

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ
International
Headquarters in
Monongahela,
Pennsylvania

The Gospel News

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The Power of One

By Sister Alena X. Ricci

"... approximately 164.8 million children live in great need"

As of 2012, the truth is that there are 143 million orphaned children and 11 million who die from preventable diseases or who starve to death. There are far more than the estimated 8.5 million children who work as child slaves, prostitutes, and in other such conditions. And there are 2.3 million who live with HIV.

These numbers add up to approximately 164.8 million children with greater needs than any of mine.*

I just threw a lot of numbers at you. In fact, while I was checking these statistics, it kind of made me sick to think of the masses of children neglected and left to fend for themselves.

These numbers are really big and very daunting. They're so big that I can't even imagine them.

Just like when Jesus fed five thousand. I can't imagine that.

But Jesus understood something: there's a *real* person attached to *every* number.

I believe that we've become numb to statistics. I think, as a culture, we tend to think in bulk. We tend to ignore the one, even though five thousand begins by counting one.

A little bit ago, I had the opportunity to watch an online conference held by modern-day abolitionists and one of the speakers got up and simply said, "*Every single one is worth the fight.*" And then she sat down.

She got it. She got what Jesus taught: that every single person is worth 100 percent. Every single person is worth every amount of energy we can give. When Jesus went to raise Lazarus, he walked for days. He walked for days for one man. Would we be willing to walk for days for one person?

Is that one person worth the fight?

Going back up to the previous statistics, also in 2012, there were 2.1 billion people claiming to believe in Christ as their Redeemer on this planet. From that number, if only 8 percent of those people would care for just one more child, then there would not be any of those previous statistics left.*

(Continued on Page 8)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Pray for the children going back to school	2	3 Give thanks to God for blessing our campout	4	5 God has blessed you send in a Blessing Bit!	6
7	8	9 Commit to bringing your kids to Church more	10	11 Tell an expecting friend about blessing their baby	12	13 Teach all children about God's love for them
14	15 Call a young person to show your love	16	17 Pray for children suffering	18	19 Invite your children's friends to Church	20
21 Let the children be involved in the meeting	22	23 Hug your kids and let them feel the love you have for them.	24	25 Plan to attend conference next month	26	27 Invite the young people to your home
28	29 Offer to teach a kids Sunday School or MBA class	30	1	2	3	4

August 2014
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 2014
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 2014

"...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14.)

BTP Blast From The Past

"My Place"

Sister Arlene Buffington had no talent as a poet, musician, or singer. Though well acquainted with the beautiful and powerful experiences of others, she in her 22 years in the Church had but a few experiences. That would change suddenly one day, 38 years ago on the 13th of this month. *"The power of God fell upon me such as I had never experienced in all my years in the Church,"* she relates, *"and the words of a song were given to me."* Entitled *My Place*, the song would be the first of well over 200 songs given her to date. *"It wasn't until the 13th song was given,"* Sister Arlene explains, *"that someone said, 'You have received a gift.' 'A gift from God, The Songs of Zion are for the Church. Containing the Spirit of Zion, they speak of 'a better day, a greater hope, and a vision of the Latter Day Glory.' ~Taken from the Introduction to The Songs of Zion and personal testimony*

Sister Arlene Buffington ►



September 2014

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:

- How many years ago was the first Songs of Zion given? (Page 2)
- How many baptisms were there at campout this year? (Pages 6-7)
- Who are the "other sheep" that Jesus is referring to? (Page 9)
- How many were given the opportunity to read about our donation to the children on the Flathead Reserve? (Page 11)
- What was the number one baptism song? (Page 12)

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.*

"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me" (Matthew 19:14).

Have you ever been in a library when a child begins to fuss? Has a mother struggling to control her children ever disturbed you in church? Do loud kids ever kidnap your attention during musical performances? In such instances we might view children as nothing less than a point of irritation.

Young parents pressing forward so that Jesus might, "Put His hands on them and pray" were rejected by the disciples; quite possibly this was due to similar juvenile behavior. Their reaction may have been born of their religious experience, as children were never permitted within the temple. Their rejection may have been due to cultural traditions, as children were not highly regarded in Christ's day. The disciples dismissed the parents' request ("the disciples rebuked them"), but Jesus lovingly countered, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me." In today's terminology, "Be patient with these little ones; don't push them away from me." Can we apply Christ's gentle counsel to those beyond the age restrictions of "little children?"

Consider His guidance to "suffer" (endure) when you might naturally rebuke a neighbor for their irritating behavior, a church member who constantly troubles you before meetings, or your cousin who continually asks for favors. He warned that anything less might "forbid them" from finding Him. Consider that irritating neighbor, pestering church attendee, or begging family member and how you might normally react. Could our negative reactions be impacting others, even turning them away from the Savior?

The next time that irritating neighbor gets under your skin, pause and consider why he or she is like that. Even if they deserve your venom, they probably need your kindness. The next time the pestering church member approaches you, pause and consider their peace rather than your anger. They might need your acceptance more than you need to rebuff them. The next time that pleading family member knocks on your door, pause and consider their request. Your help might rescue them from despair. Pause and "suffer" them.

Maybe your change in approach will prove to connect them to the Lord and act to "forbid them not to come unto Christ." Like the little ones whose childish behavior may have justified the disciples' silencing and redirecting them, there are many who need to be pushed forward to Christ. You, the present day disciples, are the ones who can draw them toward or push them away from their Savior. "Suffer and forbid them not."

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



Meet the Branch

Domestic Church — Modesto, California Branch



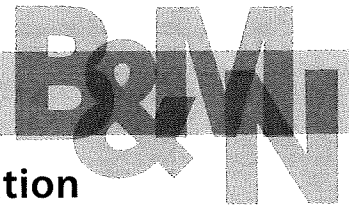
The Modesto Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ was organized on March 24, 1955, under the ministerial leadership of Presiding Elder Mark Randy and Brothers Joseph Lovalvo and Alexander Robinson. The church building, located at 329 West Briggsmore Avenue, was dedicated by Apostle V. James Lovalvo on January 20, 1957. Modesto is located in the central valley of California, surrounded by rich agricultural lands and a growing, expanding city. The church building has been in the same location since its inception but has been remodeled and expanded several times.

We have regular Sunday services with Sunday School each week. We meet on Wednesday nights for MBA, and our active Ladies' Circle meets the last Wednesday of every month and is involved in supporting the missionary work in Mexico, as well as the Area Ladies' Circle Dorcas projects, which are an outreach to local community charities.

We currently have approximately 65 members, and weekly attendees range in age from 1 to 85. We have a small but enthusiastic youth group who love to glean from the wisdom and experience of our older brothers and sisters. A group of talented brothers and sisters bless us with music in both English and Spanish. Our social and fellowship activities include soup nights, ice cream socials, and spring and summer barbeques. We also have the occasional spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

One of the challenges we face is our location, as we are separated by at least three hours' driving time from any other branch of the Church. We appreciate any and all visitors, as they truly lift our spirits, and we always look forward to sharing our love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Continue to pray for us as we endeavor to serve the Lord and spread His Gospel.

Branch & Mission News



God Opens the Door on a Montana Reservation

By Evangelist John DiBattista

On June 3, 2014, Brother John and Sister Caryl DiBattista, along with Brother Pat and Sister Melissa DiBattista of Montana, went on an excursion to Polson, Montana with the hopes of meeting some receptive hearts of the Salish Tribe on the Flathead Reserve.

A few months earlier, Brother Pat had a vision while in prayer petitioning God to open up a pathway for the purpose of sharing the Gospel to the Salish people. In the vision, our brother saw a bright, golden highway leading to an even brighter light in the center of two mountains of gold. The mountains were like huge golden nuggets. The light coming from the center was bright white and radiating in all directions.

Well, the highway was opened for us! We presented layettes that were provided by the

Ladies' Circle and boxes of donated clothing to the Sylvia Store, which serves as a resource hub for people in need on the reservation. When the owner, Sylvia, (pictured between Sisters Melissa and Caryl) saw the donations, she said, *"This is God-sent, and my prayers are being answered."* It just so happened that the need for layettes far exceeded what they had in stock. God's timing was perfect.

When we talked to Sylvia about other possible needs on the reserve, she mentioned that she tries to provide grade school children with backpacks filled with school supplies so that they start each new school year on the right foot. We quickly reviewed the needs for the first and second grade classes and began our planning. Working with NAOC Chairman Brother Joel Gehly, and receiving generous donations from several of our brothers and sisters, the backpack program sprang to life.



(Continued on Page 11)



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By Elder Anthony Scolaro

This issue of the Gospel News is centered on the theme of children. It's an appropriate topic in light of what the scriptures tell us about the Lord's high regard for little children and His concern for their welfare.

Among the concepts that come to mind when thinking about young children is their purity and innocence. Definitions for purity include these:

- Freedom from anything that contaminates or pollutes.
- Freedom from guilt or evil.
- Freedom from foreign or inappropriate elements.

Similarly, innocence includes in its definitions:

- Freedom from sin, moral wrong, or guilt through lack of knowledge of evil.
- Guiltlessness of a specific legal crime or offense.
- Lack of worldliness or sophistication; naiveté.

These selected definitions underline the quality characterized in the Book of Mormon verse that concludes with, "... *your children, many of whose feelings are exceedingly tender and chaste and delicate before God, which thing is pleasing unto God*" (Jacob 2:7). Until they reach an age where they are accountable and capable of committing sin, little children are alive in Christ (Moroni 8:10-12). Jacob, the Book of Mormon prophet, states that their purity is pleasing unto God.

Among the evils in our world we often see children robbed of their innocence very early in life, not just by outright sin, but often, unfortunately, by the graphic images and discussions that fill the news, advertising, and programming in today's media. Changes in what is considered "acceptable" in our society and culture have taken place gradually over time; in a world where sophistication is idolized and naiveté ridiculed, childlike qualities such as sensitivity, tenderness, chastity, and delicacy are trampled upon, and the pure eyes and ears of our children are subject to being bombarded with things the scriptures teach are abominable in God's sight.

Jesus had harsh words for "[Whoso should] offend one of these little ones" (Matthew 18:6). As adults we may be able to filter out, to varying degrees, the constant stream of evil communication that surrounds us. If we aren't careful, however, we can become desensitized to the point where we reject the old-fashioned notion that there are words and phrases that should not find a place in our vocabulary, and in light of what we may see and hear, disbelieve that there is still subject matter that is not appropriate to discuss in mixed company (i.e., between men and women outside of marriage), let alone with young children.

"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled" (Titus 1:15). Let's be as little children in this regard, and keep ourselves pure.

GMBA CAMPOUT 2014

Sometimes we think the Lord isn't paying attention to us... Wherever we are and whatever time we are in our life, we have to remember that God has a plan for us."

– Brother Ken Lombardo

"The Lord doesn't say 'Go clean yourself up and then I'll love you.' The infinite God looks down on us as we are and says 'I love you.'" – Brother Tony Ricci

"We are pillars to our little ones and they need to know that they are important to us." – Brother Erik Darr, Camp director

"The only way to keep [God's] forgiveness is to give it away."

– Brother Ryan Lesperance

"If the Lord said to you 'thou lackest one thing...' who or what would it be?... Sometimes it's that you can't forgive yourself."

– Brother Doug Obradivich



"Campout is a wonderful week to spend time with brothers and sisters and be surrounded by wonderful blessings. It's great when the saints can come together in one accord and let the blessings of God come into their hearts."

– Brother Bob Golling

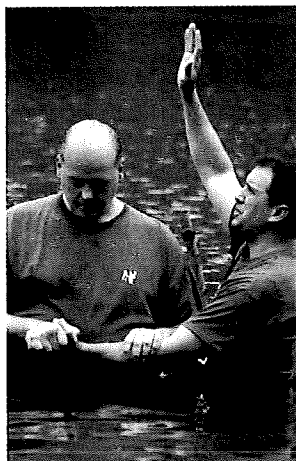
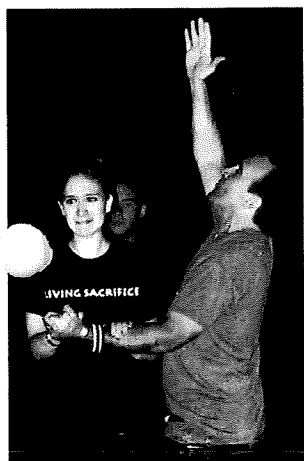
"I am so thankful to be at GMBA camp once again, renewing acquaintances of my dear brothers and sisters, enjoying the blessings of the camp theme, 'Forgiveness,' and enjoying all the youth, 'the Church of tomorrow.' If I have offended anyone the many years I've been in church, please forgive me and God bless you all." – Sister Betty Alessio

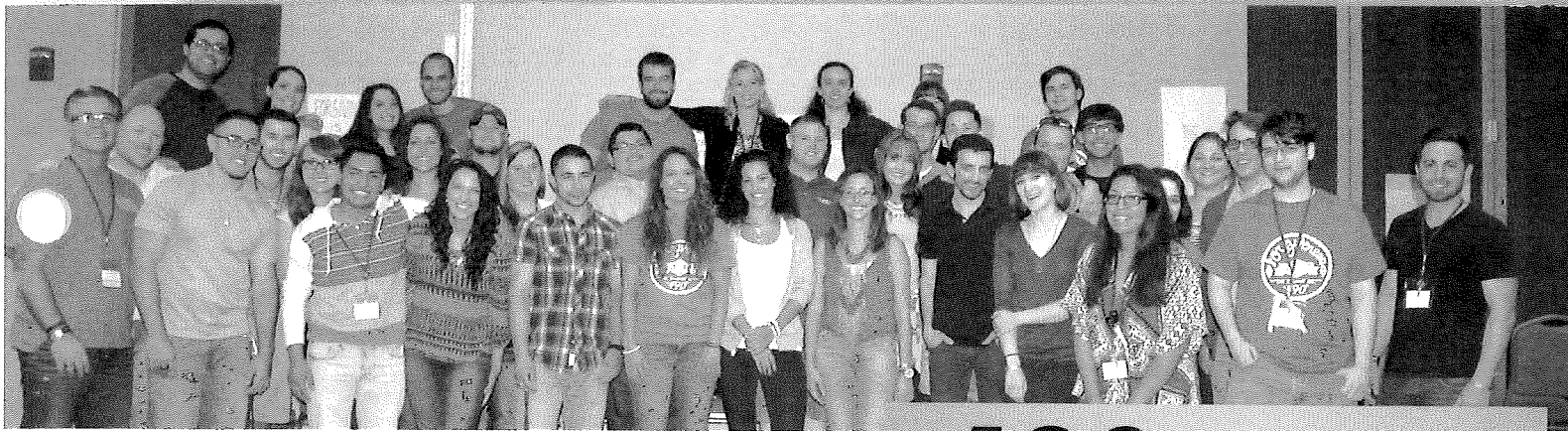
"... to someone who has never been to campout I would ask them what they are waiting for because they are missing out on one of the greatest experiences of their life." – Brother Michael Scaglione

"The seminars are a great opportunity for growth and I loved being with saints for a whole week and hearing their testimonies." – Sister Tanya Wood

"There isn't anything I don't like about camp but what I do love is the feeling of being renewed and refreshed when I go home at the end." – Sister Becky Martorana

"What I loved about my first campout was the opportunity to meet so many new loving and great people after Christ's heart." – Brother Scott DiBello





"When you have those problems where you feel you can't go on, that's when God will fight your battle."

"Do you have the confidence to understand that if someone asks you to pray and you don't, you could have missed an opportunity to move God's hand?" – *Brother Chuck Maddox Sr.*

"My favorite part of camp this year was seeing my husband give his life to Christ." – *Sister Rhoda Miller*

– Will Miller, on how he was enjoying camp: "There's Heinz ketchup, root beer, and my dad got baptized."

"I would tell someone who has never been to camp that it's the biggest blessing that I have ever experienced besides my baptism." – *Brother Jackson Hamet*



"What I would say to anyone who has never been to a campout is you're really missing out on one of the best things about the Church. You'll make friends that will last a lifetime." – *Brother Jacob Goode*

"Campout is the one place where I feel 100% confident in who I am and who I represent. And you can quote me on that." – *Brother Bryan Champine*



490 the camp theme and the number of times to forgive

Campers in total

400+

170 walking tacos sold and eaten

snow cones

156

68 participants in recreation

campout not counting 2 world conferences

48th

39 Ministers up front on Sunday

animals at the animal show

14

8 musicians on Sunday

visitors at the petting zoo

5

4 recreation teams

suspicious camp staff filling the dunk tank with buckets of ice!

baptisms

3

3 people with crutches

albino python, one super soft alpaca and one extra exciting pony ride

dunk tank

1

Fantastic Lord who blessed us abundantly

Music in the Home *By Sister Vicki Ali*

Music has always been the background of our lives. As I think how that soundtrack has played out within the walls of my home growing up, there have been many noticeable themes. My parents loved Southern gospel music, so as I grew up, it progressively blared from my dad's album, eight-track, cassette, and CD collections. (He never quite embraced iPods or mp3 players.) My parents were part of the Greensburg Quartet, so as a little girl I played on the floor as they practiced in our home with my mom playing the piano. To this day, singing *"In the Upper Room"* brings to mind their voices from that time. My mom gave piano lessons for many years in our home to as many as 40 students a week. Living in a small house, we kids had to be very quiet during these lessons. Does hearing Beethoven's *Für Elise* elicit happy memories after hearing it thousands of times? Maybe not so much.

As newlyweds in our own home, my husband and I loved jazz music and it often filled our apartment. Our newborn daughter was a colicky infant, who quieted as her father swayed slowly to country music ballads with her in his arms. Soon our home vibrated with the energy of three young kids, and songs from the latest Disney animated movie or VeggieTale cartoons echoed through the house.

But what part did God's music play in our home? Was it just a Sunday thing? I believe it was woven into the fabric of our everyday lives in many ways. One of the *Songs of Zion* says to *"call every chief musician, every instrument of praise, for there'll be singing on the mountain, in these the latter days!"*

Instrumental music lessons were offered for our children beginning in elementary school, and we encouraged them to learn instruments in school with the hope that their musical talents could be shared with the Church as they grew, and would enrich them spiritually.

Our daughter played the flute for school band, and began to accompany grandma on the piano for church services. Shy at first, her flute was barely audible. The brothers and sisters of our branch encouraged and complimented her efforts until she played church music with confidence and ease. I love that in recent years, more instruments are used in our worship services. And consequently, in our home we find when hymns are played or sung, God's Spirit becomes evident. How wonderful to be able to bring His spirit into our home by just playing or singing a song!

(Continued on Page 11)

The Power of One *Continued from Page 1*

That's what all these crazy numbers are about: just help one more person.

We all can think of one person right now who could use a kind word or some other "small" act of encouragement. So why not do it? Although this person may not be one of the statistics I spouted off at the beginning here, they're still important, and they still need Jesus.

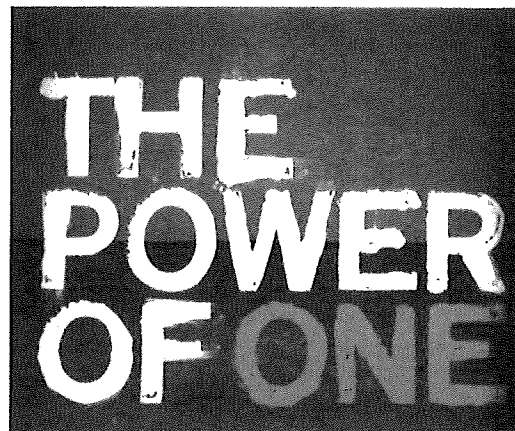
Because He counts everyone as important.

Because every great and amazing thing starts with one.

Because that one is worth the fight.

First published on the Gospel Blog

Editor's Note—When I read this article on the Blog, I thought it was unconventional but fitting for this issue that focuses on children. I was both astounded and horrified by the numbers listed of children in need and wanted to share this message with you. Each soul counts!



It's that time of year again.

You will soon receive a letter in the mail requesting that you send in your subscription.

Please remit payment promptly.

Thank you for your support and continued interest in The Gospel News.

God Bless You! The Gospel News Staff

5 Amazing Facts

Other Sheep By Brother Kerry Carlini

"The Good Shepherd looks down from the mountain," we sing. David wrote, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." And Jesus taught, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." But when Jesus said, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold," the Jews in Jerusalem misunderstood to whom He was referring. Here are five amazing facts regarding these "other sheep":

- 1 The Jews thought that Jesus had referred to the Gentiles.
- 2 But later, when Jesus appeared to the Nephites after His resurrection, He said, "[Y]e are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold."
- 3 Then amazingly, He continued, "I have other sheep, which are not of this land, neither of the land of Jerusalem."
- 4 He further explained, "I have received a commandment of the Father that I should go unto them."
- 5 Finally, Jesus concluded, "[T]hey shall hear my voice, and shall be numbered among my sheep that there may be one fold and one shepherd" – in essence, that one day the lost tribes of Israel shall be gathered together again. Thence shall be the ushering in of the Peaceful Reign.

Psalms 23; John 10: 4,16; III Nephi 15:21-22; 16:1,3



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

This is My Story . . .

Southeast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend 2014

By Sister Rhonda Hester

On Friday, May 2, 2014, a group of sisters traveled to Peachtree City, Georgia to attend the Southeast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend. We were also privileged to have sisters visiting from Michigan and New Jersey. The theme of our weekend was "This is My Story." Although each of our stories may be different, for each of us, Jesus Christ is our story. Sister Gelsa Staley, president of the Southeast Area Ladies' Circle, gave a warm welcome to open up an anticipated spirit-filled weekend which consisted of much laughter and love. Sisters Kristy Rogalla and Gretchen Dietz from the Atlanta Branch conducted an "ice breaker" activity for us to hear how some of our stories began.

On Saturday morning Sister Sharon Sloan shared a scripture reading with us, concerning the birth of Christ in Luke 2nd Chapter, the beginning of Jesus' story. Sister Dianne Maddox then spoke about the crucifixion of Christ and how He took our sins upon Himself. She stated that at the moment that happened, God looked away from Christ since God cannot look upon sin. Christ then said "My God, why has thou forsaken me?" This gives us an even deeper understanding of what Christ suffered for us. Sister Lisa Champine, president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle, gave the definition of the word

"story" and shared an experience with us that she had while sitting at work one day. These words came to her, "Your work is not about what your mom, father, and uncles do, it is about what I have given you to do." She shared how our work becomes our story as well.

Our seminars were divided into two groups. Sister Christine Martorana was in charge of the Little Ladies' Circle and Sisters Kim Morle and Kristy Rogalla led the adults. In the adult class, we each shared our stories. The text of the seminar was from Luke 10:38-42 giving us the synopsis of Mary and Martha's interaction with Jesus. We learned that we as sisters should not let the Martha side take over the Mary side of us. There is nothing wrong with either side, they are both needed and should have characteristics of both. There was also a video presented of the wonderful sisters in our area sharing their stories. Through this presentation there was a feeling of grace and mercy, especially when we saw photos of sisters participating in feet washing.

The Little Ladies' Circle talked about the different parts of a story, including characters, setting, problem, and conclusion. They read about the story of Frances Crosby, the author of the song "Blessed Assurance," and then they talked about what Frances might have been thinking and feeling when she wrote, "This is my story! This is my song!" Next, they shared

the different parts of their own stories with one another and explained the role the Lord plays in their stories. They decided they would be superheroes in their stories, and each young person selected a superhero name for herself.

On Saturday, we played the Path to Righteousness a/k/a The Holy Roller Game. This game was so well put together and our sisters were able to share scriptural and historical knowledge. It was wonderful to see the effort that was used to generate such a powerful display of questions concerning our Church, the Ladies' Circle, and the scriptures. After dinner we gathered together for some laughter for our Annual Pajama Party.

Our Sunday morning service was led by our brother elders from the Atlanta Branch. Brother Tom Jones spoke from Esther Chapter 4 and expounded on the prominent roles women play in the scriptures. Esther went from a slave girl to a queen. Brother Tom shared an experience and told us to never miss any golden opportunity to share our testimony because it may be the only time someone may have the opportunity to hear the Gospel. He encouraged us to share our stories.

All who attended the Circle event were blessed to be a part of such a wonderful weekend full of the spirit, many tears, and much laughter!



Jesus Teaches Us to Forgive

What do you do when someone is really mean to you on purpose? Or what if they really don't even care one bit if they have hurt you or caused a huge problem for you? What if you are far away from getting any help from a family member or friend who understands? What should you do? How should you handle it? How can you keep from worrying about it or hating them?

One way is to ask someone for help. Tell someone if you are being hurt or bullied. Stand up for yourself if it is safe. Be quiet if it is not. But pray too. Ask Jesus to help you and to show you what to do. Ask Jesus to change your heart if you start hating them.

This is the time of year when people go back to school. Hopefully they are in a safe school in a safe neighborhood and are blessed with teachers who are not mean. But teachers or bosses can have big problems too that make them hard to get along with. They too can be unfair. And there are still hundreds of rules to figure out and understand. Praying will help you find your way.

Recently I was really mad and hurt about the unfair way someone treated me. I went to bed mad and woke up feeling sorry for myself. I talked it over with a friend from Church. She reminded me that Jesus wants us to forgive. She told me if I kept thinking and talking about the problem and feeling upset, I was the one making myself into a victim. I

was telling myself what a sad little life I had! Boring!

That is not what the Lord wants for me. So, now that she reminded me of God's good way, I quit talking about feeling powerless over a mean person. And, best yet, I actually started praying for them! I started understanding them better.

If they were this careless about my heart, I realized they really needed help from God to see other people and share and be kind. It worked!

I decided to forgive. I decided that they are just like this and I was still going to go my way and have a happy blessed life. I asked my mother to pray for the situation too. Things really improved!

In the Book of Mormon in 4th Nephi a great destruction occurred in this country and South and Central America. God had sent many, many prophets to tell the people to turn away from sin and wicked ways. Instead, they tried to kill the prophets and all the good people.

The Lord sent a huge destruction. Cities burned or were buried in earthquakes. Only the most righteous were saved.

Then Jesus came down and brought joy to everyone. He and His twelve disciples worked with them to tell them of God's love and power. He taught them in Ill Nephi 12:44-45, "...behold, I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you (are unfair to you) and persecute you (are very mean to you)."

When you do these things, you will feel way better. You will be able to

sleep at night and not be full of hate and anger. Jesus will help you figure out how to do this, if you ask Him and keep trying.

It is worth working on. I keep praying and practicing. I like to be happy, not scared and mad.

With care,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

PRAY	BE
BE	SAFE
STRONG	HE
JESUS	WANTS
WANTS	US
US	TO
TO	LOVE
HAVE	FORGIVE
CONTROL	HATEFUL
OVER	PEOPLE
OUR	WHO
TEMPERS	HURT
AND	US

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

Music In the Home Continued from page 8

My uncle paid for my piano lessons growing up. I didn't end up a successful pianist, but I cherish the opportunity the lessons gave me. As we witnessed our kids enjoying playing their own instruments, it inspired me to try music again myself, this time, with violin lessons. I got to the point where my teacher asked if there was any music I'd like to bring of my own, so I brought the *Songs of Zion*. My heart swelled as the teacher's violin played harmony to "He's All the World to Me" with mine. That teacher has since passed away and the lessons ended, but what a joy to be able to share these songs with her and she often commented how beautiful they were.

Music in our homes sets the tone for many things. Chores get done faster with upbeat, lively music. Exercising or practicing a sport is more fun with motivating music. On the other hand, one of my kids falls asleep every night to a playlist of favorite Christian music. What a way to settle down into dreamland with words of life and beauty echoing in your brain!

How can music in our home set the tone for Sunday, especially before the monumental task of getting everyone ready and out the door for Church on time?

Typically, on weekday mornings, I start my day with TV news shows. I want to know the weather forecast, the latest world events and news about my favorite sports teams. After all, soon I will be at the office, sharing a cup of coffee with coworkers, and I want to be prepared for the conversation.

Out of habit, I could choose to do the same on Sunday mornings. But I can also choose instead to set the tone for the Sabbath a different way in preparation for the conversation around the communion cup. I've noticed on Sunday mornings when the TV remains off, and I play music praising God until it's time to go, I arrive at Church in a different spirit. Perhaps a lyric from that morning inspires me with a testimony, or (in ways only God can arrange) perfectly coincides with the message that day from the rostrum.

Music in our home sets the tone for our days, and inspires and colors our lives. Just as an interior decorator advises how color evokes certain feelings in a room, let God's music decorate the interior of your heart. Decorate with intention, and make it colorful!

God Opens the Door on a Montana Reservation Continued from Page 4

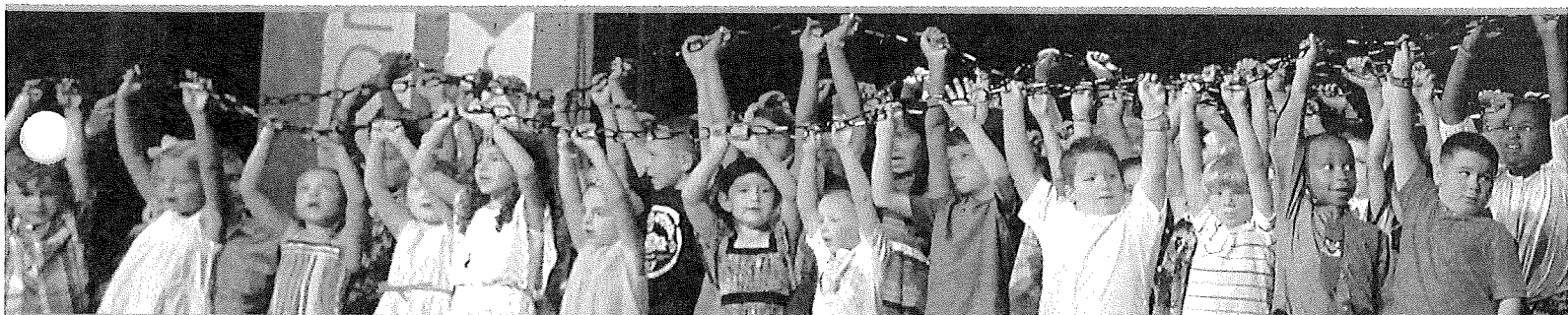
This fall, The Church of Jesus Christ is providing more than 100 backpacks for the Salish children starting first and second grades. The backpacks will be filled with pencils, a pencil box, crayons, a ruler, washable markers, tablets, Kleenex, glue sticks, erasers, and liquid glue.

While we were discussing the program with Sylvia, we noticed that the Director of Communications was standing outside the store, talking on his cell phone. He had called the newspaper.

In a few minutes, a reporter for the Salish newspaper arrived and began interviewing us. She asked us why we would do something like this and gave us the opportunity to tell them of our Divine Commission and our beliefs of future events. She took pictures of us holding the layettes. Sylvia said, "These people are a part of me, and now I am a part of them."

As a result of this trip, an article about The Church of Jesus Christ appeared in the Salish newspaper, called Char-Koosta, which was sent to 8,000 households. The paper read, "John and Pat DiBattista, brothers and fellow missionary outreach volunteers for The Church of Jesus Christ – a Christian religious denomination that recognizes the Book of Mormon – and their wives Caryl and Melissa, donated clothes and eight layettes – layette gift sets of baby clothes – to Sylvia's Store, a tribally managed food bank and thrift store." This was great exposure for the Church. We were also introduced to the head of Human Resources and Development and given an introduction to the president of the University where students from more than 50 tribes attend.

All in all, praise the Lord for not only providing a pathway but also opening the door to do His work.



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

Blessing Bits

BB *Thank You Lord For Being There For Me*

I am a mail carrier, and you all have heard the saying *"Come snow, sleet or rain, we deliver"*. This particular day, it had snowed a great deal and the temperature was quite cold. In driving the postal vehicle, I noticed I was moving along pretty good. I said out loud, *"Lord, I know you are with me. I can feel your presence. So that means my family and brothers and sisters are praying for me."* Just then my cell phone rang. It was Sister Mary Jo. She said, *"I just wanted you to know that I am praying for you."* I was so overcome, all I could say was *"thank you, thank you"*. What a God we serve to show me a confirmation of what I had just said. The next day the weather was just as bad. In fact, the temperature was much, much colder. I knew God would be with me. But by my last half hour, I was drained. I began to whimper and I said, *"Lord, this is too much. No one should have to do this."* My cell phone rang. It was my son Greg. *"Mom, how are you? I've*

been thinking so much of you and as I looked outside I saw this huge beautiful rainbow". So my reaction was to look. I also saw the same beautiful rainbow. What? A rainbow in this kind of weather? It gave me the encouragement to finish my route.—*Sister Iva Davis, Lorain Ohio Branch*

BB *God Hears the Cries of Our Children*

At the recent 2014 GMBA Campout, my son Holden woke up one morning very ill. I prayed that God would place a minister in the hallway as I opened my door so he could anoint my son. When I opened the door, the hallway was empty except for Brother Patrick Monaghan who was walking past my door. He came in and anointed Holden and within a few hours, Holden was able to get up and participate in the rest of the day's activities, which included "Capture the Whale," the one game that Holden did not want to miss. Praise God!—*Sister Karen Ivey, Mesa, AZ Branch*

BB *God Hears the "Small Prayers"*

GMBA Campout 2014 was my first Campout with my 11-month-old son. The first two nights, we didn't sleep much and I was exhausted. I wasn't really enjoying myself. At the end of the second day, before I went to bed, I said a prayer that my son would sleep all night. He slept all night! It's something small, but God still answers these prayers too.—*Sister Stefanie Carson, Monongahela, PA Branch*

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

Q

Question for this month: *When did you first understand and feel God's love? Does a specific memory stand out from your childhood?*

A

Answer from last month: *Is there a hymn that helped you decide to give your life to Christ? What is your "baptism song"?* The number one baptism song was *"For Those Tears I Died."*

"I knew it was 'my time', but when 'For Those Tears I Died' was called, I sang two or three words and began to sob and ran to the back. I asked for my baptism and my life has never been the same."—*Brother Andrew DiNardo, Inner City Detroit Branch*

Check back next month for more baptism song responses.



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