

The Gospel News

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Awake, Oh My People

By V. James Lovalvo

(From the March 1972 *Gospel News*)

How often these words have been spoken by prophets of old, as well as by individuals under the influence of God's Holy Spirit! These words are an indication that His people are in a spiritual slumber. Divine Providence has always sought to awaken His people to an awareness of their spiritual conditions, and of their environments, which in many instances have had a very severe impact on their lives. It does not take very long for a people who profess kinship with their creator to often lose the perspective of their spiritual adoption and birthright blessings, and allow a lethargic feeling of "do nothing," or "all is well," to slowly and silently creep upon them until, as in some recorded cases, it becomes too late to repair the damages resulting from their carelessness.

Consider Israel, whom the Lord brought out of Egypt by dividing the Red Sea; who were led by a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day; to whose prophets the Lord spoke by dreams and visions, but to Moses face to face. God lifted them up to become a mighty nation, feared and respected by the world. But when they became careless and failed in their duties toward Him, they were punished severely. One instance in particular comes to mind. The Lord had commanded Israel to neither retrieve nor collect any trophies of battle during one of their wars. However, one of the leaders, a man called Achan, stole a Babylonian garment and a wedge of gold and hid them in his tent (Joshua 7:10-26). Immediately the tide of battle turned against Israel and quickly Joshua recognized the reason; someone had disobeyed the Lord's commandment. The punishment was severe: Achan and his household were put to death. Afterwards the Lord returned His blessings upon them, and they were able to defeat their enemy and emerge victorious in battle.

The Book of Mormon is also filled with information regarding the blessings that were given to the Nephites as long as they kept His commandments and of the dire consequences that befell them whenever they broke His laws.

History Repeats Itself

Throughout the ages of time history has had its own peculiar way of repeating itself. For some unknown reason, the people of God hardly ever seem to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors. Is it not reasonable to suppose that the same spiritual lethargy that came upon those in the past also befall those of the present? Satan's job is to make God's people feel at "ease in Zion," to feel that "all is well" in the kingdom of God. The devil, like an evil genie, begins to slowly blindfold the Lord's people so that in time, the things that were once frowned upon and looked upon with abhorrence, now become condoned and tolerated. The sleep of carelessness begins to creep slowly and inexorably upon His people until the true perspective is lost; sight becomes dim, until the eyes can no longer focus spiritually and the "hundred nothings that broke the donkey's back" become a reality; some of the watchmen on Zion's walls who cry out, "BEWARE," are often ridiculed, as were the prophets of old. The signs of the times are upon us. Should we not pay heed to the word of God, "Awake, oh My people"?

What does it take to awaken a people from their slumbering condition? Apparently, neither warnings by men of spiritual farsightedness, nor the revelation of the Almighty, seem to have much effect when the eyes become clouded with self-importance and the sight is dimmed by the scales of "easy living." *"Neither earthquakes nor fires nor*

(Continued on page 11)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 It's not too late to plan to attend General Church Conference
4	5	6	7 Pray for the ministry traveling to Conference	8 Pray for the Apostles and Evangelists meeting today	9 Pray for the Ministry meeting today	10 Pray for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle meeting today
11 Pray for those at Conference and traveling home	12	13 Pray for the McKees Rocks Branch- pg 4	14	15	16 Visit an elderly member of your congregation	17
18 Spend time with the kids in your branch today	19	20	21 "Don't be gettin' ready. Be ready."- pg 3	22	23	24 Invite someone over for dessert tomorrow
25	26 Send in your Gospel News donation today	27	28	29 Reflect on the day you were baptized	30	31

September 2015
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

November 2015
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30

October 2015

"Behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God." (Moroni 7:16).

BTF Blast From The Past

Apostle A. A. (Tony) Corrado

Forty-three years ago this month, Brother Tony Corrado would have an experience about a man who lived well over 3,000 years ago – but, an experience for the Church whose message would ring truer with each new coming day. Carried away in the Spirit, Brother Tony relates, *"I saw a glorious but terrifying movement in the sky"* – as clouds forming into a funnel. *"I heard the voice of God like thunder say, 'I sent Moses.'" He then saw Moses, "a well-built man dressed in ancient apparel."* But it was in the words *"I sent Moses"* that Brother Tony would gain the clearest of understanding – that God is the same today as He was with Moses. The Lord then beckoned, *"Oh ye, My people, tarry around Me,"* and promised, *"I will lead you and guide you. I will also protect you and will tell you what to do."* This same experience would occur twice that night. January 1987 *Gospel News*, p. 3

Apostle A.A. (Tony) Corrado ►



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:

- From where did the Lord bring Israel? (Page 1)
- What do the people of God have to look forward to? (Page 5)
- How can reverse mentoring be applied in the Church? (Page 6)
- In what year was the Penn Mid-Atlantic Ladies' Uplift Circle established? (Page 9)
- According to Brother V. James Lovalvo, what is the backbone of the Church? (Page 11)

Wordup

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



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

"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:33)

One Saturday morning the Hollywood Branch prepared tables of wares at the Sunrise Boulevard Flea Market. Once finished, before the market opened, I journeyed away to spy on our competition. The first person I found was a delightful elderly woman. "So, what are you doing with yourself?" she asked. Thinking myself clever, I offered, "Oh, I'm just getting ready." Seeing through my weak attempt at a double entendre, she admonished, "Don't be gettin' ready. Be ready." Game, set, and match to the wise, unassuming little lady selling knitted sweaters.

That conversation still remains with me 30+ years later. Jesus wanted His interactions to remain with His disciples equally as long and began this one with the cautionary, "Take ye heed." His words were surely reason for pause, as He wanted to make certain His followers paid attention and applied deliberate care to His message. "Take ye heed" was His warning label for what He was about to say.

He followed with one simple word, "watch," reinforcing the need to maintain focus. In times of war, guards are trained to tirelessly stay fixed on the surroundings, mindfully purposed on identifying any and all threats. He was reiterating this direction, understanding spiritual warfare requires the same rules of engagement.

The third facet of His sober instruction was, "pray." 1) Be cautious, 2) be attentive, and 3) be prayerful. He understood that dangerous times require God's protection, so He counseled His own to implore God's loving protection and guidance. Often people are oblivious to the menacing force engulfing them until it's too late. He understood the lack of awareness and preparedness to the potential of such peril. Most importantly, He knew they didn't know, so He made it known. "Ye know not when the time is." Because one can't be certain when readiness will be necessary ("when the time is"), the nature of man is to spend time simply "getting ready." "Getting ready" deceives us into believing we're accomplishing the task when actually it's only masking our lack of commitment. "Getting ready" offers no measurable results while "being ready" demands evidence. Equipped with more wisdom than my little sweater-selling lady, Jesus sits waiting for our interaction at His table, ready to respond to our attempts at cleverness. Should we offer, "getting ready," His firm reply will sound like, "Don't be gettin' ready, be ready!" Of course, His words will be, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is"

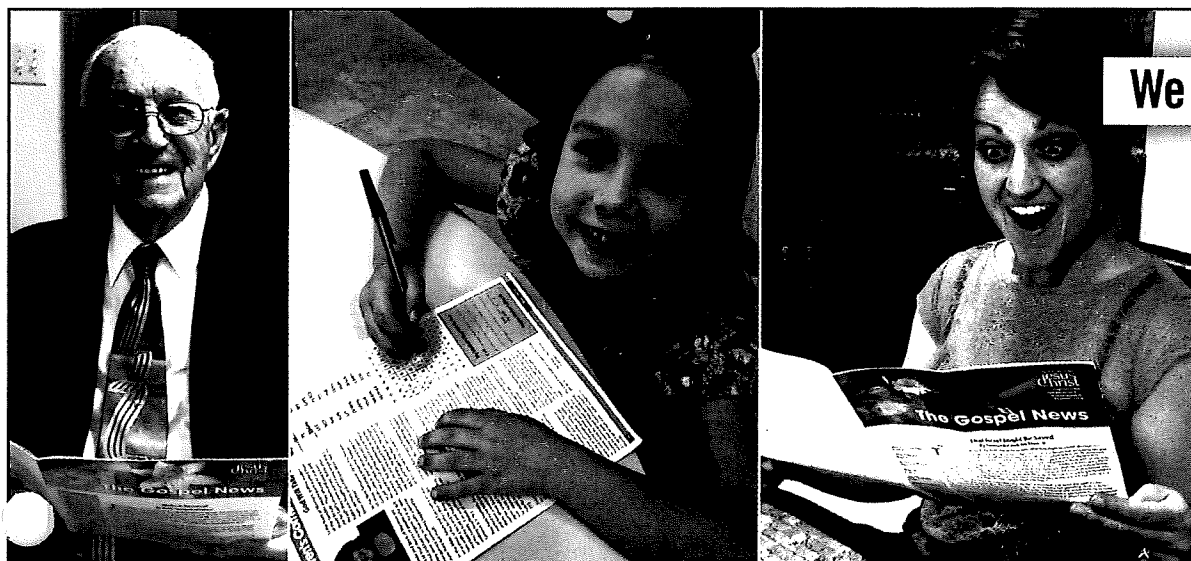
Do you have a favorite verse you'd like us to dissect? Please send it in to: "Word Up"

MB Meet the Branch

Domestic Church — McKees Rocks, PA Branch



We at the McKees Rocks Branch are proud to present our congregation to you! Our current building was dedicated on February 17, 1985 and started with just 35 members. Today we have 97 members and a congregation of about 140 with friends and visitors. We have started a McKees Rocks Mission at the C.A.S.H. Club every Sunday with a congregation size from 15-25 people each week. We run several programs throughout the year, which include Kid's Church, VBS, and special local MBA Events. Through all of our various activities, our focus always remains on Jesus Christ and His Amazing Grace that is afforded to each and every one of us. We rejoice that our names could be written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and we can be members of the Restored Gospel! We are so happy to say that as a branch, we look forward to our Sunday and Wednesday Services because we know that our Redeemer is there with us as well as the fellowship of the family of God. We pray God will continue to bless us in the McKees Rocks Branch.



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Carolynn O'Connor
carolynn@xalapack.com
734-260-0213

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Chuck Maddox, Jr.
cmaddoxjr@gmail.com
937-266-2506

CONSULTANTS

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

OFFICE MANAGER/TYPESETTER

Erma Draskovich

CHURCH COPYRIGHT PUBLICATIONS

Cathy Gentile

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Ken Lombardo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

KarenJo Pandone

QUORUM OF 70 EDITOR

Timothy Mott
tmott@earthlink.net
614-286-1900

GMBA EDITOR

Daniel Mora
daisymora17@gmail.com
586-850-0952

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Consuella Hopkins
swella1@att.net
574-287-1040

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Michael Zaino
mrzaino35@gmail.com
732-289-4191

GREAT LAKES

Kim Komjathy
komjathy@wowway.com
248-371-9208

MIDWEST

Ruth Gehly
gehly001@gannon.edu
814-476-7519

PACIFIC

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

PENN-MID ATLANTIC

Chris Nicklow
rdnj1@gmail.com
724-258-7392

SOUTHEAST

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

SOUTHWEST

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

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By Elder Anthony Scolaro

Several articles in this Gospel News issue focus on vigilance, the quality of being awake, alert, and aware. It is crucial to success in so many aspects of life. Spiritually speaking, the more we know of our enemy's methods and strategies, the better equipped we are to ward off an attack.

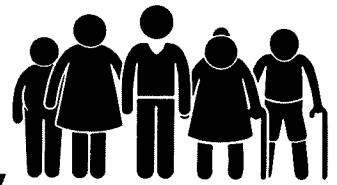
An old proverb, "*It takes a village to raise a child*," has gained popularity in the last few decades. In theory, it aligns with the idea of being vigilant about our children's safety. Traditionally, a village was the ideal place to rear children: Youngsters grew up surrounded by family and friends who shared their parents' priorities and values. The village afforded protection from outside enemies and threats of every kind.

However, today's world is very different from that traditional village, and it continues to change rapidly. Not too long ago, it was safe to assume that the people around us shared our principles and values with regard to right and wrong. However, that is less likely to be the case today. Things God's word teaches are destructive to both body and soul are viewed by growing numbers of our peers, educators, and leaders as being harmless. What we recognize as a threat to our safety might be viewed by our neighbor as a good thing. Yet the world tells us insistently, "*It takes a village to raise a child*."

The Lord gave a warning dream to the Church not long ago concerning wolves attacking our children. While God's warnings were never intended to make us fear, if we are not awake, alert, and aware, we may fail to recognize the enemy when, wearing sheep's clothing, he walks through the village gate. "*It takes a village*" advocates a larger role for society—even as it experiences moral decline—in our children's upbringing. Knowing the evil that is being promoted as good in today's world, we must be more vigilant than ever about teaching our children right from wrong.

It is encouraging to know that our Church—the MBA in particular—provides venues where we can experience a positive "*village*" environment—at least for a few days. At GMBA and Area MBA Campouts, our children can enjoy a place of safety where peace, love, and righteousness abide. Just as in the village of old, they can feel what it's like to be surrounded by family—the Family of God, who share the same values as we do. At Campouts, lifelong friendships form, friendships that become very important as our children—like us—live in this world.

As the people of God, we have great things to look forward to. The promises of Christ's protection over the righteous, of His return, of a time of Peace on Earth—are certain to be fulfilled. But as that time approaches, for our sakes and for the sakes of our children, we must remain vigilant. King Benjamin was said to have labored with all the might of his body and the faculty of his whole soul (W. of Mormon v. 18). Let us be like him and, in the words of a familiar hymn, "*Let us hope and trust, let us watch and pray, and labor till the Master comes*."



My Generation Topic Series: The Church of Today

By Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr.

Tomorrow. That word makes me uneasy. There is no definitive time or action associated with the word; rather, it is general and vague. Its use always signifies the future: I'll take care of it tomorrow. There's always tomorrow. It can wait until tomorrow. To me, tomorrow means I don't need to worry about the task at hand until a future time. Right now, it isn't important. It can wait.

Today. That word makes me excited. It is the right here and the right now. It is definitive and specific, a call to action. I will finish the job today. I will change my life around today. I will choose to serve God today. There is no procrastination in the word today. Today is a promise of completion.

I spent a weekend in Hollywood, Florida with brothers and sisters from the Southeast Area MBA recently for our annual business conference. I have the pleasure of being the president of our area, which means I am able to sit up front and see the congregation throughout the meeting. I love when I look out at the crowd and see young people from around Florida and Georgia choosing to spend their time with followers of God. This past conference was no different. There were about 70 people in attendance at conference, and the majority of those people were under the age of 25. Brother Dennis Moraco spoke to the young people at the start of conference, saying, *"You are the Church of today!"* Then, he turned to their parents and other brothers and sisters, saying, *"They are the Church of today!"* He continued saying no longer are the young people the Church of tomorrow; rather, the Church needs their energy, their passion, and their desire to serve the Lord today. We cannot do it by ourselves. We need their help, and we need it today.

While growing up in the Church, I sometimes heard people say the young people are the Church of tomorrow. As a young person, that always struck a chord with me. Why am I the Church of tomorrow? Do I have nothing to offer right now? Do I need to wait until I'm older to add value to the Church? I soon realized calling young people the Church of tomorrow was well intentioned but perhaps misguided. Picture a battlefield. In order to be successful, you need people on the frontlines fighting, others supporting from behind, others supplying the soldiers, and still others coordinating and directing the group. It would be difficult for those on the front lines to be successful without the support of their fellow soldiers on their side. As followers of God, we're fighting a battle each and every day, but we cannot win unless we all work together. It is a reciprocal relationship: the young people need the support of older brothers and sisters and the older brothers and sisters need the support of the young people. We are all fighting the same cause. We are all the body of Christ. If one person loses, we all lose, but if one person wins their fight, we all win together.

Former General Electric CEO Jack Welch understood this very concept. When he realized his company was falling behind in its use of the Internet for sales and marketing, he knew he needed help. He and his executives rarely surfed the web, and they certainly were not qualified to educate their employees on the ins and outs of using the Internet as a business tool. To continue to be a powerful Fortune 500 company, Welch implemented a concept at GE called reverse mentoring. He instructed each of his executives to partner with a younger, tech-savvy web guru on how to use the Internet to increase business. In other words, the young people mentored the older ones. Through this reverse mentoring model, GE was able to continue to grow in the 21st Century. We often view mentoring as a top-down model: older, more experienced individuals mentor younger, less experienced individuals. While this is beneficial in many ways, reverse mentoring can be just as powerful. Reverse mentoring allows young people's voices to be heard, and young people can share their knowledge and views with those who are older. When the exchange of information goes both ways, mentoring can be used as a bridge to link two different generations of people.

Reverse mentoring has great potential for our Church. If you are an older person, I encourage you to connect with a young person today. What Church lessons do young people find engaging? What type of activities would young people feel comfortable inviting their friends to? What do young people value about the Church? Provide an opportunity for them to speak with you and to mentor you on their interests today. If you are a young person, connect with an older brother or sister today. Take time to listen to their experiences today. Praise God with them when their prayers are answered today. Be present in the moment with them today. See how this two-way relationship can strengthen and inspire both of you.

No longer is anyone the Church of tomorrow. We are all the Church of today!

Lake Worth & Treasure Coast Branches Enjoy a Glorious Day Together

By Sister Dianne Maddox

On Sunday, March 22, the Lake Worth Branch and the Treasure Coast Branch met together in the Lake Worth Branch building for a glorious day. In the 1940s when the Church was just beginning to spread to the state of Florida, a mission was established in West Palm Beach. The dedicated saints living in both the West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce areas met together as often as possible...and that was before I-95! Due to the growth of the West Palm Beach Mission and the fact that the saints lived so far from each other, two Branches were eventually established, the Lake Worth Branch and the Fort Pierce Branch, which is now the Treasure Coast Branch. A few of the saints that were involved in that work are still among us today. The two oldest members that were present in our meeting were Brothers Frank Rogolino and Mike Radd.

Brothers Chuck Maddox and Rocco Benyola presided over our meeting as they are both the Presiding Elders of each branch. Brother Chuck said it was nice to work with Brother Rocco once again. Working together is not new to them. About 25 years ago, when they were both members and Branch Trustees of the Lake Worth branch, they played an integral part in building the current Lake Worth building.

As our day began, we all felt a wonderful Spirit as Sister Joyce Rogolino sang a solo.

Brother John D'Orazio was inspired to open our meeting. He related experiences and referenced scriptures to remind us that obedience is better than sacrifice. He encouraged everyone to stay close to the Lord, to keep His commandments and to remain faithful to the end of our days. Brother Rocco followed our Brother and said that he knew the Lord had inspired Brother John's words. He said that if the lot had fallen upon him to be the first to speak, God had inspired him to deliver the same message. Brothers David Cecchi and Clint Cason also spoke and offered words of encouragement.

To begin our testimony service, Sisters Linda D'Orazio and Terri Benyola were asked to give their testimonies from the pulpit. They both thanked God for the blessings in their lives. Our meeting was then opened to the congregation to testify. Every testimony was filled with praise to God for His goodness. Several references were made to the joy many of the older saints found in serving the Lord together in the "early days".

After our meeting, we continued our fellowship by enjoying lunch together. We thank God that He brought His Saints to this part of the vineyard and that the hard work of the early Saints was fruitful.

More Answers to the Question of the Month continued from Page 12

"I actually graduated med school... That's a miracle!"—*Sister Juliette Coppa, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch*

"Being a marketing major, we did A LOT of group projects and presentations. Group projects always made me nervous but God put three girls in my life whom I worked very well with and we ended up doing most if not all of those projects together. I definitely wouldn't have done as well without them and I know God provided them for me."—*Sister Mallory Batson, Cincinnati-Morrow, OH Mission*

"There was a time my computer crashed, and I lost everything I was working on for the past hour. I said a quick prayer, and thank God, everything came right back when I turned my computer back on."—*Sister Alyssa Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch*

"It was the end of the year and we had exams. If I didn't pass the exam, I wouldn't pass the class and I would have to do credit recovery which means I wouldn't be able to play football because it was at the same time every day. So I prayed right before I took the exam, and I passed by 1 point."—*Brother Jackson Hamet, Detroit, MI Branch 2*

Perseverance and How to Not Give Up Drawing Closer to God Using Persistence

By Brother Cameron Staley

I've seemingly done it a million times... certainly more times than I can count, and quite honestly, that's probably enough times to call myself a professional. The problem is, "it" isn't something that I'm very proud of. The "it" that I'm referring to is quitting, otherwise known as giving up. I imagine that most of us – maybe **all** of us – have given up on something during the course of our lifetime. This happens out of frustration due to disappointment, loss as a result of hurt feelings, or sometimes even out of spite. Fear, anxiety, and wanting to avoid a potentially difficult conversation can all lead to "throwing in the towel".

Why Do We Give Up So Easily?

I've given up on everything from fitness goals to friendships and even from learning how to play an instrument to professional endeavors. I'll admit it - I've done far too many things halfway. As I have thought about many of those failures, I have really struggled to understand **why** I haven't followed through. After untangling and sifting through the usual excuses (mentioned earlier), I came to the conclusion that in each situation I had consciously decided to stop trying. Now some things are certainly more serious than others when you're talking about giving up. However, the fact remains that the reason that we fail or succeed remains the same, and the only thing that we can really control is our effort.

Our Efforts and Residual Affects

If only I could control my effort – regardless of the challenge - then my effort (or lack thereof) will only have an affect on

me, right? **Wrong.** Our efforts have a profound impact on others, both positive and negative. We can inspire or demotivate. We can encourage or discourage. We can comfort or add to pain. We can lift up or tear down. We can give hope or be apathetic. We can teach or we can create confusion. In anyway that we choose, whether we want to accept the responsibility or not, we have an immense influence on the lives of others. All of those great things – inspiration, encouragement, and comfort, lifting people up – make up the equation of our **best efforts** plus the Spirit of God. They are the results of perseverance.

Perseverance is defined as "steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success". In other words, it is "sticking to it" no matter what in order to achieve victory. If you want to learn a new skill, you need to persevere, because you're very likely going to need to try more than once. If you want to fix a broken relationship with a friend, with your parents, or with your boyfriend/girlfriend/spouse, then you're going to have to be steadfast, because relationships don't heal overnight. If you want to do something for God, for the benefit of The Church, it's going to take determination and commitment, because you're going to face adversity.

Looking to the Past & How It Applies to Our Future

The Word of God is filled with examples of men and women that achieved great things through faith and perseverance (check out Hebrews 11). How different would our belief system be if these people had given up when faced with challenging

circumstances? We hear sermons and sit in classes week after week that describe miraculous things that occurred due to the faith and steadfastness of our spiritual heroes (Jesus, Noah, Moses, Samuel, David, Ruth, Apostle Paul, Lehi, Nephi, Alma, Moroni, etc). Our Church's history books are also filled with accounts of equally amazing events. We also share a pew, live in a home, or share meals with people that are living examples of perseverance. These people have suffered loss, had disappointments, and have been confused at times as well. But they've chosen to **never give up** and that's how the good news of hope and salvation continues. That's how we draw closer to God and grow spiritually.

The next time you're faced with something that shakes your faith, that discourages you, or maybe just seems like it's too frustrating or uncomfortable to deal with: just keep going and push through it. Look to your Brothers, Sisters, friends, and loved ones for encouragement. Pray constantly for guidance and strength. Surround yourself people that you can draw strength from. And one of the most important things you can do: come to Church even when you don't feel like it. The blessings that God will provide after even the most difficult times will give us the faith to go on, and possibly the privilege of being an example for someone else in their time of need.

Ether 12:6 says – "...I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore dispute not because ye see not, **for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith**". That witness is worth the trial. Never give up!

Abish the Lamanite Woman By Brother Kerry Carlini

An angel of the Lord abruptly put a stop to Ammon, his brothers, and Alma when they had gone about in secret wreaking havoc and destruction among the people of God. But more dramatically, the Lord wrought a change upon their hearts that they would passionately and unyieldingly make amends for the evil they had committed and reach out to as many as possible of those lost in sin. Ammon's journey, as prompted by the Spirit of God, led him to preach to the Nephites' fearsome enemy, the Lamanites, in the land of Ishmael. It was there that he miraculously delivered the King's flock from marauders and then was summoned by King Lamoni, before his court, to give an explanation by what power he was able to do these things. Then and there, this same power fell upon Ammon, the king, and all of his court, bringing about a wonderful conversion. Abish, a servant of the queen, would be very instrumental in what would follow. Here are five amazing facts about Abish, the Lamanite woman:

- 1 Abish had been secretly converted unto the Lord for many years due to a remarkable vision had by her father.
- 2 Having witnessed the king and queen, their servants, and Ammon fall to the ground as slain in the Spirit, Abish recognized this occurrence to be the power of God.
- 3 She quickly gathered a multitude round about, that they might see the Lord's work, and that they too would be converted.
- 4 Abish, however, was heartbroken upon returning to see a strong contention arisen among the multitude, for fear that Ammon had brought a great evil upon them.
- 5 However, Abish in hopes of raising the queen from her fallen state, took her hand, and immediately she arose. Likewise, the queen took the hand of the king, and he arose. Ammon and the servants would arise as well, all giving testimony that they had conversed with angels.

Mosiah Chapter 27, Alma Chapters 17-19



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

History of the Penn Mid-Atlantic Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sister Karen L. Progar, PMA Ladies' Uplift Circle Historian

The Penn Mid-Atlantic (PMA) Area Ladies' Uplift Circle is relatively young in comparison to some of the Area Circles that have been active since the 1960s.

On March 31, 1985, sisters from Pennsylvania were on their way home on a bus from a General Ladies' Uplift Circle (GLUC) Conference held at Detroit Branch #1. Discussion arose regarding Area Circles, and it was suggested that we form an Area Circles as well. Over the years, it seems the common thought was that the Pennsylvania sisters had the opportunity to attend and support all GLUC activities because of our proximity to most of these activities, and there was no real need for an Area Circle. After much discussion, the sisters voted and plans to organize our Area began.

On May 11, 1985, a meeting was held. Sister Elsie Gehly became the Chairperson (currently, President) of the Area Circle, and the PMA Circle hit the ground running, holding our first Area conference on November 2, 1985. It is interesting to note that Sister Mabel Bickerton did our seminar that day on the topic "Search the Scriptures," something that is a basic precept of the Circle. Our first retreat (currently, Fellowship Weekend) was on August 22-23, 1986 at McKeever Environmental Center near Fredonia. In the 28 years since its inception, the PMA Circle has held 24 weekend events for the sisters and over 50 conferences.

- Below are a few events and activities that have defined our area:
- May 5, 1990 - First Mother Daughter Banquet (Monongahela)
 - March 20, 1993 - The first Joy Box was sent from the Area
 - March 21, 1998 - The Area voted to create a committee to make travel communion sets for Missionary work

- February 16, 1991 - The Area held a special activity to see the Plants of the Bible at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh
- April 29, 2000 - Hosted the General Circle 80th Anniversary meeting at the Monongahela Local
- June 11, 2003 - Visiting Sisters program begun, with a visit to the McKees Rocks Local for a lesson and fellowship
- September 2005 - The PMA Area took on the responsibility of updating the *Songs of Zion* at the World Operations Center
- April 28, 2007 - a committee was formed to develop activities for the girls in the PMA Area

In addition to all of those activities, the Area has supported the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ, sponsored numerous Vacation Bible Schools, developed many Church leaders and met every need ever presented to the group.

Initially, the local presidents were to act as advisors to the Area president. A full roster of officers was elected in March of 1994 with changes in the Ladies' Uplift Circle by-laws.

Presidents throughout the years have been Elsie Gehly, Sara Vancik, Karen Progar, Jan Cornell, Linda Ottavian, Joyce Ross, Becky Tarbuk, Jacqui King, Connie Frankenbery, Robin Burns, and Marty Jumper.

Our secretaries have included Diane (Ciotti) Giannetti, Nancy Gehly, Dorothy Schaeffer, Marty Jumper, Mary Buffington, Jan Cornell, Jacqui King, Sandy Bittinger, Sherri Wasik, JoAnn Niehl, and Jesse Painter.

There is much more to share. The PMA Area Ladies' Uplift Circle has a marvelous heritage and will, prayerfully, continue to carry that heritage on through future generations.



Esther

Esther was a beautiful Hebrew girl. She was raised by her cousin, Mordecai, when her parents died. They believed in praying and serving the one, true God, like we do. When the King of the land was looking for a new wife, she had to leave her home and go live in the palace. She was alone. For one year she stayed with the other girls and ate special foods, and no doubt took special classes to understand what was expected of her. She had to learn new rules of living, figure out who was a friend she could trust and study to understand all the ways of the rich, ruling people of the land in case the King picked her as his new queen. Can you imagine how lonely she was?

She was not allowed to even meet with her family again, but sent her maidservants to the gate of the castle where her cousin came. He told her to keep her Jewish religion quiet and they all just kept praying. The King did pick her as his new queen. God had a plan. The Jewish people had an enemy in Haman, an important man in the kingdom. He hated all of God's people and planned to murder them and take everything they owned.

When Esther and her cousin heard the terrible news, they were all afraid. They knew only God could save them. But Esther had not been with the King for thirty days. It was against the law to bother him unless you were invited. How could she ask him to save her people? What did they do? They prayed and fasted. It was so serious that all of the Jewish people were praying and fasting.

For three days they never ate or drank but just prayed. (See Esther 4.) Then Esther went to the King. He was happy to see her. She invited him to come for a special dinner along with the enemy of God's people.

And at the dinner, she asked them to come back the next day again for dinner. Then when the King asked her what she wanted, she told him. She asked for the lives of her people. She told them that Haman planned to kill everyone. The King was furious. He ordered bad Haman to be put to death instead.

So, the girl with no parents, the girl who had to learn how to be a queen, the girl who was surrounded by enemies prayed and won!

That is God's promise to us. The Apostle Paul wrote in a letter to the church people in the country of Philippi, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* This means Christ will make me strong. (Read Philippians 4:13.) You can do all things with Christ's help. I can. We can.

When you are worried about school, pray and ask God to help you. Ask Jesus what to do. If there is trouble, pray and ask the Lord to show you who to ask for help. I cannot tell you how many times that I have been having a problem and God has sent someone to help me figure out what to do. Ask the Lord to help you organize your day. He will even help you find lost things. He'll show you someone to be a friend with.

Ask Him to help you understand and know what to do. If Esther had to find friends and learn all the rules in a huge palace, so can you. I know. I decided to go back to college this year to learn how to speak Spanish. The special computer didn't work. My teacher said I had lost the first fourteen lessons that I spent three hours working on. I told my Mother (who is in her eighties) I want to quit. *"This is too stressful!"* I yelled when one thing after the other was hard to figure out.

My Mother said, *"No! Don't quit. You have always wanted to learn to speak Spanish! You have been saying that for a long time! Pray and work hard."* So, I haven't quit yet, even though I've felt like it.

I know she's right. I will pray and work

hard. The Lord helps me constantly. He is helping you too. Look around and think what new thing you would like to learn. Remember how many things you already have done. If a baby gave up trying to learn how to stand and walk, everyone in the world would be crawling. So that means you must have gotten up and tried hundreds of times to walk and now run.

You can do it again. God wants us to use our talents new and old!

With love,

Su Amiga (Your friend)
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

THE
BIBLE
TEACHES
US
WE
CAN
DO
ALL
THINGS
WITH
THE
HELP
OF

JESUS
CHRIST
WHO
GIVES
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Awake, Oh My People

 Continued from page 1

tempests seem to prevail upon a people who have wrapped themselves in glory of 'self.'"

One thing and one thing alone is really understood: Famine. Thus it was in the days of Elijah when the Lord shut the heavens that no rain fell for three and a half years. So it was in the days of Nephi the son of Helaman, who, seeing the hardness of the hearts of the people, asked God to send a famine in order to bring them down to the depths of humility. God heard Nephi's prayer and sent a famine in the land that lasted for a long time. It was also a famine that brought the brothers of Joseph to prostrate themselves before their brother who had become a ruler in Egypt. In the Great Depression of 1929 and the years following, there was quite an influx of membership into the Church because of the tremendous need that abounded. When there is need, people have a tendency to turn to their Maker.

There is a strong possibility that God may have to send another famine to bring not only the world, but also His own people, into the depths of lowliness and humility.

A wise man learns from the mistakes of others; a fool never learns, being puffed up in his own pride and despises wisdom, thinking himself to be faultless. A wise man pays heed to the revelation of God; a fool despises His word, being wrapped in a cocoon of his own selfish imaginations.

When a people's spiritual sight begins to abate, they turn to natural and temporal endeavors. They begin to build monuments, huge structures to commemorate their names rather than God's. The people built a tower in Babel to immortalize their name, but God destroyed their purpose by confounding their language. What a terrible punishment! All because they were not "AWAKE" to their existing deplorable condition. Let us beware: History has a very unique way of repeating itself.

Pre-eminent Position

In these last days God has given the Gentiles a predominant and pre-eminent position. The Gospel has been restored to the Gentiles but with a very severe admonition—to keep His commandments, to preach the Restored Gospel to every kindred, tongue, and nation, and a special commandment that nothing but the pure and unadulterated Gospel shall go to the Seed of Joseph, the American Indian.

In the early years of the Church the revealed will of God came in spirit and in power to wit: "Go ye therefore, to all this Continent, and when ye return, I shall endow you with power to go to all the world" (*History of The Church of Jesus Christ*, vol. 1). In addition, a revelation from the Almighty came to this people that "A home shall be provided you on the borders of the Lamanites, the American Indian, by the preaching of the Gospel." Here are two revelations that speak very plainly. Is it not time that the people of God "AWAKEN" to their sacred responsibility? To live such a righteous life as to cause the arm of the Lord to be extended in their behalf; to put away everything that would be a stumbling block; to eschew even the things that have the appearance of evil; and to at least strive to fulfill the above-mentioned revelations?

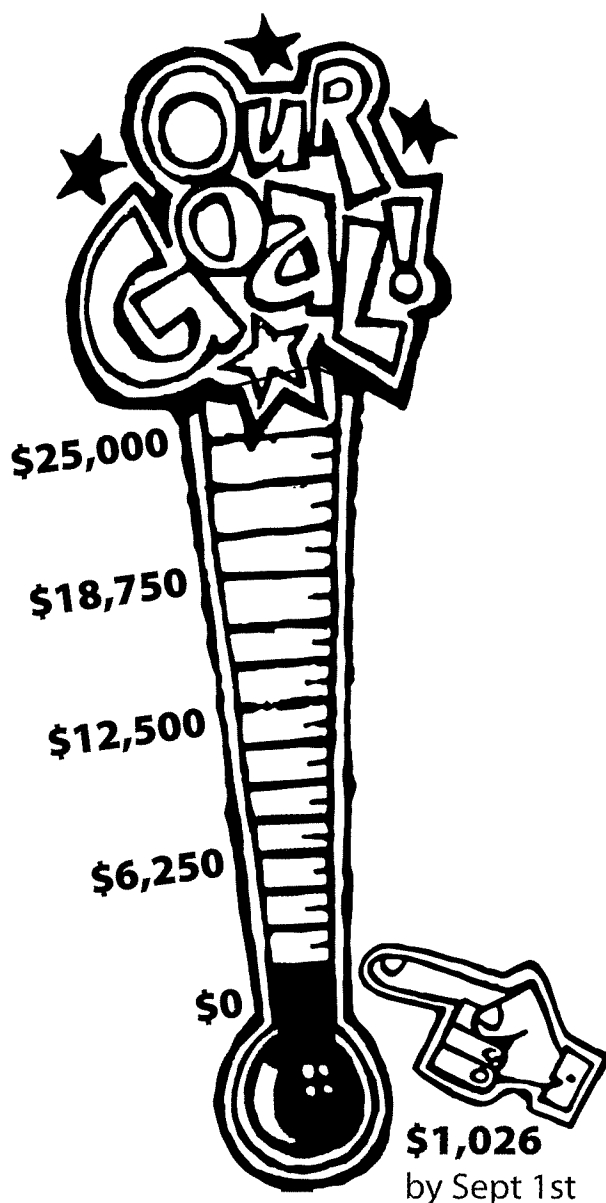
The backbone and the life of the Church has, and will always be, its missionary endeavors. Without a missionary spirit, it is lifeless. The missionary endeavor should supersede all other endeavors. Let the

spirit of true missionaries envelop each heart and life; let the missionary work proceed with a united effort until the commandments of God and His revelations are fulfilled, and the Church emerges triumphant and arrayed in the glory of the Lord to the point where He looks down and says, "It is Good."

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Blessing Bits

B Saving My Ring

One time I was on a trip to Dedham, Massachusetts for their bi-monthly church service. Brother Sam Sgro and I stopped at a rest stop to eat. While there, I went into the men's room and as I washed my hands, I heard a "clink" sound. I realized my wedding ring had slipped off and had fallen down the drain. Just then, as I was in shock, and wondering what to do, a man seemed to come out of nowhere and told me not to worry, and that he would return with his tools. He came back, opened the drain, and handed me my ring.—*Brother Tom Goode, Metuchen, New Jersey Branch*

BB He Walks with Us

I had spent many days on the road walking to get to my destination of Erie. The trip had been long and I was exhausted; nevertheless, I pushed on. While passing through Clarksburg, West Virginia, the weather was extremely hot. Approaching an exit ramp of the highway I was traveling on, I thought if I could just get to the top of the ramp, surely there would be a place for me to sit and rest beneath some trees to cool down; however, that was not the case. Unable to go any further and suffer-

ing from near heat exhaustion, I collapsed to my knees and began to pray to God for strength and peace.

Just then a storm cloud formed directly over me and ice cold raindrops began to fall on me, lasting for about three minutes and then dissipating. This revived me and brought the strength that I needed to carry on in my journey. Praise God for always seeing and knowing my needs.—*Brother Jimmy Kirkpatrick, Bell, California Branch*

BB Miraculous Recovery

On July 4, 2014, my brother Steve got a severe headache and was seeing light flashes. I anointed him, and we took him to the hospital. Steve underwent emergency surgery at 2:00 a.m. for what we learned was a brain bleed. About 52 hours later, they rushed him back into surgery for a second brain bleed. The surgeon told us there was no way of knowing if Steve would ever recover. He also stated quite emphatically that Steve would have marked deficits of coordination, strength, and motion on his right side. I knew that if Steve couldn't continue cutting hair or playing guitar, he


would probably rather pass away. But Steve soon began to improve! One of his doctors said that his case was a miracle. Of course, we agreed. Steve is now back to work, traveling, cutting hair, and playing guitar. Most importantly, Steve had been out of Church fellowship for many years, and now he is back! Thank God!—*Brother Tony DeCaro, Lindsay, California Branch*

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

Question for this month: *In addition to being thankful for Jesus Christ and His Gospel, what are you thankful for this upcoming holiday season?*

Answer from last month: *Share an experience or example from your school years where you knew God helped you succeed.* "In biology, I took an exam and biology is my worst subject. I knew however hard I studied I wouldn't get the results because there was just so much info. Well, I prayed many times the night before and while I was taking the test. When I turned it in, I knew I had done awful. A few moments later, I had a feeling inside of me that I was helped by God because I was suddenly confident, and I got my results back and I got an A- on it. Thank God!"—*Jack Lovalvo, Detroit, MI Branch 2.*

Turn back to page 7 for more answers to this question.



Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein. Psalm 69:34