

# The Gospel News

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## EVANGELIST ORDAINED *By Sister Kim Komjathy*

**S**unday, June 2, 2013 will be a day long remembered, when the saints gathered at Detroit Branch #1 for the ordination of Brother Daniel Mora into the Quorum of 70 evangelists. That would have been blessing enough, but God had much more planned for us that day.

We received a wonderful surprise a week earlier when Sister Jacky Harris rendered obedience to God's calling. Brother Jerry Chambers baptized her early that morning. Afterward, our joy was complete when at the start of the meeting, hands were laid on her for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost and our new sister became part of the Body of Christ.

A second blessing came in the form of a baby blessing when Brother Jerry Benyola held his great-grandson, Giovanni Gerald Amalio, in his arms and followed the example of Christ by offering a special blessing on the child.

We were honored to have four of our brother apostles in attendance: Paul Liberto, Isaac Smith, Peter Scolaro, and Leonard Lovalvo, in addition to visiting Evangelists Miguel Bicelis and Tony Ricci as well as some of Brother Daniel's family from California. A wonderful Spirit entered into the building that was completely filled with the saints and visitors as the meeting began.

Brother John Straccia, an evangelist in the Great Lakes Region, began the ordination service by explaining that to evangelize means *"to preach or proclaim the Gospel."* He shared that Jesus Christ set the pattern we follow by choosing 70 men with the specific task of going out and sharing the good news to others, the same number of men that were called by the Lord to be priests of Israel in the days of Moses. He explained that we follow the same pattern today, looking for God to reveal those being called into this office and looking for the fruit or evidence that often appears long before the ordination occurs. Such was the case with Brother Daniel himself, having the spirit of evangelism at home and in foreign fields.

Some outstanding evangelists from the past were mentioned and the congregation was introduced to the current evangelists of the Great Lakes Region, along with their involvement in the work of the Church: Brothers Lyle Criscuolo, Lou Vitto, Frank Vitto, Frank Natoli, Tom Everett, Michael LaSala, Alex Gentile, Nephi DeMercurio, and John Straccia.

Brother Frank Natoli followed by explaining that the 70 evangelists are made up of members in the United States and from foreign lands. He further explained that when an evangelist passes, the remaining quorum members seek out God's revelation in sincere prayer to fill that quorum. This was the case for Brother Daniel. At a meeting in March of this year, when experiences regarding his calling were being read, the Spirit of God filled the room so powerfully, that the reader could hardly finish. Later, at the General Church Conference Center, when Brother Daniel entered the room of interviewing evangelists, the Spirit of God enveloped the brothers, confirming his calling.

Brother Alex Gentile continued, offering some words regarding the joys but also the often difficult work and conditions that our evangelists face in the mission fields, and some of the wonderful experiences he witnessed while doing missionary work.

*(Continued on page 7)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 B Be thankful for your BRANCHES	2 E Be thankful for His EVERLASTING love
3 T Be thankful for the TRUST you have in Him	4 H Be thankful for your HEALTH	5 A Be thankful for ANNOINTINGS	6 N Be thankful for the NEWS of His birth	7 K Be thankful He KEEPS you from failing	8 F Be thankful for your FAMILY	9 U Be thankful for God's UNDERSTANDING
10 L Be thankful for the LOVE of the saints	11 F Be thankful for the FISHERS of men	12 O Be thankful for the ORDINANCES that we enjoy	13 R Be thankful for the RICHNESS of the Gospel	14 E Be thankful for your EMPLOYMENT	15 V Be thankful for the VICTORY of Salvation	16 E Be thankful for your EDUCATION
17 R Be thankful and REJOICE daily in the hope	18 Y Be thankful that His YOKE is light	19 T Be thankful for the opportunity to TESTIFY	20 H Be thankful for God's HEAVENLY blessings	21 I Be thankful for God's INSPIRATION to the ministry	22 N Be thankful that we are NEVER alone	23 G Be thankful for the GROWTH of the Church
24 Y Be thankful for YOUR relationship with God	25 O Be thankful that you are ONE with Jesus	26 U Be thankful that we stand UNITED	27 H Be thankful for your HOME	28 A Be thankful for the ABUNDANCE we enjoy here	29 V Be VERY VERY thankful every day	30 E Be thankful that your EYES are opened

October 2013  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30 31

December 2013  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

November 2013

*"Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise,  
yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness forever"*  
(Alma 26:8).

## BTP Blast From The Past

### First Meeting in Imperial

She was told in a dream to "(b)uy the house at the crossroads and build your home on this stump." With that in mind, Sister Martha Christman's search for a new house would not be over until she and her husband, Brother Jacob, came upon a home in Imperial, Pennsylvania having a rather large stump in back whose roots had grown under the house. Her dream would be used in deciding the purchase of the house, but it would be the inclement winter weather that would prompt the saints of the McKees Rocks Branch, living in the Imperial vicinity, to begin holding meetings in the large garage next to the house 59 years ago this month on November 22. Out of town at the time, Sister Eva Moore would learn of "the preaching of the Gospel in Imperial" by letter and would consider this new work a fulfillment of the recent dream she had had of a newborn child.

Current Imperial Building ►







## Purpose • Mission • Vision

### 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**

## Word Up

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

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

*"That they all may be one; as thee, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us:  
that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21).*

**T** rue harmony is daunting! The most important grade in elementary school wasn't in Reading, 'Riting or 'Rithmetic, but in "Plays Well with Others." The only One qualified to assess "plays well with others" provided hope that this unity was both achievable and expected, and Jesus Christ set the bar just that high.

This snippet from Jesus's prayer includes a challenge to duplicate the standard He and His father set, "as thee, Father, art in me, and I in thee." Our life experiences cause this to seem unattainable as few rarely enjoy complete togetherness. Offering His prayer at the end of a life filled with difficult relationships helps us realize Christ was aware of such human frailties and in spite of this, He confidently stated, "that they ALL may be ONE."

I have found the challenge in uniting with others is never me; it's always OTHERS! "Others" think differently than I do. "Others" speak differently than I do. "Others" do things differently than I do. If "others" would give in to my way of thinking, speaking, and doing, oneness would be ours. Sound familiar? See, we're already unified in thinking we are each the other's problem.

Maybe the challenge for all of us is that all of us think the problem is all of "them." Since we are each other's "others" then each of us are each other's problem. Since all of us are to blame, then we must look higher than each other to find the answer. The answer comes in submission. The word of God (James 4:7) instructs, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil." Our desire to be right (pride-filled) is submitting to the devil, who celebrates our discord. The key is found in the original verse, "that they also might be in us." We will never find togetherness in our friendships, marriages, or other relationships until we give up our need to be right. Right (righteousness) is found within God, and if all of us (this only works if we all do so) submit to our heavenly Father, the harmony promised in Christ's prayer will be ours. We can fulfill the promise found at the end of this verse, "the world may believe." Such unbelievable love causes the unbelievers to believe because such oneness is not earthly. As such, common discord will drive them from Christ. On this, can we agree?

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

## Domestic Church — Cape Coral, FL Branch



**T**he Cape Coral Branch started when Brother Jack and Sister Bertha Constantine moved to Cape Coral, Florida in 1964. Shortly thereafter, Sister Geraldine and William Gawronski, along with Brother Ross and Sister Phil Bartuccio and their son Dennis, also moved to the area. Along with Evangelist Brother Alvin Swanson and his wife, Sister Viola, and Alvin Swanson, Jr., the mission was started. We met in the homes, the Yacht Club, and then a bank building until 1997 when our church building was constructed.

Our elders are Brothers Alvin (Skip) Swanson, Gerald Hildenbrand, and Anthony Micale. Brother Anthony and his wife, Sister Lydia, are also missionaries in Italy and spend time there spreading the Gospel (see Blessing Bit).

At present, we have 20 members. In addition to our Sunday worship service, we have M.B.A, Sunday School, and Ladies' Circle, and once a month we have a fasting and prayer meeting followed by a fellowship breakfast.

We praise God for the many healings we have had and many answered prayers for employment. We have been fasting and praying to increase our membership. We are also praying for additional ordained workers.

## International Church — Quito, Ecuador



**T**he mission in Quito, Ecuador currently has 10 baptized members and two ordained officers. The ages in the group vary from young to mature, with children aged 5-15 in attendance at any given meeting.

This is one of the few works that was established without any in-country contacts. Typically there is a contact or family member of someone in the Church who lives in the area and the Church follows up on the contact. In this case, the brothers were praying for direction, and a strong spirit prevailed to lead them to Ecuador. The Church of Jesus Christ was established there in 2006.

On the first trip there, the brothers introduced the driver who took them around to the Church. He eventually asked for his baptism, and he was the one who introduced the brothers to the first converts there. He also introduced the missionaries to the Tsáchila Indians, a native tribe located in Santo Domingo de los Colorados. This tribe is believed to be one of the oldest native tribes present in the Americas. During their initial visit, the missionaries had the opportunity to meet with one of the tribal leaders. As he was explaining the beliefs of his tribe, Apostle Isaac Smith spoke in the Gift of Tongues with the interpretation being *"Now tell him the truth!"* The brothers explained the beliefs of the Church and presented him with a Book of Mormon. He extended an invitation to the brothers to return and visit at any time.

The Committee solicits prayers for the growth of the Church there, specifically for in-country leadership and a facility to worship in.

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## The American Thanksgiving *By Elder Duane Lovalvo*

**A**s autumn arrives in North America and fallen leaves lie withering on the cold ground, it is natural for our thoughts to turn toward our national holiday, Thanksgiving Day. Americans can trace the origins of this tradition all the way back to 1621 when grateful Pilgrims and local native tribes joined in a feast to celebrate God's providence in a successful harvest. After enduring years of hardships that included religious persecution, relocation, transoceanic travel, disease, and starvation these colonists had many reasons to celebrate a turning point in their ordeal. The Plymouth Colony would survive and eventually thrive, representing the precursor for our democratic American society.

Fast forwarding nearly 400 years to the year 2013 we Americans live in the most prosperous and powerful country in the world. In spite of a struggling economy, the United States remains a country that, relative to other industrialized nations, retains an enviable standard of living for its citizens. In this internet age of computers, smart phones and tablets, rarely do we think about the success or failure of the fall harvest, except for how it might affect our grocery bill. Most of us living today weren't alive during the Great Depression and can't even imagine what it's like to truly be hungry, not knowing where your next meal is going to come from.

But, the fact remains that the good things of our society; plentiful food, modern medicine, strong national defense, technology, transportation, democratic republic, judicial system, etc. are a direct result of God's blessings upon America. The prophet Nephi saw the early American colonists and the growth of the United States of America in a vision he had more than 2,600 years ago. Here are a few excerpts:

*And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters (to the promised land) (I Nephi 13:13).*

*And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was with them (I Nephi 13:16).*

*And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone forth out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land; and I beheld a book (Bible), and it was carried forth among them (I Nephi, 13:19-20).*

The Lord clearly had a plan for blessing these brave Europeans who were fleeing religious captivity for the wilds of a new world. Through their humble efforts the New England colonies were settled. Eventually a nation was born, uniquely founded on the principles of freedom. And according to the scriptures, this great nation was formed for the primary purpose of becoming the vessel for the Restoration of Christ's pure Gospel on the Promised Land.

So, while we are in the spirit of thanking God this Holiday Season, let's take some time to praise God for our religious freedom and for the The Church of Jesus Christ, which is our vessel for freedom from our sins.

Faith Love/Charity Hope **Unity** Righteousness Congruence  
Responsibility Empathy Loyalty Leadership Honor Rights/Respect Duty

## VALUES

By Sister Natalie Pezzenti

**Value:** Unity

**Definition:** Oneness; harmony; continuity without contention; brotherhood

### Vital Verses:

*"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).*

*"And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit together in unity and in love one towards another" (Mosiah 18:21).*

### Scriptural Example:

When we think of unity, we often think of everyone having the same job or acting in the same manner. But, in 1 Corinthians 12, Apostle Paul explains to the people of Corinth that unity doesn't have to be thought of as "sameness or being identical," but rather all working together for the same purpose. He explained to the people that they all made up the body of the Church (the body of Christ). It didn't matter if they were Jew or Gentile, prisoner or not—each person was a child of God and if they all joined together to spread His gospel, they would be unified. Read the entire chapter to learn how Paul compares the Church itself to a natural body and how each of us represents a different part. I call ear!

### Life Application:

Have you ever heard the phrase, *"We're on the same page"*? It's a common catch phrase used among teammates, coworkers and even in relationships. The sentiment is simple: let's be united in our decision and work towards our goal together. Sure, Joe might think his plan is the right one. And Jane? Yep, her plan might in fact be even better. But, if Joe and Jane don't come to an agreement and move forward together, total chaos and a lot of headaches will ensue.

Let's face it: staying unified is tough. We all have our own opinions and our thoughts about how we should go about things—whether it's in our branches or missions, our families or our own life's path. But the important thing to remember is that in order to make any forward progress, we must stick together.

God didn't lay out a plan for us to be willy-nilly and haphazard about it. He gave us clear instructions to follow and reminded us not to deviate from the path. He knew, in His infinite wisdom, that if we all went along in our own way, we'd never make it to the finish line. Instead, He boiled it down to two small words: *"Follow me."* Staying unified—and keeping our hearts and minds focused on that key message—is of utmost importance to Him. He even warns us in Romans to stay away from those who cause divisions and go against His idea of unity: *"For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple"* (Romans 16:17-18).

Be unified with God and His teachings. Be unified with your brothers and sisters. Be unified in your families. Remember we're all on the same team, working together for good and His purpose.

### Points to Ponder:

- Are you working towards unity in your life, or are you still hanging onto the idea that your idea is best?
- What is the hardest part of staying unified with God? With the Saints in your branch or mission? With your family?
- Do you find yourself compromising to keep the peace or compromising because you know it's for the greater good?

*Presented originally on the Gospel Blog*

## A New Name Written Down in Glory *By Sister Rose Mercurio*

The Hopelawn, NJ Branch was blessed with a baptism and new member in our branch. When we gathered down at the Raritan Bay, the waters were very rough, but God was with our brothers. Brother Salvatore Pusillo was baptized by Brother James Calabro.

Our Presiding Elder, Brother James Calabro, welcomed the many visitors from around the Region and then Brother Leonard Benyola read from II Nephi, 31:12-14, "And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying: He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do." Brother Sal was then confirmed by Brother Bob Pizzaia of the Edison, NJ Branch.

Brother Tom Goode, visiting from the Metuchen, NJ Branch, opened our meeting. He spoke from II Corinthians, 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Brother Tom spoke about how we will still have problems in our lives when we obey Christ, but we will have the Holy Ghost with us as we go through them and we will also have our family of God to help and support us. He admonished the young people that each and every person behind them and around them will help them if they are ever in need of anything, because we are the family of God.

Brother Rick Calabro was our next speaker. He spoke of Brother Sal's grandfather, Brother Salvatore Traina. Brother Rick shared that he had a vision that morning of Brother Salvatore and his young daughter who had passed away in a car accident many years ago. In the vision, they were both looking down on young Sal this day.

Brother Jim Calabro followed, mentioning that the love of the brothers and sisters and the love of a good father and mother have brought Sal to this place today. Our new Brother Sal has been suffering a long time with Lyme Disease, and we pray God will heal him. Brother Jim explained how Sal's request for his baptism came about: Brother Jim and Sister Mitzi had planned a very impromptu gathering at their home. There they played a "present" game where a box was passed around and Brother Sal received the box last. Inside the box was a rock with a description of Christ on it. Brother Jim asked the group what they would like to see happen in 2013? When it came to Brother Sal's turn, he was very choked up, his hand raised up, and he said "I want to be baptized."

Brother Bob Pizzaia was the next speaker. He spoke about baptism in the Church, and how it is the greatest thing we can do with our lives. He reminded us that this is a powerful Church and that Jesus, Creator of heaven and earth, is the leader of our Church! We can all say, "Thank God for a blessed day."

## Evangelist Ordained *Continued from Page 1*

Brother Daniel was born and raised in the Church in Mexico, and brought his family to live in Michigan in the 1990s. Since many here had never seen Brother Daniel at work in the missionary field, comments were made as to how he becomes alive in the Spirit and Power of God, especially when he is among Spanish-speaking people. After other experiences were shared with the congregation, Brother Miguel, a close friend of Brother Daniel, shared the song "The Traveler" in Spanish.

The time had now arrived when our brother would be set apart for the work of an evangelist, having his feet washed as Jesus did to the disciples in Jerusalem. A wonderfully humble atmosphere entered the room as Brother Lou Vitto washed Brother Daniel's feet.

Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine then sang "Go Out and Tell the World" as the Apostles and Evangelists encircled Brother Mora. As the song was sung the Spirit of God touched many in a powerful way and tears began to flow.

After kneeling in prayer for the Lord's direction as to who should perform the ordination, Brother Lyle Criscuolo held the oil above Brother Daniel's head, and Apostle Paul Liberto stepped forward. Living in San Diego, CA and laboring in the Church in Mexico for many years, Brother Paul has known Brother Daniel's family for a long time. He commented that he felt like a spiritual father to Brother Daniel as he began to ordain him in prayer. The Word of

the Lord then came forth saying, "Behold it is I that called! Behold it is I that ordained!"

Brother Daniel, along with his wife and son, shared their testimonies with the congregation. Brother Daniel expressed how humbled he was at the support shown by all of the brothers and sisters, the apostles, and evangelists. He reminded us that this day was not about him, but about the Church continuing to operate as it was established to do. He shared a few of the experiences that helped shape his life, including seeing brothers and sisters from the United States come to Mexico when he was a child to give gifts to the needy where he lived. He thanked his family for their love and support and asked for our continued prayers on his behalf, quoting I Nephi 3:7, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded..."

Finally, Brother Tony Ricci addressed the congregation by explaining that the spirit of evangelism should be alive in all of us. He used the example of Jonah to illustrate how God uses people to do His work. Often, we can find excuses or reasons not to listen, but Brother Tony encouraged us to be ready and willing to listen when God calls, and more importantly, to be prepared to respond and do His work.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members of Branch #1 saints offered a wonderful surprise when they sang a song familiar to most of us, written years ago by Brother Daniel's father, the late Evangelist Brother Eugenio Mora. The song they sang was "En la Viña del Señor."



# I'm thankful for...

**I'm thankful for my toe!** As I was preparing for minor surgery on my toe, the cardiologist found that my heart rate was critically low. I was not aware of this. I needed a pacemaker immediately. If it were not for my toe, I could have dropped dead at any time.

—**Brother Richard Scaglione Sr., Monongahela, PA**

**I'm thankful for my granddaughter.** She has brought such joy to my whole family and I have the privilege of her living in my home seeing her grow. —**Sister Laurie Whitton, Plumbrook, MI**

**I am thankful for The Church of Jesus Christ and the many brothers and sisters throughout the world.** They have shown me so much love!

**I am thankful for the opportunity I have been given to know the Lord and to witness His love and protection, and to have witnessed the love and kindness He has for His children—myself included.** Also, I'm thankful to be able to teach MBA and Sunday school to some of His little ones in His church! BLESSINGS!!!!

—**Sister Tanya Wood, MI Branch #2, and Homestead, FL Mission**

**I am so thankful for the gift of Salvation.** As for this life I can say that God has provided all that I need and that I need all that I have. My family and friends are my greatest treasure.

—**Sister Flo Benyola, Yucalpa, CA Branch**

**I am thankful for my spiritual family, my health and strength, and for my relationship with God.** —**Brother Marc Zaino, Mount Laurel, NJ Branch**

**I am thankful for the Gospel.** I am thankful for Jesus Christ. I am thankful for my family.

—**Brother Donald Perello, Brunswick, ME Branch**

**We're thankful for our young people, our children, and our grandchildren—for allowing God to lead them in their lives.** They are the Church's future. —**Brother Bobby and Sister Wendy Woods, Forest Hills, FL**

**I am thankful for my family and friends.** I am also thankful for the ease God has given me in school. —**Sister Leah Churchill, Brunswick, ME Branch**

**I am so thankful for the Church, my beautiful family, and the health of my family.** —**Sister Kim Morie, Atlanta, GA Branch**

**I'm thankful God loves me and that He desires everyone to share in this joy.** He offers. God Bless You everyone! —**Brother Robert Leto, Mesa, AZ Branch**

**I am thankful that I have a home to live in. I have a job and many, many friends.** My son is working and healthy. He just had a very bad scare. God is sustaining us. —**Sister Pearl Trotter and son Anthony, Modesto, CA Branch**

**I am and will be forever grateful for the Lord healing my son Allen of cancer and opsoelonus myoclonus syndrome (OMS).** It has been amazing to see this miracle unfold before our eyes. Every day we watch his life being restored in every capacity. God is so faithful and good! —**Sister Heylen Griffith, Forest Hills, FL Branch**

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## I am thankful for God's love.

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**I thank God for the unity of the brothers and sisters in our branch and God's continual manifestation of His Holy Spirit through the gift of tongues and the Word of the Lord that comes forth.** He has blessed our branch with many healings including my own and I am thankful for His Goodness, Grace, and Mercy that He has extended to us.

—**Brother Tom Staley, Forest Hills, FL Branch**

**I am so thankful to GOD to have my children and grandchildren in The Church of Jesus Christ.** —**Sister Lori Difele, Lake Worth Branch**

**I am thankful I am part of this awesome Gospel.** I am privileged I have a God that I can turn to always. Not only do I have a biological family, but I have a spiritual family for support. —**Sister Lorraine Rose, Leesburg, FL Mission**

**I am so unbelievably absolutely thankful that the Lord has seen fit to include me in His plan.** He leads me every minute of every day and I am blessed to be in His service. It means everything to me. I am also thankful for my kids and family. —**Brother Phil Brickhouse, Cape Coral, FL**

**I am thankful to know that God loves me, my husband, and son, and for everything God blesses me with.** —**Sister Denise Bodo, Branch #2, MI**

**I am most thankful for being called into The Church of Jesus Christ, for my beautiful natural and spiritual family, and for the general good health of my family.** —**Brother Sai Rios, Levittown, PA Branch**

**I'm so thankful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ being in the city of Spartanburg, South Carolina!** I am thankful for Godly parents, my beautiful husband, children, and grandchildren. I am thankful for being a member of the most awesome organization our Lord and Savior placed on the earth, The Church Of Jesus Christ!

**I am most thankful for the Spirit of the Lord in my life.** His protection for myself and my family, and the mercy and love that He continually shows us! —**Sister Patricia**

**I am thankful for my life, family, employment, trials and tribulations, my Church family and friends, and for God giving His only Son to save a sinner like me.** —**Sister Stasha Chaires, Quincy, FL Branch**

**I am thankful for God's protection in trying times, the strength He gives me, and The Church of Jesus Christ (a solid foundation).**

—**Sister Denise Dickson, Branch 1, MI**

**I am thankful for healthy days, which enable me to do good things for my natural and spiritual family.** I didn't appreciate what I had until I lost it. —**Sister Dianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch**

**I am thankful for the way the Lord is speaking to us directly through tongues and the interpretation of them.** He is also speaking to us by giving us hymns that encourage us. —**Sister Gelsa Staley, Forest Hills, FL Branch**

**I'm incredibly thankful that God handpicked a mate for me.** He knew exactly who I needed and I couldn't be happier. How wonderful is our Lord! —**Sister Natalie Pezzenti, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission**

**I am thankful for salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Love of God, which made our salvation possible, and the Word of God, without which we would be lost.**

—**Brother Joshua Boruch, Levittown, PA Branch**

**I am thankful for music.** As the song says, "Music takes away the pain!" —**Brother Chuck Maddox Jr., Lake Worth, FL Branch**



## David in the Land of the Philistines *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

**F**acing the jealous rage of King Saul, David purposed within his heart, *"there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand."* What follows are five amazing facts:

- 1** Fleeing with 600 of his men and their families, David ironically found safety in the land of Israel's most bitter enemy, the Philistines, and their King, Achish.
- 2** Bearing Goliath's sword, David first went to Gath, the hometown of Goliath.
- 3** Finding grace under Achish, David and all in his company were given the city of Ziklag to possess—which, interestingly, would remain from that point in time under Judah's control.
- 4** As subjects to King Achish, David and his men successfully battled the Geshurites, Gezrites, and Amalekites, who were all enemies to both the Philistines and Israelites.
- 5** But, when war was made against Israel, the princes of the Philistines insisted that Achish dismiss David, saying, "Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?"

Rather than fight Israel, history shows that David would become her greatest earthly king.

I Samuel 21: 8-9; 27:1-9; Chapter 29



## Ladies' Uplift Circle News

### Second to God *By Sister Angela Yoder*

**A**s women, we often find ourselves completely consumed with caring for others. There are so many things that demand our attention and devotion: our children, spouses, and employers, not to mention the other distractions of life. It seems that we live in constant movement, rushing to meet the expectations of those around us. Many believe that if they can just find the right system, they can get everything on their 'To-do' list done. But sometimes reprioritizing their tasks and juggling their appointments is simply exhausting. My experience tells me that the key to balancing our lives begins with clearly identifying our priorities. Easier said than done, right? Captain Moroni, when he raised the Title of Liberty, may have given us a key to help us with that. Remember the words that were written, *"In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children..."* (Alma 46:12). I believe that these words were written in this specific order for a reason, to remind us that our God must always come first. We have to be very careful not to let the demands of life become more important or a higher priority than our personal relationship with God.

But when you are busy from before sunrise to well past sundown every day, it's easy to lose sight of our priorities. In this hustle and bustle world, you may find that you are asking yourself, *"Am I really putting God first?"* Sure, it's easy to say a quick prayer as you roll out of bed, and it might not even be so hard to read a quick verse of scripture with that first cup of coffee, but is that enough? Consider this: I believe that by treating each person with love and respect and considering

the needs of others before mine, I am following the example set forth by Jesus. He spent His entire life putting the needs of others before His own.

Is it worth it? Is it worth the effort we put forth to make the lives of our loved ones more comfortable? Is it worth the sleep deprivation, the endless hours spent in 'Mom's taxi' and the countless volunteer time spent chaperoning field trips and activities? **ABSOLUTELY!** As we are running around taking care of the needs of others we are constantly being blessed by God because, *"... when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God"* (Mosiah 2:17).

But just because we are busy, we must not forget to thank God for His blessings. In I Thessalonians 5:18 it tells us, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* God gave us a gift of 86,400 seconds each day. How easy is it for us to use just one of those precious seconds to say, *"Thank you, God."*

So today, as you are wondering how you are going to get everything checked off that list, take a moment to take a deep breath, offer a prayer, and remember that everything else comes second to God.

*"Say, oh how are you living, what rules your life? As for blessings you hunger and thirst. Remember the lessons once taught to me, God must always, must always come first."* ~"Second to God," Songs of Zion



## ***"Be Thankful, Praise God, Sing a Song of Praise, Thank God for Everything"***

Dear Friends:

**D** Tonight I woke up at 4:55 a.m. A song of beauty and praise was running through my mind. Music has great power. It was dark and cold outside, but I felt safe and joyful. And very close to God.

The Bible tells us that music is a perfect way to fight off evil thoughts, bad moods, and bad spirits. David the shepherd boy came from a tiny village in the country to a king's palace and to a king's throne. Playing his harp, he composed beautiful songs of praise to the Lord.

When he was just a young person, his family needed him to watch their flocks of sheep by himself, far from his neighborhood. In the night a bear came to kill the sheep; a lion came another time. He killed both, with the help of God.

But can you imagine how terrifying it would be to be in the dark, with only campfire and candles as light, and hear those great beasts growling and crashing around on the rocks and bushes, sneaking in close to you and your sheep? Can you imagine the fear and bleating of the sheep as they smelled their enemies, bear and lion, and crowded around each other hunting for safety? There were no guns, and no help.

What did this boy, a singer and shepherd, do? The Bible tells us he used his slingshot to kill the animals and save himself and the sheep. Then he rejoiced! He composed (made up) joyful, excited songs of beauty to praise God. And he praised God!

When the great King Saul disobeyed God and was troubled by evil, sad, wild spirits they called for David.

David would sit in the room, play his harp, and sing beautiful words of praise and thankfulness to God. His songs and love for God chased out the bad spirits.

They did that then and they can do it now. It is very important what kind of music you listen to. Music is a powerful tool to use against times of sadness, times of loneliness, times of sorrow and despair.

You can change your mood, force bad spirits away, and bring hope into your heart by praising God. Try it.

The next time you are upset, sing a Song of Zion. Listen to a CD of the Restoration. Listen to a CD of gorgeous, heart touching music.

Fall asleep listening to hymns, as I did this night. Then wait to see if you wake up with a song in your heart.

Life can be so hard. Use spiritual music as a tool to fight off the sad moods, the bad moods, the when you are lonely and scared.

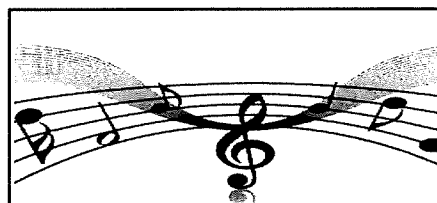
Don't listen to bad music, and remember, songs of praise are great tools and great resistors. Feelings pass and every day you have a fresh new beginning. Ask Jesus for help. Tell Him all your fears, and put a song of praise in your mind and heart to give you hope and joy.

With care and love,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

SING	YOU
A	FRESH
SONG	COURAGE
OF	DAVID
PRAISE	KILLED
AND	BEAR
IT	LION
WILL	AND
GIVE	GIANT

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



### **Sing These Songs of Praise When You Feel Down**

*Jesus Loves Me*

*Don't Let Anybody  
Take Your Crown*

*Sing Glory*

*Keeping Step*

*God is So Good*

*In the Army of the  
True and Living God*

*Let's Just Praise the Lord*

*I've Got the Joy*

*Isn't the Love of Jesus  
Something Wonderful*

*There's No Rainbow  
Can Shine Like Jesus*

## A WONDERFUL SURPRISE *By the India Committee*

Several years ago, a Christian family from a village named Puchettipedu, India heard the Restored Gospel for the first time. They heard about a Church that was named after the Son of God called The Church of Jesus Christ, and although that was important, what they heard next was even more remarkable.

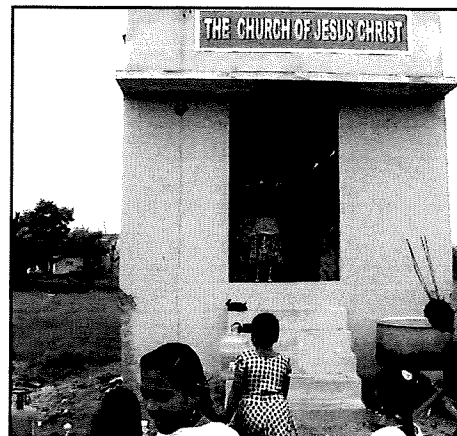
They had never been taught that they needed to repent and be baptized by immersion, but when they heard it, they became convicted of its truth; not just one or two of them, but the entire family. So great was their joy in finding this new Church, that the family donated a piece of land near the village for the construction of a new meeting place.

For a year afterward, the land remained idle—we had no funds to help. In late 2011, the India Committee was able to provide some funds that allowed them to lay the foundation for the building. After almost another year passed, additional funds were provided to continue the project, knowing that although we gave all we had at the time, it was not sufficient to complete the building.

In June of this year, we were surprised to learn that the building was now complete, and received pictures showing what they had accomplished. We were overjoyed and well pleased to learn that the people of the village, along with some saints from another area of the Church in India, had raised the additional funds needed to complete their new Church home. This raising of funds, especially among poor villagers, was nothing less than a miracle and has rarely ever happened in India.

On August 14, 2013 over 150 people came to celebrate God's goodness and dedicate the new building. Although we have 15 members in Puchettipedu today, we expect many more to come now that we have a building.

This newly completed building is the twenty-first that The Church of Jesus Christ has constructed in India. We thank God for this, but we still need another 48 buildings to have a place for all of our congregations in India to meet. With the limited funds that are available to the committee, such a task seems impossible, but Jesus told his disciples, "...and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:20).



## Thanksgiving

This issue is the perfect opportunity to express how thankful we are for the support shown for The Gospel News. A personal thank you to all of those who contribute each month to make this a blessing to the membership. Thank you to all of you who answer our Question of the Month or send in and share a testimony for our special articles. Thank you also to those of you who have reached out to tell us how much you are enjoying the paper each month. Most of all, thank you to God for helping us put it together and blessing us with the inspiration, ability, and information that we need month after month. We serve an Awesome God and He continually makes Himself evident through The Gospel News.

God Bless you, your families, and your Branches. May the message of thankfulness be prevalent in your hearts and minds now and throughout the upcoming Holiday Season. We are so richly blessed to have a personal relationship with our Creator and to be part of His Gospel and Church.

With Great Love,

*Sister Carolynn O'Connor and  
The Gospel News Staff*

*In him was life; and the life was the light of men... John 1:4*



# Blessing Bits

**EO** Proverbs 14:23 *"In all labor there is profit..."*

In April 2013 Sister Lydia and I spent over ten days in the missionary field in Italy, specifically at our branch on the Island of Sardinia. This was the first time Sister Lydia and I were in the work alone without an evangelist, but the Lord provided. We had a wonderful and blessed trip, holding meetings every day and services on the two Sundays we were there. The Saints in Sardinia are very faithful and interested in learning. There were a few unbaptized visitors who attended. We felt the blessings of the Lord every day. The theme was centered on committing ourselves to the Lord. On the last Sunday a young woman, Alessandra, requested baptism. This was my first baptism since becoming a minister. What a blessing it was to go into the water with our new convert! During the trip I had been suffering from a very painful intestinal disorder, and Sister Lydia had been suffering from a skin problem on her hands for three months. When we returned home the day after the baptism, the problem with my intestines was gone. I was in disbelief. Soon, Sister Lydia called me and said *"Tony, I cannot believe it; my hands are perfect!"* Oh, how can we ever thank Him or praise our Lord enough for all He does for us? When I took our new sister into the water, the Lord took away her sins and my pain. Sister Lydia, who had worked so hard during the trip, was rewarded as well. As

the song says *"Count your blessings, name them one by one."* It is worth it all.—Brother Anthony J. Micale, Cape Coral, FL Branch

**BB** Psalm 121:3 *"...he that keepeth thee will not slumber"*

My son Jackson was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in December 2010. One night about 10 months after his diagnosis, I had been up very late grading papers. I typically go to bed early, so this was unusual. As I was heading to bed, I passed Jackson's room and just stopped. Something told me I needed to check his blood sugar. When I checked, his blood sugar was 59. I gave him juice and rechecked 15 minutes later. It had dropped to 38, which is dangerously low. It took two hours that night to get his blood sugar back up to normal. If the Lord had not prompted me to check him when He did, I'm certain that Jackson would have crashed. His sugar was dropping very fast during a time when we all should have been asleep.—Sister Shannon Hamet, Detroit, MI Branch #2

**BB** Psalm 40:13 *"...O Lord, make haste to help me."*


What began as a fun, school-sponsored bowling event quickly turned into a panicked search for my missing purse. With my mind racing about the worst case scenarios, I paced through the crowds

and searched through the trash cans, hoping my ordinary brown purse would amazingly catch my eye. While walking the premises of the bowling alley, the director of the event suggested I call my parents and put a hold on my credit card. This suggestion allowed the severity of "the case of the missing purse" to become an immensely overwhelming realization, as the thought of all that I would need to replace entered my mind: wallet, ID, the keys to my car, the church, our house, and my dorm, as well as the possibility of my car being taken. After the phone call, many tears, and a frantic hour-long search, I realized I had never prayed for God's help. I then said the simplest prayer, *"God, help me find it."* I walked back into the bowling alley to continue the search and within two minutes, I found my purse on the other side of the alley. I do not know why it was moved or who moved it, but I do know that God heard my prayer and instantly answered it.—Sister Alyssa Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

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

**Q** Question for this month: What is your favorite Christmas song?

**A** Answer from last month: *What is the sweetest part of being part of the family of God?* The sweetest part of being a member of the family of God is the love God has poured into my heart. The caring and concern I feel for my brothers and sisters is mutual as we pray for one another always.—Sister Lorraine Rose, Leesburg Mission, FL



*In him was life; and the life was the light of men... John 1:4*