

The Gospel News

IN THIS ISSUE

Blast From The Past
Page 2

November Calendar
Page 2

Beyond the Veil
Page 3

Meet the Church
Page 4

Editorial Viewpoint
Page 5

Topic Series
Page 6

Branch/ Mission News
Page 7

**A Message of Love
Given the Saints**
Page 8

GMBA News
Page 8

5 Amazing Facts
Page 9

**Ladies' Uplift Circle
News**
Page 9

Children's Corner
Page 10

Blessing Bits
Page 12

God Has Called a Fisher of Men Contributed by The Gospel News Staff

On October 14, 2012, Brother Joel Gehly was ordained an apostle in The Church of Jesus Christ. The calling came from the same voice who spoke so clearly to Andrew and Peter, *'I will make you a fisher of men.'* For these two men, the next three years with Christ would forever change their lives to a higher calling.

Brother Joel was "born and raised" in the Church and was blessed by his grandfather, Apostle Russell Cadman. He grew up next door to his grandparents in the farmland of Fredonia, Pennsylvania. After finishing college and marrying Ruth Curry, God called Brother Joel into the Church.

"Upon graduating from college, I asked the Lord to lead me where he wanted me to be, and I would serve Him. I turned down my first job offer [and only offer at the time] because it was too far away from the Church. Subsequently, I was led to a job in Erie, Pennsylvania and my new wife and I began attending the branch there in June 1981. [Shortly after] I had a dream where I saw a baptism, and... I was filled with a wonderful feeling of joy. I knew this joy was the joy of the saints of Jesus Christ. Later, on November 1, 1981, at the Fredonia Branch, the Spirit of repentance fell on me and I asked for my baptism. I was baptized that day by my Grandfather [Brother Russell Cadman] and confirmed by my Father [Brother Art Gehly, Sr.]."- Brother Joel Gehly

Sister Ruth later followed Joel to the waters of baptism. Early in their marriage, Sister Ruth had a dream about Brother Joel's calling. She saw Evangelist Vince Gibson dressed in his Sunday best on the front of a boat traveling down a straight channel. He began to preach and train Brother Joel how to catch fish. They caught different fish using different techniques. In the dream, Sister Ruth was in the boat observing as her husband watched Brother Vince intently. He was in training and she was a part of the journey.

Brother Joel was ordained a teacher in March 1983, an elder in May 1987, and an evangelist in November 1994. Sister Ruth was ordained a deaconess in July 1995. Brother Joel has served as Foreign Missionary Operating Committee Treasurer, Kenya Coordinator, Foreign Missionary Operation Committee Vice Chairman and Chairman, International Missionary Operating Committee Vice Chairman, and Region First and Second Counselor along with a stretch as Presiding Elder in the Erie Branch that lasted over 20 years.

He has baptized many souls, done missionary work for Jesus Christ in four continents and 22 countries, and assisted in the beginnings of six international missionary fields. When starting the work in Rwanda, a brother invited a friend to meet with the missionaries for lunch. Upon seeing Brother Joel, the Rwandan began to talk excitedly. He had seen Brother Joel in a dream two years before in which Brother Joel brought him to a higher spiritual plane. They caught a fish that day.

Brother Joel's missionary efforts have continued to this day as chairman of the Native American Operating Committee. In a dream, Apostle Isaac Smith saw himself walking alongside Brother Joel while holding a series of maps locating Native American reservations. He showed Brother Joel the maps and handed the maps to him, encouraging a continued effort with the seed of Joseph.

Close friend and fellow missionary Evangelist John Dibattista describes Brother Joel as, 'First to pray.' He means Brother Joel draws closer to God during times of difficulty. On their first missionary trip together, Brother Joel recommended prayer when they were broke in Rome's downtown train station with no

(Continued on Page 7)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 Be thankful for your hope of salvation	2 Be thankful for your family	3 Be thankful for your health
4 Be thankful for a place to worship together in your branches	5 Be thankful for the love that we share in the Church	6 Be thankful for the opportunity to vote	7 Be thankful for the Book of Mormon	8 Thank God that you woke again today	9 Be thankful for the trials in your life you have overcome	10 Be thankful for your spouse
11 Veteran's Day Be thankful for those who have served	12 Be thankful for your brothers and sisters in the Church	13 Be thankful for your parents	14 Be thankful for the sunshine	15 Be thankful for the freedom of religion that we have	16 Be thankful that we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost	17 Be thankful that someone introduced you to the Church
18 Be thankful for those who work to spread the Gospel worldwide	19 Be thankful for your job	20 Be thankful for your children	21 Be thankful for the abundance of food	22 THANKSGIVING BE THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING	23 Be thankful for all of the experiences you have had in the Church	24 Be thankful for the growth of the Church worldwide
25 Be thankful for the ordinances that we get to enjoy	26 Be thankful for your homes	27 Be thankful for the courage to choose this Church	28 Be thankful that God hears ALL of your prayers	29 Be thankful for who you are- a servant of God	30 Continue to be thankful for the MANY blessings in your life	1
October 2012 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 31	December 2012 S M T W T F S 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 31					

November 2012

*"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

BTP Blast From The Past

In spite of a Thanksgiving Day blizzard," the local news publication wrote, "a group of loyal parishioners of The Church of Jesus Christ gathered for cornerstone laying ceremonies at the site of the new church." It was a hopeful beginning for the Port Huron, Michigan saints, 63 years ago this month. But a shortfall of revenue would permit only the completion of the basement when the church was dedicated a year later, and the mission, itself, would be short lived. However, it was during this time that Evangelist Mark Randy initiated a different kind of ground breaking for the Church in hosting radio broadcasts each Sunday morning out of Port Huron and, later, neighboring Sarnia, Ontario. The *Book of Sermons* is a compilation by William H. Cadman of a number of radio broadcasts given by visiting elders.

Brothers Mark Randy [right] and Brother Robert Watson [who contributed to the sermons on the radio] ►



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

Beyond the Veil - "*Seek and ye shall find*"

By Evangelist George Kovacic

There is something intriguing, mysterious, or even curious to our human nature when it is hidden. A veil can hide from our natural eyes what we are curious to see. This can apply not only to everyday things of this world but spiritual things as well.

At times when studying the scripture it seems that we are reaching an understanding and seeing clearly, when all of a sudden the veil comes out to hide its meaning. There is a reason for this in God's wisdom. Just as the subtitle of this article suggests we have to "seek." See Matthew 7:7

We believe that the basic precepts of the redeeming Gospel of Jesus Christ are self-evident. Faith in Jesus Christ as the only Son of God, repentance of our sins, baptism to be cleansed of our sins, receiving the Holy Spirit by someone who has authority from the Lord, and endurance to the end are the bedrock doctrines that the Church stands on. There are no veils hiding these. However, lovers of truth and inquisitive minds want to search the deeper truths written in the Holy Scriptures of the Book of Mormon and the Bible. As we study, we sometimes hit those "veils" and it takes much to have them lifted.

A veil is used to separate a person, place, or thing from common everyday view. In fact the Hebrew word for veil can also be translated as "separate." In Webster's Dictionary it says a veil is "something that covers, screens or conceals." An example can be of a woman or bride concealing her face. Another example we have is the great veil that separated the Holy of Holies from not only everyday view but even priestly view except once a year. This veil in the Temple was approximately 30 feet wide, 60 feet high, and almost four inches thick. This was designed to hide the Glory of the Lord from men. See Ether 3:6

But veils that conceal spiritual truths might as well be four inches thick if we are unable to penetrate them. On the other hand they could be similar to a very lightweight material that moves with a breeze, stirred by the Holy Spirit.

Let us look at one example of what seemed to be a heavy veil. Nephi returning to the tent of his father Lehi in 1 Nephi 15 discovers his brothers arguing.

"[7] And they said: Behold, we cannot understand the words which our father hath spoken concerning the natural branches of the olive-tree, and also concerning the Gentiles. [8] And I said unto them: Have ye inquired of the Lord? [9] And they said unto me: We have not; for the Lord maketh no such thing known unto us. [10] Behold, I said unto them: How is it that ye do not keep the commandments of the Lord? How is it that ye will perish, because of the hardness of your hearts? [11] Do ye not remember the things which the Lord hath said? -- If ye will not harden your hearts, and ask me in faith, believing that ye shall receive, with diligence in keeping my commandments, surely these things shall be made known unto you."

If you notice in Nephi's rebuttal he lists several points which have caused the veil from lifting on their understanding. The first is that they should not "harden" their hearts. The second is that they were commanded to "ask in faith believing". Lastly,

(Continued on Page 11)

Domestic Church -- Irvine, CA Branch



It's been two years since the Anaheim Branch moved to its new location in Irvine, California. Since then, the Irvine Branch has been filled with excitement and experiencing growth. In fact, the membership has grown by over 40 people in the past two years.

But first, let's back up. The Anaheim Branch was established in 1965 by members of the Bell Branch who wanted to start a new work in south Los Angeles County. Over the years, the branch had its good times and its struggles. In 2008, the group went into fasting and prayer about relocating the building. The Lord opened all the right doors, the brothers and sisters rallied, and the Irvine Branch was dedicated in July 2009.

After the relocation, the Lord reinvented the branch. When Irvine first opened its doors, it had three ministers, one deacon, no teachers, a handful of young people, and one piano player to serve 82 members. The congregation went into fasting and prayer. Now, the branch has six ministers, four deacons, two teachers, over 25 young people who attend regularly, and a vibrant group of musicians to serve over 125 members.

There are an even mix of children, young people, middle aged, and elderly in the congregation. All services are translated into Spanish via headsets, and a special all-Spanish service is held one Saturday night per month. The ministry meets often and makes a concerted effort to remain united. There is an emphasis on relevant preaching and teaching, praise-filled testimonies, and frequent fasting and prayer. The Ladies' Circle is a source of strength for the whole branch, as they meet each week to pray.

The branch has been focusing on reaching the community. Vacation Bible Schools, Bring-a-Friend Sundays, and clothing/food giveaways are some of the events implemented to reach the community. Please pray for us. We're taking the mission statement of the Church seriously; we want to double our membership in five years, and we are on track for that. Not for the sake of numbers but for the sake of souls and for the glory of God!

International Church -- Rwanda



The work in Rwanda started in 2005 when Brother Chatman Young, on a work assignment, made friends with a local man named Jean Bosco. Through this contact he became acquainted with numerous people in the Kigali area where the Spirit of God bore witness to these people that Brother Chat was a servant of God. On his subsequent visit in August 2005 the IMOC, encouraged with the reports, arranged for other brothers to join Brother Chat. They met Alexandre Rudatiskira and Jean Pierre Habimana whom God prepared for His church. After much time spent in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with these two brothers, they were baptized along with seven others. These two brothers knew of a group of believers [around 50] in a town in eastern Rwanda which is now our Rukira Branch.

In Rukira 92 members and many children meet in our building dedicated in 2009 on land donated by the village. During a recent visit some members had small pineapple fields for their own needs. If larger parcels of land could be purchased they could grow more pineapples for sale in markets and to juice companies, providing an industry for them to become self-sufficient in the future.

In the capital city of Kigali there are 116 members and many children. They meet a thousand-square-foot rented room. We need to purchase property for a church and ultimately a school.

We also support a Humanitarian Project that provides insurance cards so individuals can get medications and minor treatment at clinics for symptoms of HIV/AIDS.

Rwanda is a resilient nation after the genocide of over 800,000 people in 1994. The Lord is working with this small country. Please pray for the safety and welfare of the members and missionaries as well as the growth of the Church there.

By Elder Don Ross

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

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

Our national holiday, Thanksgiving, is a couple of weeks away. All of us can be and should be grateful and thankful on a daily basis for God's rich blessings and mercies during the year. Our tables are full!

Many of us, actually all of us, have experienced the mercies of God--some natural, some spiritual. Many were baptized, many children were blessed. Those who passed away received their glorious reward. Branches and missions are growing. All mission fields are growing. These include domestic, foreign and the Seed of Joseph mission fields.

We serve a great God who remembers His people. He remembers those who love Him and serve Him in spirit and in truth. He sees our need. He knows our need. He fills our need. The Lord clothes those that need clothing. He provides shelter for those that need shelter. He feeds the hungry. There is no doubt Jesus Christ provides and cares for His people. This is substantiated by the following Thanksgiving experience of the late Sister Helen Campitelle of Detroit, Michigan. It is found on page 183 in *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ Volume 1*.

"It was in the year 1928. My husband was out of work because of sickness. As it was the night before Thanksgiving my children wanted me to go to the store to buy food for a Thanksgiving dinner. I did not have any food in the house except beans. I told my children I was very sorry that I was unable to make a dinner for them as their father was out of work, and they would have the beans which I had in the house. It was seven o'clock in the evening and my children were discouraged. I told them not to be discouraged as the Lord could bless us just the same with beans. At seven thirty we heard someone knocking and my oldest daughter, Rose, went to answer the door. She found a man there and he asked for Mrs. Campitelle. While my daughter was talking to him, she saw a white car in front of the door and he said to me, 'Mrs. Campitelle, what is the reason you don't want to give a Thanksgiving dinner to your children?' I told him the truth, that I wanted to, but as my husband was out of work I was unable to do so.

He looked at my face and smiled; then he said, 'Mrs. Campitelle, I have brought a Thanksgiving dinner for your children.'

He then went into the car (which) I did not see, and brought out all kinds of groceries; fruit which looked like it had just been picked, fresh dressed chicken, which was still warm, and many other things.

When I saw all the groceries and food he brought, I asked him his name and address, as I wanted to remember him for what he had done for us. But he said, 'Mrs. Campitelle, you don't need my name or address now.' He looked at my children and said, 'You have wonderful children and a wonderful family.' Then he left.

The next day at dinner time, all the food was prepared, and we were seated around the table. Brother and Sister Frammolino were with us. While Brother Frammolino was asking the blessing on the food he saw the same man come in and stand near the table; and he said, 'I fed my people in the time of Moses and I will feed them today too.'

We all felt the presence of God with us so that we could hardly eat the food because of the great blessings.

Every time I testify of this experience, the Lord is my witness."

What a meal! What a feast! It was fresh and warm! Where did it come from? Who was the chef? It was provided by and prepared by our great and wonderful Lord. It was even delivered in a white car!

This meal that the Lord provided for Sister Helen Campitelle was shared with others. Originally, all she had was beans in her home. That was the extent of her family's natural food. They had nothing else to eat! Sister Campitelle shared the love of God with another family. She shared her bounty and experience with Brother and Sister Frammolino. There was no selfishness, just a desire to share the blessings of God. This is 'Thanksgiving.'

We have to be quick to thank our God for all He does for us, for everything He gives us. Ammon said it so well. We read in Alma 26:37, *"Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, whatsoever land they may be in: yea, he numbereth his people, and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth. Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever. Amen."* May our joy be in the Lord. May our thanksgiving be great and our thanks expressed to God forever. May our thanksgiving never cease.

His meals are pure and life giving. He is truly the bread of life. When we participate in the feast of the Lord, we are never hungry. We are spiritually full! There is a feast of good things for those who love and serve the Lord. There is a feast of good things for those who give their lives to Jesus Christ.

We can all sing the following short hymn. It simply states, *"Thank you Lord for saving my soul, Thank you Lord for making me whole. Thank you Lord for giving to me, Thy great salvation so rich and free!"*

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

(Gospel News reprint 1997)

Ready to Go

By Evangelist Timothy Mott

The memory is still vivid in my mind – the saints are gathered in Youngstown once again for Ohio District Conference. The morning trip in brought with it the distinct smell of steel permeating the valley. I now find myself seated next to my mother in the Youngstown Branch's impressive church building with its high, white ceilings, large frosted windows, and strong, wooden pews that are longer than our entire chapel back in the countryside. With the building full of saints and their families from around the district, my childhood gaze naturally focuses on the movement of other children like me. However, my attention is drawn to the front of the building as we begin to sing the old hymn "Ready to Go" and brothers from the ministry assemble in a circle. Voices blend in perfect harmony as we reach the grand refrain with its extended chords allowing for extra embellishment. Tearfully, God's laborers sit down in the hand-carved oak chairs that the deacons have placed for them. Today, we are preparing to send our own to a far-away mission field that we know little about. But our collective praise and prayer demonstrate to the Lord that His people understand the gravity of what is about to occur as they seek His blessing in the work that is about to be performed by our brothers.

In the 1980s the Ohio District was taking its place as a powerhouse of missionary activity throughout the world. Early missionary pioneers such as Apostle Joe Calabrese had taken young brothers under their wings and we soon found many brothers filling key leadership roles in mission fields throughout the world. I still remember those District Conferences where God's people poured their hearts to the Lord for the work that was about to be done. In those early times of my life, it seemed like a dream to undertake such great tasks – tasks that only the greatest could perform. As we began to learn the Songs of Zion, a new anthem for the worker was found in "If You Would Labor in Zion". I knew that I would always hear it each time we came together in conference and it began speaking to my heart that I too could be a part of the Great Work of the Lord.

I now ponder our effectiveness in approaching each opportunity the Lord presents us to "Go" in 2012. We brothers in the ministry often rehearse our need to be prepared to serve the Lord's people through effective preaching – an act that requires meditation, prayer, and much reading. The above dramatic example emphasized the importance of readying for the not-so-common missionary endeavor. However, even more impactful on many is the example of a humble sister standing during testimony service and glorifying God for the change He brought about in her life. She tells us that she had been lost, but with the Lord she was found. Her tears convey

her deep conviction in the most simple, but powerful of messages—that Christ has the ability to redeem a lost people; that He can redeem even me. Hearing this same conviction from her on a consistent basis instills that message within me and many other impressionable novices to the Gospel. Each opportunity afforded to this sister to testify is one that she is prepared for, and one that she treats with seriousness and love.

Please find a quiet place and reflect with me on our **readiness** and effectiveness in the following areas:

- **Testimony** – It is a key part of the worship experience, and even more powerful when employed outside of the Church. Do we praise the Lord for how He rescued us from our lost state, especially when the message of salvation is delivered from the ministry? Are we quick to point others to the need for intervention from Jesus Christ in our lives?
- **Songs** – They are the special sound of our Gospel. Do we quickly request songs when given the chance? And as they are sung, do we sing with our heart so that others hear our offering to the Lord?
- **Love** – It demonstrates to the Lord, showing Him we understand what He's done for us. Do we show kindness to others, especially strangers from whom we can expect no favors? Do we clothe and feed those in need?
- **Callings** – When the Lord taps you to be the one to teach a class, do you spend time in prayer and preparation to make it the best it can be? If you are asked to lead a new effort, do you take time to allow the Lord to guide you and implement His vision for the benefit of the saints?

Please take some time for self-analysis of these and other areas of your interaction with the Gospel and our fellow man. Allow the Lord to take you back to a time when you tearfully approached each opportunity to do something for Him with reverence. Let us always be ready to lovingly serve the Lord and our fellow man in all that we do, and let us make all that we do be about Christ.

"Little People"

By Brother Pat King

High in the mountains, in early spring, after the last snow, a wonderful gathering of "Little People" commenced. Wise sages from the nearby villages breathed out collective attention to one "Little Person". Does this sound like a "Hobbit" story? It isn't!

Actually on May 13, 2012, brothers, sisters, and friends came together under the pines of Lakeside, Arizona, to witness the ordination of Brother Emil Palensar as an elder. At the meeting, Brother Barry Mazzeo gave Brother Emil some fatherly advice, saying, "Stay small," referring to 1 Samuel 15:17, when the prophet Samuel reminded King Saul of the humility he showed in earlier days, "... when you were little in your own eyes. . ."

Brother Dwayne Jordan told how he had interviewed Brother Emil, and was convinced of his calling when he described his strong love for the souls of mankind. Brother Dwayne asked, "Can we sing the song of redeeming love?" (Alma 5:26), as he described the love that Brother Emil has for others. Brother Dwayne asked us all to look more intently at the people we meet. We were once in the same place, and we needed the Lord in our lives.

Brother Brian Martorana opened the meeting that Sunday, recounting how King Saul began to go on his own strength, not heeding God's word. Brother Brian explained that we cannot go through life on our own strength, and told how he experienced his own futility when his two sons were injured in an auto accident, and earlier, when his young daughter was diagnosed with leukemia and was given one month to live. God is merciful. Brother Brian was given to understand that, as God was with his daughter, He would be with his sons. We cannot go it alone.

Visiting from San Diego, Apostle Paul Liberto told of being on the Indian reservation many years ago with Brother Isaac Smith, when he was asked to pray. He was newly baptized at the time and didn't know how to pray; he felt very awkward and unworthy. Brother Paul went on to explain that being called to service is not about being worthy, it's about doing God's work. Romans 10:15; Alma 13:5,6

Brother Dan Piccuito addressed the congregation, recounting how earlier this year at the Southwest Regional Conference in Mesa, Arizona, he was asked to sit on the Ministerial Board for

Brother Emil. That morning, before the conference started, Brother Dan said that when he greeted and embraced Brother Emil, the Spirit of God spoke to him and said, "This man should be ordained into the ministry." Brother Dan told this wonderful confirming experience to the board as they convened.

In the ordination service, Brother Michael Watson washed Brother Emil's feet, calling upon the Lord to bless him in undertaking such a high calling, and his family as well, as he takes on this holy responsibility.

After his feet were washed we sang, "Ready to Go, Ready to Stay," and Brother Isaac Smith prayed with the ministry before the laying on hands for ordination, saying in his prayer, "We are getting old," and acknowledging to the Lord the need for help from new workers.

Brother Larry Watson anointed Brother Emil, laid his hands on his head, and prayed. In his prayer he said, "Now is the time for young men to answer the call, to be a father to the congregation, not just an instructor. It's time for the Joshuas to stand. Do not be weary in well doing, the Lord of Harvest will send workers."

After the brothers welcomed Brother Emil into the ministry, Brother Harry "Skip" Smith told how when Brother Emil was a small boy, he would sit with his father, always in the same spot, asking questions, and not easy ones sometimes. It seemed he was inquisitive, every Sunday.

Next, Brother Emil stood and spoke very few words, thanking everyone who came that day. He said that he feels the weight of his calling, and realizes how "little" he really is. He explained how he once did something foolish while towing his two young boys behind his bike that put their lives in danger. He told how helpless he felt at that moment, and how it caused him to realize how he needs the Lord to be with him in all that he does.

Brothers and sisters from Florida, New Mexico, California, and Arizona came to the Lakeside Branch to be blessed that day and support our newly-ordained Brother Emil. What a blessing we share when we come together in fellowship and celebration of the Holy Spirit! I know the Lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father will endow Brother Emil with wisdom and a humble spirit to keep him "little" in his own eyes.

God Has Called a Fisher of Men

Continued from Page 1



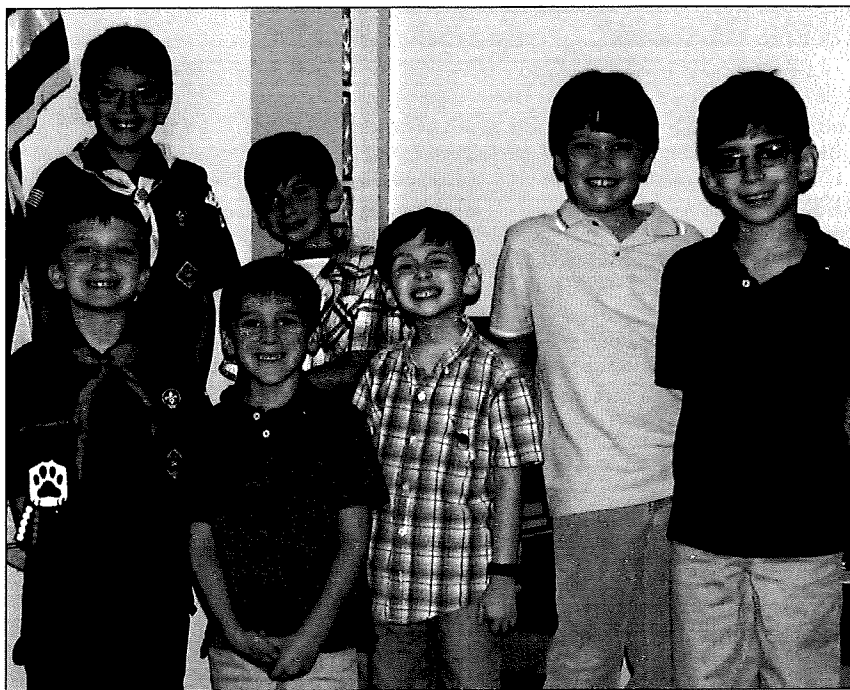
Apostle Joel Gehly and his wife Sister Ruth

place to stay. God answered by sending an angel who got them a cab and a four star hotel with extra money to buy a pizza and coke. When in Africa and storms were approaching a baptismal site, Brother Joel prayed and God answered by changing the winds, moving the storm directly around the saints.

A few years ago, God blessed Brother Joel with an experience confirming his calling to be an apostle. He was in a large building representing The Church of Jesus Christ. Towards the back of the building on risers were the apostles, including his grandfather Brother Russell. The apostles watched, taught and preached from the balconies. Time shifted in the dream and many of the brothers on the balconies were no longer there. Brother Joel found himself on a balcony overseeing the Church. He could see the blessings and the struggles from this new vantage point. He awoke powerfully pressed by the Spirit of God.

Like Peter and Andrew of old, now begins a new chapter for our brother. He has fished in many places and brought many souls to the Restored Gospel. He has trained many fishers of men and will continue, but now God has called him to oversee the fishers and to train the trainers. He begins a new vantage point filled with many blessings, but a tremendous responsibility. May God bless our new brother as he continues in his calling as a fisher of men.

On Wednesday, April 25, 2012 the Forest Hills MBA was delighted to present their Primary MBA class with pins to acknowledge their completion of the GMBA Recognition Pin Program. The GMBA Recognition Pin Program was established in order to allow girls and boys within the Church, who are also involved in Scouts, to earn their Religious Pin through our organization. The program requires the children to complete a 30-page workbook on various aspects of the Church. All of our children completed this program and earned their pin. Each child had an opportunity to present to the congregation a piece of this program and what they learned. They described their natural and spiritual families and how they have an important place in each, the Apostles of the Church and the ministry, and baptism and various other Church ordinances. Most importantly they learned that they are loved by God and Jesus is always in their heart. Each child was presented with a certificate and a pin with the Church logo from our Presiding Elder. The boys were grinning from ear-to-ear and it was obvious they were very proud to receive their awards. Led by Sister Mandy Griffith they sang "Lord I Believe in You." It was wonderful to hear them sing with all of their heart.



A Message of LOVE given the Saints *An Experience of Apostle John Griffith*

I wish to share with you a small experience I had concerning the power of LOVE. During my experience my mind was taken to a high mountain where I met our beloved, and departed Sister Vestalia Bicelis. As I saw her as a younger and vibrant person, I realized I was allowed to see her in a familiar way whereby I would recognize her. (Her natural body rests yet a little while until she is reunited with her soul and becomes a glorified body as we know will be so through the power of the First Resurrection.)

What I visualized was such a radiance about our sister and her countenance was of a deep spiritual beauty. Her joy was overwhelming. We were permitted to communicate with each other, yet not a word was spoken. It was as though we knew each other's thoughts. There was no possibility of a natural language barrier. She expressed how joyful she was and what a great peace she was experiencing. She referred to her great happiness in fellowshiping with loved ones and so many saints who were with her. Our sister could not explain the spiritual splendor, the deep love, and unspeakable joy that were there; as though our human minds cannot comprehend the greatness and beauty of eternal life anew beginning in Paradise.

My mind was impressed with the strength and greatness of LOVE, even as it is shared here on earth. This has caused me to better appreciate the extended power in shared LOVE during our earthly lives. It is as a type and shadow of God's great LOVE to be shared in the new Heaven and Earth.

I was made to recall the scriptures where we are taught concerning the everlasting characteristic of charity, that pure Love of God as exhibited through Christ. When we are with Christ, faith is no longer needed because we are in His presence. Our hope has been satisfied through His promises fulfilled. But that pure LOVE is abounding and alive. It is the core of post-earthly existence. This Godly Love becomes strengthened and magnified. A love connection as I feel remains with us although we are physically separated from our loved ones whom the Lord has received. You see, they remain part with us through shared love. LOVE is as a fabric weaved within the soul and feeds the soul with such great joy and peace. Ah, to trust in the completeness of God's promises through His LOVE.

End of my experience. I praise our God.

The People of Ammon

By Brother Kerry Carlini

Jesus Christ taught that we should “. . .not resist evil,” (III Nephi 12:39), this of which was certainly illustrated in His death. The Book of Mormon tells of a people who did just that even to the laying down of their lives. Converted to Christianity through the valiant missionary efforts of Ammon and his brothers, these Lamanites—who had once fiercely sought the destruction of the Nephites—came to disdain their former ways entirely. But, this change would serve to provoke those Lamanites, who had not converted, to make war against their brethren who did. Here are five amazing facts about this story.

- 1** Known as the Anti-Nephi-Lehis or People of Ammon, these converted Lamanites vowed to never again take up their weapons of war for fear, in doing so, their righteousness would be stained in bloodshed. As a show of their commitment they buried their weapons deep into the earth.
- 2** Now, when the People of Ammon saw the Lamanites approaching they simply prostrated themselves upon the ground and called upon the name of the Lord.
- 3** And, mercilessly the Lamanites slew over a thousand of the People of Ammon who gave absolutely no resistance.
- 4** But then, astoundingly, this slaughter had a curious effect upon the aggressors. Scriptures describe that the hearts of many of the Lamanites swelled in horror, and right then and there, they repented of the bloodshed they caused.
- 5** Most amazingly, more than the number of people who perished, a greater number of Lamanites were joined that day with the people of God.

Matthew 5:39

Alma Chapters 23-24

Ladies' Uplift Circle News



"Seest Thou This Woman?"

By Sister Gelsa Staley

We kicked off our Southeast Fellowship Weekend on Friday, May 5, 2012, with a visual demonstration by Sister Pamela Poisson about discarding all thoughts about outward appearance and celebrating the inner beauty that each of us carry.

Saturday began with a message from our honored guest, President, Sister Karen Progar. The seminars were led by Sisters Alicia Draskovich and Mandy Griffith. Sister Alicia, through scripture, social media, and music showed us how God sees us and not how we see ourselves. She brought the meaning of our theme "Seest Thou This Woman" to life.

Sister Mandy's class completed an activity where each girl drew a self-portrait and placed green Mr. Yuk stickers on the parts of their physical bodies that they didn't like (e.g., their shape, nose, smile, etc.) They then read scriptures about each part of the body and the way God intended those parts be used -- beautiful feet for publishing peace; lips to praise Him; etc. As they read each scripture, the girls placed a large red heart over the body part mentioned in the scripture. When the exercise was through, they no longer could see the green stickers because their entire body was covered with red hearts, signifying the love of God.

After crafts of material necklaces and a ball chain name and bottle cap necklaces by Sister Susan Moraco, each local was tasked with presenting their interpretation of the theme. There were songs sung, scripture read, and costumes worn. Each one was different and unique in their own way. Several sisters wore bright pink t-shirts with U.G.L.Y. representing the phrase, "U Gotta Love Yourself", printed on them. They performed a radio interview ending with two sisters rapping to a song entitled "U Gotta Love Yourself." Sisters loved the t-shirts so much that we decided to sell them.

Our evening meeting began with an address by Vice President of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Sister Lisa Champine. Sister Lisa gave her testimony of sisters that were "beautiful" to her in her life.

At 8:00 p.m. we went to our rooms to prepare for our first ever Pajama Party. We returned in PJ's of every kind from modern to early 1900s style complete with night cap. With hot pretzels and popcorn in hand, the Maddox trio led us in games of "Truth or Dare" and "Do You Know Your Sister?" We watched a presentation of the weekend and were read a bedtime story by Sister Christine Martorana.

The Sunday service was opened to all of the brothers and sisters of the Southeast Area. Our Area President, Evangelist Scott Griffith, was joined by Elder John D'Orazio and Evangelist Dennis Moraco on the rostrum. After allowing the officers of the Ladies' Circle to express themselves, Brother Dennis appropriately opened the meeting speaking on our theme because the inspiration for the theme was based on a sermon he had preached on Mother's Day. He brought with him an article that he had found from the April 1979 *Gospel News* written by V.J. Lovalvo regarding the women of the Church and their role in it. This article covered every topic that we focused on throughout the weekend!

Then came the *coup de grâce*. Sister Rhonda Hester from the Quincy Branch tearfully announced that the Lord had told her "The time is now" for Quincy to organize a Ladies' Uplift Circle. There could not have been a better conclusion to our weekend. The Lord was pleased with our efforts and blessed us immensely for them.

I encourage all of you to check out the Beauty Seminar on the General Ladies' Circle website. You can also see pictures of the weekend.

Fellowship weekends have always been a blessing to me. I am looking forward to the General Circle Weekend that is being held in Savannah, Georgia in 2013. I hope to see all of you there.



What Are You Thankful For?

Dear Friends,

Be quick--if you were to think of three things you are thankful for, what would they be? Did you think, "I have someone who loves me and helps me"? Because you must. As a baby someone fed you, changed your clothes and kept you well. Maybe a parent, or family member, or unrelated adult who cared and loved you, but someone was there for you.

Did you say, "I am thankful for being protected by a living God and His Son Jesus!"? You should. While talking to a friend I was reminded that in the last year I had to be in the hospital, I had been in an accident and totaled my new car, and was having trouble at work with my boss and God had helped me through it all. I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ where we can ask the elders and brothers and sisters to pray for us in Jesus' name. I was anointed before my surgery and God guided the doctors. I had a good recovery. My insurance helped me replace the car; I only broke one collarbone in the accident and it healed with more prayers. And as I was praying about my difficult boss, I remembered Genesis 39:20-23. In this true story, Joseph was unfairly thrown into prison for eight years. God blessed and protected Joseph. When Joseph prayed for help, God showed him mercy and gave him favor (made the man in charge trust and like him). And the Lord made all the work Joseph did there go really well. I decided to pray that God would give me favor with my tough boss. Things changed drastically. We started understanding each other better.

I am also thankful for the family of Christ and people who pray for me. During a quiet moment at church I often start at the front row and go row by row, thinking about miracles in the lives of people sitting there. For example, one elder, and one member, were hit by cars when they were young. God healed them. One sister begged us every week to help her go through college, which was hard for her. She was successful and has a good job now. There are so many wonderful miracles sitting there; people who have terrible sicknesses but find the strength to keep on with a good life, people who used to hate someone and asked God to take it away and give them peace, which He did. There are physical miracles, mental miracles, and emotional miracles where God has helped someone recover from great sadness or worries. Think about your church branch. Look at the miracles. Go row by row and see God's power in people's lives. We are thankful followers of Christ who receive great blessings all the day long.

The one thing I am really thankful for is that I have my wonderful friend, Jesus Christ, the powerful Son of God. He goes to God with my needs and cares. He hears my prayers. He never sleeps; He is there day or night. He has all power to protect me and help me think of good solutions when I have problems. He can calm me down when I am afraid of the future or my heart is sad. He opens the right doors for me. Jesus gives me people I can trust, and lets me have happy adventures. He promises us in John 10:10 "...I am come that they [we that believe in him] might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." When you ask Him to guide you and direct you, you will have the courage to try all sorts of things you could never do on your own. Your life will be greater and full of new experiences!

Finally, Jesus died to show me that there is a soul and heaven. I've promised to serve the Lord. I was baptized and washed clean of my old sins, and my name is now written down in His Book of Life. I can trust Jesus to help me keep my promise to serve Him until the day I die.

Think what a wonderful life you have. You have peace, joy and hope now. Look at your branch and count the blessings and miracles. Be thankful to God for His son, Jesus.

With love,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

COUNT	JESUS
YOUR	WHO
BLESSINGS	SAVES
THANK	US
OUR	FROM
GOD	SIN
AND	AND
HIS	FEAR
WONDERFUL	SEE
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E	H	T	W	S	E	V	A	S
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Beyond the Veil--"Seek and ye shall find"

Continued from Page 3

they must be diligent in keeping the Lord's commandments.

Let us examine each of these individually. Nephi declared that they had hardened their hearts by refusing trust in the Lord of things of God.

Joseph Smith recounted in his testimony that when he would speak to church leaders in his youth about his dreams they would mock him. They were emphatic that God no longer spoke with men but all had been said and done and was written in the Bible.

Nephi's second point was that we can once more use Joseph Smith as our example, for he took James 1:5 to heart,

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not [will not criticize]; and it shall be given him."

Diligent in keeping the Lord's commandments was his last point and one that merits great attention. King Benjamin in speaking to his sons says this,

"And now, my sons, I would that ye should remember to search them diligently, that ye may profit thereby; and I would that ye should keep the commandments of God, that ye may prosper in the land according to the promises which the Lord made unto our fathers." Mosiah 1:7

Keep in mind we are talking about going beyond the veil. The Lord in His mercy calls sinners to salvation but once we reach that point more is required of us if we are requiring more from the Lord. This is where diligence comes into play.

In Hebrews 11:6 it says "... he is a rewarder of them that diligently

seek him." We are commanded to seek Him out, to seek His will, to seek understanding of how we lead our lives. We seek to better understand our Heavenly Father and all He has in store for us as His children of the Kingdom.

Moroni offers this thought,

"And there were many whose faith was so exceedingly strong, even before Christ came, who could not be kept from within the veil, but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, and they were glad." Ether 12:19

Due to their faith there were many who had the great things of God revealed to them.

The Apostle Paul summed it up this way,

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" Hebrews 6:19

It is up to each of us to determine whether or not we want to remain without the veil or to enjoy the blessed light of the Jesus Christ who made it possible by the removing of the veil for us to be in the presence of Creator once more.

"... and the veil of the temple was rent [divided/torn] in the midst [middle]." Luke 23:45

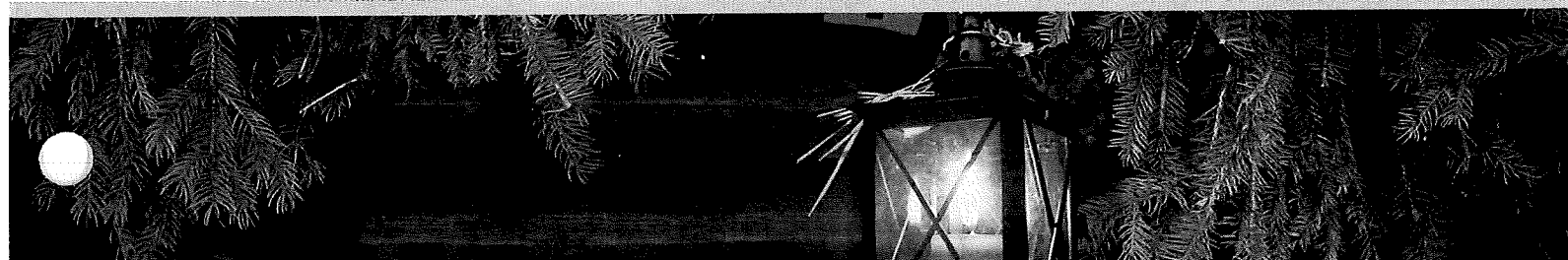
"Behold, when ye shall rend that veil of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid from the foundation of the world from you--yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel." Ether 4:15

Like you, I am thankful for so many things in my life. I am thankful to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ and for the energy and ability to serve Him. I am also very thankful for the support that I have in putting The Gospel News together each month. For the writers of the monthly segments, editors and writers who send in articles, consultants, proof readers, typesetters, and the graphically talented that make it look great, I am thankful. Did you know that The Gospel News is printed each month at Lee Printing, a company owned by Brother Keith Lesperance? They donate their talent and time to lay out the final paper each month. So THANK YOU to all of you who work each month to make this paper enjoyable and uplifting for the brothers and sisters to read. And THANK YOU also to those of you who write in with your Blessing Bits and answer the Question of the Month. I appreciate your support."

With Love,
Sister Carolyn O'Connor



The staff at Lee Printing and photos of The Gospel News on the press



thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

Blessing Bits

We are THANKFUL for our Blessing!

BB *Our Lord, The Great Physician*

I recently had some serious dental work performed. The doctor said I would experience much pain, but he would give me pain medication. I explained that I experience serious side effects to pain medication, but he insisted I would be okay and that I must take it because of the serious pain involved. I presented it to God and was anointed at church. The elder prayed that I would not experience any pain. I was fully confident that God would take care of me. During the procedure, the dentist was having a difficult time. I silently prayed and immediately the root was removed. After the surgery, I was confident that I would not need the medication, but the nurse insisted that I take it because I did not understand how painful it would be. Praise God, I never took a pill! I finally threw the pills away. I give Him all the honor and glory. God is so good! *Sister Josie Jasmin – Lake Worth, Florida*

BB *God Works 24 Hours a Day!*

One Saturday morning around 1:30, I was awakened by a voice crying out "HELP ME!" As there was no one else in the house, I began to pray for everyone

that came to mind, including my son, Pete, who works nights in a factory for Ford Motor Company. Later that afternoon I was at his house and he said, "Mom I need to show you something." He said, "See this broken socket? I was working under a vehicle that was approximately six inches away from my face with a pneumatic socket wrench, when the socket shattered. I could actually feel the pieces fly past my face." I asked him what time this happened, and he replied around 1:30 this morning. Praise God for His goodness. *Sister Marge D'Amico - Detroit Branch # 2*

BB *The Homeless Couple*


It was 11:30 p.m. on a Tuesday night when two of us drove into the Levittown Branch parking lot with our headlights shining on a homeless couple who had been living there. As we spoke to the couple, we heard how some recent setbacks had left them temporarily homeless. The wife [who was reading the Bible in the front seat of the pickup truck] told us they had been driving down the road one night, wondering where to stay, when they saw the Church sign. The wife said she had an overwhelm-

ing feeling that they should turn in because they would be safe there. We welcomed them to attend our Church services, regardless of their attire. They were in church the very next evening. They also attended the Sunday service and continued to come regularly. They soon found a place to live, the husband found work and they were baptized in the Church. Although hardly well off from a material perspective, their lives have improved quite a bit since that night in the parking lot and they are now part of the family of God. *Brother Jerry Valenti – Levittown, Pennsylvania*

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 ordinance are you most THANKFUL for? Please feel free to tell us why.

Answer from last month: Who is your Spiritual hero? Moroni got the most votes. "My favorite hero is Moroni. to me he embodies the true meaning of a patriot. He was a spiritual leader, the leader of the army, and stood for his God, family and country." *Sister Gelsa Staley*



Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105