



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Blast From The Past  
Page 2

October Calendar  
Page 2

Word Up  
Page 3

Meet the Branch  
Page 4

Editorial Viewpoint  
Page 5

Topic Series—Values  
Page 6

Branch/ Mission News  
Page 7

GMBA News  
Page 8

5 Amazing Facts  
Page 9

Ladies' Uplift Circle  
News  
Page 9

Children's Corner  
Page 10

Blessing Bits  
Page 12

**Note:** When two writers—not knowing each other's intentions—submitted articles on the same subject for this issue, the editor felt that God had a message to share. This month's editorial tells of the amazing spiritual relationship that Christopher Columbus had with the Lord, while the account below takes a look at how God used this man—and the circumstances in his life—to fulfill a divine plan.

## Columbus: an Instrument in God's Hands

By Elder Anthony Sclaro

*"And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about his great and eternal purposes; and by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise and bringeth about the salvation of many souls"*  
(Alma 37:7).

**T**he eternal truth of this scripture rings loud and clear when we see ancient prophecies fulfilled in historical figures and events. Such is the case with Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), whose discovery changed the course of history and played a large part in laying the groundwork for the Restoration of the Gospel. Historical and biographical sources accessed on the Internet indicate that the Lord began working on Christopher—shaping and forging his life—when he went to sea for the first time at the tender age of 10. His life experiences, together with world events that unfolded during Columbus' lifetime, testify of God working all things together to allow a man who loved and served Him to do a marvelous work.

**Trade Interrupted**—It is interesting to note that in 1453, two years after Columbus was born, the Ottoman Empire effectively blockaded the overland route that for centuries had permitted the exchange of goods between Europe and the Orient. While battles waged against the advancing Muslims, the kingdoms of Europe hoped to break the trade monopoly by securing a marine route to the Far East. These circumstances bore heavily on the social and political climate of Columbus' time.

**Seasoned Mariner**—Born in Genoa, part of Italy today but then a kingdom in its own right, Christopher's early travels took him throughout the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas, to England, Ireland, and Iceland, and as far south as the Gold Coast of Africa. Having experienced tempests and survived at least one shipwreck (he clung to a large oar and paddled six miles to shore), Columbus grew to become one of the "intrepid Sailors," as Walt Whitman penned, "the few, very choice [...] whom fate can never surprise, nor death dismay." In his own words, Christopher possessed a "desire to know the secrets of the world." He made Portugal—where his brother Bartolomeu lived—his home base as he continued to sail.

**Family of Navigators**—While in Portugal Christopher and his brother, a map-maker, made a study of contemporary and historical writings on astronomy and geography. Columbus later moved to Porto Santo, in the Madeira archipelago off the coast of Africa. His father-in-law, a sea captain and at one time governor of this island, left a collection of sea charts when he died. Christopher learned that unlike the latitudes of Portugal and the Azores, where the prevailing winds blew eastward, winds and ocean currents in these southerly regions flowed westward over the Atlantic. The fact that the waters of the Atlantic flow clockwise in a giant circle between the hemispheres was not commonly known in Columbus' time.

(Continued on page 11)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2 Plan a trip to Conference next weekend	3	4 Turn your life over to God's will completely	5
6	7 Can you be the next Columbus? Pray for direction	8	9 Pray for the upcoming Conference	10	11 General Church Conference begins	12 General Church Conference
13 General Church Conference	14	15 Don't forget our young people! Reach out	16	17	18	19 Commit to fast and pray more often
20	21 Pray for the work in Guatemala- pg 4	22	23 Praise God today for the opportunity to serve Him	24	25 Pray for the Perry Mission- pg 4	26
27 What work does God have in store for you?	28	29	30	31 Support your local MBA and Ladies' Circle this month	1	2
September 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	October 2013					
November 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						

*"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2).*

## BTP Blast From The Past

### Sister Evelyn Perdue

She had been sick for years, had undergone many surgeries, and was now bedridden. But, one morning—59 years ago this month—as she lay fully awake and in much pain, Sister Evelyn Perdue would be given an experience that would not only change the course of her life, but open the door to a new work of the Church. Up until that time, neither she nor her husband, Brother Edward, had cared to work for the Lord in Mexico. Though God had given them direction, Sister Evelyn had resisted, feeling this as something she could not do. Then early one morning everything changed. *"All of a sudden I felt myself moving,"* she recounted. *"My spirit left my body, and I was going through space."* Then, finding herself before the Lord, she learned that if she were to be healed, she would have to obey His will. For it was God's will, for Sister Evelyn and Brother Edward, for them to start the Church in Mexico.

Brother Edward and Sister Evelyn Perdue ►





## Publication Notice

*The Gospel News* (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly, 12 issues per year at \$21.00 per subscription. It is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ, with headquarters at 525 Sixth Street, Monongahela, PA 15063, and published by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House at 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. The Editor is Carolynn O'Connor, 8007 Schneider Road, Manchester, MI 48158. The Assistant Editor is Donald Ross, 142 Wickham Drive, Monaca, PA 15061. 1800 copies are printed, 1655 subscriptions are paid, and a total of 1655 are mailed monthly.

**Subscription letters were sent out in August.  
A quick response is greatly appreciated!**

## 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"!*

**"Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32).**

**W**hy does the wife of someone in the Old Testament have relevance today? Sometimes I can forget what I walked into a room to retrieve, let alone "Remember Lot's wife." Let's look deeper into this verse and decide if it's worth remembering.

Lot (Genesis 11-19) was the nephew of Abraham (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob), living in Sodom (sinful city). God was angry with the townspeople for their sinfulness and commanded His chosen few to abandon Sodom and "Look not behind thee" (Don't look back). As Lot and his family fled from God's destruction of the city, Lot's wife turned around and looked. She was destroyed instantly (turned into a "pillar of salt").

Christ was encouraging forward movement. Temptation whispers from behind to look back at what might have been or what used to be. This can dissuade us from progressing along the path God intends for our life. So often the voices are the triplets, "Woulda, Coulda, and Shoulda." They might be heard, "If only I woulda....", "I really think I coulda...." or "I probably shoulda...." They do this, inflicting confusion and doubt.

Christ used this allusion to address the critical issue of reflecting on the sinful choices of our past to consider returning to the things which want to entrap us as they once had. Years ago a sister had a warning dream, seeing herself walking along a straight path. There were beautiful flowers growing beside the walkway and she found herself continually looking back as she passed them, finally giving in to the temptation to stop. She stepped off the path and picked a few. As she smelled their beautiful aroma, she glanced down and noticed the vines of the flowers slowly wrapping themselves around her ankles, dragging her into the soft, mucky ground. So often a misstep is borne in a simple glance back.

Jesus was reminding us He was the best choice we ever made. He was covering our ears, shielding us from the enticing voices behind us, allowing us to hear Him clearly, "Remember when we first began our walk together? Remember how My love burned deep in your heart? Remember the promise I made to you to save your soul? Remember the promise you made at the water's edge to repay My love for the rest of your life?" If you keep moving forward, ignoring the voices behind you, listening to the voice ahead of you, you'll hear Christ's voice growing louder and clearer, the closer you get, "Remember Lot's wife; don't look back."

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

## Domestic Church — Perry, Ohio Mission



**T**he Perry and Cleveland (Euclid), Ohio Missions merged in 2003 to become one mission in the Lord's vineyard. At one time these two missions were branches in the Gospel and many of our ministers and evangelists today began their service to the Lord here. Over the years, the ministry of these branches served as mentors for young men who have gone out and taken their place today, and the Lord has since called many of the pillars home to their reward. Located about a third of the way between Cleveland, Ohio and Erie, Pennsylvania, our building has the distinction of being the closest in the Church to the historic Kirtland Temple, dedicated in 1836 by Joseph Smith, only 15 miles away. As a small group of 18, we are now in the process of rebuilding our mission to once again become a branch, and we trust in the Lord for His direction. We are blessed with singing in our meetings and many times, even though the group is small, it sounds as though the building is filled to capacity. As we grow in the Lord we have been blessed on many occasions. We meet for Ladies' Circle once a month, enjoy a luncheon every other month where we can have fellowship after our Sunday service, and have an annual picnic on Labor Day. We have also held singingspirations to invite community, family, and friends.

## International Church — Guatemala, Central America



**I**n 1986 Sister Darlene Marroquin had a vision while in the Anaheim, California Branch. *"I saw my husband and myself in a Guatemala marketplace that had many fruit and vegetable stands. One fruit caught my eye; it was ugly and covered with thorns. Luis picked it up and told me not to worry, that everything would be fine. He broke it open, and inside was a beautiful white fruit. We both tasted the fruit and it was like nothing I had ever tasted before. I was so excited that I wanted everyone around us to taste it also. I held it out to others around me."* (In 1992 the Marroquins saw the fruit mentioned in the vision while in a marketplace in Guatemala City). An investigatory trip was made in December 1986, with additional trips taking place over the next six years. The first six baptisms in Guatemala were performed in May 1988, during which several people saw a humbly dressed man watching from the water's edge, overcome with emotion. Later, the saints were given to know that this man was a Nephite witnessing the first baptism in this land in almost 2,000 years.

The work in Guatemala was officially organized on December 31, 1992. Today there are approximately 30 members, most of whom are over the age of 30, with very few children attending. The saints meet in a rented building in Guatemala City. Workers are needed to spread the Gospel in this land. Please continue to remember this work in your prayers.

### The Holy Spirit and Christopher Columbus *By Elder Don Ross*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Carolynn O'Connor  
carolynn@elapack.com  
734-424-0213

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
Donald Ross  
donross010@comcast.net  
412-424-2225

**CONSULTANTS**  
Alex Gentile  
Paul Liberto  
Leonard A. Lovalvo  
Anthony Scolaro  
Cathy Gentile

**OFFICE MANAGER/TYPESSETTER**  
Erma Draskovich

**CHURCH COPYRIGHT PUBLICATIONS**  
Cathy Gentile

**DESIGN & LAYOUT**  
Ken Lombardo

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
Karen Pandone

**QUORUM OF 70 EDITOR**  
Carl Frammolino  
frammonio@comcast.net  
724-375-1459

**GMBA EDITOR**  
Daniel Stone  
dpstone01@gmail.com  
954-778-6467

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**  
Angela Yoder  
angelaanderyoder@hotmail.com  
412-526-4711

#### REGION EDITORS

**ATLANTIC COAST**  
Michael Zaino  
mrzaino35@gmail.com  
732-289-4191

**GREAT LAKES**  
Kim Komjathy  
komjathy@wowway.com  
248-371-9208

**MIDWEST**  
Natalie Pezzenti  
natalie.pezzenti@gmail.com  
513-659-3694

**PACIFIC**  
Michelle Watson  
mhutt82@aol.com  
480-276-2697

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**  
Martha Gehly  
mcgehly@embargmail.com  
540-631-0787

**SOUTHEAST**  
Dianne Maddox  
dianne29@aol.com  
937-545-5786

**SOUTHWEST**  
Anthony Scolaro  
ajs@cox.net  
732-259-3861

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 15601-1998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998.

**W**e read in 1 Nephi 13:12, "And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land." Who was the man? In The Church of Jesus Christ we understand this to be none other than Christopher Columbus. Our nation commemorates him with Columbus Day during the month of October.

Allow me to quote from a section of my Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) PACE World History Course (Christianbook.com): "Christopher Columbus definitely held a firm belief in God and depended on Him all through his life. His name, 'Christopher,' means 'Christbearer.' It is said that one day as a small boy praying in church, he vowed that he would live up to that name and be a 'Christbearer.' He became convinced that every Christian could and should 'bear' the teaching of Christ wherever he went. As he grew to manhood, Columbus came to believe that He had been chosen by God to spread the Gospel to other lands. He believed that the 'Holy Spirit' helped him understand the Bible, navigation, and geography so that he could fulfill his personal destiny."

The PACE book goes on to speak of Columbus' scientific and geographic understanding being based on God's Word, especially Isaiah 40:22, which states, "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth..." He wrote a book entitled *el Libro de las Profecias* (The Book of Prophecies) that gave his views about Biblical teachings on geography, people of other lands, and prophecies of the Book of Revelation.

Throughout his voyages, Columbus made constant references to the Lord. He opened his journal of his first voyage with the words, "In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ..." He led his crew in singing hymns of praise to God when they first sighted land. He named that first island "San Salvador," which means "Holy Saviour." Certainly Christopher Columbus was a God-fearing man trying to be of service to his Lord; but perhaps the best statement of his Christianity is his own testimony:

Columbus left many statements in his journals and other personal writings in which he boldly declared that he believed the Lord directed him in his great undertaking. Referring to his first voyage to America, he once stated, "With a hand that could be felt, the Lord opened my mind to that fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. This was the fire that burned within me. Who can doubt that this fire was not merely mine, but also of the Holy Spirit?" (West and Ling 105; Columbus most often referred to the New World as the Indies.)

From the diary of Christopher Columbus, we read his inspiring testimony.

"It was the Lord who put it into my mind (I could feel His hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with the rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures.

"I am a most noteworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous Presence.

"For the execution of the voyage to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics, or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied.

"No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord, but it all happens according to His sovereign will, even though He gives advice. Oh, what a gracious Lord, who desires that people perform for Him those things for which He holds Himself responsible! Day and night, moment by moment, everyone should express their most devoted gratitude to Him."

Our Faith and Doctrine, Article 2 states:

We believe the Holy Ghost to be:

- The mind of the Father and of the Son: Bible: 1 Cor. 2:16.
- The unseen power and glory which emanates from God and can, at His will, manifest itself in various forms: Bible: Matt. 3:16; Book of Mormon: 1 Nephi 11:11.
- The witness of God: Bible: 1 John 5:6; Book of Mormon: 3 Nephi 11:35-36; 3 Nephi 28:11.
- The gift of God: Bible: Acts 2:38; John 14:26; Book of Mormon: 3 Nephi 19:13.
- Pure and holy, just and good, omnipresent, full of light and knowledge, and a discernor of thoughts and intents of mankind.

May we be steadfast and always found in His service, enjoying His gifts and Holy Spirit!

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

## VALUES

By Sister Erin Light

**Value:** Hope

**Definition:** A confident expectation of fulfillment

**Vital Verses:**

- *"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil" (Hebrews 6:19).*
- *"And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you that ye shall have hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in him according to the promise. Wherefore, if a man have faith he must need have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope" (Moroni 7:41-42).*

**Scriptural Example:** While there are many scriptural examples to choose from, Abraham's display of hope stands out. At the age of 75, God promised Abraham to make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the heavens. There was only one problem. Sarah was barren and Abraham was, well, old. Didn't matter to Abraham, though. The scriptures tell us he *"believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness"* (Genesis 15:6). You see, hope does not rest in what is possible. Hope rests in our trustworthy, constant God and His unfailing promises. For 25 more years, Abraham sustained his hope and relied on the Lord until God's promise was fulfilled and he truly became *"a father of many nations"* (Genesis 17:5).

**Life Application:** As a society, we often define hope as wishful thinking, a feeling that something desired may happen. "I really hope I get a promotion," or "I hope the Heat win the NBA finals!" We'd like those things to happen, but we might not have faith they will come to pass. But this is not our Christian hope.

Hope is scripturally defined as an immovable object: an anchor "sure and steadfast." It is an absolute, without-a-doubt guarantee of promises God will fulfill. But what does "hope as an anchor of the soul" mean for our lives? An anchor prevents a boat from drifting due to wind or current. The sheer weight of an anchor placed on the seafloor is enough to make sure a craft tethered high above at the waterline is secured. Our hope is designed like that anchor, with enough mass and holding power to steady us through trials.

We face the trials of passing storms, but we are still fastened spiritually in the same place after the storm passes. In addition, our hope is interconnected *"to our faith in him according to the promise"* (Moroni 7:41). Hope is actually faith in the future tense (verse 42)! Earlier in this values series we learned faith is the substance, or proven actions, of things hoped for. Faith is what we use to have hope. And our hope, our confidence in God's promises, is what causes us to use our faith (knowledge) to rely on the Lord.

**Points to Ponder:**

- How do we effectively use our hope when God isn't answering our prayers?
- Worldly definitions of hope encourage us to hang onto something that may or may not happen. Have you ever put your hope in something that is totally out of reach? How does that compare to the hope God has given us?
- How do we increase our faith to support hope? Or vice versa?

*Presented originally on the Gospel Blog*

## A Wonderful Testimony Victor versus Victim

**M**y name is Victor. I am 31 years old and I had an accident on February 20, 2006 that changed my life forever. I fell from a roof three stories high while I was working, and I have been in a wheelchair ever since. After the fall, I did not have any friends or family; I felt alone. Because of the enemy, my life was in utter chaos for 20 years. I decided to go to church to try and remove the emptiness from my life.

I enjoyed going to churches where I did not know anyone because they did not know anything about my life but in reality, I was looking for something more. I was not planning on going to any other church, but one Sunday in 2011, I met The Church of Jesus Christ in Lake Worth, Florida.

I came to The Church of Jesus Christ thanks to a friend of a friend. When I first started coming, I no longer felt ashamed of my wheelchair. I met such sweet and pure people, and I felt unworthy to be there; I wanted to leave. However, after one of the services, Brother Chuck Maddox and I started to talk about baptism. I told him that I felt unworthy to be baptized and he said, *"It's okay; we are all unworthy. The only difference is when we leave the water, we're forgiven of our past and if we fail again, He forgives us if we repent."* This conversation changed everything for me.

The next week, I was baptized and in that moment, I felt God like I have never felt Him before, and I know that everyone who was around me felt the same. After I was baptized, I started to study the scriptures more and God has been with me ever since. The Holy Spirit has started to change my character, my relationships, and the way I think. Today, I feel like I have been given the best possible gift from Heaven. What many people think of as impossible, with Christ, is possible.

**Editor's Note:** Brother Victor is a wonderful example to all of us of truly being a victor rather than a victim. Even though wheelchair bound, he lives alone, besides a "companion dog," Maxine, recently acquired through a social service agency. He has overcome great obstacles in his life, yet he always has a smile on his face and is one of the first to offer his testimony of thanks every Sunday. After sending in this article, Brother Victor wrote to us to tell us that after seven years of legal dispute, on August 22, he had his final deposition and thank God everything that he was waiting for has ended. He still has further legal challenges ahead but is confident that God will be with him through every step. We thank God for Brother Victor!



## Oklahoma Spring Outreach 2013

"... a tempest of hail and a destroying storm"

By Evangelist George Kovacic

The above quotation from Isaiah is what preceded us before our latest trip to Oklahoma. We arrived in Oklahoma City on June 1, hoping that the devastation caused by several high-powered tornadoes over the preceding weeks would not hinder the work the Lord has directed the Church to do among Joseph's descendants.

Despite what the fury of nature let loose on the population of that area of the Midwest, we drove almost 6,000 miles throughout the states of Oklahoma and Missouri. Evangelists Wayne Martorana, Nephi DeMercurio, Bob McDonnell, and George Kovacic, and Elders Gary Coppa and Ron Morle made up the traveling group. We visited over 40 Native American tribal offices and individuals. We ended the trip very excited, giving the honor and glory to the Lord for the success He gave us. By the time we finished, almost all of the existing and new contacts had expectations of us visiting them again when we return in the fall.

On Saturday evening we had our usual prayer session, but with a different slant. One of the brothers felt we should offer prayer for each team, rather than each individual. We felt the Lord's Spirit upon us. We were going out two by two, with three teams this time so we could cover more area and make more contacts.

Sunday morning we traveled to meet with Brother John Andrews, the only member of the Church in the state, for a feet-washing service. This was to be his first one in over 20 years. The Lord blessed us mightily as we enjoyed this blessed ordinance.

This meeting set the tone for what was to be one of our most successful trips since we started laboring among the Seed of Joseph in Oklahoma in 2009. At that time, Brother Mark Kovacic and I had no idea that within a few years four more brothers would join us in covering the state and visiting each and every Native American Tribal organization (35 in all). But it did not stop there, because we met individuals and families who invited us into their homes, wanting to hear more about this message that was unlike any they had heard before.

So how do you measure success when you are dealing with a people who for generations have struggled against great odds?

Let's first look at the definition of the word success; *the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors; the accomplishment of one's goals.*

Our endeavor was to meet as many Native People as possible and to share the message of the Restored Gospel with them. On the surface that may sound easy. While speaking with one Tribal leader, he plainly asked us, "Don't you find it difficult trying to speak with Native People?" We told him yes; sometimes it is very difficult speaking with Native People.

So why do we do it? Let us look at this scripture:

*"But a seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and unto him (the Choice Seer) will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins—and not to the bringing forth my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them"* (II Nephi 3:11).

We are compelled by this scripture to pave the way; to make sure that as many as possible at least hear the word prior to the coming of the Choice Seer. But that is not all: In spreading

the word, we build relationships with people. In building relationships, we share the love of Christ. In sharing the love of Christ, we find that the Native People want to experience the blessings of God just like you and I.

The blessings of God were poured out on one particular Native family during this trip when a closing prayer in a home meeting became an introduction to a season of anointing and the Spirit of God filled the room.

On another occasion, a handkerchief was anointed for a Native woman who had been greatly afflicted. She later testified that she already received healing comfort from it. How merciful the Lord is toward His children!

We are also building relationships which we hope will one day help us with interactions with a Tribe interested in programs such as a vacation bible school. This may be either in Oklahoma or in one of our own regions or branches; all this is yet to be determined, but we see the hand of the Lord moving.

Please pray for this work as the Lord opens many doors for us and we joyfully labor with these people, many whom we have come to love as our own family. We have so much to do yet, but our prayer is that the Lord will continue to labor with us.

## HIS WILL

By Sister Patricia Saragosa

At times I feel so weary  
And often do despair.  
I long to be immortal,  
Without my mortal cares.

I grasp for higher meaning—  
A purpose for my life.  
Answers I cannot seem to find  
To satisfy my strife.

Then, suddenly, I feel it—  
His love from deep within.  
I know He'll never fail me,  
Though often, I fail Him.

The reason for existing  
And living day by day,  
Is to show His love through me  
In everything I say.

Now I see my goal on earth—  
My purpose is fulfilled.  
All hopes and dreams I give to God,  
My life shall be HIS WILL.

**Editor's Note:** Sister Patti recently passed away. She was a gifted writer and at her funeral, this poem, written years ago, was shared with the congregation.

## Youth In Action Extended Tour *By Brother Daniel Mora Argüelles*

I very recently had the wonderful privilege to experience the blessings of God, having taken part in this year's Youth in Action extended tour at the Irvine, California Branch. The entire trip was an unforgettable and a good experience for me and my Brother in Christ, Joshua Boruch, whom I was paired with, and I am ever so grateful to the Lord for having given me this opportunity to work for Him in this way. We spent time working and enjoying the blessings there, along with our brothers and sisters at the Irvine Branch, as the Lord saw fit to bestow upon us. I can surely say that as the tour concluded, it was hard to leave our adopted branch, but we left laden with testimonies of the excellent workings of the Lord in our lives and the love of the saints at the Irvine branch.

At the beginning of the tour, I knew that part of the purpose of our being there was to support the branch and reach out to the surrounding community. We were also informed, as we came to understand on our own later on, that the entire experience, and I know that I speak for myself and Brother Joshua, was a golden opportunity for the both of us to really take time to listen to and try to follow the Spirit of the Lord. There were many occasions when the opportunity presented itself to learn and grow. Not just coming to the understanding of new things, but also to be reminded of matters of importance which we have known to be true for the longest time. I need to be reminded many times over of the important things of God. In other words, besides working for the Lord, this was a time to examine ourselves and get a better understanding of the Lord's Will in our lives.

I can't possibly include in this one article all of the things we learned, but I can certainly touch on one particular concept that we, as a Church, consider to be important to us as we go about

the Lord's work on earth. The concept of Unity came to mind many times over, as we went through the tour, for there were many situations and experiences which came to pass which the Lord placed us in so that we may truly see just how important it is to be in united as a Church.

Certainly I mention nothing new. Speaking about the people of God, the scriptures give many examples of the results or blessings which come by being united as a Church and with the Spirit and Will of the Lord. Such blessings as the ones we read of are what we desire and strive for. On the other hand, we can also read of the consequences of being divided. These examples were written down for us to have and to learn of so that we, as a Church, would strive to attain the good, and be mindful of the things which will lead to dysfunction and failure.

As we touched upon some important points during the tour, especially what I'm speaking of now, I asked myself what this all meant for me. What was it that I needed to do to help us be more united? How was my attitude and approach helping or hindering it? What was it that I needed to change about myself and my character, or attain, or shed? I reflected on and prayed to the Lord, about my relationship with Him and with my brothers and sisters to try to see how I could move to a better position to be more united with the Lord's Will.

Honestly, sometimes it can be a struggle to fully grasp even the simplest of concepts, but the Lord gives the increase. I think about what Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "...he raised him from the dead, and set him [Christ] at his own right hand in the heavenly places...and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is

his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1: 20, 22-23). This is a basic concept which we learn of: We, the Church, are the body of Christ, and as a body we need to work together in unison with each other and in the Will of the Lord, and fulfill His Will. I learned during the tour, just as I will continue to learn for a long time hereafter, about what I need to do to become a more functional member of the body of Christ. This can be done through diligence in fasting and prayer and studying the scriptures, inquiring of the Lord, and fostering a good relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ to see how we can help each other and be better brothers or sisters to one another. All this can be a challenging at times, perhaps because—I speak for myself—there can be a struggle within us or resistance to change or conflict with others, but this is the flesh.

The Lord can do all things, especially when we surrender ourselves to Him. He wants to give us the same blessings the saints of old experienced because of their unity in the Will of the Lord. If this is our desire and we work towards it, we will receive it.

### To all MBA Supporters:

**Please accept our sincerest gratitude for all your love, donations, prayers, and sacrifice for our MBA efforts and events.**

**We greatly appreciate all that you do. Our recent Camp Scholarship Fund was a great success and was only made possible through your generosity.**

**Thank you.  
Your GMBA Officers**



## The Conversion of Enos *By Brother Kerry Carlini*

**H**aving faith in Jesus Christ—hundreds of years before His birth—Enos received his soul's salvation on the day he had initially set aside to hunt beasts in the forests. Marvelously, on that same day he was given an insight to perhaps the greatest event of the Latter Days. Here are five amazing facts regarding the conversion of Enos:

- 1** Enos had cried before the Lord all day and into the night before hearing the voice of the Lord say, *"Thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shall be blessed."*
- 2** Upon hearing these words he began to pour out his heart on behalf of his brethren, the Nephites, and was told of God that they would be blessed *"in accordance to their diligence in keeping my commandments."*
- 3** Enos then prayed with *"many long strugglings"* for his brethren, the Lamanites, in which the Lord responded, *"I will grant unto thee according to thy desires, because of thy faith."*
- 4** For Enos had desired—if the Nephites should fall into transgression and be destroyed, and the Lamanites not be destroyed—that the Lord God would preserve the Nephite record, to be brought forth by God's power at some future day to the Lamanites.
- 5** Following his conversion, Enos went about prophesying *"of the things to come, and testifying of the things"* he had seen.

The Book of Enos



## Ladies' Uplift Circle News

### Savannah Fellowship Weekend *By Sister Barbara Straccia*

**A**re you "Precious in the Sight of the Lord?" All of the sisters who attended the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Savannah Fellowship Weekend found out just how precious they were! We all enjoyed some southern style "Savannah" hospitality. We stayed in a beautiful hotel right in the heart of the historic district just a short walk from the riverfront. On Thursday, the sky was overcast, but the spirits of the sisters were bright and sunny as we took a tour of Savannah. We enjoyed seeing the beautifully restored homes, the town squares, the friendly southern people, the southern cooking, and the shopping, but most of all we enjoyed the fellowship of our "precious" sisters.

On Friday, Sister Lisa Champine, GLUC President, reviewed our agenda and sent us on a treasure hunt. We had a day of wonderful workshops. The morning workshop was entitled "Sharing the Gospel" and was led by Sister Karen Baldwin. The afternoon workshop was entitled "Being a Friend of Jesus" and was led by Sister Gail Bridges-Bright. Sister Debbie McDonnell related an experience she had about this same subject in California when she was seeking a topic for the Area Ladies' Circle seminar. When she arrived at work she heard the first line of the song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." As soon as she heard this, she heard a voice say, "What about Me?" She changed the theme of the seminar to "How to be a Better Friend to Jesus." Sister Debbie felt this workshop continued to confirm the message she had received.

Following a southern-style dinner at a local restaurant, we reconvened for the evening activity, "The Pathway to Right-

teousness." As we entered the room, we found the floor covered with a pathway that would be the game board. We were the game pieces. We divided into four teams and moved forward with the roll of the "holy roller" by answering a question from the Bible, Book of Mormon, or Ladies' Circle history. Members of the winning team each received a Ladies' Circle pin. We had a great time laughing and sharing each other's company.

On Saturday we enjoyed two more workshops: "What Makes You a Saint" led by Sisters Rose Mary Ausilio and Lorraine DeMercurio, and "The Treasure" led by Sister Lisa Champine. Sister Lisa tied all the wonderful workshops together for us to demonstrate how we'd been on a journey for the last two days. We started with how we need to share the Gospel, then how to be a friend to Jesus, next we discussed what makes us a saint, and finished with finding our treasure, which tied it all together.

Following dinner, we had a brief Business Meeting on Saturday evening to disburse funds for this six-month period. The final installment of the getting-to-know-you activity continued to provide many moments of laughter.

On Sunday, Brother Phil Benyola spoke to us on our topic for the weekend, "Precious in the Sight of the Lord." We were all blessed by his message. There were so many blessings during this weekend. Many sisters had experiences while there, friendships were made and friendships were renewed, but mainly we felt tied together by the Holy Spirit.



## How God Helps You

riches. They got tents and departed to the wilderness.

Can you imagine? What would you bring with you if you had to leave for the wilderness? If you chose an electronic game, you'd need batteries. There are no batteries in the wilderness. Which would be more help to you and your family if you had to find food, a fishing hook or a game? What about your fancy clothes? Wouldn't simple, warm, waterproof clothes be more important? What silverware, pots, and pans could you help carry? How would you light a campfire? How much food could your group even carry?

Nephi's two older brothers were so angry they wanted to disobey God and go back to the city. They even wanted to kill their brother Nephi when he agreed with their father that they all must go into the wilderness (see 1 Nephi 7:16).

When their food ran out, Nephi and his older brothers were sent out to hunt food for their hungry families. They were not finding any. Nephi was using the only good bow; it was made out of steel. Then it broke! Now it would be so difficult to get food. His brothers were enraged (see 1 Nephi 16:18-32). They were hungry and angry, and started really complaining about the Lord.

Nephi went and made a bow out of wood, and arrows out of straight sticks. He also used strong words to remind them of God's plans, and they were sorry. Then he asked his father "Where shall I go to obtain food?" The voice of the Lord told them to look at the Liahona for directions.

Nephi took his bow and arrows, his slingshot and stones, and followed the directions. He came back with a lot of food. They saw how God had guided Nephi when he did not know what to do, or which way to go. They

were sorry for their angry ways. It took over eight years for this group of people to learn a new way of life in the wilderness. When they were loving and kind and trusted God, they learned quickly. When they fought and hated each other, they got stuck.

Things are the same with us today. Call on God to figure out what to do. Do what is right even if someone else is mean to you. Pray for God to help you and guide you. He helped Nephi and his people; He will help us today.

With love  
Your friend,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

NEPHI	WHEN	US
PRAYED	HE	TOO
AND	WAS	PRAY
GOD	SCARED	AND
SHOWED	AND	LISTEN
HIM	LOST	THANK
WHERE	SO	HIM
TO	HE	EACH
GO	WILL	DAY

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

Dear Friends,

By now you have probably learned that sometimes life is very hard to deal with. Sometimes when you are in school or doing some job for someone, you will not know how to do what you need to do. Maybe your teacher or the person in charge is also having some problems in life and they are not kind or patient with you. You may feel scared, lonely and worried about what to do, or which way you should go. But you are not alone; when you are afraid and stuck, you can pray and call on the Lord and He can guide and help you.

In The Book of Mormon, a young man named Nephi (see 1 Nephi) was traveling in the wilderness with a group of family and friends. God had shown them that their city, Jerusalem, was going to be destroyed. Their enemies were going to attack the city, rob every house, and make them all slaves.

Nephi's father, Lehi, was a man of God and he began preaching and warning the people of the great city to stop their wicked ways, ask for forgiveness to change, and serve God. They did not listen. So God warned Lehi to take his family and some others, leave the city, and go into the wilderness.

God gave them an amazing compass-like ball that they called the Liahona. It had writing on it. When they prayed, God used the ball to tell them which way to go in the unknown wilderness and what they must do. In the city, they were a wealthy family, and knew what to do. But now they left behind their jewels, property, and

## Columbus: an Instrument in God's Hands *Continued from page 1*

**Western Route Theorized**—On Porto Santo Christopher heard accounts of wooden canoes washing ashore, unlike anything seen in Europe, carved from massive tree trunks. This, along with his extensive sailing experience and diligent studies, reinforced his growing conviction that it was possible to reach the Indies—a term used at the time to refer to India and Southeast Asia—by traveling west. He recognized an opportunity to establish a lucrative trade route to the Indies, but he also hoped to bring Christianity—Salvation—to people who had not yet heard the Gospel.

**Mathematical Errors**—Columbus and his brother set about charting a westward course around the world. Interestingly, Christopher misinterpreted one scholar's measurement of the earth's circumference to be three-fourths of its actual size. Next, he overestimated the Eurasian continent's breadth to reach 60 percent farther around the globe than it actually does. Finally, he lent credence to a fellow navigator whose map of the Atlantic showed Japan just about where Mexico sits. In sum, Columbus theorized that if he departed from the Canary Islands, he would sight land after sailing about 2,400 miles to the west. The actual distance to Japan (assuming nothing in between) was 12,200 miles.

**Wisdom in Foolishness**—Can you see God's wisdom in man's folly? What if Christopher had known the real distance? Would he even have suggested undertaking such a voyage? Would any nation outfit him, any crew sign on for a journey, in uncharted waters, that no ship of that time could complete before running out of food and water?

**Royal Support**—Christopher was convinced that he could reach the Indies in a reasonable amount of time by traveling west. He and his brother approached the king of Portugal with their idea, but the king's experts—like those of other rulers solicited—believed that Columbus had grossly underestimated the distance. His testimony of divine inspiration did nothing to better his case. Finally, after putting Christopher off for six years, Ferdinand and Isabella, the Spanish monarchs, agreed to sponsor the voyage.

**Inspired Navigation**—Columbus set a course for Asia, not knowing God had something else planned. While he couldn't have been more wrong about his intended destination, Christopher's decision to sail due west from the Canary Islands, with what are now known as the trade winds, could not have been more correct. They departed on September 6, during the hurricane season; however, his ships were miraculously spared from disaster. Winds and weather were fair and clear for 17 days, then, on September 23 the ships stood still in a dead calm. None of the crew was accustomed to going this long without sighting land, and they feared they were stranded. Again miraculously, in reverse order, the seas rose first and the wind followed a few hours later.

**Mutiny Averted**—After sailing due west for a solid month, Columbus decided on October 7 to turn west-southwest after a large flock of birds passed heading in that direction. Had he not done so, it is estimated the voyage would have lasted a day longer. The timing was critical; the sailors confronted their leader three days later, threatening mutiny. By God's grace, Columbus successfully pleaded for just two or three more days.

**¡Tierra! ¡Tierra!**—Columbus changed course only one other time, without any explanation, on the evening of October 11. The agreed-upon deadline was approaching, and the crew was restless. Christopher decided (for the first time in the voyage) to sail through the night. Just hours later, the cry was given that land was sighted. Unbeknownst to captain or crew, that last-minute adjustment had steered the tiny fleet safely away from treacherous coral reefs toward a clear coastline, where the expedition landed on October 12, 1492.

**Spiritual Understanding**—In 1502, after he had completed three voyages to the New World and back, Columbus wrote what was later given the title *Book of Prophecies*. In it he related Biblical passages to the great effort he had exerted and the energy he had expended in obtaining support for his voyage. In a demonstration of the hidden truths the Lord had revealed to him, truly foreshadowing the Restoration, Columbus treated each of the following major themes in his writings:

1. The salvation of the world and the rebuilding of Zion
2. All the ends of the earth and all the islands of the sea shall be converted to the Lord.
3. The gospel has been preached to parts of the world and now must be preached to the remainder.
4. Jerusalem—its greatness and fall
5. Christ taking His gospel to "other sheep"
6. The restoration of Jerusalem prior to the final judgment
7. The "islands of the sea," and their part in the last days



*For behold that all little children are alive in Christ... Moroni 8:22*



# Blessing Bits



## "For Whom the Lord Loveth, He Correcteth"

Recently, I remained in bed for six days due to great pain, unable to move or walk. I began to complain to God and murmured about my pain. In anger, I told God I couldn't understand why I must endure this. For two days I was mad at God. I resorted to using a wheelchair to get around. I had a prayer list with 43 people on it whom I had been praying for. "See God, I can't even pray for them because I am in such pain!" I grumbled. On day three of my anger, I looked for the prayer list I always kept on the kitchen table on top of my Bible. It was gone. I asked my family if they had seen it; they said no. I then realized I must repent. I spoke to God and asked him to forgive me, telling Him, "I didn't mean all the angry remarks." I began praying from memory for the names I could remember. For the ones I forgot, I said, "God, you know their need, take care of them." The next day I truly repented to the Lord, telling Him that I was wrong. As I looked up to the phone, there was my prayer list, in plain view. The Lord had given it back to me. I learned my lesson to never question what God does in your life. His will be done.—Sister Dorothy Pastorelli, Lake Worth, Florida Branch



## A Near Tragic Accident

Now had fallen the night before my usual 6:00 am commute to work and the roads had become extremely icy. While driving around a curve, my car hit a patch of black ice, causing the car to spin out of control into the opposing lane. There were large and small trees in the direction my car was headed. My car missed the large tree by less than a foot, and drove over the smaller trees, which brought my car to an abrupt halt, preventing it from going into a ditch and hitting the large trees in front of and around me. I sustained no injuries; my car should have been totaled but was mechanically sound, with only a few minor scratches. Had my car been a foot to the right when I slid off the road, I could have been seriously hurt or even killed. Two other people died at that curve. I thank God for His hand of protection.—Sister Lauren Wolff, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey Branch

her liver transplant. She was terrified of the IV and blood draw. They were able to put her to sleep before placing the IV, which was a blessing. Four hours after the procedure they needed to draw blood before we could leave. No blood would flow from the IV. They poked her arm and couldn't get blood from the vein either. She went into a full blown panic attack. I sent a few quick text messages asking for prayer, and then Marisa and I prayed together. She looked over at her hand as soon as we finished and said "What's that?" I looked and said "That's a miracle!" Her IV had filled with blood. I called the nurse, who didn't believe me until she saw it. She quickly drew the blood and we got to go home. Praise God!—Sister Shannon Hamet, Detroit, Michigan Branch 2



## Jesus Blesses Our Children

My daughter, Marisa, had a liver biopsy in May as a first step in a year-long process of attempting to wean her off her anti-rejection medication for

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



## Question for this month: What is the sweetest part of being part of the family of God?

**Answer from last month:** What was your favorite moment or event at campout this year? I was blessed to be present at the Wednesday night baptisms. I was proud to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. The reverence shown at the shore as the lights from the vehicles lit the water as our new members promised to give their lives to the Lord touched me deeply. A wall of deacons lined the river shore in the dark to protect the saints and children from any injuries. A brigade of arms led the converts and their families from the edge of the water so no one slipped or fell and I was touched by the humble sincere prayers of our ministry as our newly baptized converts were confirmed at the water shore. It was very late in the evening before the closing prayer was offered. I am sure the adrenaline that flowed through each person present kept them feasting on God's blessings all through the night. — Sister Robin Burns, Vanderbilt, PA Branch



For behold that all little children are alive in Christ... Moroni 8:22