

The Gospel News

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Happy Fathers Day



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Witnessing For Christ

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Witness is one of the most impactful and frequently used terms in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. A quick online search of the phrase 'witness in the bible' will yield – "In the Bible, a witness is someone who sees something amazing or important." If we literally used that definition, we all could testify of what we have seen / are seeing / will see that is amazing because of Jesus Christ!

The terms: witness, witnesses, witnessed, witnessing and other derivatives are used over 175 times in the Bible and over 50 times in the Book of Mormon. Regarding the Book of Mormon, it was prophesied and later fulfilled that three witnesses would touch the gold plates used in translation of the book in addition to the witness of the man used by God to translate the ancient record. The scripture that references the three witnesses is found in Ether 5:2-4: "And behold, ye may be privileged that ye may show the plates unto those who shall assist to bring forth this work; And unto three shall they be shown by the power of God; wherefore they shall know of a surety that these things are true. And in the mouth of three witnesses shall these things be established; and the testimony of three, and this work, in the which shall be shown forth the power of God and also his word, of which the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost bear record—and all this shall stand as a testimony against the world at the last day."

Our desire in this article is to discuss the necessity for the saints of God to be able to understand God's instructions to us as witnesses for Jesus Christ. As we desire to witness for Jesus and His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, it is very important to understand the What, Why, and How.

God advised His creation of 'What' we are to witness in very specific verbiage given to the prophet Isaiah in chapter 43:10-12, that we are His Witness and that He is God and beside Him there is no saviour. The scripture states, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God". As the people of God, it should be of great comfort that we have the honor of witnessing that He alone is God!

In another poignant message, Jesus Christ gave the original Apostles a directive that still resonates to His Church in 2022. In the book of Acts, the Lord redirected the brothers when they were focused on timing and events and advised them of what their focus should be, as found in Acts 1:7-8: "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me

(Continued on page 4)



(Find a special greeting from the missing letters, after you unscramble them!)

As the father _as loved me, so h_ve I loved you: continue ye in my love. John 15:9



Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowe_ upon us, that we should be c_lled the sons of God: 1 John 3:1

...and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fi_e and the wood: but where i_ the lamb for a burn offering? Genesis 22:7



Awake, m_ soul_ No longer droop in sin. Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul. 2 Nephi 4:28



Love not the world, neither the t_ings that are in the world. If any man love the world, the lov_ of the father is not in him. 1 John 2:15



My little children, these things write I onto _ou, that ye sin not, and i_ any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father... 1 John 2:1

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to pre_are a _lace for you. John 14:2



And I will pr_y the Father, and he shall give you another Comfor_er, that he may abide with you for ever; John 14:16



BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

Spiritual Fathers: The first baptism from the newly-dedicated Hopelawn, New Jersey building was of Brother Frank Calabro on June 14, 1944, while still a mission. The building was officially dedicated on January 11, 1942 with President William H. Cadman officiating at the dedication service. On March 30, 1940, Brothers Louis Mazzeo and Jim Mercurio applied to the Township of Woodbridge for a building permit. The Hopelawn Mission began to build their present church building on this site, 393 Florida Grove Road, in April of that year. Masons were hired to do the brickwork at wages of \$1.00 per hour, amounting to \$100 per week. These wages were paid by Brothers Paul Benyola, Joseph Kowalczyk, and John Karos. The members donated whatever they had and worked day and night constructing the building. Brother Joseph Benyola closed his barbershop each day from 9 am to 12 pm to assist in building the church. All work on the building other than the brickwork was done by the brothers of the area. The completed cost of the new building was approximately \$6,000. The Hopelawn Mission was organized as a branch on January 9, 1948 with Brother Joseph Benyola as presiding elder. He retained that position for several years and also started the New Jersey Choir with members from all missions. He drove a large Packard and transported over 10 young people at a time to the choir practices and MBA meetings.

Excerpts taken from *A History of The Church of Jesus Christ Volume 2* pgs. 342-343



Hopelawn Church Building on Florida Grove Road

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.

THE CHURCH OF
Jesus Christ

Wordup



“On Your Honor” By Brother Doug Obradovich

“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name” – Matthew 6:9

When I was younger, I viewed him through unforgiving, judgmental eyes, unwilling to see past the pain I had felt. With time, I began uncovering details about his upbringing, his starting point. Despite this new knowledge, I still wrestled with hard-to-forget memories. Older now, I can factor in much more than youthful anger, and can see his extraordinary growth, provided through God's generous insight. This clarity allows me to acknowledge the amazing man he was. His relationship with his own father was terribly fragmented, his opportunities extremely limited. His suffering surely must have been great. And yet, his capacity to love defined him, despite having no apparent model for such behavior.

I honor my father, as I realize he sincerely did the best he could, given such dark beginnings in Clairton, Pennsylvania. But he made his way out. And then, much

later in life, he made his way in. I have always viewed his conversion as one of the most significant turnarounds I have ever encountered, and I am eyewitness to both the sinner and the Saint. Honor is a display of merited esteem and reverence, an exhibit of deserved regard or admiration for someone or something. Sadly, this submission arrives posthumously. But it arrives, nonetheless.

As I have found peace in my newfound conclusion, there is one who has never required any adjustment, nor further review. He has always been good to me, a loving Father, from my earliest memories till now. I concur with Timothy, “The only wise God, be honor and glory forever” (I Timothy 1:17). But it was the Son who provided the instruction for honoring the Father daily, “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” (Matthew 6:9-10). Jesus had just prefaced His template for prayer by telling us to pray “in secret” (Matthew 6:6). He was teaching us we are on our honor in our honoring God. In fact, our entire service is on our honor. As so many have said before,

“It’s what one does when no one is looking that defines character.”

On your honor.

Jesus rejected mankind labeling Him as “good,” using this opportunity to instead honor His father, “Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God” (Luke 18:19). He had taught us to begin every communication with the Father by honoring Him, “Hallowed be thy name...” He further held the Father up exclaiming, “For my Father is greater than I” (John 14:28).

Maybe had my father heard such adulation said about him earlier, he would also have returned all honor and glory to His Lord. So, I do the same.

On my honor.

I glorify God with all honor, all glory, forever, wherever, in public, in secret, through my thoughts and my actions. If we can chime in when we hear “God is good” with “all the time,” then surely, we can agree to pay homage to God, “all the time!”

And you do so, on your honor.

both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" [words of Christ underlined].

If we break down the most critical phrase in those two verses, it is simply "ye shall be witnesses unto me," which is what we as the saints in the Lord's Church are to be focused upon in our day and time.

Having established the 'What,' it should be straightforward to answer the question of 'Why' do we witness. The reasons for Why we are to witness for Jesus Christ are abundant and personal, starting with John 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

The saints of old witnessed the power of Jesus and that He was the reason for their hope; a few scriptures among many point to their focus. One very familiar scripture is Acts 3:12-15: "And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses."

In addition, the saints that dwelt on the lands of the Americas also passionately witnessed the goodness of Jesus Christ. As recorded in Jacob 4:4-6: "For, for this intent have we written these things, that they may know that we knew of Christ, and we had a hope of his glory many hundred years before his coming... Behold, they believed in Christ and worshiped the Father in his name, and also we worship the Father in his name... Wherefore, we search the prophets, and we have many revelations and the spirit of prophecy; and having all these witnesses we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken..."

Likewise, in our day and time, each member of The Church of Jesus Christ should be able to state as the Apostle Peter stated in 1 Peter 3:15, "And be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

Finally, in our focus on 'How' we witness Jesus Christ, the Lord gave very detailed instructions in both the Bible and Book of Mormon for our lives. The Lord's instructions on How to witness focus on 1) How we talk when we witness, 2) How we walk (live) when we witness, and 3) Does our walk correlate with our talk. As we interact with people, our talk has to be aligned with good in our hearts as the Lord stated in Matthew 15:18: "But those things

which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart..."

Likewise, it is essential that our walk (daily living) show forth our witness for Jesus by keeping His commandments in righteousness. The Lord gave us a very simple yet powerful message on how to walk among one another as recorded in Mark 12:29-31: "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." The Lord emphasized for all that no other commandments are greater!

In summary on how to witness, the Lord has revealed to the Church since the beginning of the Gospel down to our day and time that His saints need to put together our walk and talk by serving and loving one another on a consistent basis, no matter who is the recipient of our love. This is summarized beautifully when the Lord spoke about when He comes in His glory and before Him shall be gathered all nations—He will remember those whose walk and talk were consistent, as found in Matthew 25:31-40: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:... Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

May the Lord bless each of us as we strive to be His witnesses and show by living for Jesus the reason for the hope that is within each of us.

In the love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

James Crudup, Joel Gehly, Pete Giannetti, John Griffith, Scott Griffith, Paul Liberto, Thomas M. Liberto, Leonard A. Lovalvo, Frank Natoli, Paul A. Palmieri, Peter Scolaro, Jerry Valenti

"A Tribute to Fathers"

By Brother Paul Palmieri (originally printed in 1973)

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Father's Day is a special day that has been set aside for honoring Father. Therefore, it is most appropriate that we pause and pay tribute in honor of living fathers and in memory of fathers who have passed on to eternity. Love, Labor and Self-Sacrifice The eloquence of the pen or the spoken word in extolling the love, labor and self-sacrifice of fathers for their children falls far short of pointing up the full measure of honor they so richly deserve. The God and Father of us all long ago set the measure and degree of honor our parents rightfully merit when He included it as the Fifth of the great Ten Commandments.

HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Importance of Fifth Commandment

May we note the importance of this commandment in that it follows the first four that deal with our relationship to God while the other five commandments govern our behavior in relationship to others.

Our Holy Bible gives some beautiful examples of paternal love, one of which is that of Jacob's love for his children, especially for his son Joseph. When Jacob was finally convinced that Joseph was still alive he cried, "... It is enough Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die." (Genesis 45:28) Later, after a tearful and happy reunion, Jacob told Joseph, "... now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive." (Genesis 46:30)

We see another moving example in the story of the prodigal son. "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a good way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." (Luke 15:10)

There is another touching example of paternal devotion as recorded in the life of Sir William Osler, who has been referred to as "the father of modern medicine" and "the world's best doctor." On learning of the death of his son in a battle in World War I, Dr. Osler wrote in his notebook, "... a sweeter laddie never lived ..." Two years later as Dr. Osler lay dying, he scribbled a note, leaving it for his wife to find. "The harbor is almost reached, after a splendid voyage, with such companions all the way, and my boy waiting for me."

Finally, from the pen of another good and wise father:

TO MY CHILDREN

*Almighty God grants you this wondrous life
To use in aid of His great purposes ...
You shall not then devote your time and toil
Nor give your heart to selfish power and gain;
But, striving to attain a worthy goal,
So live that with a retrospective gaze
Your eyes fall not upon a darkened course
Obscured by wrecks of others' joys and hopes,
But find a path made beautiful and bright
With blossoms of your love and generous aid.
So live, that when your final hour comes
Your anxious thought will search: bygone years
To justify your lives unto yourself.
Sad be your fate if then you learn- too late
That all of self alone must die with you;
For only what you have for others done
Will live, to mark the limits of your worth.*

- John J. Burchenal

DO GOOD

By Brother Joel Calabrese

Hello everybody! We're grateful to have a minute with you to share a few thoughts on the youth and how they are making a difference in our futures, and how important you are to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world! Let's not confine ourselves to our house. Let's think bigger. Think what you can do for the Lord, and don't restrict what He can do for you, to do that work for Him. Let's read a couple passages from the Book of Mormon. I'm going to be first in Alma the 36th chapter in the third verse. This is Alma talking to his son Helaman. He says to his son, "And now, O my son Helaman, behold thou art in thy youth, and therefore, I beseech thee that thou wilt hear my words and learn of me; for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day." Who wants to go to heaven? Me! You can raise your hands, I don't know if you did or not, this is an article, and I can't see you. But be willing to do those things in your youth, and you shall be lifted up at the last day! What a promise! You know, God keeps His promises.

Let's move forward a little bit in the scripture. We're going to go to the 37th chapter and he's still talking to his son Helaman. And he says in the 34th verse, "teach them to never be weary of good works." Don't get tired of doing what's right, do good. I've heard this many times in my life, with all the choices we have, choose good. Alma "taught them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart; for such shall find rest to their souls." Here's that heaven thing again, do you want rest for your

souls? I do, take me! "O, remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth." Don't wait till you're old. Don't wait, you know, till you're almost going to die. Make your mind up in your youth to serve God. "Yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God. Yea, and cry unto God for all thy support." Everything you do, whatever you do, choose good." Do the things that spread love, that spread joy, help those around you that need help. Do good! I mean it's very simple, do good.

It goes on and says, "and whithersoever thou goest let it be in the Lord." If you're going to go visit your friends, go with God. Let your friend see God's Spirit working with you. Always be kind, be gentle, loving. Do good. "Yea let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord." Lord, what should I do now? I'd like to do...you fill in the blank. Do whatever but allow God to direct your steps. Allow Him to guide you, to lead you. Here's an analogy, when I'm saying let God be in charge, I tell myself, 'don't be the driver, Joel! Be the passenger because if I'm the driver, God's not leading. Let God drive your life, let God lead your life. Be the co-pilot! Let God have the steering wheel. Let Him take charge. "Yea, let the affections of your heart be placed upon the Lord forever. Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if you do these things, you shall be lifted up at the last day", (Alma 37:36-37). Do you want to be lifted up on the last day? Yep, me, take me!

Teach them to never be weary of good works,
but to be meek and lowly in heart; For such
shall find rest to their souls

Alma 37:34

Denying Me-First Fakery (to Gain God-First Fulfillment)

By Sister Michelle Watson

As a kid, I loved my hardcopy of *A Light in the Attic*, a collection of hilarious poems by the wonderful Shel Silverstein.

One of them is called “Ladies First,” in which a bossy little girl named Pamela Purse pushes her way to the front of the ice cream line, shoves herself onto the school bus before the other kids, and guzzles every last drop of canteen water on a jungle safari, leaving none for her friends.

On that same jungle safari, Ms. Purse meets Fry-’Em-Up Dan, a cannibal who isn’t sure which of the school children he should eat until Pamela insists that she be — you guessed it — first.

It’s a silly poem with a gruesome twist, but it does make the basic point that “me first” isn’t always best.

I think it’s the same in my walk with the Lord, particularly His command to deny myself and follow Him.

I do need to think of myself, of course. If I don’t set healthy boundaries on my time or my efforts, then I’ll burn out (or get burned).

But if my life is characterized and defined by entertainment, relaxation, getaways, and me-time, then I need to step back and take stock of my spiritual life. Because God’s commands often require responsibility and self-sacrifice.

And you know what?

Me-First Gets Old

Me-first thinking affects more than just how I spend my time. It affects how I think about God, like He’s a genie whose sole purpose is to answer my prayers, or he’s a cheerleader whose only job is to make me feel good about myself and my choices. Me first.

Initially, that kind of a God sounds great. Just blessings with no strings attached. Sign me up.

But then I realize **that’s not reality**.

My prayers go unanswered, and then I feel like God failed me. I keep doing what I’m doing in



life, but I don’t feel good about myself at all. Or, something terrible happens, and I wonder why a good God would allow it.

Then I conclude that God must not really be real. Just another big promise that didn’t pan out. Oh well. Guess I’ll download some self-improvement books to my Kindle.

What’s wrong with this picture? Even though I may have been attending church and thinking of myself as a Christian, I never encountered — really encountered — the true and living God.

When I accept the gospel in spirit and truth, then I’ll happily and enthusiastically forsake everything for it.

I’ll willingly dethrone myself and humbly ask Jesus Christ to take first place.

And guess what? That never gets old.

Real Christian living isn’t easy, but it definitely doesn’t grow stale. When Jesus Christ is alive in my life, speaking, guiding, and comforting, it inspires me to rise to the standards He sets.

If I’m only seeing a version of the gospel that serves me and expects nothing — no life transformation, no challenge — then I’m not inspired or enlivened. I may jump on the bandwagon at funtimes, but I fall off quickly.

If, however, I hear and believe the true gospel message — and I’m not interested in being affirmed, coddled, or soft-pedaled — then I’m enlisted, trained, and mobilized for a life of spiritual service.

It’s not about me but instead about a collective cause, a mission worth fighting for, a truth worth dying for.

When I lose my grip on me-first, then I gain the fulfillment and joy that only come from a God-first life.

Guess what? Here we are ... at the end of this series.

Now Get Out There and Deny Yourself!

No cheerleader is ever going to shake pom-poms and rah-rah about self-denial.

But...

May the truth found in scripture inspire you to say these fearless words:

“Not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26:39)

“Not what I will, but what thou wilt.” (Mark 14:36)

“Not my will, but thine, be done.” (Luke 22:42)

Repeat after Jesus.

Repeat and repeat.

Not my will, but yours, Father.

It’s the upside-down story of **gain through loss**.

When I lose perfection, **I gain** grace.

When I lose self-indulgence, **I gain** lasting satisfaction.

When I lose my stubborn will, **I gain** greater strength in Christ.

When I lose pride, **I gain** awe and wonder.

When I lose normal, **I gain** the spotlight for God.

When I lose me-first, **I gain** a servant’s heart.

It’s a tale as old as time.

Lose self. Gain Christ.

It’s a risk I’m willing to take.

You?

Happy Father's Day

Just Like My Father!

"What is one quality about your dad or something he does that always makes you smile?"

"He always comes to my children's birthday parties. He drives eight hours just to spend a day or two with us." -Sister Cinthia Cavillo, Modesto, CA Branch

"My Father, Edward Hale Sr, was a hard-working man and he could work on an automobile like no other." -Sister Jody Brieck, Monongahela, PA Branch

"Watching him play with his grandchildren. It brings back precious memories of when I was their age. Something I've noticed as an adult is that even when playing and being silly, he's always teaching the fruits of the spirit by word and action; how to be kind, how to be gentle, how to be patient, how to love, etc." -Brother Dan Arcuri, Monongahela, PA Branch

"My father, David Nolfi, was a minister and any time someone would call to be prayed for he would stop what he was doing and have a word of prayer and go anoint whoever needed to be prayed for." -Brother Aaron Nolfi, Unity (Clairton), PA Mission

"His kindness and patience. (That's two, but I guess they can go and in hand!)" -Sister Gabriella Strong, Irvine, CA Branch

"My dad builds furniture and inscribes a scripture on the back of each piece specifically for the recipient!" -Sister Pamela Poisson, Treasure Coast, FL Branch

"It's hard to pick just one...how he whistled when he was getting ready for work, how much he loved all of the young people, and how he could go from cracking a corny joke to discussing in depth scriptures within minutes!" -Sister Kathy Golling, Monongahela, PA Branch

"My father always cleared his throat before speaking or praying." -Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"Love my Father's generosity towards others and how he often views things from a positive perspective. Love ya Dad!" -Brother Patrick Monaghan, Columbus, OH Branch

"Our dad was very supportive of us when we wanted to participate in Church functions." -Brother George Kovacic, Middle Tennessee Mission.

"My dad went to his reward many years ago. He was always kind and always listened to you. He always tried to find a peaceful resolution to any problem. He was my very best friend and sounding board. I miss him every day!" -Sister Carla King, Lorain, OH Branch

"He is very dedicated to the Gospel and is always keeping his children and grandchildren on track with the Lord." -Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch

"My dad (Brother Tom Jones) always will make a play on words that at times will get you laughing so hard—at 86 years old he is still one that likes to play jokes on people!" -Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA Branch

"My dad has a deep love for the young people and wants to see only the best for them in their lives and in the Church. Someone recently said, 'He is everyone's dad,' which described his relationship with the young people perfectly." -Brother Chuck Maddox, Jr., Forest Hills, FL Branch

My dad always wears his tie all day Sunday, even if he is just at home in the afternoon. His respect for the sabbath is evident! -SisterCarolynn O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

5

Records to Come Forth

By Brother Jerry Valenti

When the Book of Mormon came forth almost 200 years ago, it was an example of an ancient record coming forth that tells us the history of a portion of the descendants of Israel and how God dealt with them. What they learned from the Lord is also helpful to us in our own service to God. The Book of Mormon tells us that additional records will come forth in the future, sharing more information about Israel and also revealing additional mysteries of God. Here are 5 amazing facts regarding the additional records that we expect to come forth:

1 Plates of Brass - Described in 1 Nephi 5, the plates of brass contain the early history of Israel and the writings of several Old Testament prophets (such as Isaiah) as well as the writings of other prophets who are not mentioned in the Bible (such as Zenos and Zenock). Lehi stated that “these plates of brass should never perish” and “should go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who were of his seed” (1 Nephi 5:18-19).

2 Plates of Nephi - The plates of Nephi are the source material for much of what is written in the Book of Mormon. However, our abridged book contains not even the hundredth part of what was recorded on these plates. In particular, Moroni notes in 3 Nephi 26 that much of what Jesus taught the Nephites is recorded on the plates of Nephi but the Lord instructed that it not be included in the abridgement. Instead, just a small amount of

information was to be given to the people “to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them” (3 Nephi 26:9)..

3 Record of the Brother of Jared - The Lord revealed many great things to the Brother of Jared, from the beginning of the earth until the end, which he recorded in his own record. However, the Lord instructed him to seal up these records and said, “they shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord. And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, even as the brother of Jared did, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations” (Ether 4:6-7).

4 Records of Other Tribes of Israel - Just as the descendants of Joseph (the Nephites) and the descendants of Judah (the Jews) kept records, so did the descendants of the other tribes of Israel. “And it shall come to pass that the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel” (2 Nephi 29:13).

5 Other Books - In Nephi’s vision, he saw “other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb” that will convince all “that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true. These last records shall establish the truth of the first and shall make known to all people that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved” (1 Nephi 13:39-40).

Ladies’ Uplift Circle News

The Lord’s Store

By Sister Luann Carson

I have noticed especially lately that I often find empty shelves at the grocery stores. Do you ever have the same issue? For a few weeks, all of the pasta shelves were empty. Another time there was no chicken to be found. It was disappointing to shop with a list that couldn’t be completed. Store employees’ only response was that suppliers weren’t sending the items.

But I’m blessed that when I shop for more important things, like God’s Spirit, forgiveness, and His love, the shelves are always full. First thing in the morning I read and search the scripture and find all that I need. Daily, sometimes hourly, I pray for God’s forgiveness and His love and am never disappointed. When I attend church I find instruction, blessings, and God’s Spirit.

The shelves are always full, never depleted, no matter how much we take. The Supplier (God) always sends exactly the right things in the perfect quantity. The stockers work relentlessly to keep the shelves full.

*Come child, choose from my heavenly store
Here’s a love so divine you can share it
Here’s a smile for each day, always wear it
Precious gifts in the storehouse of the Lord
And there’s nothing, child, you can’t afford.*

At times at the store I realize I’m in the wrong aisle and what I’m looking for is available after all. I just need redirection by an expert.

In life, if we look for our spiritual needs in the wrong places, we will be disappointed. God, the expert, will redirect us, if we are searching sincerely, to the right place to fill every item on our list.

Do you ever make purchases outside of the list? Sometimes they are ‘special buys,’ things too good to pass up, and we didn’t even know we needed them. If we have searching hearts, God will provide even beyond our lists of needs with ‘special buys’ that we didn’t even know we needed, but that fulfill a need or even a want in our lives.

*Come child, choose from my heavenly store
Here is peace, and each child gets a part
Here is joy, like a jewel for the heart*

*Precious gifts in the storehouse of the Lord
And there’s nothing, child, you can’t afford.*

Sometimes the items I really want are just too expensive. Maybe certain foods are not in our budget. We sometimes have to leave the store without all the things we want because we simply cannot afford them.

*Come child, choose from my heavenly store
Here’s the word, take it freely and use it
Here is faith, and you must never lose it
Precious gifts in the storehouse of the Lord
And there’s nothing, child, you can’t afford.*

(“The Storehouse of the Lord,” Songs of Zion, by Sister Arlene Buffington)

Although we may at times be disappointed at the grocery stores, we will never be discouraged when we shop from the Lord’s store.

“The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand...” (Deuteronomy 28:12)

DON'T MISS OUT!

#GMBASUMMER

YOUTH IN ACTION

June 12-18 • Pinetop, AZ

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Contact GMBA@thechurchofjesuschrist.com for info

GMBA CAMPOUT RETURNS!

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Cast*





The Four Who Have Never Died

Dear friends,

Last week in Church my friend was surprised to learn about the four servants of God who will never die. They were alive when Jesus was and they are still on this earth today. The Bible and The Book of Mormon tell us about them.

These four great men worked as ministers, true great followers of Jesus Christ. Three, called Disciples, lived in the Americas. (See 3 Nephi Chapter 28.) One, named John, was an Apostle of Jesus in Israel. He wrote the last book in the Bible called Revelations.

When Jesus was still alive, He was teaching His 12 Apostles about what was going to happen. He said He must suffer many things, be rejected by the leaders of their faith, and be killed and after three days be raised from the dead. (See Luke 9:22-27.) Then He said to them, "But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here which shall not taste of death until they see the kingdom of God." And we read the same thing in Mark 9:1.

A little bit after that, Jesus was killed. And the huge curtain in the temple in Jerusalem was ripped in half. There also was darkness on the face of the land there for six hours while rocks broke and the earth quaked.

But in America the destruction was huge! Entire cities caught on fire, were taken by whirlwinds, buried by earthquakes and mudslides, or fell into the oceans. The wicked people were wiped out!

These people in the Americas had been warned to stop sinning, say they were sorry, and follow God's laws or they would be destroyed. They had just spent several years fighting huge armies of robbers and God had saved them over and over. They knew better.

They had also been taught to believe in Jesus, to repent of their sins, and be baptized. But most of their hearts were now hardened. They wanted to be bad. (See 3 Nephi 7:15-22.)

When God sent preachers to warn them, the wicked people murdered them, too. So on the day that Jesus allowed Himself to be put on that cross in Israel, the destruction started in the Americas.

For three terrible days and nights it was so dark! The air was damp, like a vapor. Fires could not be lit. The screams and cries of the people filled the air, "Oh!" They cried. "If only we had not killed the prophets and had been sorry!" (See 3 Nephi Chapter 9.)

When the sunlight came back and the storms passed, the more righteous, less wicked people were saved. They heard the beautiful voice of Jesus speaking sadly of how He would have saved everyone if they had not been so wicked!

Then Jesus came down from heaven and prayed for these survivors. He taught them. He chose twelve really good men as disciples to teach and guide the people who remained.

Before He left them, Jesus asked these disciples what they wanted from Him. Nine just wanted to serve Him, help their people and die at a good age. But three of them wanted something else! Jesus read their minds. He said, "I know your thoughts." You desire the thing that John (His beloved Apostle in Israel) desired of me."

They wanted to stay on earth and bring the souls of men to the Lord. (See 3 Nephi 28th chapter.) Jesus agreed. We call these ancient

wise men the three Nephites. After Jesus met with them they were taken into heaven and their bodies were changed. They would never taste of death. No earthly power could harm them. The devil had no power over them. They would never suffer pain or sorrow, except for the sins of the world. They would be on this earth, helping and teaching, until the end of the world.

Brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ have seen those four men many times. At the Campout in Radford California in 1967, Brother Joe Calabrese saw them the night before Camp ended and he knew there were more baptisms. The next day three more young people asked for their baptisms.

Others have prayed and asked to see them. Oftentimes when someone has been in terrible trouble, a kind stranger comes and disappears. They are another mystery of God.

And they love us too. Maybe you will see them some precious day. But always, the Lord sees each of us and cares.

With love, Your friend, *Sister Jan*

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Blessing Bits

May Blessing Bits

BB With God Everything is Possible -

Recently, I was in the ER with a severe case of COVID-19 but felt myself being lifted up by the prayers of the saints. During the day, a young girl was brought to the room next to me, crying, coughing, gasping and struggling for breath. Moved with compassion, I began to pray that the prayers being offered on my behalf would be redirected into that room, that she might experience God's healing power. Within moments, her cough subsided, her breathing improved and shortly thereafter she was released. What joy in this answered prayer! It would only be the beginning though, as seven more people throughout that afternoon would receive the same blessing. The same scenario time after time. The struggle, the prayer, the healing. What an awesome God we serve! We have the ability to both touch the heart of God and to move His hand. Christ asks us, Believe ye that I am able to do this? I testify that if you can believe, all things are possible.- Brother Zachary Jackson, Kinsman, OH Branch

BB Whatever The Trial - God is Before Me -

I direct a memory care community. To work in healthcare the past few years has been difficult. Residents living with dementia can't remember to wear masks or isolate. After experiencing multiple outbreaks at two communities, watching my coworkers,

residents, and their families get COVID sometimes more than once, I can only attribute avoiding this illness to God's continuous hand of protection, especially while providing hands-on care to very sick individuals. Out of 120 staff and residents, to this day I am one of two who has not been affected. I felt like the 2,000 stripling young soldiers who were taught by their mothers if they did not doubt, God would deliver. None of them had been to battle, and I've never experienced a pandemic, but the prayers of my father and the saints kept me healthy by God's grace. We know whatever trial is up ahead, God cannot be caught off guard, He is already there before us, ready to bless those who serve Him. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isaiah 43:2.- Sister Erin Light, Irvine, CA Branch

BB A Heavenly Touch -

When our son Rocco was born on March 16, 2019, his medical team saw that his umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck three times. As a precaution, the team sent him to the NICU. As first-time parents, we had a fear of the unknown, but knew that we needed to hand it over to the Lord in prayer, that He would intervene and help our son. Later that night, while he was in the NICU, Sister Imelda Arreola

from the Bell Branch had a vision where she saw the Lord touch Rocco's chest. The next morning the doctor came to tell us that Rocco was doing well and would be released to our care later that day. Rocco's now three years old, and we thank God that He heard our prayers.- Brother Ryan McDonnell, Bell, CA Branch

Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Elizabeth McDonnell at eksanchor@gmail.com. [in approximately 150 words].

Answers to Question of the Month to gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org.



Question for this month: It's Summertime! What is your favorite Summertime Church activity? Please also share a picture or two of a VBS, going out after MBA, camp, youth in action, branch picnic or any other activity. Photos can be recent or from the past.



Answer from last month: What is one quality about your dad or something he does that always makes you smile? Turn to page 8 for answers to this question.



Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32