefore, I will answer Brother Will's question. Yes – most emphatically – YES, we are sent by the Lord, according to all the scriptures, to do a great WORK. The Church of Jesus Christ, in the hands of the Gentile people today, are SENT to preach the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ to the native Americans, and then to all Israel. I will finish like my uncle by asking a question – WHAT IS YOUR PART OF THE WORK?

Atlantic Coast Region Conference By Brother Michael Zaino

The Atlantic Coast Region Conference was held on September 20-21, 2014. On Saturday we enjoyed a singspiration, some testimonies, and speaking. We truly felt God's Spirit in our midst as the brothers and sisters sang and testified.

We started our Sunday meeting with some singing. Brother Jim Sgro, our region president, asked Brother Phil Arcuri, one of the region counselors, to open the meeting with comments. He encouraged us to leave all our troubles outside the doors, and asked us to open our mind to the Spirit of God that we would be in tune with that same Spirit. He said that God was looking down upon us, waiting to send down His Spirit and give us a blessing, because that's what we are in need of.

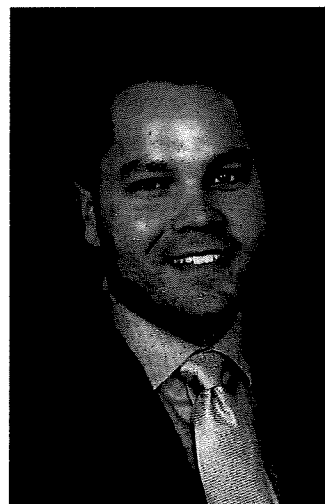
Her Willie Brown opened the meeting. He started out with the question, "Are you hungry?" He continued by saying that if we came full, then we won't get filled because we are supposed to hunger and thirst after righteousness; and that if we came that way, He will bless us! He spoke from John 6:65-67, "And He said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, will ye also go away?" Brother Willie explained that Jesus had just fed five thousand. Many of them had followed Jesus for various reasons. Some were there to get their bellies filled. Jesus was talking about something greater, He said, "I am the bread of life!" and told us that we must eat of His flesh and drink of His blood, for salvation. Brother Will continued, "We thank God for Jesus Christ if you have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb, for we have a hope today, and that is in Jesus Christ! Look to Christ and live; yes, we will have tribulation, but He said, 'in Me you will have peace.' Do you know your Redeemer lives? Do you trust Him?" He told us to live right, and when you stand before Him at the last day, He will welcome you in and that for this purpose He came into the world, that through Him, we will have a hope. Brother Willie also shared that when Jesus asked that question, "Will ye also go away?" His disciples said, "Where will we go?" He encouraged us to stay in the Word, because heaven and earth will pass away but His word will stand forever. All we need to do is rely on the merits of Jesus Christ

Brother Jonathan Olexa followed our brother. He said that the bread is what man needs to survive, that we need to eat and partake. In a natural sense we need the bread in order to survive, but spiritually we need to partake of the word of God, to partake of the word and have it fill us. Christ gave manna to the house of Israel when they left Egypt. The manna fell, and they had to go collect that manna so they could survive, the manna didn't survive the day, it turned to rot, it spoiled and they had to go out every day to collect new manna. He encouraged us to take part of the word of God more than on Sunday or Wednesday. If we only partake of it at those times, we will not be very strong, we have to partake of the word every day, and ingest it every day. The scripture that was given, is that we may partake, that we might be

filled, and not stand before Him empty. It is what God gives to us that we may live, and become the living word that someone else might see. He explained that if we don't partake of it, we can't be an example; if we don't live it, no one is going to see. We don't know when our last day is going to be, so we need to partake of His word every day. He asked, "Can you survive without food? Can you survive without the word of God?" That manna provided everything that a body would need; spiritually the bread of life fills us, and the word is there, we need to partake of the manna and be filled today.

Brother Jim Sgro told us that the food we partake of gives us the energy that we need, and every time we partake of it, it builds us up. It is the same with the bread of life, which strengthens us until we are sitting in heavenly places. He said that when Jesus asked the disciples if they were going to leave Him, they said, "Thou hast the words of eternal life, and we know, and we are assured, that thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." He explained that when we partake of communion, that is what we are saying.

We felt many blessings throughout the weekend. We anticipate that God will continue to bless us as we partake of the bread of life daily. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless His Church.



Welcome to the team Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr.

"As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread the message of Jesus Christ to the entire world, and the Gospel News Strives to accomplish this task through encouraging and educating the membership with monthly publications. I am excited and humbled to be part of this team, and I look forward to serving you."

—Brother Chuck

Brother Chuck will be
serving as Assistant Editor



Thank you Brother Don Ross for
your 20 years of service as
Editor and Assistant Editor.

"Mirror, mirror, who is the most precious of them all?"

By Sister Erin Light

"If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine" (Exodus 19:5).

In the well-known story of Snow White, the queen needs constant daily reminders of her importance and self-worth; her uncertainties reveal a struggle that occurs daily within our hearts. Do I have any value, any worth? When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Freckled cheek bones, tired eyes, a kind smile, shyness, or your fears? Now, imagine what God sees when He looks at us? In His eyes, we are—always—a **precious soul**.

A Few Months Ago...

On a cold winter's night, Brothers Jim Lambert, Tom D'Orazio, and Jason Monaghan had an epiphany on a conference call; *"It's 80 degrees in California. Why are we suffering in 3-degree temperatures? Let's go visit our young brothers and sisters!"* They texted, tweeted, and Facebooked their plans far and wide, packed their hats and sunscreen, and bade farewell to road salt. Pretty soon, these three GMBA officers—with a handful of Michigander and Arizonan saints in tow—had arrived in Irvine, CA to fellowship with us.

Friday Fellowship and Fun...

When the Pacific Area MBA officers whipped up a "California-style" Friday night with bonfire and broomball! Even before the weekend's "Precious Souls" theme was introduced, we were putting a "precious" mindset into practice. At the beach bonfire, we shared pizza and prized, perfectly-burnt s'mores with friends and visitors. More importantly, we cherished each other's company; the GMBA officers' love was wholeheartedly felt as they embraced the youth, asking for our testimonies.

Saturday Seminar...

Following a morning spent catching flying kickballs and Frisbees at a nearby park, the GMBA officers presented the afternoon youth seminar titled, "Precious." Who is precious? What is precious to us, to God? We were asked to write down what we saw when we looked in the mirror. Some answered cosmetically, noting good hair or small ears, while others mentioned features and character flaws.

Then we began to learn about how we look to the Lord. Brother Jim Lambert explained, *"Our value does not change because of our actions. He does not think less of us when we make mistakes, fail, or struggle. He does not cast us aside. We are beloved, cherished."* We then discussed our importance, what we deem important, and the circumstances of our worth.

What do you love?

What is precious to us? So many things in this world desire to take the place of God, to distract us from growing a spiritual relationship with Christ. Friends, work, and media, are distractors for youth. Brother Jason recounted, *"Peter walked on water; he was doing the impossible! But just like Peter we become distracted; we see the waves and lose sight of Christ. But Christ didn't wait to save Peter when He was almost drowning in the water, He grabbed him in an instant."* Then we debated heavy topics such as swearing, pornography, and homosexuality, and discussed whether we defend our beliefs (or remain politically correct) when such topics enter conversations.

Saturday Night Service...

Brother Tom D'Orazio opened the night service, exhorting us to explore the Word and realize what Jesus valued most: people. Jesus performed miracles—He raised the dead, healed the sick—but at the end of the day, Jesus was after the souls of mankind. For example, when Jesus heard the blind man (whom He just healed) had been thrown out of the temple, He sought him out. The miracle of sight wasn't enough, Jesus wanted his soul. When Jesus called Zacchaeus down from a tree, He didn't only want to dine with him, He needed to save his soul.

Inspired to redefine Matthew 13:44, Brother Tom said, *"We are the treasure, the world is the field; Christ sold all that He had to purchase us from the world."* Jesus knew the Father's will was He should "lose nothing" and save every soul (John 6:39). Brother Tom then recounted a powerful experience where he was given to know the words Jesus wrote in the sand during the trial of the adulterous woman; Jesus wrote "Pardoned," listing all the men holding stones and the adulterous woman, as well.

Brother Jason followed, expounding on Alma 39:17, *"Behold...is not a soul at this time as precious to God as a soul will be at the time of his coming?"* Sometimes we feel our value diminishes because of our circumstances; our value never changes to Christ. Brother Jason recounted the story of the prodigal son, who found himself at his lowest point, estranged, desiring to return to his father's house. He no longer felt worthy to be a son, and would accept the position of a servant. But the son's value never changed to the father, who had the servants prepare the best for his son whom he thought was lost forever (Luke 15:11). Brother Jason encouraged us, *"It doesn't matter where you've been. We are the people Christ chose to change; your soul is precious."*

At the end of the Saturday night meeting, the GMBA officers asked the youth to express how our reflection in the mirror developed throughout the seminar. We spoke confidently, declaring ourselves a "conqueror", "child of the King", and "an overcomer." Sister Brenda Dominguez had an experience while Brother Jim Lambert shared the "Precious Souls" theme with the congregation; *"I saw two shimmering diamonds above the rostrum on either side."* This was a beautiful confirmation that God views us as precious jewels; unbeknownst to her, earlier that day one of the youth wrote they felt like a diamond in God's eyes. Brother Michael Watson offered a powerful prayer to the youth. During the prayer, Sister Alicia Dominguez had an experience: *"I saw the youth as children, lining up to receive something. A narrow path appeared in between them, and the path lit up. Two hands appeared, in His hands were many little lights, like precious gems."* Other experiences were had, and it was evident God was present with us.

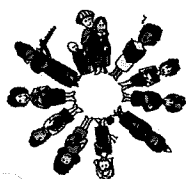
Brother Jim's final words echoed Christ's love for us; *"Remember your value. Remember your worth to the Lord; you are the reason He came. You are worth it all; you are precious souls."*

5 Amazing Facts

In His Name *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

Upon his visit to the inhabitants of this land, Jesus Christ said that they and His Church must take upon themselves His name – adding *“if it so be that the church is built upon my gospel then will the Father show forth his own works in it”* (III Nephi 27:5-10). By taking the name of Christ, and in having the Church built upon His Gospel, we as the Church should then be defined by the works of Jesus Christ. Here are five amazing facts as stated by Jesus Himself, that stand as descriptors of the Church:

- 1 *“...to preach the gospel to the poor. . .heal the broken hearted, preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of the sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. . .”* (Luke 4:18).
- 2 *“...the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached”* (Luke 7:22).
- 3 *“...cast out devils. . .speak with new tongues. . .take up serpents. . .drink any deadly thing (and not be hurt). . .lay hands upon the sick and they shall recover”* (Mark 16:17-18).
- 4 *“For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me”* (Matthew 25:35-36).
- 5 Finally, in reference to His works, Jesus stated, *“...He that believeth in me, the works that I do he shall do; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my father”* (John 14:12).



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle History

By Sister Maria Peterkin

The Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle was formed in 1968. While our Area Circle was not the first to be organized, it was the first to organize with our own bylaws. These bylaws were forwarded to the General Ladies' Uplift Circle President (Sister Mabel Bickerton) who approved them and they were incorporated into our current by-laws. Our founding officers were Sister Betty D'Orazio, Chairperson; Sister Mary Perri, Vice Chairperson; and Sister Jeanne Benyola, Secretary. Today our Area consists of nine local circles: Bronx NY, Edison NJ, Freehold NJ, Hopelawn NJ, Levittown PA, Brunswick ME, Metuchen NJ, Mt. Laurel NJ, and New Brunswick NJ.

In 2008, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Area with a luncheon held at the Helldrich Hotel in New Brunswick, NJ. Each local president gave a brief history of her Circle, milestones, and activities. A DVD presentation of sisters both past and present was shown throughout the luncheon, bringing back many precious memories.

A few highlights from the Local Circles in our Area include:

The Edison Circle had their beginnings chronicled in the first edition of the Church History

Book and this year they will be celebrating their 80th anniversary.

Our Mt. Laurel Circle, in conjunction with their branch, held a community fundraiser for the family of a young child with cerebral palsy and helped them move from a converted chicken coop to a small ranch suitable for his needs.

This year marks the 29th year that the Bronx, NY Circle will be hosting vacation bible school for one week during the summer for the children of their mission and neighborhood.

Our Area Circle has enjoyed the gifts and talents of the sisters in fellowship through a variety of retreats, seminars (both in English and Spanish), luncheons, fundraising activities for our Church's missionary endeavors, newsletters for those that are sick and shut in, young women's meetings, and sewing lessons for sisters who have a desire to make sacrament sets. All of the activities helped to foster a sense of unity among our sisterhood and branches.

Following the words of our pledge: *“we will do our duty in visiting the sick, and help others to the best of our ability,”* our Area and our individual local Circles have been involved

in a variety of outreach projects such as providing layette items, pajamas for the men at the Bowery in New York, participating with meals on wheels, sending cards to our servicemen, the sick, and shut-ins, donating to food banks, visiting nursing homes, providing Christmas food baskets to those in the community, caroling at assisted living facilities and nursing homes, adopting families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas, clothing drives, yard sales, toy drives, and providing free backpacks to children in need, all while sharing the love of God.

There have been many wonderful experiences and works throughout the Circles, far too many to expound upon here, where God has blessed our sisters tremendously in their efforts because of their love and desire to help where needed, support the missionary efforts of the Church, and most of all, share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. As one of our sisters so eloquently put it, *“Ladies' Uplift Circle is an important place for scripture study and for training new members about the word of God. The sharing of experiences and the testimonies of Jesus Christ in our lives is key to our spiritual development. We have an opportunity to participate in the missionary efforts of the Church and have found a place where we, as women, can serve the Lord”*.



God Will Take Care of the Problem

In the Book of Mormon, jealous leaders of the Jaredite people each wanted their group to rule. They refused to pray and ask for God's wisdom and peace even though they were warned. Battle after battle was fought until every single angry man, woman, and child was dead. (See the Book of Ether.)

In the New Testament, Peter, the follower of Jesus, was angry when the Temple Guards came to arrest Jesus and take him to jail. He jumped up to fight and used his sword to cut off the ear of one of those evil men. But Jesus planned to go and be judged. He did not want Peter to be fighting and angry. He picked up the ear, put it back, and healed the man. (See Luke 22:50 and 51 and John 18: 10 and 11.)

Everyone feels angry or furiously destructive at times. But terrible things happen when we get angry and refuse to forgive others. We have no peace, just sickening anger.

And what can we do to be free from it? The one thing we can do is pray. Jesus told us each in Luke 6:27 -35, *"But I say unto you who hear, love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you...Your reward shall be great and you shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."* God wants us to forgive.

So, when you pray for the meanest people in your life, ask God to bless them and help them. Ask God to give them every good thing that they need down deep in their hearts. Ask God to protect you and take away your hate and anger. He will. You will have peace. You can be happy again and stop thinking about your pain.

God will take care of the problem. He will work things out for you. He will take care of the bad person.

In Romans 12:19 the Apostle Paul reminds us, *"Vengeance is mine. I will repay says the Lord. So, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him drink for in doing so you will heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."* Turn your angry thoughts over to God.

Do it again and again and again until they are gone.

With love, Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH—Ephesians 4:26

BE	AND
YE	SIN
ANGRY	BIT
LET	GIVE
NOT	PLACE
THE	TO
SUN	THE
GO	DEVIL
DOWN	PRAY
UPON	JESUS
YOUR	CARES
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NEITHER	US

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

My Mother's Day Gift To You

I will _____

Love, _____
(by date / /)

Happy Mother's Day !!!

The Bible and Book of Mormon are full of true stories of people who got mad and had to repent, fix it up later, say they were sorry, or live with a terrible consequence (something happened because they got mad).

In the Bible, Adam and Eve's son Cain was so jealous of his brother Abel that he hit him with a rock and he died. Cain was marked by God and had to leave the land of his family. Can you imagine the never-ending heartbreak of everyone? (See Genesis 4: 1-16.)

Two twin brothers, Jacob and Esau, both wanted to be their father's favorite son and have a wonderful blessing put upon them. When Esau was starving, his brother said he would feed him only if he would agree to let Jacob be the favorite, blessed son. Afterwards, Jacob had to leave home to avoid his brother getting revenge on him for taking the blessing. (See Genesis 27.)

Joseph's father loved Joseph more than his older sons who had different mothers. They were so angry that they made a plan to sell him as a slave. They lied and told his father a wild animal killed him, when he was really taken away to Egypt. But God had a plan. Joseph learned how to run a prison there and then ran the whole country. He grew in power and knowledge. But, his brothers suffered guilt for years until they realized their younger brother was safe, blessed by God and a very powerful ruler of Egypt. (See Genesis Chapters 37, 39 and 47.)

Moses was raised as an adopted son of an Egyptian Princess. But when he saw a Hebrew man of his tribe being cruelly beaten by an Egyptian guard, he became angry and killed the mean guard. He had to quickly leave his home and move to a faraway country where they did not know what he had done. (See Exodus Chapter 2.) He had to start over – with no family or friends.

Happy Mother's Day Mom's and Spiritual Mothers

Please share something about a spiritual mother you have had in the Church.

I've been so blessed to have my natural mother as a spiritual mother also. She has been the biggest influence on my spiritual life. One of the greatest lessons I learned from Mom is that there is always someone worse off than we are. It taught me to be more grateful. I am so thankful for my mom.—*Sister Denise Dickson, Detroit, MI Branch #1*

We have many spiritual mothers throughout the church who are readily able and willing to help you or just be there for you whatever your needs are. The love of God we have towards one another entices us to be spiritual mothers or fathers towards one another. What qualifies a spiritual mother or father? Christ in Matthew 12:48-50 answered, saying, "...Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Therefore, you and all who have received Christ as their Savior and are doing the will of His father which art in heaven are my spiritual brother, sister, and mother. Wherever you are, as long as you are doing His Father's will, you are my spiritual Mother.—*Brother Michael McGuire, Dedham, MA Mission*

My memory of the Sunday School and MBA teachers I had as a child growing up in Branch #3 in Detroit includes the embrace of the Holy Spirit. My mother was a widow, and when other sisters in the branch would show me love, it made a big impact. More importantly, when those same sisters would show my mother love, I noticed it. That made an even bigger impact.—*Brother Ken Lombardo, Metutchen, NJ Branch*

My natural mother was also my spiritual mother. Growing up, Saturday afternoon was Sunday preparation time - a time to study scriptures, meditate on the things of God, and be ready for Sunday. As children, she taught us the importance and power of prayer. She shared the Gospel with many friends and neighbors. Changing the old hymn a little: "More like my mother, I would ever be..." —*Brother Mark Kovacic, Atlanta, GA Branch*

Please share something you have learned from a spiritual mother in the Church.

Sister Raffaella DiFalco was an exceptional example. She was submissive towards God, no matter what befell her. She had just lost one leg to gangrene from diabetes, and the doctors said they may have to take the other one, but still she praised God.—*Sister Denise Dickson, Detroit, MI Branch #1*

Take true interest in your brothers and sisters; remind them that you are there to listen and to pray; and be quick to thank God and keep a smile on your face.—*Sister Natalie Shawver, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission*

When I married my husband, Brother Joel Calabrese, 33 years ago, little did I know I was coming into a branch in Lorain, Ohio that was full of spiritual mothers. They all had many special gifts. I was able to learn and prosper. I was so blessed that the Lord knew exactly where I needed to be. Years later, I was asked to be a Deaconess, and I thought, "Thank you Lord, this is my chance to give back to the branch for all they have done for me." Then, we had to move. I could not understand this. I cried and was even prayed for; my heart was broken. Then, years later, the Lord brought us back to Lorain, Ohio. I was able to participate and to give back. He knew I was not finished there. When it was time for us to go again, I did not have that burden anymore. The Lord knew my desire to give back to the branch, once full of spiritual mothers, and it was my time to be that spiritual mother.—*Sister Edna Calabrese, Detroit, MI, Branch #2*

I remember the humbleness of Sister Martha Laird and hope to possess a portion of her example, and also the friendship of Sister Chris Colangelo. We shared recipes!—*Sister Martha Gehly, Herndon, VA Branch*



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

Blessing Bits

OB "He Promised Never to Leave Me, Never to Leave Me Alone"

After 65 years in the Gospel, I am still in awe of how our Lord blesses us. Recently I was ill for two weeks when suddenly my husband became seriously afflicted. He was rushed to the hospital and was admitted. I was overwhelmed by what was happening. The first night I was home alone I prayed that God would help my overreacting mind and help me with everything. I told the Lord that I could not bear this alone. I had been experiencing back and hip pain, and often I was unable to care for our home, perform my deaconess duties, and kneel in prayer. Even walking was a terrible ordeal. Suddenly I began to wash clothes, vacuum the house, and even more importantly, set the communion table. My pain is almost gone. I praise our God of miracles. I opened my email and read the following verse, "Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." If we have faith, God is always there.—Sister Josie Jasmin, Lake Worth, Florida Branch

BB "Pass Me Not Oh Blessed Savior"

Recently, I had a medical test and the results

did not look good. When I returned to the doctor to get the results, I was very fearful. I had told no one about this affliction, not even my family. While I was waiting in the waiting room, I overheard the doctor telling another patient who had the same problem I was having that she was fine and she had nothing to worry about. I was next to see the doctor and was very afraid. As I sat and waited, I turned my heart to the Lord and silently prayed to God that He would remove the affliction and the fear, and that I would receive the same good news. When it was my turn, the doctor gave me the results of the test. He said I was fine and I had nothing to worry about. I broke down and cried. The doctor asked me why I was crying. I said God heard my prayer. God is Good!—Sister Carmelita Sanchez, New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch

BB "God is So Good, He Answers Prayers"

In 2013 our son, Joshua, married his sweetheart, Sister Brianne Miller, who was living and working in Ohio, approximately one hour away from Erie. During the first months of their marriage, Bree continued making the daily two-hour trek to and from Ohio for work. She also sought employment locally, but to no avail. The winter

was especially harsh and bitter, which was cause of great concern.

Prompted by the Spirit, our father, Brother Art Gehly, Sr., directed our entire family to set aside a day of fasting and prayer on Bree's behalf, specifically that God would open a door for local employment. Praise God, on the very day we fasted, an opportunity was posted in her field, she applied for the position, and was contacted for an interview for the next day. Shortly thereafter, she accepted an offer of employment. We give God honor and glory for hearing and answering our prayers.—Brother Joel and Sister Ruth Gehly, Erie, Pennsylvania Branch

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



Question for this month: *What attribute of a mother would you like to pass on to your children or the young people in the Church?*



Answer from last month: *Tell us what you think heaven will be like. Describe it for us and ask your kids to share their ideas as well.* In heaven, I think it will be colorful, beautiful, have past family members, be full of religious people, have angels singing, have the Lord, live like we do now just better, and be feeling awesome.—Noah Draskovich, age 8, Forest Hills, FL Branch

Look back next month for more answers to this question.



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