

# The Gospel News

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## Quorum of Seventy Evangelists

*By The Quorum of Seventy Officers*

**T**he Quorum of Seventy Evangelists of The Church of Jesus Christ continue to follow the model established by the Lord, Jesus Christ...

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:1-2). Afterwards, Jesus Christ would follow the Evangelists into all these locations. Jesus was truly the GREAT Evangelist!

For the last several months, the Q70 has been fasting and praying for specific direction in the calling of additional Evangelists to increase our collective outreach labors. We have also been petitioning God for a greater demonstration of His Spirit and power in our Ministry and evangelistic efforts, and to further accelerate the Church's missionary efforts. Finally, we wish to retain and increase focus on the growth of the domestic Church, including the engagement and development of the Church's youth.

The Quorum of Evangelists is composed of four primary entities, along with several supporting teams:

- International Missionary Operating Committee (IMOC)
- Native American Outreach Committee (NAOC)
- Domestic Visitation Committee (DVC)
- Youth Missionary Operating Committee (YMOC)

Most likely, you are familiar with the first two committees, as they have been in operation for several decades.

The IMOC is responsible for all missionary work outside of the United States and Canada. Currently, these works are located in approximately 25 countries throughout the world, with the desire to establish The Church of Jesus Christ in every nation. As Jesus commanded, "Go ye therefore, and teach 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 whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20).

The NAOC is responsible for all Native American outreach to indigenous people in the United States and Canada, with the exception of those established mission locations supported by a domestic geographical region of the Church. This effort is motivated by the Church's commitment and desire to restore the children

(Continued on page 7)

Interactive study help:  
Place these odd icons  
in the margins of its  
scripture to help  
you remember them.  
Have fun!



Mosiah 18:21



Ether 12:29-30

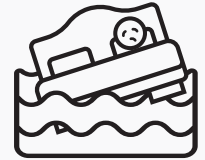


Helaman 5:12

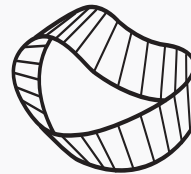
Hebrews 13:2



Psalms 6:6



John 10:16



III Nephi 15:21

I Nephi 10:19

# BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

**On October 15, 1960, The Anaheim Branch (now Irvine Branch) was dedicated, Sixty-one years ago.** During the 1950s, some of the members of the Bell, CA Branch moved into the Anaheim area. Brother George Heaps began holding mid-week services in the homes of the saints in Anaheim. They organized as a mission under the Bell Branch. Brother James Heaps, his wife, and Sister Mary Spata began to look for a suitable place they could afford, as property values were quickly going up. One day a stranger directed them to a property that had been put up for sale the previous night. It had a warehouse building, the price was right, and they put a deposit down. They then had to obtain a permit from the Anaheim Planning Commission to convert the warehouse into a church. A local group learned of the property conversion and protested, and the Planning



(Continued on page 11)

## 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, while working to draw Israel to Christ through efforts focused on the indigenous peoples of North, Central, and South America



## Vision Statement

- Living and worshipping in unity and righteousness will result in the fullness of God's Spirit and power among the Saints, culminating in continuous growth of the Church and fulfillment of Christ's promises concerning His Kingdom on Earth.



## "Down is Up"

By Elder Doug Obradovich

### "He who humbleth himself shall be exalted." (John 14:11)

Confirmation bias is the tendency to utilize information to validate one's established beliefs or values. Such partiality is evidenced by specific data being utilized to support one's views, or even when interpreting ambiguous evidence to reinforce personal attitudes. This normally occurs with emotionally charged or highly important issues, often the result of an unwillingness to consider otherwise. Observe how most people only watch new stations that align with their opinions, which impedes opportunity to weigh differing input.

In 2000, I was anticipating God's life-changing affirmation, which would define my career path, our household income, and whether we would return to Florida and live within miles of my mother, shortly after my father's passing. Highly important? Considerably. Emotionally charged? Undeniably.

On the eve of the deadline to respond to this ideal, ego-fulfilling career opportunity, I desperately huddled with my family in prayer. As I arose from my knees, I immediately felt to open the Word. After two months of silence, God delivered...sort of, "Ye ask and

receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3). I was exposed. God knew that I "lusted" for the higher position, more money, and better location (back to Mom, back to the Hollywood Branch). I wasn't seeking God's answer; I was seeking my answer.

Confirmation bias is pride-based and arrogance-laced. I was posturing to interpret any answer as God's affirmation, His "Yes!" Any response except, "I hear your question. I refuse to answer. Your intention is impure." No ambiguity.

God teaches, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven" (2 Chronicles 7:14). I prayed, but not in humility. So, God brought me down. I had to go down to go up. Similar to where we read, "Alma beheld with great joy, for he beheld that their afflictions had truly humbled them, and that they were in a preparation to hear the Word" (Alma 32:6). God wanted me "in preparation to hear."

Humbled. Broken. Down. Readied for up.

Two hours later, God's final answer, "No!" No upward mobility. No increase in pay. No relocation. Stay in Kentucky. One month later, I lost my then-current job. It seems God and I work much better together when I'm brought down, "in preparation to hear." Readied for up.

I could have chosen to take that job in Florida without asking. However, when I was 20 years old, I had sneaked away from a Florida Area Campout very early one Saturday morning to play in a competitive football tournament. During the first game, I had been knocked off my feet onto my head, concussed. Maybe a literal "down-is-up-moment." Punished by God? Absolutely not! But I had chosen to leave the safety of God's protection for selfish reasons. I have remained unwilling to ever do that again.

November 16, 2000, God took me down to teach me the glory of up. Had He said, "No!" without preparing me, I may have resisted, rebelled, resented. We stayed in Kentucky. We stayed content.

January 2001, the Oldham County Mission began weekly meetings in a rental space. March 18, 2001, 5 new converts were baptized. We were up and running.

*Fast & Pray* He Loves You  
 GOD'S PEACE AND JOY *God is Merciful*  
**Pause** Bring your cares PRAY WITHOUT CEASING  
 to the Lord **POWERFUL** He listens  
 Pray Changes things Pray for  
 Talk to the Lord **for** your fields  
 PRAY FOR THE CHURCH Pray for the sick  
**Sacrifice** *Pray for your Branch*  
 PRAY FOR THE YOUTH **Prayer.** Pray for your family  
 Pray for forgiveness He will hear you  
 MOVE THE HAND OF GOD *Power to change*  
 In all things give thanks  
 Pray for the mission fields

## Pause for Prayer

By Elder Larry Henderson

**W**hen we choose to accept Jesus as our Savior, we make a choice that can possibly have a positive impact on every decision we will make for the rest of our lives. I used the word “possibly”, because it is up to us to decide if we value the will of God over our will. If we place our lives completely in the path of God “we will be blessed and we will be lifted up at the last day”. (3 Nephi 27:22).

2 Cor 4:18 tells us, we should not be fixated on the things we ‘see’ in this life. Think of all the people and things you ‘love’. It may be family, friends, food, clothes, shoes, and the list goes on and on. This same scripture reminds us all these things are temporary. I often hear people say “God took this from me”. When our desire is to be like Jesus, we are given the ability to give up the temporary loves so that we might fulfill the eternal will of God. We all know we can serve God and enjoy food and fellowship, etc.... However, we should always put our and others' eternal reward before earthly pleasure. God wants us to have joy in this life and He will provide all of our needs.

Psalms 37

- 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.
- 26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.
- 27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.
- 28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

I heard an experience Brother Ishmael D'amico had while he was at work. He said he was doing his job and the Lord spoke to him and told him to go home. He responded to God and said he would lose his job if he were to go home. The Lord told him to go home again. His response was the same for fear of losing his job. Then our brother became very sick and was forced to go home. When he arrived home the Pietrangelo family was there. He was able to introduce them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ which led to them giving their lives to the Lord. Their sons Nick and Lou were called as ministers and Nick became an Apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ.

*Pray that their faith and righteousness will far exceed ours.*

God has chosen us from the world. We are accountable for the distribution of the treasure He has given us. If we hide it for fear of losing it, we will lose it. If we use every opportunity to share our treasure then we will be blessed with more opportunities to make others rich in the promises of Christ.

How much do you love lost souls? Are you willing to fast and pray everyday like Sister Teresa Pandone did for her son Michael? Remember our young people that face a barrage of decisions as we did when we were young. Some have chosen to take the first step on a wonderful journey with the Lord. Pray that their faith and righteousness will far exceed ours.

## Have Perfect Faith

By Elder Duane Lovalvo

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**W**e recently experienced the blessing of eight baptisms among our young people at Farmington Hills Branch #2! Our joy was full on Sunday, August 29, as we witnessed each convert going into the waters of regeneration. This event brought to my mind the words of Jacob that we have been studying in our MBA local, a man who was not only the younger brother of Nephi, but who also became a tremendous prophet in his own right.

*But, behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel, they who have endured the crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world, and their joy shall be full forever. (2 Nephi 9:17-18)*

One of the great concepts that is made plain throughout The Book of Mormon is the notion that we must “endure to the end” in order to obtain our salvation with the Lord. Repentance and baptism are the means by which we enter the gate that leads to the straight and narrow path. However, it is imperative that we stay on that path that leads us to the Tree of Life (salvation). This is only made possible if we hang on to the Word of God while enduring the shame of the world.

*And, he cometh into the world that he may save all men if they will hearken unto his voice; for behold, he suffereth the pains of all men, yea, the pains of every living creature, both men, women, and children, who belong to the family of Adam. And he suffereth this that the resurrection might pass upon all men, that all might stand before him at the great and judgment day. (2 Nephi 9:21-22)*

Jesus, the Son of God, suffered more than any mortal man ever has. He endured, among other things, temptation, exhaustion, hunger, humiliation, false accusations, beatings, being spit upon, scourging (whipping), a crown of thorns, nails driven through his hands and feet, and finally crucifixion. All of this was done so that God’s creation could exclaim, “Worthy is the lamb that was slain!” Jesus was that great and eternal sacrifice that won the victory over death and paid for the sins of mankind.

*And he commandeth all men that they must repent, and be baptized in his name, having perfect faith in the Holy One of Israel, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God. (2 Nephi 9:23)*

And now we have an opportunity, because of the resurrection, to be with Him forever! Our journey began when we repented of our sins and were baptized. However, unless we have “perfect faith in the Holy One,” we cannot be saved. What is “perfect faith”? In the context of what we’ve just read regarding the conditions for salvation, “perfect faith” must be synonymous with enduring to the end. The author confirmed this in his letter to the Hebrews:

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher [Greek for perfecter] of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)*

If we keep our eyes on Jesus, serving Him all the remaining days of our lives, enduring to the end, our faith will be made perfect in Him and we will be saved in the Kingdom of God.

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1*

# What a Day!

By Sister Carolynn O'Connor

## ONE BY ONE THEY SURRENDERED

From the moment the members of Farmington Hills Branch #2 arrived, there was excitement in the air. Brother David Lovalvo, our Presiding Elder, commented on how he could feel the energy and joy when he walked in that morning. Brother Joe Gianetti opened our meeting with a powerful sermon with the theme, "Jesus, It's Always Been You."

Brother Joe walked us through imagining a moment when Jesus walks into the room. "When I catch His glance and I see Him there is an exchange that says, 'Jesus, it's always been You,' and He says, 'Here you are, we are together, after all that we have been through, I'm still here and I am still with you.'" He continued by saying, "Take the opportunity to allow the Lord to walk into our room this morning and we can have that exchange with Him and come to that realization and that closeness with Him that says, 'Jesus, it's always been You.' There have been many distractions in my life and times of turmoil, but the answer to all the things I have ever stood in need of has always come down to You. Everything I am in my life I owe to You. There is nothing of any substance or value in my life that You have not given me. It's always been You."

Following that, Anna DiMelis stood up and asked for her baptism during testimony. We were overjoyed! After the meeting and for



the next hour or so, we celebrated as one by one, Sophia Giannetti, Sam Giannetti, Ben Gianetti, Nate Lambert, and Luca Lovalvo asked to be baptized as well. It was a day we will never forget, but the blessings did not stop there. That night we received word that Eliana Gross asked for her baptism and then Thursday evening, Nathan Root. Praise God, 8 souls surrendered!

## WHAT A DAY!

On Sunday, August 29 we gathered at the water and one by one they were baptized and during the meeting following, confirmed with the gift of the Holy Ghost. And yet that was not the end of our celebration. Originally planned on this day was a celebration of all the pillars of our branch. We currently have 21 members that are 75 years or older. There was a presentation that included testimony from the members and photos of them throughout the years. It was appropriate that we would celebrate these beautiful

pillars on the same day that so many young people joined the Church. After all, it is the hard work, dedication, and love they have shown that has carried the Gospel forward and created an environment that allowed these young souls to know the Lord and want to be a part of this Church.



## PLENTIFUL BLESSINGS

It was a beautiful day and such a blessing to honour both our newly baptized and seasoned members. The celebration continued during a luncheon where the pillars shared their testimonies, each with a similar theme of how staying close to the Lord and remembering that it is "Always Him," who carries us through.



# Quorum of Seventy Evangelists

Continued from cover

of Israel to the Lord, beginning with the seed of Joseph, i.e., descendants of Joseph of Egypt, as described in the scriptures. Apostle Paul's writings: "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1). Our desire is exactly the same today!

The latter two committees are relatively new to the Q70 operations, but were initiated by the direction and inspiration of God, namely, the Domestic Visitation Committee (DVC), and the Youth Missionary Operating Committee (YMOC).

Specifically, the purpose and mission of the DVC is to visit the regions of the domestic Church with the specific intent of teaching and preaching the Restored Gospel, and keeping alive the Latter-Day hopes and expectations through prophecy, as part of our service to God. To date, 5 of the 7 regions have been visited, with the remaining regions to be scheduled in the near future. Wonderful blessings, spiritual excitement, and much fellowship have resulted from these gatherings.

The YMOC was formed to enable the Q70 to maintain specific focus and involvement with the Church's youth. It is intended for the Q70 to view the youth as a missionary field with great potential. Our prayer and desire is that the Lord would attract them to the Gospel, and the Evangelists will focus on their retention, development, and spiritual growth, in conjunction with the GMBA and the Region MBAs. We envision that many of these young people will be the Church's missionaries in the very near future!

Current Q70 Leadership is the following Brothers:

- Q70 – Wayne Martorana, Bob Nicklow, Jr., Bryan Griffith, Rich Scaglione
- IMOC – Ron Giovannone
- NAOC – John DiBattista, John Straccia
- DVC – Jim Huttenberger
- YMOC – Chuck Maddox, Sr.

We actively work to share with you the many blessings experienced during our outreach efforts via the Q70 communications team, led by Sis Karen Pandone. In addition, several of the Evangelists are quite active making visits to Branches and Missions within their region and other regions to keep the hope and spirit of the Restored Gospel alive in our hearts.

We would like to share with you a few recent highlights for each of the committees, including many throughout the pandemic period.

**IMOC** - The IMOC leadership and Field Committee teams fully supported the request of the General Church (GC) Presidency to meet virtually with the in-country national leadership since many of the countries were closed to physical travel during the pandemic. These calls were a great blessing to all who attended as the GC

Presidency shared a message of encouragement and we were given an update concerning the membership in each country, including many wonderful miracles and blessings. One of the highly blessed events each year is the conference of the Americas, held in Mexico. Typically there are 600-700 people in attendance to enjoy the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, the ordinances, and singing which can only be surpassed by the angelic host. During the virtual conference of 2020, there were as many as 3,000 views of the conference activities throughout the weekend. What a blessing! Finally, we continue to receive several inquiries about the Church from other countries.

**NAOC** - Outreach efforts aggressively continued to all the open space works where there is no Branch of Mission of the church established. Receptivity is at a very high level and the Lord is opening new doors at a pace not witnessed during recent years. In addition, the NAOC has provided additional support to all of the established Native American Missions. These opportunities have afforded several of the ordained officers to become involved in the Native American efforts and resulted in many blessings. Until recently, open access to Canada has been restricted from the United States, but as travel re-opens, we are looking forward to pursuing many opportunities there as well.

**DVC** - The visits to five domestic regions have been a great blessing and encouragement to the membership and visitors. Weekend activities often consisted of seminars, preaching and teaching, and at times, question and answer sessions, whereby the congregation could ask scriptural questions to a panel of the Evangelists and Ministry. Taking advantage of the opportunity present, we also have special classes and activities for the youth which are present. Several times throughout the gatherings, God has given wonderful experiences and revelations, and the spirit of God has been richly evident.

**YMOC** - The Evangelists participating in the YMOC have initiated and supported Youth Summits / Youth Retreats in several areas of The Church. They have also been very active supporting Youth In Action initiatives and DVC weekends for the youth in various parts of the domestic Church. There has been much scriptural and life training conducted virtually during the pandemic, highlighted by a specific 60-day Book of Mormon study challenge, which was successfully completed by several of the youth.

In conclusion, although many of the Q70 brothers have nearly completed their term of office and their elected responsibilities will be transitioned to others, we very much look forward to the Church's Evangelistic efforts continuing and accelerating for the cause of Christ. As the scripture states, "The eternal purposes of the Lord roll on." Each of us desires to be part of the great work of the Lord in our generation. May your desire to serve the Lord increase daily!

## New Gospel News Series: Young People Writing Young People

To My Fellow Young Brothers and Sisters,

As of this very moment while writing this letter, I find myself at a loss for words. While I look back on my life, these recent years seem like they've gone by so quickly. However, my desire is that this letter may not be about me. I wish to relate a few of the words that the Lord once graciously gave to me. I pray that they all direct your attention unto Him who is worthy of praise.

As I mentioned before, life passes quickly and oftentimes there is much that remains unanswered, especially during our youth. Oftentimes, uncertainty seems to be lurking around every stage of our lives. There are decisions about who to date or marry, what career to choose, where to live, how to behave, and who we choose to be. All of these things are hurdles that I find myself facing to this day. I'm sure this is nothing new to you, or maybe it is. Perhaps this is the first time you are taking time to realize that we cannot face this world alone. I once felt like that, and as much as I wouldn't want to admit it, I still feel like this sometimes. Therefore, I write to

share these words of encouragement that God in His eternal mercy once granted me. Through this I received clarity in moments of darkness. Wherever you may find yourself, take a moment and meditate on the following verses.

*“We are in a spiritual warfare, young people, and the enemy will try to entangle us with all the affairs of life...”*

2 Timothy 2:1, 3-4 *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*

As the apostle Paul states, he tells Timothy to endure the hardships that came with serving

the Lord in that day and time. He further affirms that we are in a spiritual warfare, as he calls Timothy a soldier of Christ. However, it is in the final verses where I find myself at a point of reflection. He tells him that no man that is fighting in this spiritual warfare is entangled with the affairs of this life, so that he may please whoever chose him to be a soldier.

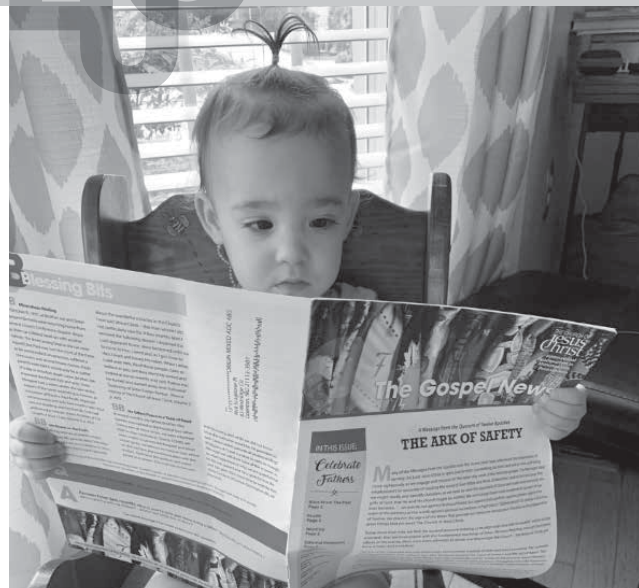
So you see, if you are here at this very moment reading this letter, you must recognize that

God must have worked and is working in your life to this very day. We are in a spiritual warfare, young people, and the enemy will try to entangle us with all the affairs of life that bring us fear, worry, confusion, temptation, and affliction. All in order to distract us from our true purpose. That is not to say that we must ignore all of our responsibilities as well. But rather I invite you, my fellow brothers and sisters, that as we war in this

spiritual warfare, we take up our crosses, and counsel with our Lord, so that He may make our burdens light. This way we don't entangle ourselves with the affairs that will always be around, but rather that we awaken and press on, and run the race and fight the good fight.

God Bless you,  
Brother Armando Sanchez

## Ladies' Uplift Circle News



### Train Up a Child By Sister Luann Carson

I was born and raised in the Church. Well, not literally. I was actually born in a hospital and grew up living in a house. Samuel, the son of Hannah, was actually raised in the temple. As a barren woman, Hannah exhibited faith so that God blessed her with a child. Because of her gratitude, she dedicated Samuel to the Lord; so he grew up in God's house, literally, and the teaching of his childhood remained with him throughout his life (1 Samuel 1).

Although I didn't grow up in a temple, I was raised to know that being in church and at church activities is number one priority. I remember going to Ladies' Circle as a child every Tuesday afternoon with my mom. Back then, meetings were held in the homes of the sisters. I heard scripture read and discussed, and enjoyed the fellowship, love, and unity among the sisters.



## Fishers of Men

By Apostle Jerry Valenti

**W**hen Jesus called some of His Apostles who were fishermen, He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Jesus used this metaphor so that these men who were very familiar with what went into catching fish would understand what their new calling would be. Here are 5 amazing facts that illustrate how the same general things that are required to be successful fishermen are also required to be successful at fishing for souls.

**1 Good Equipment** – A professional fisherman needs appropriate clothing, suitable bait, heavy-duty nets, etc. in order to maximize the potential haul of fish. In order to maximize the potential for capturing souls, we also need appropriate clothing (the "whole armour of God" – Ephesians 6), suitable bait (the Holy Ghost, which draws people to Christ – John 16:13) and heavy-duty nets (the gospel of Jesus Christ, which captures people's hearts).

**2 Know Where to Throw the Net** – No matter how good your equipment is, you can't catch fish if you throw the net where there are no fish. An experienced fisherman knows how to recognize where the fish are and will throw the net there. We will have the most success in capturing souls if we concentrate on people who are willing

to listen. If it's unclear where such people are, allow the Lord to provide the direction (as Jesus demonstrated when He told the fisherman to "cast the net on the right side of the ship and...they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes" – John 21:6).

**3 Patience** – Just as it requires patience to wait for the fish to make their way into the net, it often requires patience to wait for the Spirit to work upon someone's heart and bring them to the point of salvation. ("Bring forth fruit with patience" – Luke 8:15).

**4 Willing to Accept Whatever is Caught in the Net** – If the fishing net is thrown into waters with various types of fish, the fisherman has no real control over which fish are caught. As a result, the overall catch includes whichever fish are in the net. As we share the Gospel with

others, it's important to be willing to accept whoever the Lord draws into the kingdom – they may not look like us, they may not be related to us, they may not be someone we would typically choose as a friend – but every soul that is captured by the Gospel of Jesus Christ is valuable and is worthy of the love of Christ from the Saints of God.

**5 Able to Work Together** – If people are serious about catching a lot of fish, they employ workers to do the different parts of the job at hand – driving the boat, maintaining the nets, cleaning the fish, etc. There are many different jobs that need to be done in order for the Church to be well-positioned to bring souls into the kingdom. Let's make sure we're each contributing our own efforts to this wide scale fishing expedition.

Praise God that through my parents' example of putting God first, I learned the importance of these things as a child!

I was sent this picture of almost two-year-old Charity recently and was told that Charity's dad read her one of the Circle columns from the Gospel News. Although she may not have fully understood the words, maybe she felt how I felt when I attended Circle as a child. She must have been blessed, because she continues to ask for the Gospel News and acts as if she is reading it.

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

Bringing children to various church events, gatherings, and even

Zoom meetings will provide a foundation of love and acceptance within them.

Charity, along with many other children and adults, are following examples of how to love and serve God. Maybe the children of the saints don't actually live in the church building, but praise God!, they are growing up under the sound of the Gospel. These teachings are a foundation that will be with them throughout their lives. What better way to start a relationship between God and your child than to read the Gospel News to them! (Of course, along with bringing them to as many church meetings and activities as possible.)

Isaiah 54:13 "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."



## How Do We Know What To Do?

The Bible, in Matthew 5:9, says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." So, when your friends or people are getting more and more angry, see how you can stop it instead of getting angry too, and even bring peace.

education, and anyone who loves you. Thank God for good roads and cars and telephones that allow us to be in contact with each other. Thank Him for your family, your pets, your friends, and toys. Thank Him for keeping you safe in storms and bad weather, too.

**D**ear Friends.

Many years ago when one of my relatives got married, she became a stepmom to a little five-year-old girl whose mother hadn't paid much attention to her children. Many times no grown-up was in the house when the kids came home, or when they woke up. They would be scared and worried a lot.

My relative, the new Mom, had been raised in a good family who served God and followed God's laws, Her mom and dad loved her and took good care of her. She grew up to have good sense and a lot of love for others. So, when she married the little girl's dad, things changed for the little girl in a good way. Somebody good cared!

After the little girl grew up and got married, she sometimes had a hard time knowing the right way to take care of young children or babies. No one had taken good care of her when she was that little. Then she found a solution. She would start to make a plan, but if she suddenly felt like it wasn't right, she would stop. She told us, "If I am going to do something but think, "I don't know why, but Mama [her stepmom] wouldn't like this! I stop and don't do it!" By watching her Mama she was a better, safer parent. And of course, her Mama prayed for God to watch over and guide them.

This girl had learned from someone else's good example. And YOU can be someone's good example, to teach him or her about the power and love and blessing of serving the Lord. When others are mean or pushy to others, you can be an example. You can decide to be nice to the person they are being mean to. Sometimes you can tell the mean ones to stop! Sometimes you can even tell an adult or teacher what is going on.

Then remember, we are taught from Jesus to forgive other people over and over. (See Matthew 18 Chapter verses 21-22.) Jesus' servant Matthew asked him how often we should forgive others...seven times maybe?

And Jesus, our Lord told him "Forgive others seven times seventy!" That's 490 times!! But Jesus also told us in Matthew 10:16 to be wise like a serpent and yet gentle as a dove. So, we do not have to let people hurt us again and again. We can be smart when we see trouble coming, pray, and find ways to get around it! And not hate the person causing the problem.

Jesus said the first and greatest commandment is to love God with all our hearts, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. (See Matthew 22:37-40.) You know scriptures teach us that all good things come from God. So think about what is good in your life, and have a really grateful heart towards God. Thank God for water, food, your

And the second greatest commandment is "You shall love your neighbor (friend or any other person) like yourself. (See Matthew 22 37-40.) That means you let others go first, or have the best thing. To me, this can be one of the hardest and challenging commandments from Jesus. It's human nature to often try to get the best place, food, toy, shoes, and clothes. So now Jesus teaches us to love our neighbor (friend or other person) like yourself, and that may mean giving someone else the best! Think about it.

One of the best things about loving and serving God is challenging ourselves to quietly follow the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus! In some ways it gets easier. In some ways it is very hard. Try it! That's what makes us truly strong. And someone who does not know the Lord yet is probably already watching you and learning from what you do.

With love, Your friend, *Sister Jan*

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## Blast from the Past

Continued from page 2

Commission instructed them to draw a sketch of the improvements and petition the neighborhood for approval. They presented the petition and drawing to the Planning Commission, and it was approved.

The opposition continued. The night before the next council meeting, Brother George Spata had a dream in which he saw the small Church group in Council chambers. A man appeared to him and instructed him to tell the group to "remain quiet, as he would speak for them." At the next Council meeting, a large number of people opposing the building

attended. There were only a few from the Church. Brother George said very little while the opposition had a lot to say. A strange man walked in, dressed in work clothes, and asked the Council for permission to speak. They granted him permission and he spoke on behalf of the Church. After the gentleman spoke, the Council voted and the permit was granted, with a majority of 3 to 2. The six members of Anaheim began to work on the warehouse they had purchased with help from the Bell and San Fernando Valley Branches. The inside was completely remodelled, with a new roof and stucco on the outside, and held 175 people.

## Where do you see or feel God most in Nature?

Continued from back

"When I wake up in the morning the first thing I see out my window is the sky and trees and I thank God for the view of His creation and another day. The endless sky and landscape beauty are incredible, especially realizing God created it all!" – *Sister Jan Offet, Bell, CA Branch.*

"As I walk Coronado Island I see the most beautiful variety of flowers. There is always a new one I have not seen. So gorgeous." – *Sister Diane Surdock, San Diego, CA Branch.*

"The ocean!" – *Sister Sophia O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch.*

"In the breeze and any body of water." – *Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch.*

"Surrounded by the pine trees in my backyard with the birds chirping all the time. I call the trees the bird condos." – *Sister Anita Znoy, Creekside, MI Branch.*

"I absolutely feel closest to God when I am standing on the shores of the Great Lakes or the Ocean. In those moments I feel His love for us in the beauty He provided and feel in awe of His amazing creation." – *Sister Carolyn O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch.*

"The beauty of trees—as I look at how they reach for the sun, they seem to me to be raising their limbs in praise to God! On rare occasions when I have been blessed to walk among the giant Redwoods, I truly feel like their canopy forms the ultimate cathedral, far more beautiful than anything man could ever create." – *Brother Tim Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch*

"I love tending to my flower gardens. I plant flowers of many different varieties all over my yard and around my house. When they start to bloom I see the little seedlings grow and become beautiful creations of God's handiwork. I love to look at all the different kinds of flowers and watch the butterflies and bees fly around them as they pollinate new growths. So that is where I see and feel God most in nature. – *Sister Connie Rossi, Gastonia, PA Branch*

"Every morning, I watch the birds outside my front window. They remind me of God's love and faithful provision for His creation through the changing seasons. They sing His praises as He meets their daily needs. What a beautiful example for me." – *Sister Rosanne Champine, Detroit, MI Branch #1.*

"Hiking in the mountains where beautiful cascading waterfalls adorn the scenery!" – *Sister Dienna Rogers, Irvine, CA Branch.*

"In the colors and brilliance of a sunset over the water. Never fails to move me." – *Sister Kathie Perkins, Detroit, MI Branch #1.*

"I work on wind farms all across this blessed nation and usually stay at out-of-the-way campgrounds. God's beauty in His creation never fails to amaze me." – *Brother David Haley, Harrison, MI Mission.*

"Nature causes me to feel God's presence because it directly reflects many of God's attributes. I feel close to God in nature because I see the beauty, power, strength, magnificence, and creativity of the creation surrounding me and I know who to thank. Watching how God provides for the needs of even the tiniest creatures will grow your faith and fill your mind with bible verses about God's beautiful creation and how He cares for the sparrow." – *Sister Nancy Plahovinsak, Edison, NJ Branch.*

"When I see a sunset with a beautiful colorful sky. It's God's beautiful artwork." – *Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch.*

"I love the time of year when so many flowers are in full bloom. The colors and shapes are so vibrant and complementary to each other, it's hard not to be overwhelmed by their beauty. Another example of God's perfect design." – *Sister Kim Komjathy, Detroit, MI Branch #1.*

"In the nighttime sky." – *Sister Dianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch.*



Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Psalms 143:9

# Blessing Bits

## BB He is the Same Today

In Zambia, Africa, Andrew Banda awoke one morning to complete paralysis. He could not move from his chest down for the next three years. One day, a young nurse, a sister in The Church of Jesus Christ, spoke with Andrew. She told him to go to the Church in Chililabombwe and ask Pastor Chalwe to anoint him. Andrew was carried on a blanket by four people to the front of the Church, where he was anointed. The following Sunday, Easter, April 4, 2021, while the meeting was in session, a man walked into the building, jumping up and down and causing a stir. It was Andrew, who had been healed! Andrew desired to be baptized, along with several of his family. Today he is our brother in Christ. God is Good, All the Time! All the Time, God is Good! – *Q70 Communications Team*

## BB Entertaining Angels

One summer day in 1959 I was home with my children when my companion, Harry, was out looking for work. Someone knocked at the back door. Standing there was a neatly dressed elderly man with grayish-white hair

and a trimmed beard. He politely asked if I had anything to eat. I brought him some beans, bread and coffee and he thanked me. Then he thanked God for the meal and ate it outside. “God Bless you and your family for feeding me” He said afterwards. “Your husband will find work today.” I asked my son, Mickey, to watch the man as he left. Mickey said, “Mom, he was walking up the hill and then disappeared in the air!” My husband came home shortly afterward and told me that he had found a job. In Hebrews 13:1-2, Paul writes, “Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: For thereby some have entertained angels unaware” – *Sister Marie McGuire*

## BB He Paid the Price

I was preparing to teach a men’s class in my branch, praying, asking God to give me something to share. The Lord brought before me No. 37 in The Songs of Zion, “Weighed in the Balance.” In my mind’s eye, a scene played out before me. There was an old-style balancing scale and Satan was throwing bricks onto one side. Each brick represented one of my

sins. When the evil one finished, Jesus walked over to the other side of the scale and silently dropped the smallest speck of His blood on the scale. The scale slammed down in my favor. All those bricks, which represented my sins, flew off the other side, never to be seen or heard from again. Thank you Jesus, thank you

Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Elizabeth McDonnell at [eksanchor@gmail.com](mailto:eksanchor@gmail.com). [in approximately 150 words].  
Answers to Question of the Month to [gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org](mailto:gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org).



**Question for this month:** What is something that you are thankful for that came out of a trial?



**Answer from last month:** Where do you see or feel God most in Nature? “The Mountains—In early 2019 we visited Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and drove south through the Grand Tetons. The height and breadth of the mountain ranges were overwhelming. Its scale and size was breathtaking, and it was there where we felt God’s majesty and greatness.” – *Brother Jim and Sister Kellie Speck, Imperial, PA Branch.*

Turn back to page 11 for more answers to this question.



*Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Psalms 143:9*