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"This issue is dedicated to children. When we began to put this issue together, we were reminded of the message from the apostles sent in November 2011. It clearly reminds us of the importance of rearing our children in the Gospel. What better way to start this issue than to share this message with all of of you once again."—Editor-in-Chief Sister Carolyn O'Connor

Our Children

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Our children, a precious gift from God, are one of life's greatest joys! On the day of their birth, the parents and family experience feelings of wonder, the miracle itself, and behold the grand beauty of their little baby. The Church also participates in the joy of this moment as they welcome yet another newborn child into their spiritual family. As we hold them in our arms we begin to realize that they truly are our children. In that brief moment we completely experience and appreciate the joy of the Lord's creation of mankind.

All of us then realize and take very seriously that beginning with the day of their birth we have the obligation and responsibility to raise them so that they will become successful, responsible, and good citizens. The parents, The Church of Jesus Christ, and, eventually, the children themselves will all share in this duty. Taking some time to answer the following basic questions will help us determine goals to achieve these desirable results:

- *What do we teach them?*
- *Why do we teach them?*
- *How do we teach them?*
- *When do we teach them?*
- *Where do we teach them?*

Then, "What objectives do we employ to attain these goals?" and "How do we individually and collectively engage in this great responsibility?"

Parents realize that rearing children is a daunting task that sometimes requires the assistance of others. This may include grandparents, other relatives, neighbors, the schools, and The Church of Jesus Christ. Certainly, each participant has a specific role and concern for a child's upbringing. Church personnel recognize that they will need to support families and offer religious education and spiritual guidance to the children. It is imperative that together we all work in unity to allow our children to reach their full potential, to help them know the Lord God, and to understand the multitude of His tender mercies.

The scripture continually reminds us that we must take every opportunity to teach our children the commandments of the Lord, the blessings of the Lord, and the ways of the Lord. God said to Moses, "...thou shalt teach them [God's blessings and commandments] diligently unto thy children..." (Deuteronomy 6:7). Solomon recommends to, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). King Benjamin strongly suggests to his people, that "ye will teach them [the children] to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another" (Mosiah 4:15). Alma urges his son to de-

(Continued on page 11)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Focus on kids!! Spend time talking to them and show your love	3	4	5 Call a child who grew up in the Church and no longer attends	6	7 Invite some kids or young people over
8 Volunteer to teach a kids class today. Make it special	9	10 Pray for the work in Malawi- pg 4	11	12	13 Reach out to a family with kids and invite them to Church	14
15	16	17	18 Volunteer to teach an MBA class this week and make it fun	19	20	21 Pray for the Middle Tennessee Mission- pg 4
22 Hug the kids today and tell them God loves them	23	24 Send a card to a sick or sad child	25	26 Call the kids in your branch just to tell them you are praying for them	27	28
29 Ask to make the kids a special part of the meeting today	30	1 Supporting our MBA is supporting our kids and our future	2 Start a Little Ladies' circle at your branch	3	4	5

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

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

September 2013

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

BTP Blast From The Past

The Muncey Children

It was the children that especially caught Brother William H. Cadman's attention 52 years ago this month in what would be his last trip to Muncey. "I was particularly interested with the 40 to 60 Indian children in the Sunday School. I sang a song for them and they sang one – might I say for me?" Brother Cadman continued, "What a wonderful opportunity is presented to the brothers and sisters who are traveling from Detroit to administer in Muncey." Pleased with the efforts of the Sunday School superintendent, he added, "Brother Frank [Morle], it will be a wonderful experience in your life if you see these youngsters someday become members of The Church of Jesus Christ."

The Gospel News November 1961 pp. 8-9

Children on the Muncey Reservation ▶



Do you enjoy reading the Blessing Bits from your brothers and sisters?

Has the Lord blessed you?

If so, please raise your hand!

Perfect, your hands are up!

Now keep your hand up and either walk over to your computer or grab a pen, and write your blessing down!

Please email it to gospelnewsinfo@gmail.com

And there's no need to make it lengthy, 150 words is sufficient.

How many truly enjoy a long testimony?

Don't see any raised hands now.

It's your Blessing Bit turn!

May God continue to bless all of you!

Sister Dianne Maddox, Blessing Bits Coordinator

Purpose • Mission • Vision

Purpose Statement

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

Mission Statement

- The Church of Jesus Christ will teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things commanded by Jesus Christ.
- To draw Israel to Christ through an effort focused on the Native Americans of North and South America.

Vision Statement

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

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ

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"!

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

We've all watched small children playing, laughing, and singing together with little regard to age, ethnicity, gender, creed, politics, or color. This always brings me to Christ's counsel, *"become as little children."*

This was Jesus' answer to the question, *"Who will be greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"* Had He only said "children" (versus "little children"), a broader interpretation could include adolescents. Christ prefaces our becoming childlike (not childish) with, *"Except ye be converted."* A full conversion requires open hearts and minds to receive such counsel, as our natural progression teaches just the opposite (growth = child to adult). Brother David Lovalvo and I taught an adult seminar, *"The Least Shall Be Greatest,"* and Brother Dave set up the room UPSIDE-DOWN, explaining, *"Nearly everything we've learned is upside-down to Christ's teachings."*

Little children are playful, joyous, happy, loving, and forgiving. Do we discount these qualities as we transition into adulthood? Does the natural maturation process involve a shift in values? Like Adam and Eve after biting into the fruit, we've each experienced their same progression when knowledge is gained. More likely our understanding affects an "organ allegiance" (brain versus heart) as intellectual development creates cerebral dependence. We see someone in distress and instantly assess the danger the situation presents us before helping. We hear of someone with financial problems and we immediately consider our own finances before extending ourselves. Even now you may be thinking, *"Of course, that only makes sense."* Exactly! Intellectually, it all makes sense, but WWLCD (what would little children do)?

Little children would follow their hearts (love, kindness, selflessness). Christ is addressing our "organ allegiance," encouraging us to revert back to the heart. Can adults make this conscientious decision to disregard what comes naturally and allow for God's victory as the spiritual trumps the natural? I wrote a thesis years ago entitled, *"When Do We Stop Getting Up?"* theorizing how little children learning to walk get back on their feet, in spite of the dangers of falling down again. As adults, we learn to give in to the safety of staying down. Example: You've told two friends about the Church and both rejected your offers. It's safest to just stay silent next time.

Can you disregard risk, overcome fear, and get back up to experience all that life offers? The Word (Deuteronomy 30:19) states, *"Choose life."* WWLCD? They would say, enthusiastically, *"Come enter the kingdom of heaven like us—playing together, filled with joy!"*

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

Domestic Church — Middle Tennessee Mission



The organization meeting of the Middle Tennessee Mission was held on August 26, 2006, in Franklin, Tennessee. Since then, our dear little mission has taken root and grown. Weddings, baptisms and job transfers have brought new members and attendees. We are well aware that as life goes on members may come and go. Recently, we bade farewell to our Presiding Elder, Brother Ken Staley, and his wife, Sister Sharon, as work relocated them to another region of the Church. In these seven years, they have been a blessing to our mission and we are sad to see them go, but we rejoice in the Lord's work and are eager to see what He has in store for His people here in The Volunteer State! All are welcome to visit and worship with us.

International Church — Malawi



The work in Malawi began with visitors from that country hearing the Restored Gospel message in South Bend, Indiana. In March 2003 Brothers John DiBattista and Joel Gehly made an exploratory trip and baptized two men. The Church was officially registered in September 2003 when a group of brothers from America visited and baptized 35, and ordained two elders, three teachers, two deacons, and four deaconesses.

Presently the Church headquarters is in Mzimba with another 59 locations and a total of 2,200 members of all ages. Unfortunately only 40 congregations meet in buildings, while the other 20 meet outdoors or wherever they can. The goal is to build a Church building in each location and provide schools for the children.

Brother Wilson, the elder currently overseeing the work in Malawi, is also overseeing the work in Mozambique, where there are 5,000 members, and in Tanzania with 150 members. Please remember this brother in prayer as he endeavors to spread the Gospel in these various countries, that the work will continue to flourish.

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Sacrificing for Our Children *By Evangelist Timothy Mott*

After attending many Campouts as a child with my family, I requested baptism at camp in 1993 and fell in love with the Latin American work of The Church of Jesus Christ. With spiritual basics learned, I displaced my annual Campout trips with summer-long visits to Mexico. It was a great time in my life as I developed a whole new network of supportive saints in Latin America, and I was able to reach that once seemingly unattainable goal of Spanish fluency. It was a time for me to grow, to learn new things. Now, for the first time in our marriage, we decided to attend GMBA Campout along with our four-year-old, Anna Maria. Although my wife and I love to travel throughout Latin America, we realized it was time to invest these resources in the next generation. Let me explain.

Many times our lives are about "me," even after we have children. With a child learning from my decisions, I must remind myself what is spiritually important for her at this early stage of her life. Many parents push their children into areas where they once found great pleasure. How many of you have noticed the proverbial Dad on the sidelines, enjoying his son's adventures in sport, perhaps seemingly more so than the child? As parents we have obvious influence on the path of our children, but do we wield this influence in a manner that reflects a divine purpose in mind—to steer them toward Christ?

Those of us blessed to partake in the GMBA Campout seminars learned that Christ was the ultimate model of a living sacrifice, because He made His life about us. One lesson learned was about the allocation of resources. You could say that our zeal can be measured by our use of these resources.

- Time – a precious commodity, indeed. Many activities call for it, but what do we use it for? Is there little time for the things of God, while other activities take the forefront?
- Money – does your family pass up opportunities to participate in Church functions because there is no money? What purchases did you make that were simply "wants" but not "needs"?
- Energy – what motivates you each day? Do the things of God "take the background it seems"?

As adults we get to choose how to allocate all our resources; our children do not as they are simply "along for the ride." I have painfully witnessed many families lament their grown children's lack of interest in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while seeming to forget the unspoken zeal they had demonstrated to their children through the allocation of their resources in times past.

So I ask, where is your zeal in Life? Are you teaching zeal for Christ to those coming behind you? Consider the Lamanites who converted to Christ after hearing the Gospel through Ammon's evangelism. We read in Alma 27:27 that "...they were also distinguished for their zeal towards God." This zeal translated into their sons stepping forward at a great time of need and displaying the same characteristics, as found in Alma 53:20-21, where it states that "...they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted. Yea, they were men of truth and soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him." What a wonderful legacy these young men were given by their parents!

The return back to school this fall will offer students and their parents countless options that will undoubtedly require resources. For those entrusted with care and mentorship of youth, prayerfully consider the example you are setting for them. God has given you resources in the form of energy, time, and money. Are you living your life as a sacrifice for those entrusted to you, or are you allowing the distractions of this world to take center stage, and perhaps become—in the presence of these young ones—the focus of your zeal?

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

VALUES

By Sister Michelle Watson

Value: Faith

Definition: Applied belief and trust in God

Vital Verses:

- "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).
- "And now as I said concerning faith — faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21).

Scriptural Example:

There are many famous scriptural examples of faith. Here's one that's lesser known: King Jehoshaphat. The Moabites gathered a big, bad army against Israel, and King J was scared. The whole kingdom fasted and prayed, and God told them that He'd fight the battle for them. All they had to do was march out and see His salvation. King J was so confident that God was with them, he placed musicians on the front lines where they sang praises— before they'd even won the battle. Singers aren't soldiers. If King J didn't have faith, he never would've put those musicians where they could be instantly killed. Read II Chronicles chapter 20 to see how the story ends.

Life Application:

Charles Blondin was a famous tightrope walker in the 1800s. He crossed Niagara Falls many times on a tightrope, and one of those times he pushed a little wheelbarrow across. According to legend, Blondin asked a boy in the crowd, "Do you believe I can cross the rope with this wheelbarrow?" The boy said, "Yes, sir." Blondin replied, "Do you think I could take you across in it?" The boy said, "Yes, sir." To that, Blondin replied, "OK, jump in!"

When it comes to our faith in God, it's not enough to just say that we believe. We have to actually get in the wheelbarrow. But what does that mean? It means living life like we believe God is real and in control. It means not freaking out when we're thrown a curveball and instead falling on our knees. It means keeping the commandments even if we look uncool or face discrimination or stereotypes. It means hanging on even when things don't make sense and we're getting roughed up in the storm.

Faith implies action, which we often understand as trust. It's the difference between knowing that the medicine your doctor gave you will heal you and actually taking the medicine.

Points to Ponder:

- Does your faith have deep roots, or is it still in the shallow end?
- How is your faith in Christ most challenged by society and the unbelieving world?
- Is it easier to have faith that God will answer other people's prayers rather than your own? Why?

Presented originally on the Gospel Blog



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

The Little Ladies' Circle *By Sister Angela Yoder*

In 2008, a sister in the Mesa, Arizona Branch had a desire to provide her daughters with an afterschool activity that would benefit them spiritually and teach them about the principles of the Church; with that desire the Little Ladies' Circle was born.

We currently have active Little Ladies' Circles in three Areas of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle and we anticipate that total growing. Our girls, ages five to twelve, are learning the principles of the Church in both practical and spiritual applications. The love of the Circle is being planted in the hearts of our Little Ladies and by extension the love of The Church of Jesus Christ. Fellowship and service have no age limit. Help build the foundation of the girls in your branch or mission and consider starting a Little Ladies' Circle today!

*"But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness;
ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another"*
(Mosiah 4:15).

Josiah By Brother Kerry Carlini

The disciples once asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Calling a little child to them, He answered, "(W)hoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Should it surprise us then that some of God's greatest works were done by children? Here are five amazing facts regarding one such child:

- 1** Succeeding the very wicked reigns of his father and grandfather, Josiah was appointed king of Judah when he was only eight years of age at a time when nearly all the priests and people of the nation had forsaken God's ways.
- 2** Scriptures tell that in the eighth year of his reign "while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father."
- 3** And, in the 12th year of his reign, "he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images."
- 4** And, in the 18th year of his reign, when the book of the laws of Moses was discovered in the Temple while undergoing repair, Josiah was ultimately able to hold his nation to God's laws and covenants.
- 5** Amazingly, over 300 years prior to his birth it had been prophesied that "a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name," a child who would for a moment in time stay the hand of God's wrath and judgment upon a nation which had forgotten Him.

Matthew 18:1-4

I Kings 13:1-6

II Chronicles chapter 34

Why do you think your parents bring you to Church?

- "I think my parents bring me to Church because they want me to learn how to praise and serve God and to feel His love." – Sydney Lovalvo, 14
- "They bring me to Church because they want me to learn about God." – Anthony Gentile, 7
- "They bring me to Church because they love me and they know if I worship God He will guide me through life, and they hope for me to do the same with my kids." – Jackson Hamet, 12
- "They take me to Church to be with God and Jesus." – Brianna Lovalvo, 7

Why do you think God loves you?

- "He loves me because He helps me with everyday things, and I can feel His love." – Carlee Monahan, 12
- "I think God loves me because I have been praising Him all my life." – Jack Lovalvo, 14
- "He loves me because He created me." – Allison Komjathy, 8
- "He loves everyone equally and that's why I know He loves me." – Cristina Scolaro, 9

Kids Say the SMARTEST Things

By Sophia O'Connor

What do you pray about?

- "I pray to God to thank Him and to ask Him to help me with stuff." – Kaite Kocuba, 13
- "I pray for the sick and afflicted, for God to watch over us the entire day, and to help us get through the day." – Marco DiMelis, 13
- "I pray for my family and friends that need help." – Maddy Lambert, 13.

What do you love most about Church?

- "The thing I love most about the Church is that you have a family all over the country even if you don't know them you still love them." – Sarah Alessio, 15
- "What I love most about Church is that I know everyone here loves me." – Lola O'Connor, 7
- "What I like most about Church is being around the Church people." – Anna DiMelis, 10
- "I love being around people who want to serve the Lord as much as I do." – Camille Hamet, 14

What is your favorite Bible or Book of Mormon story? Why?

- "Noah's Ark, because he helped the animals." – Leah Calabro, 12
- "Jesus, I love Him. He is my favorite." – James Michael Crow, 4
- "Adam and Eve is my favorite they ate from the tree and God told them not to." – Bianca Staley, 5

GMBA CAMPOUT 2013

LIVING SACRIFICE

"I believe the most selfish steps we ever take are into the waters of regeneration. The most selfless steps are when we come out of the water."

– Brother Doug Obradivich

"That's what living sacrifice means: that we lose our life. But if we lose our life in Him, and if we call upon His name, and if we sacrifice ourselves and give up all the things we wanted, He blesses us."

– Brother Larry Champine

"If you and I, the body of Christ, can do everything for His glory, we are going to be immensely blessed."

– Brother Lucas Martorana

"The Gospel needed to be restored because you and I needed to be restored."

– Brother Wayne Martorana

"When God is big in your life, then all of a sudden the trials in your life and the issues in your life become small through Jesus Christ."

– Brother Chuck Maddox, Sr.



"If you want to live a life full of Jesus Christ, a life full of peace and forgiveness, a life full of love, live it heartily before The Lord."

– Brother David Lovalvo

"Some people think they got to be perfect to come unto Christ, but we are made perfect in Christ."

– Brother Jason Monaghan



What did you look forward to most before camp?

"Before camp I look forward to meeting new people and fellowshiping with people I've already met. And the food."

– Sisters Gillian Camacho and Amira Nelson

"I look forward to watching my kids make new friends."

– Sister Carolyn Gross

"What I look forward to before campout is... what is there not to look forward to? You fellowship with the saints and have a glorious time!"

– Christopher Yeager

What were the best moments of the week for you?

"There was a lot of refreshing of our minds. It brought us back to our commitment with the Lord and reminded us that we need to go back to our first love."

– Brother Lou Vitto

"I liked being baptized at night and seeing all of the loving faces there to support me."

– Brother Lucas Ali

"I just felt at peace the entire week."

– Sister Sara Monaghan

"One of the blessings was seeing the joy on sister Carolyn's (Gross) face as she led the choir, how that joy affected the choir, and how that affected the group."

– Brother Flip Palacios



"Just being here and going to the seminars helped me realize that my work is not done for the Lord." – *Sister Mary Duncan*

"I enjoyed this week. The teachers, the piano, the singing, the lessons were easy to understand, and they even passed out candy."
– *Sister Elizabeth Staley*



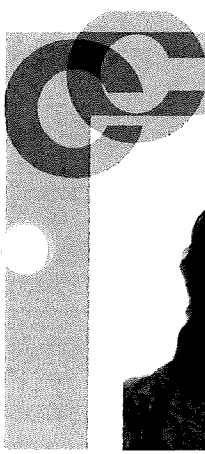
"You're on the ship that's headed to Heaven's shore. Stay on board!"
– *Brother Paul Ciotti*

What are your overall thoughts following camp?

"It is always difficult to put into a few words the sum experience of a camp. If everyone left having felt better and more joyful in some way, then our prayers were answered. The Spirit of God always comes through for those open to its touch. Thanks to everyone who attended, prayed, and worked to make it another success."
– *Brother Tom D'Orazio GMBA President*



1 Amazing Spirit-filled week
2 Trips to the waters for nighttime baptisms
3 Sunday School lessons
4 Super special fun events for the children
5 Disney songs rewritten for the Kids' Choir
6 Wonderful days of unity and fellowship
12 Different seminar groups
17 Souls saved!
37 Brothers and sisters in the Adult Choir lifting their voices in praise
42 Members of the priesthood up front for the Sunday morning service
44th Campout
75 Children in the Kids' Choir
90 Age of the most senior saint in attendance
127 Young people ages 13-25 at camp and not somewhere else instead
150 Youth that took advantage in some way of the Camp Scholarship Fund
337 Hymn number (in the Saints' Hymnal) of the camp theme song, "I Surrender All"
480 People who made the journey there and renewed their relationship with Christ
3,500 Approximate number of water balloons thrown in the water battle



The Children Who Never Forgot

This is what happened: In the Americas a special Indian prophet travelled in the cities, warning all the wicked people to stop their sins and ask God to forgive them. The Indian man was Samuel the Lamanite. Even when people tried to kill him for telling them the truth, he kept on talking. Other preachers did, too.

Samuel told them a new king was going to be born named Jesus Christ, a wonderful man who would teach us all how to live and how to trust each other. First everyone would see a great light, and a day without a night.

That would signal Christ's birth. Then thirty-odd years later, Jesus Christ would allow people to kill His body, so He could show people that there really was a heaven. He came back after they'd killed Him, and He showered His beautiful powerful love on those that believed in His teachings and tried to do His will.

After many warnings in the Promised Land, the people were told that God would send a big destruction upon the land if people would not live clean-hearted, loving lives.

The children went to church meetings with their parents and heard the ministry beg the people to stop being evil. Finally the day that Samuel and all the others had preached about arrived! The earth shook, huge cities by the ocean slid into the water. Tornadoes destroyed thousands of buildings, and sinners were carried off in the whirlwinds. Other cities were buried by earthquakes.

Only the most righteous were saved. After three terrible days of moaning and darkness, the people who were left alive heard Jesus' voice. He called to His children, and finally He came from the sky into the middle of where they were and blessed them, and taught them. Angels were in their midst. Fire circled the little children,

a holy fire that didn't burn or hurt them but just filled them with the Holy Spirit's wonderful strength.

These children spoke beautiful prophecies and wisdom—so beautiful the Lord wouldn't let anyone write it down. But the children knew what they felt. They loved God with all their hearts. They never forgot what had happened to them.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Reprinted from The Gospel News November 1986 issue.

WORD SEARCH

WHIRLWIND	MAN
WICKED	WOMAN
PEOPLE	CHILD
DESTROYED	INDIAN
GOD	JESUS
HOLY	JEW
PROPHET	DIED
SAMUEL	FOR
WARNED	OUR
EVERY	SINS

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

Dear Girls and Boys,
Has something ever happened to you that was so special that you know you'll never forget it?

Well, that is what happened to the children in the Promised Land of North and South America when they met Jesus. Each and every girl and boy never forgot the real power and the true beauty of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every one of them loved Jesus with their whole heart and mind and soul.

When they grew up, they told their children about the love of Jesus and their children believed in Jesus too, and served Him with all of their hearts. The whole country—the whole continent—was filled with people who loved Jesus and each other.

No one was afraid. No one stole, or killed, or hurt each other. The people shared every good thing they owned. If one had a beautiful possession, he gave it to another, and then someone gave the giver something, and on and on.

No little children were afraid to step outside or play wherever they wanted. No one was a dangerous stranger.

All this happened because every single person left alive after the great destruction was a good, loving person. Not everyone was baptized, and thousands were children who were baptized after they grew up, but each one was chosen by God to live through the destruction and live in the Promised Land.

Our Children Continued from page 1

clare glad tidings to his people and have them "prepare the minds of their children to hear the word..." (Alma 39:1). The Apostle Paul said to Timothy, "that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in () Jesus" (II Timothy 3:15). When Jesus visited the Nephites, "he did teach and minister unto the children..." (III Nephi 26:14).

The following suggestions are very important, but certainly do not comprise a complete list. Parents and The Church of Jesus Christ must TEACH the children:

1. About a knowledge of the scriptures.
2. About obeying the commandments.
3. About the love of God.
4. About Jesus Christ, our Savior.
5. About eternal life and the joy of the saints.
6. About prayer.
7. About the power of God.
8. About sin.
9. About temptation and not yielding to it.
10. About asking for forgiveness.
11. About living righteously.
12. About the Gospel.

The Church of Jesus Christ holds services (Sunday School, Sunday service, MBA, Vacation Bible School, camps, etc.) where the children are provided the opportunity to learn all of the above. Parents can take advantage of these opportunities by bringing their children to the Church. In addition, parents should supplement that effort by teaching their children the ways of the Lord at home. Specific time must be devoted with our children in prayer and in providing spiritual education. Holding discussions with them regarding moral issues, including problem resolution about life's issues as they relate to the scriptures, are also very beneficial.

At this past October 2011 General Church Conference, a dream was accepted as a revelation from God giving all of us the understanding that we need to be vigilant in providing our children with the necessary tools to protect them from evil as they proceed through life. You may have already heard the particulars of the dream and we are now attaching a copy for your full understanding. However, the details may be frightening to some children, so caution must be made in the telling and sharing of the details. However, the dream does deliver a warning to the Church and to parents to be on guard. Most certainly, every parent, from the beginning of time, has had to deal with this concern. It appears that today we are living in very perilous times...perhaps more so than at any other time in history. The scriptures report many instances where the power of evil did influence people to fall into error. There are cases recorded that some of the children who were raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord also fell into sin as they grew older.

The following dream was accepted by the General Church Conference October 8, 2011 as a revelation of God:

Another Brother Elder, a Brother Deacon, and I were standing at the bottom of a hill talking. We must have been attending some kind of church gathering because the youth were all playing together. After a while we noticed that the youth were missing. We heard their voices coming from the other side of the hill. We started to walk up the hill at an angle to intercept them. The sky was getting dark as evening was approaching. We hurried our pace for concern of their welfare was intensifying as darkness approached. We broke the crest of the hill laboring from the steep incline. We saw the youth slightly below the crest of the hill to our right. Then I noticed something else: dogs—nothing but dark outlines of big dogs. They looked at us with yellow glowing eyes but their attention was on the youth. We screamed at the kids to run down the hill, we ran at an angle to intercept them before the dogs did. We realized that we weren't going to make it so we screamed at the dogs trying to get their attention on us to no avail. The dogs over took our youth and started to carry them away. One of the Brother Elders said, "Kneel." Doing so, he started to pray. "Dear Father, please Lord spare the youth from such a horrible death." There was a loud noise and a bright flash of light and the dogs were gone but so were some of the youth.

Jesus gave us some very important advice when He stated in Matthew 6:13 that we should pray in this manner, "...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." James 4:7 states, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." It is of utmost importance to teach the children to ask God to keep them out of the way of temptation, to depend upon the Lord for His help, and if they find themselves in a dangerous zone of evil, to ask God to free them and deliver them.

The temptation of evil seems to be at the root of falling into sin and departing from the presence of the Lord. Therefore, if we can help them to know what is evil, how to avoid evil, and what to do if they fall prey to its influence, then we will have been successful in helping them save their souls in the kingdom of heaven realizing true joy, the joy of the saints.

This is the ninth of a series of messages to The Church of Jesus Christ. For more understanding of what we believe please visit our web site to obtain resource and contact information: www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com



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

Blessing Bits

And a little child shall lead them...

BB When our son Noah was three years old he was diagnosed with osteoporosis after experiencing four arm fractures over a year and a half. Getting no results from doctors about the cause of this illness, we put him in God's hands and believed he was healed. As a confirmation, over two years went by without incident. Noah even started taking karate classes and played on a soccer league.

At the recent Southeast Area Campout, Noah, now six years old, was riding too fast on an electric scooter and fell off, landing directly on his arm. All the signs we had seen multiple times before were there and we were convinced that he had once again fractured his arm. We knew we needed God to intervene once again. We asked the elders to anoint him. A powerful prayer was offered over Noah. One of the brothers began running his hands over Noah's injured arm speaking in tongues and concluded with "I, the Lord God hath healed him, Amen." Those who witnessed his healing marveled. Noah was in fact healed! We did not need to take him to the doctor and Noah himself, even remarked later in the week that the injured arm seemed stronger than it had been before. We praise God for His miracles.—Sister Alicia Draskovich—Forest Hills, Florida Branch

BB When I was 10 years old, I dealt with severe back pain for many weeks. The doctor misdiagnosed me as having a pulled muscle in my back but when the pain continued for three more weeks, an x-ray proved that I actually had pneumonia. The pain from the pneumonia caused me to walk with my back tilted to one side, resulting in a crooked spine (scoliosis). The doctor said the next step was to be fitted for a brace to prevent possible surgery. However, with the wisdom of my family, I knew the next step was being anointed by the elders in our Church. When I went back to the doctor after being anointed, he was shocked at how straight my spine was. I have never had spine or back problems since then. Even today, God allows me to use this experience to His honor as a personal way to share the healing power of God with friends from school who may doubt Him. I am blessed by His unending power and love in my life.—Sister Alyssa Maddox—Lake Worth, Florida Branch

BB While we lived in Ohio, every October our little Cincinnati-Morrow Branch would hold a Fall Fest. It was a great night; we would carve pumpkins, eat homemade soups, have a bonfire, roast marshmallows, and enjoy being together. One Fall Fest, when our son Chuckie was about 17 years old, the knife he was using to carve his pumpkin slipped and his finger was severely

cut. We rushed him to the emergency room. The doctor examined him and confirmed our fears. He had actually cut through his nerves and tendon. The doctor told us that he didn't know if Chuckie would ever have the full use of his finger. Among the many things in his life that would be affected by losing the functionality of his finger was Chuckie's gift of playing the piano, which was really coming into full bloom at that time and would now drastically change. He had surgery that following Monday to attempt to reconnect everything. After many prayers were offered, his finger fully recovered and thank God, he has continued to use his gift of playing the piano to praise the Lord.—Sister Dianne Maddox—Lake Worth, Florida 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: *What was your favorite moment or event at campout this year?*

Answer from last month: *What spiritual gift or attribute do you pray for most for your children or the children of the Church?* "I pray our children and the youth of our Church may have the Love of God in their hearts, to lead, guide and direct them. I pray God will give them the strength to resist the temptations of the world and be a spiritual and natural light to all they come in contact with. I pray our children and the youth of our Church would have peaceful, healthy, happy lives, praising God always with our God holding their hands. Amen." —Sister Ruthann Purkall, Lake Worth, Florida Branch.



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