

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ

International
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Pennsylvania

The Gospel News

IN THIS ISSUE:

Blast From The Past
Page 2

October Calendar
Page 2

Gospel News Quiz
Page 3

Word Up
Page 3

Meet the Branch
Page 4

Editorial Viewpoint
Page 5

Topic Series-Music
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

Life In the Mission Fields

By Evangelist Frank Natoli

As IMOC Chairman, I hope that like many Gospel News readers, you take the time to pray for our members in the international mission fields of the Church of Jesus Christ. Maybe it's prompted by an email seeking prayer, or by an article written in the Gospel News or the Humanitarian Foundation Newsletter. Possibly it is the result of the Church blog, or website. It could be because of a sermon preached or a lesson taught on Sunday or midweek, or maybe the Lord's Spirit prompted you to pray for the international work. Maybe It was the result of something you heard or read on the news or Internet that reminded you of the fact that we have brothers and sisters in "that" country. No matter the source or prompting, the end result for many of us is a prayer, long or short, audible or silent, filled with power or timidly presented, on bended knees or while driving your car...but I assure you, that since The Church of Jesus Christ believes that the prayers of the righteous avail much, we have moved His mighty arm many times, even though you may never see or hear about it.

Why am I sharing what to many readers is so obvious? Because I believe we underestimate how willing Christ is to hear and answer the honest of heart, the sincere and humble servants of God, and want us to recognize that we aren't "wasting our time" praying for situations or individuals that we may never meet or hear anything more about.

I am blessed to live in a land "choice above all other lands." I don't say this because the United States is a powerful country or because of our standard of living or because I think I'm better than anyone else. I say it because I read in the scriptures that this land was set apart for a spiritual purpose and that as long as its "citizens" uphold the righteous standard of Jesus Christ, it will remain blessed.

Yet, as Chairman, overseeing the operations of the international mission fields, I'm continually reminded (through email communications, phone calls, and conference calls), that our 19,500 members who live in 21 countries outside the United States and Canada live daily lives that are VERY different from mine.

The majority of our IMOC membership live in homes that are less than 500 square feet and have no running water. Very few own or ever hope to own a car. Only a handful could ever hope to afford an education above a high school level. Very few have refrigerators or pantries stocked with days', weeks', or months' worth of food items, and even fewer have church buildings with pews to sit on or heat and air conditioning for comfort.

Yet we turn on HGTV or read Better Homes and Gardens—all enticing us to not be satisfied with our existing home! Maybe it's a TV commercial that advertises the newest car model lease, causing us to consider getting rid of the "late model" car for a newer one, because "you deserve it." Have you ever heard the expression, "there's nothing in the refrigerator," when it's actually full of food? Try talking to the deacons who are bombarded with complaints about the church building being too cold or too hot!

(Continued on page 4)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Pray for the upcoming conference	2	3 General Church Conference starts	4 Ladies' Circle Conference
5 General Church Conference ends	6	7 Pray for the children in school	8	9 Pray for the brothers and sisters in Liberia	10	11
12 Ask to be a guest teach in Sunday School	13	14	15 Pray for Six Nations- pg 4	16 Check in with young people away at school	17	18 Sing praises all day long
19	20 Pray for the international branches and missions	21	22	23	24 Pray for those that mourn	25
26	27	28 Pray for the sick and the weak	29	30 Pray for those who have fallen away	31	1 Support your MBA and Ladies' Circle

September 2014
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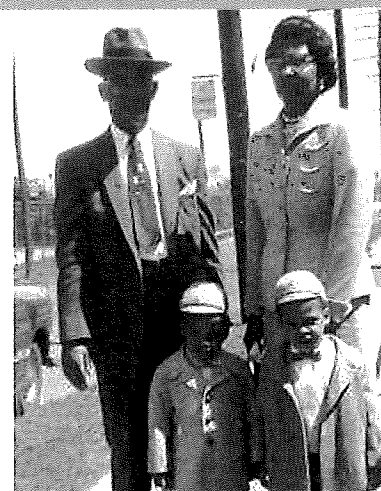
October 2014

"For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:8).

BTP Blast From The Past

Matthew Miller

It started with the testimony of Brother Carmine Campitelle, a common factory laborer, to his Jamaican born co-worker. However, Matthew Miller, a newly licensed, non-denominational minister, planned to be in Detroit just long enough to earn the money needed to finish his doctorate at Bishop Payne's Divinity School in Virginia. But, in finding that the Church preached the Gospel in purity, he began to pray in earnest as to whether or not he had found the true church. Finally, three weeks later on the night of October 27, 1923 – ninety-one years ago this month – Matthew received an experience that would alter the course of his life. While sitting in a darkened room in deep meditation, Matthew exclaims, "[T]he glory of the Lord came upon me, and a great light shined in my room and kept on until the whole room, not a particle being omitted, was gloriously illuminated." Feeling cleansed of his sins, he was later given a dream that night. "I was riding across a river and had something in my hand which was quite heavy. It fell in the water, and I went in to pick it up and was wet all over." The following day, Matthew was baptized. And, in time, he would become a great evangelist in particular among the Seed of Joseph. *The Gospel News*, July 1945 p2; *History of the Church*, Vol. 2, pp194-6



Brother Matthew, Sister Muriel Miller and children ►

Purpose Statement

- To fulfill the plan of God by bringing salvation through Christ to all people.

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ.

- To draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused on the Native Americans of North and South America.

Vision Statement

- The full manifestations of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, resulting from living and worshipping in unity and righteousness, stimulate continuous growth of the Domestic Church—even at a rate of doubling over a five year period—while strengthening the International Church.

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ

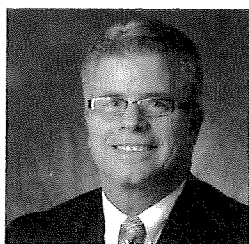
GOSPEL NEWS QUIZ

Search through this issue for answers to these questions:

- What is said to be "God's blessing reserved for extraordinary behaviors?" (Page 3)
- How many members do we have in the International Mission Field? (Page 4)
- How do you finish this scripture, "Train up a child in the way he should go. . ."? (Page 6)
- What was the song sang at the Nauvoo Campout in 1968 that became two sisters' baptism song? (Page 9)
- Whose writings comprise more than 25 percent of the New Testament? (Page 9)

Wordup

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



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

"Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).

Over the past four years, Candace (my wife) and I have lost our remaining three parents. Each experience was unique, having endured long-sustained illnesses in some cases and instant, shocking losses in others. In spite of the differences, the mourning process was very similar, in each case difficult and painful. Death can bring unresolved questions, leaving us frustrated and grief-stricken. In these situations, one simply prays for relief. Philippians 4:7 promises, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." In our mourning, we experienced that unexplainable comfort, just as Jesus promised. While this may capture the essence of this verse for most, I believe there's more.

The Beatitudes (within "The Sermon on the Mount") are said to be "God's blessings reserved for extraordinary behaviors". Given this definition, it's difficult to justify a special reward for such a natural occurrence, since mourning is a common experience after the loss of a loved one. Maybe the mourning Jesus was referencing is not this same natural occurrence. Maybe there's more.

I've often said, "Some of the most selfish steps we ever take are when we walk into the waters of our baptism. And some of the most selfless steps we ever take are when we walk back out." I remember my selfish walk into the water on July 27, 1976, with full intention on saving my soul. Coming out, I had already shifted my thoughts to others (my family) needing salvation. Over the next year I came to understand "mourning" like I had never experienced before as I mourned for my family's souls and their spiritual condition. Since then, this emotion has overtaken me concerning many other people, but this was certainly my first encounter with spiritual mourning.

I've concluded that Christ's promised blessing for those that mourn is reserved for those who experience this spiritual ache (an extraordinary behavior) because such pain brings the desire to do something positive about it. As it related to my family, "comfort" washed over me as I witnessed the waters of baptism wash over my father, brother, and sister when they began their own walk with Christ. When they underwent their spiritual healing, my spiritual mourning was also healed through a comfort that passed any understanding I had ever experienced. I was once a mourner and I've been blessed! So, who's on your list?

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

Meet the Branch

Six Nations Mission--Ontario, Canada

The Six Nations Mission, located in Ontario, Canada, started in 1937 when Sister Jane Dotson of the Muncey Reserve began a 100-mile journey to Grand River with the intent of visiting her uncle to share the Gospel. Along the way, a car stopped and the driver offered her a ride, generously delivering her to her destination. After exiting the car, Jane turned to thank the driver but the car and its driver had completely disappeared. Ultimately her Uncle Hugh and his wife, Lillian, welcomed their niece and the Gospel into their home. Shortly thereafter, Brothers William Cadman and Thurman Furnier arranged for the Church to begin holding meetings and become established on the Six Nations Reservation.



There are currently 18 active members and a good group of children who attend. In addition to the Sunday services, regular weekend trips are made to the reservation in an effort to connect with the young people, thus providing an outlet for positive fellowship at the Church. A Bible School is held and well attended each year as well. Pray for this work; those who labor to service it each month; and the brothers, sisters, and friends who worship there.

Life In the Mission Fields Continued from Page 1

I'm not pointing a finger at anyone, because I've done or thought all these things at one time or another, but consider for a moment what a brother or sister in South America, India, Africa or Asia might think. How do you think they feel when they:

- Step into their mud-walled, single room home?
- Walk the 3-4 miles to local market because they can't even afford a bicycle?
- Can't afford to send their children to school because they don't have the extra \$30 per month tuition (many countries don't have public schools)?
- Only have enough food in their house for the next day because they don't have any money?
- Kneel down in church to pray and have to clean the dirt off their knees from the dirt floor?

Now many will say, "but they don't know anything different, so it's not fair to compare." To which I would simply reply, just because you've never owned a Rolls-Royce or Maserati doesn't mean you don't recognize that one car has a great comfort and the other tremendous acceleration and speed. Or just because you don't live in a mansion doesn't mean you don't have some level of understanding of how spacious and beautiful it would be. Even Jesus uses this reference with His disciples when referring to Kingdom of God.

Trust me, the majority of our 19,500 members scattered throughout the world recognize that they live in poverty-ridden counties. They understand that the liberties and freedom that we enjoy are often restricted where they live, and they openly acknowledge that the things we often take for granted (health care, retirement, etc.) will never be available to them.

Most recently, we've been reminded that no matter how wealthy we may be, the only way to fight against evil, sin, disease, famine, and injustice is to draw closer to Christ and to follow His teachings. We're reminded of this when we read about the ebola virus that has spread throughout West Africa with limited ability to stop its devastating impact. Our members in Liberia, poor and humble, were prompted by the Spirit to fast and pray for three days, that His protection would be open to them and to forgive them of their sins--trusting that He would divinely intercede and protect them, their children, and families...where else could they turn?

As Chairman of the IMOC and as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, I'm privileged to understand that the prayer of a righteous man or woman CAN make the difference. That being in the service of another human being places a smile on the Lord's face. That being willing to give back to the Lord freely, through our tithes and offerings, is the very least we can do. And finally, remembering that we live in a world where we cannot afford to be outside of the Lord's will, lifting one another up, whether we're thousands of miles apart or nearby.

On behalf of the 19,500 members under the care of the IMOC, I thank you for every penny donated and every prayer offered, that together we can labor to bring the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to every country and every people who seek it.

Good Intentions vs. Obedience

By Elder Duane Lovalvo

Have you ever heard of a man named Uzzah in the Bible? After David became King of Judah, he consolidated his power over all of Israel and defeated the Philistines in battle. David's next order of business was to retrieve the previously captured Ark of the Covenant from the land of the Philistines and bring it to the new capital city, Jerusalem. As you may know, something tragic occurred in the course of "fetching the Ark."

Uzzah was one of the Israelite men tasked with the honor of transporting the Ark to Jerusalem, he being one of the sons of Abinadab. As they brought the Ark out of the house of Abinadab, David and a multitude followed behind, playing all kinds of musical instruments before the Lord while it made its slow trek southward. When the great company came to Nachon's threshing floor, however, the oxen stumbled causing the cart to rock. Uzzah quickly put his hand on the Ark in order to steady it. It was a grave error. He was immediately struck down and died there beside the Ark.

For Americans living in the 21st Century, our first impression of this tragedy might be that God acted in a harsh or cruel manner. After all, weren't Uzzah's intentions pure in wanting to keep the Ark safe? Upon further inspection of the scriptures, however, we find that there was indeed a law stating if anyone, other than the priests, touches the holy things they shall die (Numbers 4:15). Uzzah certainly knew the Law, but in an instant made a fatal mistake.

Clearly, we don't know what Uzzah was thinking in that moment that he decided to touch the Ark. Was he thinking *"I'll be a hero and save the Ark"* or was he simply being overzealous in his duty? On the other hand, maybe he just reacted without thinking at all. Perhaps none of that is important. The bottom line is that Uzzah disobeyed one of God's commandments and was punished.

This example in the scripture highlights an important lesson for the followers of God. Fearing God and obeying Christ's commandments is of the utmost importance, no matter what era of time we live in. It was David, after all, who said, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..."* (Psalms 111:10). Like Uzzah, there are times that we might have good intentions to perform some work, only to realize that we were being un-Christlike or disobedient. It thus becomes necessary to check ourselves and verify whether we are truly fulfilling the commandments of God. Fortunately for us, the forgiveness of Jesus is rarely very far away if we are quick to repent of our errors.

Nephi says this *"...ye must not perform anything unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee..."* (II Nephi 32:9).

As for King David, he was shaken up over what happened to Uzzah and became very fearful of the Lord that day. So much so, that he halted the project for three months until he was absolutely positive that it was God's will to bring the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem.

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Music and Our Children

By Sister Christina Miller

Inquisitive little minds, so sweet and so dear.
Just like little sponges, absorbing all they hear.

In loving words or good deeds,
Being rooted as they grow from those tiny little seeds.

Clapping their hands, and tapping their feet,
It's almost hard for them to sit in their seat.

From that point on, it won't be long.
'Till they lift their voices in beautiful song.

These are just a few stanzas that come to mind as I think about my Sunday School class. Each child varies in age, but their interest is always the same. As much as they all love to listen to stories; learn scripture, or do a craft of some kind, when it comes to singing, their eyes and ears are fully engaged. They become so focused on me when I try to teach a new song. Sometimes it might even be a familiar melody that sparks their attention. Maybe it's a song they heard in church during VBS or at a campout or conference. It could even be from a CD they heard or on the radio while driving in the car. One thing stands true; it's an excitement like no other.

When children learn a catchy tune there's no doubt it's their favorite thing to repeat, and frankly for us adults, it's our favorite thing to hear. When asked to sing loud, they comply with great energy, especially if it's a fun song. There's something so wonderful when listening to a child sing. Is it the innocence of their voices or the soft tender sound of the mispronounced words that make each lyric come alive in such an endearingly loving way? They could make any song sound sweet.

Whatever the reason, if it's true that the Lord inhabits our praise, imagine how much more He does when the praises are coming from innocent children. Imagine Jesus taking the child up in His arms and citing how we need to be like that.

Hearing children sing songs for God underscores the importance of music in their lives and the impact it has on them for the future. In Proverbs 22:6, we read the familiar verse, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This holds true for the impact of music on their little lives. How many songs can you remember today that you might have learned when you were small in Sunday School or MBA? I'd dare say at least one. Therefore, we should make sure that the songs our children hear are the songs they should sing; ones that would please the Lord.

Why not allow the next life lesson to be taught through song? Let's learn together by singing together and making sure we involve those angelic voices! They'll be glad you did.

Music, Our Children, and VBS

By Sister Jacqui King

How does music relate to Vacation Bible School? you ask? Well, let me tell you, you cannot have one without the other. I have had the privilege of being involved with several Vacation Bible Schools. It doesn't matter if it is a one-day or a week-long session; music is a critical part of any successful VBS!

My most recent experience was during a three-day VBS on the Muncey Reservation in Canada. We have been going there for nearly two decades, every year we try to bring new songs or modify the "old" ones to support our theme. We always begin with singing, and the returning children quickly call out their favorites. The songs with motions are always a big hit with the children, and we also use them to help get them wide awake for the remainder of the day. We use common stand-by songs like "Deep and

Wide," "Father Abraham," "I'm In the Lord's Army," and "Give Me Oil for My Lamp". Other favorites include "Who Did?," "The Butterfly Song," and "You Can't Get to Heaven on Roller Skates". This year, in addition to starting each day with singing, we had a music/skit rotation station where children learned the songs and program chosen to reinforce our theme.

This year's theme was "Following Jesus in the Path of Service". Our first day focused on David as a servant, and one of his tasks as a follower was to fight Goliath. Sister Angela Yoder, our music coordinator for the week, added a verse to the song, "How Do You Know God is True?" We had brought that song to Muncey after the World Missionary Conference, so some of the children were already familiar with it. Sister Angela added: "When David met Goliath, he was big and tall, But God helped David pick the rocks that made him fall." She also used the first verse of "Following God Through the Wilderness" from *The Songs of Zion*, and the song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus".

We know that songs help the children remember lessons from the story, and that they stay with them long after VBS is over. We heard a comment from the director of a local afternoon day camp that some of our children attended after our morning VBS sessions. She said the children were singing the VBS songs all afternoon. Then a few months ago, I received a message from my niece. She had attended a Muncey VBS when she was a teenager. Now the mother of a young girl herself, she was trying to remember the VBS songs so she could teach her daughter! (The the song she specifically was trying to remember is in the picture) As an educator I have learned that the more senses involved while learning, the more likely it is for a learner to retain the information. Your brain is receiving so many more messages when you are seeing, hearing, moving, and singing that it is often the words to the song that we remember even more than the scripture verse.

Simply stated, music gets the children excited, recalls previous memories, reinforces lessons, and helps to cement the learning, all while bringing joy!

The Butterfly Song

If I were a 🦋, I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me 🦋, and if I were a 🦋 in a 🌻, I'd thank you, Lord, that I could 🎵. And if I were a 🐟 in the Sea, I'd wiggle my 🐟, and I'd giggle with glee, but I just thank You, father, for making me-me! 'Cause You gave me a ❤️, and you gave me a 😊, You gave me Jesus, and You made me your Child, and I just thank You, Father, for making me-me.

If I were an 🦋, I'd thank You, Lord by raising my 🦋, and if I were a 🦋, I'd just hop right ↑↑ to you. And if I were an 🦋, I'd thank You, Lord, for my good looks, but I just thank You,

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MEXICO APRIL 2014

By Sister Liliana Anguiano, translated by Sister Erin Light

God bless you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We would like to bring you blessings from the 2014 Annual Mexico Conference which was held April 24-27 in San Isidro, Sinaloa, Mexico.

The main theme of the conference was II Kings 12:5, *"Let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found."* Many brothers and sisters, guests, and friends traveled to this conference, arriving from, Mexico City, Michoacan, Durango, Mexicali, Tijuana, Vicente Guerrero, and of course from the four missions in Sinaloa: San Isidro, San Jose, Ahome, and Macapul. We were also accompanied by brothers from Pennsylvania, California, and Indiana. All services were conducted in the San Isidro mission. Many brothers and sisters arrived a week in advance—in cars, trucks, buses, and airplanes—in anticipation of the blessings. Over 500 people attended the conference in total, thank God.

The conference began on Thursday as Brother Jesus Villegas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Mexico, addressed the ministry. He greeted them and spoke with inspiration on how to prepare our hearts to understand the subject of the conference; to repair the breaches in our spiritual life. The elders and teachers met in fasting and prayer on Thursday morning, that God would bless the conference and our ministries. Each day of the conference, the ministry gathered as early as 7:00 a.m. for ministerial training and instruction from missionaries visiting from the United States. Throughout each day, the ministry conducted meetings to study scriptures, review the progress in the missions, conduct business for the Church in Mexico, and receive ministerial instruction.

Every evening all the membership and visitors gathered for a fellowship service. On Thursday evening there were many special song selections from groups representing Mexico City and Vicente Guerrero, and the testimony portion of the service was beautiful as well. After the service, many saints met in nearby homes to continue singing and testifying; many continued their fellowship into the early morning hours.

On Friday, approximately 150 young people traveled to the nearby Sea of Cortez in Sinaloa, where they spent time renewing friendships, playing games, and rejoicing. Afterwards, the young people gathered with the rest of the members at the church to enjoy natural and spiritual food; fresh fish caught from the sea, and a service full of the presence of God. During this service, the members from the Tijuana Mission felt to sing *"We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord,"* and the Spirit of God was felt very strongly; we were told that two women from Chihuahua Mission had requested baptism. The theme of the day, learning how to arrange our lives around the Lord, inspired us all. After the service, all the brothers and sisters gathered around a camp fire to sing and praise God.

On Saturday, some brothers and sisters met in a nearby valley to fast and pray for God's continued blessings and power throughout the conference. The services continued to be blessed; many prayed for the desire to see former members return to church, as well as to see new visitors and to thank God for sustaining them with joy through the previous year's trials.

After fasting and prayer, seminars were conducted for the ministry, men, women, and young people. In the youth seminar, the teachers encouraged them be soldiers in the army of God, to raise the flag of Zion, and asked the young people, *"Who wants to wave the flag in your life? Who is willing to fight for the salvation of others?"* There were over 100 young people from ages 18-30 in attendance, and it was a blessed seminar. As the seminar concluded,

the young people walked back to church waving a white flag of Zion while singing hymns. The ladies' seminar, held in the church building, was about letting God's light shine through their lives to the world. The seminar's activities demonstrated how we feel the love of God and how we invite other people to feel the same. A sister asked for forgiveness and was restored to fellowship during this seminar. The sisters spent many minutes greeting each other in the Love of God. The men and ministry also enjoyed very blessed seminars.

In the evening service, we felt the Spirit of God very strongly as the ministers were preaching. After the service, Brother Joel Gehly gathered the young people to recount to them many blessings in the missionary work abroad, and to encourage them to prepare themselves to go and preach the Restored Gospel to the rest of the seed of Joseph, not only in Mexico but throughout South America as well.

On Sunday, children from all the missions and branches in Mexico sang *"A Vision on the Mountain"* with great happiness while proudly waving drawings of a dove. There were many special song selections from different missions, and the ministry preached with great power and authority. During sacrament, as the musicians played hymns and everyone else was quietly listening, an immense peace came over the entire congregation and rested in our hearts. After the service, more than 120 traveled in vans, cars, and the beds of pickup trucks to the beach to observe the baptism of two new souls who desired to join the fold. At the beach, the Spirit of God was felt very greatly and five more souls asked for their baptism. The seven new converts were from the Tijuana, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa missions. A few young men waded into the water and made a human break wall in the waves to protect the ministry and new converts as they were baptizing; it was a beautiful sight to witness.

There were many more blessings which we did not get to write, but we finished our conference in Mexico and look forward with much joy and prayer to the next year, knowing that these blessings and the messages we received will sustain us in the trials to come. We were overwhelmed by the blessings, singing, and fellowship with our brothers and sisters, and we hope you have the chance to visit us soon. May God bless you, my brothers and sisters; we await your visit to Mexico.



Ministry in Mexico

May GMBA Conference—Mentorship

By Brother Daniel Mora, Jr.

Vital to our lives as saints in The Church Jesus Christ is the Spirit of God, which was indeed present among those of us gathered together for another GMBA Conference, as we met in Liberty, Ohio this past May. This familiar feeling of fellowship in the Love of God manifested itself perceivably as I observed the interactions among the brothers and sisters in attendance, their smiles and speech reflective of both the Spirit that brought us together and the purpose for the gathering. Those in attendance were of all ages, but especially because this

was the GMBA Conference, one looks to see how many young people are present to enjoy the conference alongside more experienced brothers and sisters. Now those whom we refer to as young people can be as young as those who yet cling to their parents' arms, those who have more understanding of our purposes and mission, and those who, while they are still young, are ready to take on or perhaps have already taken on a role or position of leadership with a sense of responsibility for things and people in the Church, all the while looking to the more seasoned brothers and sisters for

guidance. To attend this conference was an opportunity to not only take time to examine oneself to see (I consider myself a 'young person', therefore I speak as one) how I can grow closer to Christ, but as we are all together, to see how I can also help others in this endeavor.

Sunday morning, as we gathered together to worship and hear the Word of God, our brothers spoke to the congregation gathered there on the meaning of a relationship between a mentor and a mentee. Drawing from their memories of

(Continued on page 11)

More Baptism Song Responses From the September Issue

The song I called for my Baptism was, *"I Surrender All"*. Wherever our MBA was held on Sunday evening in one of the four branches in our area the young people would gather in that branch on Sunday afternoon. There were 15 of us at the meeting a Sunday in July 1950 that asked for our baptism (and 5 more as a result of it for a total of 20 baptized that day).—Evan-gelist Joseph Perri, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch

It's not from any of our books, but mine was/is *"Fully Committed"* by Kingdom.—Sister Hythia Young, Atlanta, GA Branch

"Living Sacrifice" sung by Aliquippa Trio (Brothers Pete Giannetti, Jr., John M. D'Antonio, and Ryan G. Ross)

My baptism song is *"For Those Tears I Died"*.—Leah Churchill, Brunswick, ME Branch

"He Held His Arms and I Ran In"—Sister Tanya Wood, Detroit, MI Branch #2

"He's Everything To Me"—Sister Laurie Whitton, Creekside, MI Branch

At Nauvoo 1968 Campout, *"Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul"* and I gave my life to Christ.—Sister Fran Jackson, Kinsman, OH Branch

"Just As I Am"—Brother Rick Calabro Metuchen, NJ Branch

"There's No Rainbow That Shines Like Jesus"—Brother Daniel Mora, Sr.—Detroit, MI Branch #1

"Why Not Accept Him Now"—Brother Jerry Benyola, Detroit, MI Branch #1

"Sheltered in the Arms of God"—Sister Denise Bodo, Detroit, MI Branch #2

"While Time Remains"—Brother Richard A. Thomas, Detroit, MI Inner City Mission

"Don't Let Anybody Take Your Crown"—Joanne Schweitzer, Simi Valley, CA Branch

"Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul" at the 1968 GMBA Campout in Nauvoo, Illinois. I was baptized along with 17 others that week. God continues to bless my life in immeasurable ways!—Sister Sharon Staley, Mesa, AZ Branch

"He Changed My Life Completely"—Sister Rachel Cotellesse, Lakeside, AZ Branch

"For Those Tears I Died"—Sister Laura Stone, Creekside, MI Branch

As we were singing *"Come All Ye That Thirst"* I asked for my baptism.—Sister Diane Giannetti, McKees Rocks, PA Branch

"Victory in Jesus"—Brother Chris Gehly, Monongahela, PA Branch

"Because He Lives"!!—Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA Branch

"At the Cross"—Sister Brenda Humphreys, McKees Rocks, PA Branch

"Why Do You Wait, Dear Brother?" but they changed the word "Brother" to "Sister".—Sister Terri Nath, Monongahela, PA Branch

"I'm Free"—Sister Kathleen Pastorelli, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"Lead Me To the Cross" by Seventh Day Slumber—Brother Allen Fisher, Erie, PA Branch

The Lord called me while Sister Tracey Currier was singing, *"In the Garden"* at a GMBA Conference in November 1990. Praise God for His great mercy!—Brother Mark Palmieri, Creekside, MI Branch

"He Planted Me Deep"—Sister Karen Lee, Yucaipa, CA Mission

"The Standard of Liberty" was one of the first songs I learned how to play for church a few months before I was baptized and it has been my go-to song of upliftment ever since!—Sister Erin Light, Irvine, CA Branch,

5 Amazing Facts

Luke By Brother Kerry Carlini

Desirous to record his account "having perfect understanding of all things from the very first," Luke set forth to write Theophilus about the life of Jesus (Luke 1:3). Though scripture does not tell anything more of Theophilus, Luke's writings, upon careful observation, give us a good idea of who Luke was as an author and a man. Thorough in thought, the Gospel of Luke is the longest and considered the most detailed of the four Gospels. Very careful in upholding the accuracy of events, Luke's writings have withstood the scrutiny of scholars and historians over time to be found correct in every historical fact recorded. We also find Luke's writings reflective of a deep knowledge of the Old Testament scripture as well as an understanding of Hellenistic (Greek culture of the time) literary patterns. Here are five amazing facts about this amazing man, Luke:

- 1 Luke was not an eyewitness of the ministry of Jesus, but he wrote his account years later from the accounts of others who "from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the work" (Luke 1:2).
- 2 Luke was a Gentile, as shown in Paul's epistle to the Colossians where he was distinguished as being apart from the Jews "of the circumcision" (Colossians 4:10-14).
- 3 Luke was "the beloved physician" whose writings contained exact medical descriptions (clearly seen in the original Greek language) of the illnesses and diseases he recorded (Colossians 4:14, Luke 10:33-34; 13:11-13; Acts 28:3-6).
- 4 Luke, who as a close friend and companion to Paul, most likely joined Paul on his second journey with Silas and Timothy in Troas and again at different times, also authored the Acts of the Apostles – at which point his writings changed from third person to first person (Acts 16:8-10; 20:5).
- 5 Luke's writings, the Gospel of Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles comprise more than 25 percent of the New Testament.



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Getting Back to Basics

By Sister Angela Yoder – General Ladies' Uplift Circle Editor

How many times have you felt so close to God one day, but so far from Him the next? There may be times in our lives when we may feel that barriers have erected to separate us from God leaving us feeling uninspired and unfulfilled. Maybe we've lost our joy or enthusiasm causing us to feel incomplete. Perhaps our priorities have become out of focus. It's in these moments that we need to take a few minutes to re-evaluate our life and reprioritize the things that are truly important. We need to "get back to the basics".

As women, we often find ourselves shifting our concentration from one thing to another as quickly as we blink our eyes. There are so many things in our lives that demand our attention that it is easy to lose focus of what was important just moments ago. Many times, we may find ourselves so wrapped up in the lives of others (children, spouses, employers, etc.) that we push our own needs aside. It seems as though it is after we become overwhelmed with the tasks that we need to complete that we realize that we may be cheating ourselves. Sometimes, it seems that the natural needs of others outweighs our spiritual needs.

It's not that the demands of life are more important than our personal relationship with God, but rather that it's easy to lose sight of our priorities because of the immediate needs at hand.

Recently, my husband and I were preparing to teach a seminar on the topic of getting closer to God. It was during this research that we realized that to get closer to God, we simply need to focus on getting back to the basics; reading the scriptures, fasting and prayer, and eliminating the unnecessary distractions found in our lives.

Think your life is too busy to squeeze even one more thing into your schedule? Me too! But when I took a minute to re-evaluate my day, I realized that there are areas of opportunity to help me to draw closer to God. Now that my children are older, and our evening routine no longer includes the nightly bedtime story, I've learned to use that time to read the scriptures (and encourage my children to do the same). Do you still have younger children? Add a Bible story to your nightly reading list.

Are you so exhausted at the end of the day that you find yourself nodding off as you kneel at your bed to pray? When I REALLY paid attention to the things I do all day, I found windows of opportunity that I realized I could be spending in prayer. Where did I "find" the time? Well, instead of mindlessly checking my e-mail or social media outlets at every chance, try checking them just twice a day (once in the morning and once in the evening), and use that mid-day e-mail check-in to check-in with God instead.

Still feel like you've lost your focus? Volunteer to teach a Ladies' Circle lesson or a Sunday School class. Nothing prompts you to dig into the scriptures like doing the research needed to answer all of those questions that could be thrown at you!

Once I make a few minor adjustments to my daily routine and begin to get back to the basics, I find that I am right back where I need to be – closer to God. And what I really learned through this exercise is that when I am feeling far away from God, I am the one who moved, for Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I am the one who changes.



God Can Help You Solve Problems

Many years ago I was helping with a fun Bible School way out in the country far from town. Each day more children came and the night before our last day, I was going over our supplies and realized there were not enough craft materials to keep dozens of lively children busy. It was already late and too far from the town to get any supplies. I started praying.

I remembered how God had helped Nephi make a bow and arrow when the one he had broke and they were far, far away from any city, stores, or people to get a new one. Then God told Nephi where to go and hunt to find food. His family was so hungry, and so mad at him for breaking the good bow and arrow, that they did not even help him. (See 1 Nephi 16:18-32). But Nephi never forgot the goodness of trusting in God. He had faith that God would help. He took his bow and arrows, sling, and stones, and walked many miles to the top of the mountain where God had told him to go. Then he hunted, killed for food, and had to walk back carrying all the heavy meat and then clean it and cook it!

I knelt down in the other room and prayed, asking the Lord to please give me an idea, show me something we could use, just as he had shown Nephi in the Book of Mormon. Then I remembered seeing a box of wooden tongue depressors. I wondered if I could steam

them for awhile then bend them into circles to make bracelets. I tried it. Some broke; some bent nicely. I kept praying and trying. I pushed them into empty cans to try to form a circle, but they popped out. I kept looking and praying and thinking. Then I tried squeezing them between the couch cushions to hold their shape while they dried overnight. It worked! We had a good craft for the children.

God had opened my mind and given me a solution! The Book of Mormon scriptures in Moroni 10: 7 and 19 teach us that "...for he (God) *worketh by power according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever.*" The Bible says in Hebrews 13:8 "*Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday, and to day and for ever.*" So you can find help like Nephi of old, and I did.

The next time you have a big project, at home or in school, find a quiet place in your mind and start talking it over with God. Ask God in the name of our precious Jesus to help you think clearly. Ask Him to even give you the strength and energy to do the right thing. Pray.

You may have to try several ways, but keep working. Nephi had to walk a long way to the top of a mountain to find wild beasts to feed his group. I had to try more than one way to hold the steamed wood firm so they would dry in the right shape. But pray with faith that God will help you. Be willing to work, and He will!

God knows all the answers. God knows if you need more help or more knowledge. Trying to learn something new is often very hard. But remember,

we serve a living God. Our Savior, Jesus knows just exactly how it feels to be a worried human, and He loves each of us. He loves you and me. We can pray, step out with faith, and God will amaze us with what we can do.

Ask God to help you each day with every project and good idea. Then work hard! Pray! It works.

With love,
Your Friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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May GMBA Conference--Mentorship Continued from page 8

individuals who served them as mentors, as well as pointing to other individuals who are mentioned in scripture, they explained just how important it was to develop this kind of relationship among us. Their words stirred my memories and I thought of those individuals in my life, who, as long as I have been in and around the Church, have taken on the role of mentor to others, including me. For generations in the past, just as I see them today—brothers and sisters whom I refer to as Spiritual Giants have dedicated themselves to the service of their fellow man and to the service of God, faithfully exemplifying what it means to be a Man or Woman of God. I consider their examples and the impact they've had on the lives of others as well as mine. How encouraging it is to hear of the examples that some brother and sister show, and even more so, to be able to interact with them and have them show me how to take all the steps I need to take so that I can be closer to Christ and more closely follow His—the ultimate—example.

Though certainly not the only one, an example our brothers alluded to was Moses, and the role he fulfilled as a leader of the Israelites and as a mentor to Joshua. Addressing them before they entered into the Promised land, Moses, who was now 120 years of age, said he was no longer able to "...go out and come in..." neither was he going to enter the Promised land with them (Deuteronomy 31:2). Having been with them since they left Egypt, leading them out of captivity, spending all those years in the desert, serving as their leader and mediator, after all that, when he was finally going to leave them, Moses did take time to prepare Joshua (Deuteronomy 34:9), who was chosen to by God (Numbers 27:18-23) to eventually step up to the leadership role. Before he died, Moses offered a last piece of advice to Joshua, telling him to "...be strong and of a good courage..." (Deuteronomy 31:7) in the task that lay before him, in proceeding to enter the Promised land. Moses having now passed away, Joshua found himself in the same position as Moses when he led the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt. This, and having to fill big shoes—that of a prophet such as never would another like him arise in Israel, whom the Lord knew face to face (Deuteronomy 34:10). Whatever task Joshua faced, however tall it may have seemed, reassurance came when the Lord said to him, "...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee," reiterating Moses' words, encouraging Joshua to be "strong and of a good courage."

Besides my age, I consider myself young in the sense that I'm learning and have much to learn still, and I realize that many experienced brothers and sisters whom I look to for guidance will admit that they too are still learning. But when I see that the GMBA officers make it a point to address the importance of being mentors to young people on whom they can rely on for guidance, for when the time comes when this young person needs to step up and take responsibilities, I am reassured that there is someone who will be a mentor to whoever needs one. This has been something that brothers and sisters have been doing for as long as there has been a group of people striving for the fulfillment of God's commandments, I'm sure. However, with every new generation that comes along, it is crucial to receive them, nurture them, and teach them that they would grow strong in Spirit, with as much care as Christ himself—and that they know that they are cared for as much. This is coming from a young person, as I myself see and remember who mentors me as I continue in my walk, and hope to eventually pass on what I receive.

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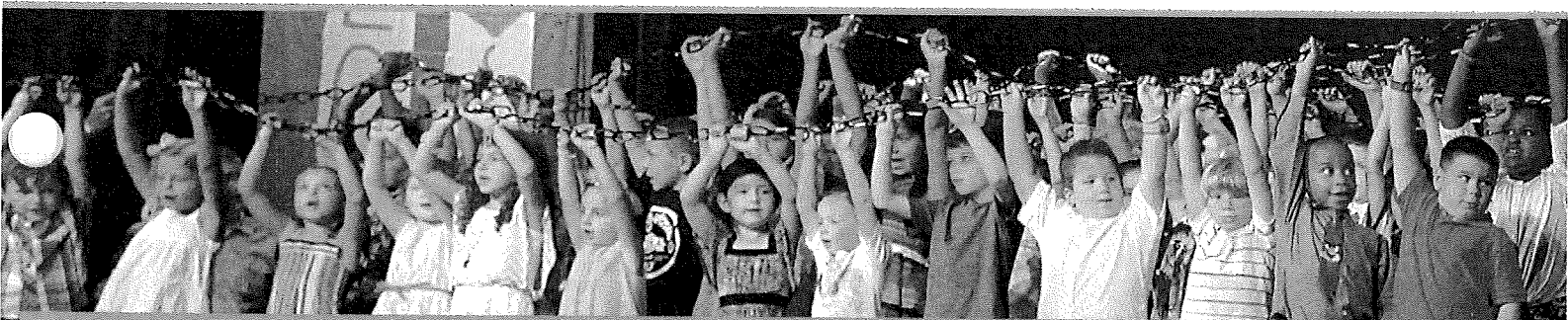
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God Bless You! The Gospel News Staff



...and He took their little children, one by one, and blessed them... III Nephi 17:21

Blessing Bits

BB The Phone Call

I was in the hospital with end stage liver disease awaiting a potential liver transplant. Each day brought worse symptoms and a steady decline. One night at 3:00 am I desperately wanted to pray with someone. I was too distracted by the pain to pray myself. I thought through a list of people to call but dismissed each because of the time. The Spirit gently spoke to me, saying, "Call Brother Lou". Immediately Brother Louis Hutsko came to my mind. I had heard he was recently ill himself and set it aside in my mind. Again, in a much firmer tone the Spirit spoke and said, "Call Brother Lou Hutsko now". I picked up my cell phone and to my surprise his number was already pulled up on my phone so I did not have to search for it, only push dial.

After only a few rings Brother Lou answered. I apologized and explained my need. In amazement he stated he had never experienced this in all his years in the temple. He had been awakened over an hour before and was in prayer for me when my phone call came. We had a wonderful time of prayer. My spirits were lifted and the pain was subsiding. The following morning he visited and we rejoiced again over the goodness of our God. The Lord did intervene in His time in a miraculous way, but that night will live with me

forever. I was shown first hand that the storms of life sometimes leave our minds unable to form the words our spirits need. It is then that our God, who is always looking towards His children, hears the silent cries from our hearts.—*Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr., Monongahela, PA Branch*

BB Awake, My Soul!

When I was in my early 20s I was going through a really difficult time. I felt far from God and dissatisfied both personally and spiritually. It was time for GMBA Campout, and I went to camp half-heartedly. One morning in our seminar class, we were talking about how we can sleepwalk through our spiritual journeys, and I realized that I had been doing that for a long time. I was in a fog, not fully living with God or experiencing Him. The seminar teacher, moved by the Spirit of God, raised his hands in the air and said, "Awake my soul! No longer droop in sin!" He kept repeating this over and over until some people in the seminar joined in. I, too, raised my hands in the air and said those words. In that moment, I felt a release and a freedom I had not felt in almost two years. I know without a doubt that God rescued me. My soul was re-awakened, and I felt a joy and peace that only comes from God.—*Sister Christine Martorana, Quincy, FL Branch*

Missing your third Blessing Bit this month? So are we!
It's **YOUR** Blessing Bit that is missing.
Please glorify God and share your blessing with us.

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

Q Question for this month: Life can bring many struggles. Share with us what works best for you to stay focused on the Lord and rise above your challenges.

A Answer from last month: *When did you first understand and feel God's love? Does a specific memory stand out from your childhood?* I vividly remember the first time I felt the Spirit of God. My Aunt Marilyn Scolaro was being ordained a deaconess and when the brothers laid hands on her and prayed, it was as if someone said to my young mind, "Pay attention! This is important!" I had been playing in the pew with my friends, but from that point on I paid close attention and was overwhelmed at the beauty of the ordinance. I didn't understand what I was feeling as I was only 8 or 9 years old, but I knew that He was in the matter and it was something that He wanted me to appreciate and understand.—*Sister Kim Komjathy, Detroit, MI Branch #1*

Check back next month for more answers to this question.



...and He took their little children, one by one, and blessed them... III Nephi 17:21