

# The Gospel News

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## Zambia Africa Church Building - Dedication May 20, 2012

*By Evangelist Joe Perri*

**T**he year was 2005 when we met a man by the name of Albert Kawama. He was a friend of Brother Cipeng, our President in charge of the Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Knowing that we would be making a missionary trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Albert Kawama was invited by Brother Cipeng to travel from his native country of Zambia and visit with him and to listen to the Restoration message presented by the missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ. Unknown to us, Mr. Kawama was in attendance at every seminar meeting listening intently to the subject matter we presented.

It was a few days before our departure from the Congo that Brother Cipeng introduced us to Albert Kawama. The first words that came from this man were that he was touched by the Spirit of God as he sat and listened to each message we presented and spoke on. Albert further went on to say, when he returned back to his home, he was going to speak to his people and tell them what he heard during his visit and how God touched him with His Holy Spirit. He felt certain when he brought back a positive message of the things he heard and the love we had shown to our brothers and sisters in the Congo, they would request us come to Zambia and introduce the Restored Gospel message and the beliefs of The Church of Jesus Christ to his people. Upon his return he requested that we come to Zambia to bring the message of the Gospel to him and his people. On the 23rd of October we began the long awaited journey to bring the message of the Restoration and the Faith of our Church to another nation in the continent of Africa.

Deep in the heart of the Zambia Copper Mining belt, there is a town called Chililabombwe. The day was November 6, 2006, when The Church of Jesus Christ was organized in this town. Sunday worship services were held in school classrooms. Bible and prayer meetings were held during the week in homes but soon the classroom and homes became too small to accommodate the membership of this branch. There were no buildings that could be rented; the membership had grown to over 200.

We proposed to the IMOC and General Church Trustees, there was a need to build a church building for this branch. An appeal was made to the Chililabombwe Town Council and they graciously donated to the Church a parcel of land that measures 165 feet x 329 feet. The Finance Committee gave us a loan to build the church building. As soon as the Chililabombwe membership received news that the loan was approved to start construction, they went to the proposed sight and offered a prayer - first thanking God and also asking for His protection. Construction started December, 2010 and was completed June, 2011. The first meeting held in their newly constructed Church building was New Year's Day, January 1, 2012. The number on that first Sunday in attendance was 385.

Plans were made to hold dedication services on Sunday, May 20, 2012. It was a bright, cool, sunny day as we drove the one hour from our hotel in Chingola anticipating the blessings of God in meeting the many that would be attending. Several choirs favored us with hymns they practiced especially for the dedication. Brother Chalwe, the Presiding Officer of the Chililabombwe Branch, and now the President of the Church is Zambia, introduced Evangelist Philip Aracuri and I, Evangelist J. Joseph Perri, to the congregation. The scripture chosen for the sermon that morning was taken from the Book of Isaiah 66th chapter. "Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that you build unto me and where is the place of my rest". The sermon stressed the importance of having Christ in our lives and giving him a place in our hearts, dedicating ourselves a spiritual house unto the Lord just as we were dedicating the building.

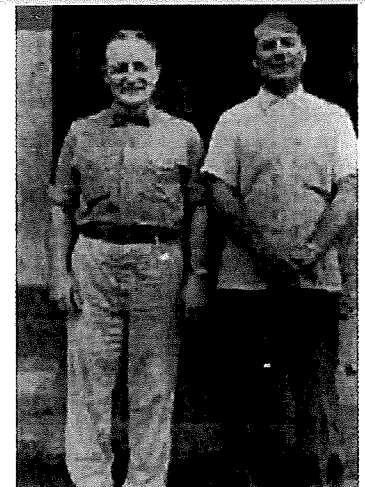
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2012 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October 2012 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	28	29	30	31	1
2  Pray for those who got baptized at campout.	3  Labor Day - Labor for the Lord!	4  Thank God for your job.	5	6  Send in a Blessing Bit and answer this month's question (please).	7	8
9	10  Pray for the Church in Nigeria.	11	12 Read Church history to prep for 150th Anniversary edition next month	13	14	15
16	17  Pray for the small missions in the Church.	18	19	20  Give money to the Church.	21	22
23  Spend time greeting each member at Church today.	24  Pray for Detroit Branch #1.	25	26  Volunteer for something new in your branch.	27	28  Start planning for Christmas activities in the branch.	29
30	1	2  Go to MBA and Ladies Uplift Circle.	September 2012			

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*  
Matthew 5:16

## BT Blast From The Past

**M**issionaries, Brothers John Ross and Alvin Swanson, would experience one of the Church's greatest surges in membership 52 years ago this month. Known already for its high number of converts since its inception in 1954, opportunity for growth for the Church in Nigeria would increase quite dramatically when Brothers Ross and Swanson met with leaders of the Nazarene Church in the spring of 1960. After much instruction and deliberation, a time for baptism was appointed, with September 5, 1960, marking the first day with 40 baptisms. However, in taking 4 hours and requiring the help of Nigerian elders, 744 converts were baptized on September 16th. Over 500 were baptized on the September 21st. And again on September 28, over 500 more converts were added, for a total of 1,784 baptisms in one month.

Brothers John Ross and Alvin Swanson ►





## 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**

## DNA and the Book of Mormon

*By Elder Josh Gehly*

**C**an genetic testing prove or disprove the Book of Mormon? In recent years many opponents of the Book of Mormon have turned to DNA analysis in a fervent effort to discredit the truth of the work. A careful analysis of their claims, however, reveals a complete lack of understanding of population genetics studies. As many scholars have agreed<sup>1</sup>, the Book of Mormon cannot be proven or disproven by DNA – the truth of the text lies in the faith of the observer.

DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid and is a blueprint for all life. It acts like a fingerprint, which is why crime scene investigators can determine so much from a swab of saliva. It is easy to use DNA to test if Joel Gehly is my father, but impossible to test the exact relationship between myself and somebody who lived 1,000 years ago. Population genetics studies populations over time by examining genetic markers. Individual genealogies commonplace in scripture cannot be tested through current DNA research.

An estimated 90% of North American native populations died, mostly from disease, from the European conquest of the Americas. This creates a bottleneck, which means the genetic data of Natives today does not accurately represent those prior to 1492 CE [Christ Era]. Take a bag with 10 Skittles of many colors and pick only one. Does that single Skittle's color represent the whole bag of Skittles, certainly not. The Nephites went through many bottlenecks during their existence. Think about the wars, the contentions, and the destruction recorded at the crucifixion of Christ.

Modern Jews have undergone multiple bottlenecks since 600 BCE [Before Christ Era], also. The conquest by Babylon in 586 BCE, siege and subsequent exodus of Jerusalem in 70 CE, and the holocaust during World War II all would have drastically impacted modern genetic testing results. We would need a random sample of the genetic data from Jerusalem dating to 600 BCE, which does not exist.

<sup>1</sup> Many scientists who study population genetics or biological anthropology have publically spoken out against criticisms of the Book of Mormon using DNA. These individuals are prestigious members of the scientific community including the head of the Department of Biological Sciences at Iowa State University, the Vice President of Research & Development Genesis Genomics, Inc., and a member on the board of the National Science Foundation, among others.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## Domestic Church - Detroit Branch #1



As the first branch established in the Great Lakes Region, Detroit Branch #1 enjoys a history rich in the manifestation of God's power and spirit. From its divine and humble beginnings in 1921 with just five members, it has grown greatly in number helping to establish several branches in the Region, and today claims a membership of over 120.

For many of the saints of Branch #1 today, our heritage in the Gospel begins with the testimonies of our grandparents and great-grandparents: Italian immigrants of the 1920s and 1930s whose lives dramatically changed when they encountered The Church of Jesus Christ. These early members of the Hall and Devine Branch [original building location] have been characterized as fiercely dedicated and intensely committed to the "treasure" they found in America. They laid a firm foundation on which future generations could build. We now enjoy a diverse membership including many ethnicities and cultures. Additionally, it is our continued privilege to share the Restored Gospel with the Muncey and Six Nations Missions.

We currently meet in Chesterfield Township, and we are thankful that the Lord has continued to reveal His will to us and to manifest His Spirit among us. Our branch is blessed with many talented musicians, and we delight in praising God through song. We enjoy an active M.B.A., Ladies' Uplift Circle, and have recently started holding Kids' Church during Sunday services. Fueled by a desire to strengthen our families, we've organized events over the past year celebrating the divine institution of marriage and involving our children more in the service of God. Our prayer is that we would prove faithful, united in service, maintaining the love of God and seeking to do His will in all our endeavors.

## International Church - Nigeria, Africa



Nigeria is one of the oldest mission fields of the Church. The first trip to Nigeria was made in July, 1954. Currently there are approximately 3,000 members in Nigeria. The membership is spread over four areas - Lagos, Abia, Ikenio, and Akwa Ibom. Travel in Nigeria is dangerous due to poor roads and thieves. Malaria is a common everyday illness. Witchcraft and black magic are prominent which pose a real threat to followers of Christ.

In spite of adverse conditions there is much to rejoice about in Nigeria. Lagos is undergoing a wonderful transformation doubling the members in two years in three locations through comprehensive seminars and evangelistic efforts.

The MBA has grown immensely through quarterly evangelistic outreach with groups of young people traveling to other branches that need encouragement.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. Their nation is a violent, tumultuous, and poverty stricken place. In spite of all this, The Church of Jesus Christ restored Gospel is growing, energetic, and dedicated. Pray that God will bless and keep them as they press forward as He has for all of these years. See Blast From the Past for more information about Nigeria.

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## Message from a Past Editor

# MPE

By Elder Anthony J. Scolaro (Gospel News Editor 1984 - 1994)

I was 25 years old and had been baptized a little more than five years when Brother Ken Staley asked if I would consider being the Gospel News editor. It came as a complete surprise, because Brother Ken and I had never discussed the Gospel News. He had no way of knowing that:

- I had been praying for the Lord to use me;
- From a very young age I had thought I would love to have that job;
- I had prayerfully pursued a college degree in English; and
- I was working for a publishing company.

I listed these facts in descending order of importance. I know the Lord directed Brother Ken to approach me about the editor's position, but I make mention of these details because I had been prayerfully following a path of desires, choices, and opportunities regarding education and employment. I had often questioned the wisdom of that path, from the standpoint of career opportunities and monetary success. But I had trusted the Lord, and suddenly it all made sense: I clearly saw God's purpose in giving me the desire, the ability, and the strength to carry out the responsibility of Gospel News editor.

During the time that I edited the paper [September 1984 - October 1994], I worked at a handful of jobs, was ordained a deacon and later a teacher, relocated to a different part of the country, and got married. Amid all of the changes made and blessings received through these years, I was still seeking the Lord's help in obtaining a career that would allow me to support a family. After ten years He opened a door for me that involved going back to school at the age of 35. It was at that point, working full-time while attending graduate school—that I stepped down from the Gospel News.

Looking back over those years, and thinking about the rich lives and wonderful testimonies of so many of God's servants (both in the scriptures and in the Church), I thought how beautiful it is when the Lord uses the skills He gives us, and the learning opportunities He provides, to accomplish His work, and how the skills we develop in working for the Church often help us in our natural jobs as well. The word "vocation" came to my mind as I reflected on these things, in a spiritual sense that we can each apply to our life with Christ.

"Vocation" shares a root with "vocal" and "voice." Literally translated, it means "a calling," though we often use it to refer to something closer to an occupation or career. Temporally speaking, we may not all experience a calling to our job or profession. Fortunate is the person who feels "called" to a particular trade or occupation at a young age; possess the talents needed to excel in that type of work; and is given the opportunity to develop and enhance those abilities to their full potential through education and training.

But the greater calling is the one that we hear and answer by surrendering our lives to Jesus and becoming part of His Church. Isn't that our true vocation? Regardless of where life takes us naturally, what matters most is knowing Who has called us. And just as we need to pursue knowledge and expertise to excel in our chosen occupation, we need to spend time and energy to "make our calling and election sure" II Peter 1:10, and always seek to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith [we] are called" Ephesians 4:1.

In recent months the idea has been impressed upon me that we only have one life—that we shouldn't think in terms of having a "natural" life and a separate "spiritual" life. Therefore, any career goals we may set should be aligned with the scriptures that speak about this calling. It has been my experience that when I have focused on the Lord's call, He has taken care of the other aspects of my life—especially the most important ones—in a manner that abundantly exceeds anything that I could have asked or thought - Ephesians 3:20.

May God bless all who seek His direction in every aspect of life. Regardless of our natural occupation, He has a plan for every one of us to do great things in His sight, for His honor and His glory, for the establishment of His Kingdom here on earth.

# GMBA Campout 2012

## What did you expect to get out of campout?

"Strength to press forward."  
– Sister Diane Maddox

"Blessings! A chance to experience Zion for a few days. No stress, no worries... just like minded people seeking the glory of the Lord."

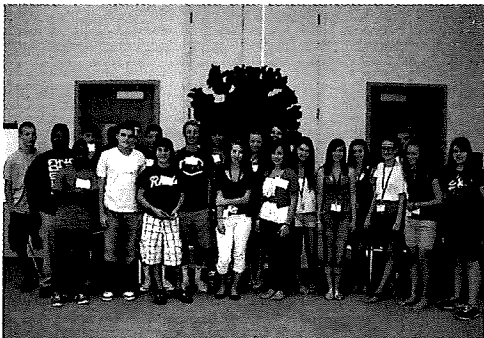
– Sister Jennifer Lambert

"I wanted to get out of camp a sense of understanding and purpose of where God wants me to be and what He wants me to do in this life."

– Brother Scotty Monaghan

"A re-vamping of my spiritual well-being."

– Brother Jared Stone



## Why did you come to camp?

"I came for the blessings, and it's a time for revival." – Sister Erma Draskovich

"Other than the obvious, to get my kids engaged in campouts, to fellowship with the Saints, and to make friends."

– Brother Jim Draskovich

"To see old friends from the Church."

– Ally D'Orazio

"To have fun, see old friends, and to learn about God." – Jackson Hamet

"Because it is the best week in the year!"

– Justin Benyola

"To see all the brothers and sisters, friends and family, and it was a good chance to ask for my baptism."

– Sister Elizabeth Zaccagnini

"I go to camp because it gives me a taste of Zion and always fills me with the blessings of God, almost always in ways I never could have expected."

– Brother Bryan Champine

"To help with registration and re-energize my spirit." – Sister Laura Stone

"If you let the events of the day dictate your glory you will be disappointed. If He gives you the breath of life it's a glorious Day."

– Brother Chuck Maddox



"The fact that you are here and alive proves God has something for you to do."  
– Brother John Genero





## What was your favorite part of campout?

"Midnight baptisms! Seeing four kids from the seminar I taught and one from my own branch was the highlight of my week." – Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr.

"My favorite part was getting baptized, for sure." – Brother Sean Monaghan

"Witnessing how the Lord used each willing individual that offered themselves to be used for camp!! Thank You ALL!!!"

– Brother Jim Lambert, Jr.

## How should we keep the campout Spirit going following camp?

"Just Think About It, but don't think too big...stay in the moment and recognize the GLORY in God's love for you!!" – Brother Jim Lambert, Jr.

"We need to LIVE the Camp theme, 'Glorious Day'! There was a reason why the theme built up to the last day of 'Glorious Life' and we can keep that Spirit going by choosing to be a happy people and choosing to live closer to Christ as we do at camp and keep that fire going daily! It will be contagious!" – Brother Jason Monohagn

"Remain focused on spiritual things and spend time together." – Brother Tom Dorazio



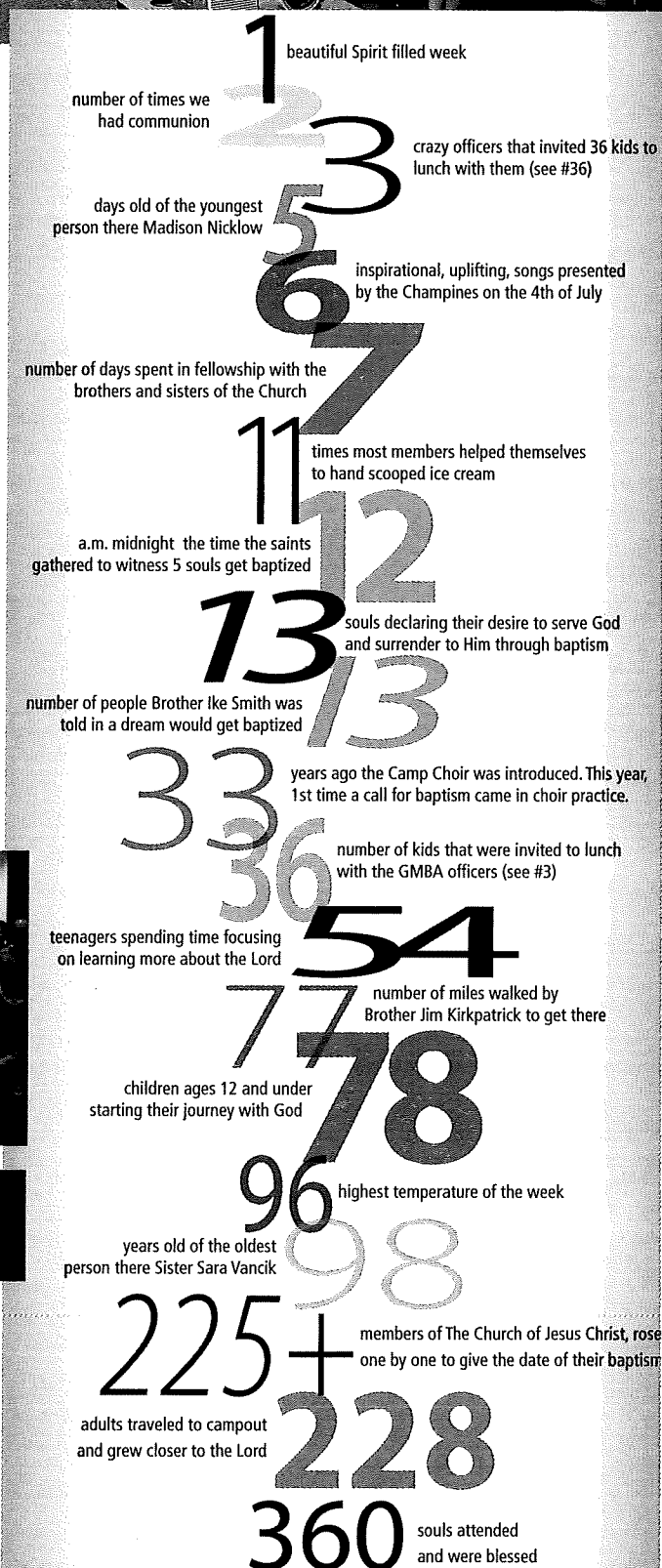
## What are your overall thoughts following camp?

"God is really, truly so very good to us!" – Brother Tom Dorazio

"Do the two and don't do you!" – Brother Doug Obradivich referring to the 2 greatest commandments and putting yourself aside.

"It's an inside joke that we call it campout because the experience has nothing to do with camping. It's the experience of life and knowing Christ in your life. Our lives are campout."

– Brother Ken Lombardo





## The Lord's Work in Our Small Missions By Evangelist Timothy Mott

**H**ave you ever been confronted by a pint-size, yapping dog and heard the owner say, "He doesn't know that he's not very big." Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned from our furry friends – no matter how you compare to the competition, you still have to represent yourself as the complete package to this world. In The Church of Jesus Christ, we are thrilled to hear of successes coming in our super-size branches. Many of our larger metropolitan areas have these types of magnet branches that are able to attract a diverse mix of saints and offer an incredible list of programs and activities. Fascinating as our large branches are, what about the small outposts? Ah, now there's a topic near and dear to my heart...

I grew up in the small town of Kinsman, Ohio, with a population of about 2,000. When I returned from the 1993 GMBA Campout in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, as a newly baptized member, my arrival meant that our membership rounded out to 16! When my cousin Megan requested her baptism the following summer, we hit a whopping 17 members. But I have something interesting to tell you – as young people returning to our home mission, we weren't aware that we were a small group. You see, I was surrounded by a group of saints who loved the Lord and His Church, and poured their hearts and energy into making it the best possible place to serve Him. I grew up with Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Sunday afternoon MBA classes, Christmas caroling, summer picnics, and many more activities. Year after year, our sisters would pull the thespians out of us children and put on programs for Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Thanksgiving [Yes, you counted correctly. That was six times the memorization of poems, songs, and skits for us kids! One year when our grand village was celebrating 200 years, we put together a float and proudly represented the Church in a parade along Main Street. We didn't care that we were small; we loved our God and each other, and our lives were all about Him and His kingdom on earth.

### *"Think Big, and Don't Skimp..."*

In The Church of Jesus Christ, a majority of our branches and missions have less than 50 members; many less than 25. Do we let that negatively affect the spiritual life experience that our children and young people have? We have to all channel our inner Sisters Anna, Betty, Esther, Joyce and Rose [some of my spiritual champions growing up] and think big. As I think about our small missions, I have several examples of items we shouldn't be skimping on:

- **Vacation Bible School** – as summer nears its end, did your group put on a VBS program for the mis-

sion's kids? If not, it's a great time to start thinking about changing that for 2013. My wife and I were recently talking about how we need to start thinking about using some of our vacation time for this important effort each year. Last month I received the following Facebook post from an old classmate: "Hello Tim. . . I have many found memories of Vacation Bible School at your church with your family when we were kids. . .!" She now has kids of her own who are at an age appropriate for VBS – are we still reaching non-member families like hers?

- **Music** – do you have a piano player? What about a backup player? Is your only piano player in his or her golden years with nobody else to fill his/her shoes down the road? Back in those iconic memories of my youth, almost 50% of the kids growing up went through piano lessons. Our parents weren't all counting on great seats at the concert hall one day; they were molding us for the Lord's work. Sure, it didn't stick with all of us, but I dare say that there was not a branch in the church that had a better harmonic blend of voices back then. Everyone knew the basics of music, and boy did we sing!
- **Young People** – even if there are only a few, the young people of a mission have to be a focal point. Last year in Columbus, we voted as a group to allocate \$1,500 to subsidize our young people attending the 2011 World Conference. It provided a memorable experience that will live on in our young people's memories for the rest of their lives. In your mission, do you do anything special with your young people? I'm not talking social events or trips to an amusement park; rather, spiritual mentoring through involving our young people. We'll further explore this topic in a future article.

### *"How does this involve me?"*

You'll notice my personal memories were generated by labors of love from many of the sisters in my home mission. The ministry provided a sound doctrinal foundation through the Word of God, but it was the average member that truly gave me a fighting chance to become a grounded member of The Church of Jesus Christ. As you think about your branch or mission, look at the current programming being offered and consider if there are holes to be filled. Don't wait for someone to ask you to take on a certain role or plan a certain activity. Consider the talents he has entrusted you with and seek opportunities to use them, allowing for blessings to be returned to the Lord.

*"Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."* Matthew 25:23



## Naaman's Miraculous Healing

By Brother Kerry Carlini

**D**uring the time when Israel was divided between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms and at war with Syria, Naaman was stricken with leprosy. This highly regarded commander of the Syrian army, however, would be delivered from this loathsome disease by a prophet – of all things – an Israelite with whom his country was at war. Here are five amazing facts regarding Naaman's miraculous healing:

- 1** After an Israelite girl was captured and taken as a servant for Naaman's wife, it was the concern and faith of the young captive that ultimately led the king of Syria to request from the king of Israel a healing for Naaman.
- 2** Upon hearing the request, Elisha asks that Naaman be sent to him that *"he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."*
- 3** But when the great commander reaches the door of Elisha's home, Elisha never greets him but sends his servant to instruct Naaman to wash himself in the river Jordan seven times.
- 4** Feeling somewhat let down by the simplicity of Elisha's response, Naaman nevertheless does what is requested, is miraculously healed, and renounces his pagan god.
- 5** Almost 900 years later, Jesus would speak of Naaman's faith that *"many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian."*

II Kings 5th chapter

Luke 4:27

## Ladies' Uplift Circle News



### Our Voice

By Sister Angela Yoder, General Ladies' Uplift Circle Editor

**W**e all have one. We use it every day. . .but how are we using our voice for the growth of The Church of Jesus Christ and the Ladies' Uplift Circle? As sisters, are we welcoming, nurturing, genuine, hopeful, and determined? As the theme of our morning devotions at the Atlantic Coast business conference, we were welcomed with these thoughts.

In April, the sisters gathered together to participate in our spring business conference. As the Hopelawn Branch began to fill with sisters, you could feel the excitement building. With voices blending beautifully together, the sisters began praising the Lord with song. The blessings were already beginning to flow!

The sisters have an amazing ability to juggle all of the business at hand, while still being able to share in spiritual blessings. As the sisters entered, they

were randomly handed "prompts" that were used throughout the meeting. It was a blessing to all to hear the voices of our sisters as they came forth one by one to respond to their prompts with answers to questions such as "Tell us why you are here", "Tell us a talent you have", and "What word best describes you?"

As we transitioned back into the business portion of the meeting, we heard the reports from each officer and the Area Presidents. We are always amazed to hear how active our local Ladies' Circles are and how much money such a small number of women can raise! It is always wonderful to hear that our fund raising efforts assist and support our Native American Vacation Bible Schools and other various missionary fields.

After our lunch break, we gathered together again as Brother Phil Arcuri joined us to share a presentation regarding the missionary work that is being performed in Liberia, Africa. We enjoyed hearing the experiences

and seeing the photos of the saints in that area and we thank Brother Phil for spending the afternoon with us.

One of the most fulfilling parts about being a member of the Ladies' Uplift Circle is the fellowship. The sisters who traveled stayed in the homes of the saints of the Atlantic Coast Area which enabled us to learn more about one another. Whenever we are together, you are sure to hear the voices, the laughter and the crying of the sisters. This weekend was no different. We shared numerous experiences, listened to countless testimonies, told many stories and even offered a few prayers. In short, we grew closer to one another.

So, did we succeed in using our voices to help promote the growth of the Church? I believe we did.

As a group, we will gather together again in October to conduct the necessary business at hand. We look forward to hearing your voices and seeing your faces.



## Hadassah's New Beginning

**A**t this time of the year, many of you are going to new schools. Since life is about changes and more changes, you will probably be in a different grade with new teachers and students. You may have to make new friends, figure out the new rules, and learn where to go to eat, play, and study. You will have to be strong when you feel discouraged or confused. You have a powerful tool to help you do this. You have a tool you can use in the middle of the hallway or on the playground outside. It is an old, old, ancient tool that never gets old or breaks. It is called prayer! Prayer gives you wisdom, strength, and help.

When you are worried or trying to find out what to do, you can call on God, in the name of Jesus to help you. He will. You can silently ask God to show you where to go; He can send you a friendly person you can ask. You can ask God not to let a bully hurt you and He can help you figure out a way to keep safe. You can pray that God will help you learn a hard new skill.

The scriptures are full of true stories of people who were going through many changes who needed and got help from God. One of the best stories is about a beautiful Jewish orphan girl named Hadassah also called Esther. After her parents died, she lived with her cousin Mordecai in a country ruled by a powerful king named Ahasuerus. The King needed a wife. He made a law for all the pretty young women who had not been married to

be brought to the palace so that he could choose one to marry.

Now, it doesn't sound like there was much choice, or somewhere else to go since this King ruled from his side of the world, from India to Africa. Hadassah was sent to the palace. She no longer could talk face to face with her dear cousin. She was called Esther and Mordecai told her not to tell anyone what her religion was. Every day he walked in front of the palace to know how his young cousin did and what would become of her. (See Esther chapter 2).

For one year each girl lived in the palace, ate certain foods, and was given things to purify her or get her ready to meet the King and see if she would be chosen. Her days of family and freedom were over. Can you imagine how scared and worried she was? Do you think she missed being able to go outside, go to the markets and see her friends? Don't you imagine that the palace food was different than her food at home? Can you imagine all the rules and manners a girl had to learn?

When the year of learning was up, King Ahasuerus chose Esther for his Queen. But he did not know she was Jewish and served the one and true living God. A powerful man named Haman lied and told the King that Jews were bad. He got the King to make a law to destroy the Jews and take their property.

When Mordecai heard the dreadful news he put on clothes that were torn and dusty and prayed outside the gates. Esther sent her servant to find out what was going on. Mordecai told her the news that all Jews were to be destroyed and told her

she was needed to talk to the King and ask him to save the Jews.

She reminded him that she was not even allowed to go to the King unless he had invited her, or lifted his royal scepter towards her. Mordecai told her this might be the reason she was even chosen Queen. She told him she would do it but first they must pray. All of the Jews in the city joined Esther and her cousin as they fasted and prayed for three days, begging God's help. (See Esther chapter 4)

After the praying, she dressed in her most beautiful clothes and went uninvited before the King. He saw her and lifted the golden scepter allowing her to come to him. The Lord gave her great wisdom. She did not just blurt out her problem. She invited him to come to a special dinner and bring Haman with him.

When they came she begged the king to save her people and he was furious with Haman. He changed the law he'd signed. The young Jewish girl who had come to the palace and learned so many things used the powerful tool of prayer. Her people were saved and so was she.

Think about Esther when you are in a strange place surrounded by change. You can also use the powerful tool of prayer. God sees you and hears you just as He has always heard those who follow him. You are not alone and God is smarter than anyone else. Also ask your friends at church to pray for you. They will!

With love,

Your friend who has  
had many new beginnings,

Sister Jan Bork

*(Continued on Page 11)*

Even if genetic data was available for Jerusalem dating to 600 BCE, it would not help our study much. Think of it this way: do you accurately represent all of America today? Is everyone the same height, shoe size, hair color? Actually, diversity of individuals within a population is greater than diversity from population to population. As an American, I do not represent all of the genetic diversity within America. In fact, I represent only one series of traits within a container full of different colors of different candies – to use our analogy above. If I was to move to a remote location and start an entire civilization – I would not accurately represent all of America dating to 2012 CE. In population genetics, this is called founder effect. The Nephites are a classic example. Nephi was only one color of Skittles in a population of diverse and different colors of Skittles, M&Ms and [hopefully] Starbursts. In other words, Nephi was not a random sample of Jerusalem. He did not accurately represent all 20,000 plus people living in Jerusalem at 600 BCE.<sup>2</sup>

One of the key ways to trace population genetics is through mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). This DNA gets passed from a mother to her daughter to her daughter. Men carry the mtDNA of their mother. Joseph married an Egyptian, not an Israelite. Sariah, Nephi's mother, has an unknown ancestry. Wives of Ishmael's two sons [see 1 Nephi 7:6] would introduce additional mtDNA lineages into the Nephite and Lamanite descendants. Their origin is unknown so the source population for tracing the Book of Mormon descendants through mtDNA is not possible. Because the women of the Book of Mormon have unknown lineages, mtDNA cannot unravel the historicity of the Book of Mormon.

DNA offers a very important tool for studying the past, but the Book of Mormon does not present a workable hypothesis to test its validity through genetic markers at this time. The source population is unknown and possibly had foreign influence. The Nephites were an isolated group that founded a population (founder effect) which did not decidedly represent a random sample of Jerusalem in 600 BCE. Also, modern studies of Native Americans do not account for the recent bottleneck and integration of outside populations. I agree with the current studies of haplotypes in comparison of North America and Siberia, but there are clear limitations and these data mean nothing for or against the Book of Mormon. No scholar has applied to receive funding from the National Science Foundation on the validity of the Book of Mormon through population genetics. They could never get the funds because such a study has too many loose ends. You cannot tell the entire story of a book by reading the last page. Fortunately, many scholars involved with genetic studies are firm believers in the Book of Mormon. Their field of study does not prove or disprove the Book of Mormon, so do not be discouraged by uneducated and untrained criticisms levied against the text. The divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon lies exactly where the Almighty intended, in the faith of the reader. [See Moroni 10:4]

<sup>2</sup> Jerusalem at 600 BCE was strategically located between three empires. Babylon was rising to the east, Assyria dominated to the north, and Egypt continued to have power in the south. This made Jerusalem a very diverse place to live with many different groups of people in the region.

## Children's Corner

Continued from Page 10

### WORD SEARCH

### Hadassah's New Beginnings

WHEN  
YOU  
HAVE  
A  
PROBLEM  
OR  
A  
BIG  
CHANGE  
DO  
LIKE

HADASSAH  
QUEEN  
ESTHER  
DID  
PRAY  
ASK  
OTHERS  
TO  
PRAY  
GOD  
CARES

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

### Coming Next Month

*A special edition  
celebrating the*

*150th Anniversary*

**of the establishment  
of the Church.**



# Blessing Bits

## OB God's Healing Power Over All The Earth!

A sister in Zambia, South Africa, shared that her daughter, Maria Mulenta, was born with a mental illness. She took her to a number of doctors for help, however the doctors only wanted to put her in an institution for the mentally ill. The mother refused to do so and instead she took her daughter to witch doctors according to their tribal custom. These witch doctors tried all types of witchcraft including Voodoo Juju, herbs and more, but nothing helped. One day this woman met a member of the Church to whom she explained her daughter's illness. The church member invited her to attend our Church, told her to come and see, worship in a church where miracles are performed and have her daughter anointed by the ministry. This woman brought her daughter to the Church and had her anointed. God heard the plea and healed this girl completely! This beautiful 15 year old girl testified that day to the honor and glory of God for the miracle performed in her life. Soon after, her mother was baptized in the Church!

by Brother Joe Perri.

**BB Guardian Angel** When I was 9 years old, we planned to take a family vacation to visit the Church and some family members in California. Since it was going to be an extended vacation of 4-6 weeks, we drove from Ohio, instead of flying. As I thought about our extended absence

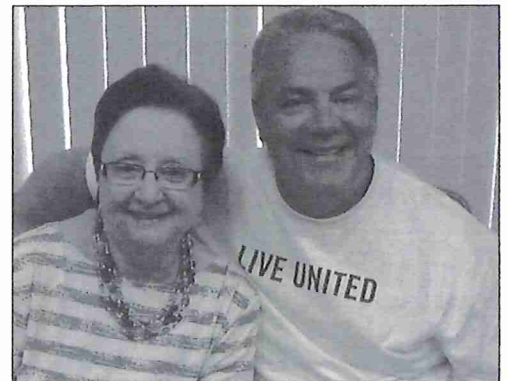
from home, many thoughts rushed to my mind, such as "Who will take care of our home while we're away?" and "Who will make sure all of our belongings are safe?" These questions remained with me until the day we left for our trip. As our trip began and we were leaving the driveway, I looked back at our house onelast time. As I did, I saw an angel of God with a flaming sword, standing on our front porch guarding our home. At a young age, it was a lesson of God's love, concern and protection for us that I never forgot.

Brother Wayne Martorana - Liberty, Ohio

## BB God Catches Us When We Fall

When my son was two years old, our apartment was on the second floor which we could only get to by outside stairs. One evening my son fell from the second floor landing, 14 feet onto the concrete. I will never forget the minutes that passed as he lie still, and I waited for the ambulance to arrive. Such panic I felt as we drove to the hospital and then waited to receive the report from the doctor. Finally, the doctor came and said "it's a good thing that he tumbled down the stairs instead of a direct fall, as he might not have lived". I said he fell directly onto the concrete. The doctor's response was "surely someone was with him", since he only suffered a simple fracture and was fine. We all know that "someone" was the Lord. Today my son is a healthy 40 year old and a member of the Church!

Sister Susan Scime - Lake Worth, Florida



Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley

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

**Question for this month:** What is your favorite piece of scripture? Please feel free to tell us why.

**Answer from last month:** Who has been member of the most branches? The answer is Brother Ken Staley who has been a member of 10 branches and Sister Sharon Staley 9 branches. (See picture above) The branches were: Glassport, PA; San Fernando Valley, CA; Aliquippa, PA; Clairton, PA; Hollywood, FL; Tampa, FL; Palm Harbor, FL; Cape Coral, FL; Atlanta, GA; and Middle Tennessee Mission.

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Psalm 73:24