

# The Gospel News

*A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles*

## **THE CHOICE IS OURS!**

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*Happy  
 Father's  
 Day!*



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The days we live in afford us many abundant choices. Wide varieties of food, clothing, possessions, entertainment, and activities are available to us. God has given us one of the greatest gifts in this life – second only to the gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ – our ability to choose!

Many accounts in scripture allow us to see how the Lord has worked through mankind. Yet, in each instance, God gave man a choice which led to an outcome. Abraham chose to believe that God would bless his life through a son and that his offspring would be numerous as the sands of the sea and stars of the sky (Genesis chapters 16-21). By choosing to believe this, he and his wife were miraculously blessed with a son at an age where having children seemed impossible. Joseph, son of Jacob (Israel), chose to believe that the promise God gave him to lead his family would come true (Genesis chapters 37-47). Despite being sold as a slave, falsely accused and imprisoned, God raised him up to be second in command of one of the most powerful nations on the face of the earth. He then was able to fulfill God's promise and be a blessing to save his family.

Conversely, think of the great flood during the time of Noah (Genesis chapters 6-8). Mankind chose to become evil and distanced themselves from the Lord. The outcome was a catastrophe by water. Consider the account of the Tower of Babel, built to ascend to God in heaven, which led to the confounding of languages of all mankind, so that no one could understand each other (Genesis, chapter 11).

In these examples, choices were given to dictate an outcome. We realize today that there are many influences that can move us to make specific choices. The eternal conflict of good and evil leans us one way or another. 2 Nephi 2:16 states: "Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other." Are the choices we make today in our own best interest, both naturally and spiritually?

As we mature in life, we learn that choices bring consequences, good and bad. Young people whose freedoms of choice are expanding can find themselves in beneficial situations or very compromising ones. So ultimately, how do we make the right choices as believers in Christ? In October 2013, the General Church Priesthood accepted a revelation to the Church, speaking about how we make choices. In this experience, a brother was inspired to pray when he heard of a choice made by an individual that had a major effect on many.

(Continued on page 4)



If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?  
Luke 11:11

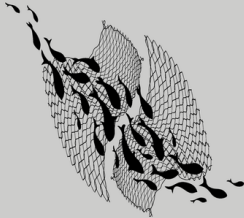


HAPPY FATHER'S DAY  
SUNDAY, JUNE 18th.

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.  
Matthew 4:19



June 5th is the International Day For The Fight Against Illegal Unreported And Unregulated Fishing.  
How will YOU celebrate?



And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.  
Luke 5:6



Sunday, June 18 is National Sushi Day, and National Go Fishing Day. since we're talking so much about fish today. And, oh yeah, it's also Father's Day.

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish 3 days and 3 nights.  
Jonah 1:17



And to round out the month with fishy National Days, June 25th is National Catfish Day. Google it. You can't make this stuff up.



# BFTP Blast From The Past

*By Sister Kellie Speck*



One hundred and seventy-nine years ago this month, arriving in Pittsburgh on June 27, 1844, unaware of Joseph and Hyrum's deaths, Sidney Rigdon visited relatives and secured a rental house. Five days later he received the first news of Joseph and Hyrum's tragic deaths. The next day Sidney preached a sermon to a large audience that was a eulogy to Joseph Smith with strength and eloquence. On the day of Sidney Rigdon's departure to Pennsylvania to set up residency to run for Vice President, Joseph Smith and many prominent members of the church came to the boat to wish him goodbye. Only a few days separated joy and sorrow. Upon returning to Nauvoo, Sidney stated the Lord directed him to return and act as Guardian of The Church. Sidney Rigdon was a father of the restoration. His extensive knowledge of the Bible and powerful preaching helped nourish the young church. In the fall of 1830, Sidney was given a Book of Mormon by his associate Parley Pratt. He read it in 14 days and was baptized November 14, 1830.

(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.



### ***“Comfortable Being Uncomfortable”***

***By Brother Doug Obradovich***

had involved being halted and stricken, blinded and catatonic, reprovved and improved, which resulted in his complete life-reversal. After instantaneously transforming from the Church's greatest adversary to the Church's greatest advocate, his intolerance for backsliding is understandable. He must have been frustrated any time anyone would return to failure after experiencing spiritual success. His frustration obvious toward those who returned to such fruitlessness, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth? (Galatians 3:1)

He continued in this epistle, describing their wise choice to faithfully follow the liberating direction of the Holy Spirit, only to recklessly regress to the restrictiveness of their roots. Maybe the Spirit had been too challenging to navigate, as their comfort was in the concrete order of the law, despite its unforgiving harshness. Had they returned to such inflexibility because the newness of negotiating tolerance for and acceptance of others proved too challenging?

Paul had been raised on and highly educated in the law, utilizing this severe tool of judgment to punish and even execute lawbreakers. He had been a key figure in the martyrdom of the early

***“No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of Heaven” - Luke 9:62***

Christians who refused to denounce Jesus Christ. He possessed firsthand experience in trading a fear-driven law for the courageous life of forgiveness, empathy, and love for others, even for those so different from himself. It seems reasonable for him to deem these faltering followers as "foolish."

Jesus understood us to be natural creatures infiltrated by a foreign, spiritual entity, His Holy Ghost. Yet, He offered no excuse for our second-guessing, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of Heaven" (Luke 9:62). He knew we were uncomfortable in our newfound spirituality, despite such discomfort being a powerful confirmation to righteous living. He encouraged resolving ourselves to uphold our choice to serve God, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

Imagine what Paul might say to your holding strong, "Wise Saint, you withstood the evil one's bewitching and obeyed the Savior's truth!"

More importantly, imagine what the Lord will say at your final commencement ceremony, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter in." I wonder if He'll add, "Graduates, please move your tassel from natural to spiritual, this one final time!" Ah, the hidden treasures that await!

**M**any mistakenly believe graduations are celebrations of completion, but the definition of commencement signifies beginnings. Life's start-ups include next level schools or jobs, new homes or relationships, families, retirement, etc. Each threshold represents launching towards new, leaving behind old. New can uncover hidden treasures which remain undiscovered by the fearful.

Graduation tassels hang from automobile rear-view mirrors to remind how this experience is now behind us. However, there are always a few alumni who struggle to break free, returning to their schools, appearing lost in their search for purpose, afraid to venture forward. In similar fashion, many refuse to trade comfort for discomfort, despite potential growth and improvement awaiting. This is an unwillingness to exchange the safety of sameness for the unknown risk of freshness.

Paul appeared unable to fathom such decision-making. His own conversion



(continued from cover)

Here is an excerpt of the revelation:

*"Thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord this night: hear now the tragedies that exist in this world. Hear now, how the evil one has gotten into the hearts of My creation; of My vessels that I have created! Your vessels are created that they would house a spirit, and I have created them, molded them, that My spirit would reside within them. And yet I have given My creation a choice today; I have given them a choice. They would choose to follow My precepts and receive My blessings, and yet there is an opposing force, there is an opposing force. And if they allow this force in, it will drive them to do things, things that are not of Me, things that I have not taught, and it is founded in the evil. It is founded in the evil! Know this day if you open your hearts and not allow My spirit in, that you walk a fine line! You walk a fine line today! For the day soon cometh revelation to the Church, speaking about how we make choices. In this experience, a brother was inspired to pray when he heard of a choice made by an individual that had a major effect on many. when My judgments will be sure, and all will stand before My judgment bar, and all will be accountable for their own actions and their own deeds, and their own sins. Now you must choose, you must choose today to draw close, to draw close unto Me, to draw close unto My precepts, the precepts of My Son Jesus Christ, the Savior that I have sent into the world that He would atone for your sins and rectify the relationship of man and God. For I have sent Him this day out of love, that My creation would come unto Me. They would come unto Me. And when you do, you will realize that My spirit is greater! That My love is greater, for it casteth out all fear! Perfect love casteth out all fear! This is why these words are written, that you may know when My love is within you, fear cannot abide; the evil one has no place! He is pushed out! He cannot penetrate when My spirit resides! And so cling now to My spirit; and plant it deep within your heart. Know that My spirit is greater! Know that we are the victors, for My Son had victory over the grave! He had victory over sin, because I have given Him all power in heaven and in earth. Know this this day, know this this day, thus saith the Lord!"*

The Lord reminds us in this revelation that we are created as vessels that would house the Lord's spirit; our purpose is not to house other spirits, but God's spirit! Yet these vessels can also allow an opposing force to enter if we choose. That opposing force will drive us to make choices contrary to the will of God as established through His Son Jesus Christ. When we choose this contrary course of action, the Lord reminds us that we walk a fine line. This means we may sometimes choose evil that pulls us away from the source of goodness and removes us from the benefits and blessings God has for us.

This revelation also reaffirms the benefit of choosing Christ

and His precepts. By choosing Jesus, our vessel is filled with His spirit and His love. As He stated above and As He stated above and also is stated in 1 John 4:18: "Perfect love casteth out all fear!" The benefit of having the love of Christ within us pushes out fear! It pushes out the opposition because evil cannot reside in a vessel full of the love of God! This is why the Lord is encouraging us to draw closer to Him and keep our vessels filled with His spirit.

More and more, we are hearing of tragedies that are happening throughout the world, even more prevalent among young people. They are taking their own lives. They are harming themselves, afflicted with anxieties and addictions. These things do not come from God! They come from the evil force opposing God, and yet we can open or close the door to our vessels.

This battle is real today. It affects all of us. The Lord reminds us that if we choose His spirit and trust that His spirit is greater, then we find ourselves victorious. We are victors in this battle of life, the battle of good and evil. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus himself stated: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Jesus reminded us that by choosing Him, we could find rest for our souls. He did not tell us that our burden would disappear, but that it would be lighter. Therefore, through our choice for Christ, we find a way to navigate this life.

Let us remember, God chose to send His Son as a way for us to reconcile with Him from bad choices. He chose to allow His Son to die as an infinite sacrifice for us to have an opportunity for eternal life with Him. He chose to set up a way that through faith, repentance, and baptism, we have the mechanism to be forgiven of our sins. Let us be mindful of our choices today and where they may take us. The choice is ours!

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

**To learn more about The Church of Jesus Christ, with Headquarters in Monongahela, PA, please visit our website. The World Operations Center for world-wide missionary efforts is in Greensburg, PA.**

[www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org)



## What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

By Brother Joshua Gehly

Take a minute, dear reader, before reading the rest of this editorial and consider the following. The Church brands its own newsletter as the Gospel News. We are part of the gloriously restored and everlasting Gospel. The word gospel permeates the Church in lessons, sermons and conversation. The word itself means message or news, but have you ever been forced to articulate what, exactly, is the gospel message?

Answer the question aloud or fill in the blanks: the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ is

Paul calls the Gospel of Christ the power of God unto salvation for the believer (see Romans 1:16). It is something preached throughout the book of Acts (see Acts 8, 14, 15 and 16) and to be declared in the latter days to the House of Israel (see 2 Nephi 30:5). Jacob refers to the Gospel as the doctrine of Christ (see Jacob 7:6). Therefore, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a saving message which can be believed upon or rejected.

The Book of Mormon restores the Gospel of Jesus Christ with crystal clarity. Jesus Christ declared in 3 Nephi 27:13-15:

...this is the gospel which I have given unto you—that I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me. And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might draw all men unto me, that as I have been lifted up by men even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil—And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works.

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ, according to His own words:

1. Jesus Came	Condescension:	<i>I came unto the world</i>
2. Called by God	Anointed Messiah:	<i>My Father sent Me</i>
3. Sinless life	Obedience:	<i>to do the will of My Father</i>
4. Sacrificed	Atonement:	<i>lifted up upon the cross</i>
5. Raised from Dead	Resurrection:	<i>be lifted up...draw all men unto Me</i>
6. Judges world	Judgment:	<i>to be judged</i>

Jesus Christ came. He is the anointed Messiah or Son of God. He lived a sinless life in obedience to God the Father. He was obedient even to death on the cross where He was sacrificed to atone for our sins and shortcomings. He was raised from the dead and one day all mankind will rise to stand before God Almighty to be judged. This is the Gospel.

Few of us have the talent or dedication to memorize large portions of scripture. The gospel message must be an absolute exception to this. You need to memorize the Gospel. It is something meant to be taught and shared throughout the entire world (see Matthew 24:14). I challenge you to memorize the six simple concepts that constitute the gospel message and practice sharing them with your family, friends, and strangers. You just might bring a soul to Jesus Christ, the One who makes this glorious Gospel effectual in our lives.

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# GMBA CAMPOUT

Oglethorpe University

July 1-7

GMBA  
THE CHURCH OF  
Jesus  
Christ

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Text GMBA to 84576



# "Never Lost"

# YIA

July 8-16



# Hemet, CA

# YIA

July 8-16



# Lake Worth, FL



## Turn the word "DADS" into an acronym. What does each letter stand for when you think of your dad or the dad you aspire to be?

"**D**ynamic, **A**ffectionate, **D**ashing. These words describe my wonderful father, Brother Jim Huttenberger." -Sister Michelle Watson, Lakeside, AZ Branch.

"**D**edicated, **A**ppreciated, **D**ependable, **S**uperior." -Sister Katrina Hopkins-Harris, Quincy, FL Branch

"**D**etermined, **A**ctive, **D**iscerning, **S**trong." -Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"**D**edicated to God, Church and his Family, **A**bsolute focus on salvation for him and those around him, **D**riven to work hard for the things that are important to him, **S**crabble-favorite game." -Sister Carolynn O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"**D**edicated to Christ, **A**mbassador for Christ, **D**evoted to Christ and family." -Sister Flo Perri, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"**D**evoted **A**nd **D**edicated." -Sister Terri Nath, Monongahela, PA Branch

"**D**edicated, **A**wesome, **D**evoted, **S**icilian!" -Sister Dienna Rogers, Irvine, CA Branch

"**D**etermined, **A**ppreciated, **D**edicated, and **S**upportive." - Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch

"**D**evoted, **A**ctive, **D**edicated, **S**piritual." -Sister KarenJo Pandone, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"**D**edicated, **A**ccepting, **D**etroit Red Wings, **S**upportive"- Sister Sophia O'Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"**D**onuts, **A**ction movies, **D**elta Airlines, and **S**piritual leader." -Brother Chuck Maddox Jr., Forest Hills, FL Branch.

"**D**edication, **A**dmirable, **D**uty, **S**elfless- describes my father and the type of dad my husband is." -Sister Shelly Crow, Irvine, CA Branch

"**D**evoted to Family, **A**lways giving praise to the Lord, **D**esires to see others succeed, **S**uperstar!" -Sister Darlene Lovalvo, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

"**D**iligent, **A**ttentive, **D**etermined, **S**incere." -Sister Cathy Gentile, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

## Journal Exercise

How has God proven this scripture to you?

### Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT PEACE

*Faith* **JOY** **GOODNESS**  
**MEEKNESS** *Love* **TEMPERANCE**  
**LONGSUFFERING** **GENTLENESS**

## ***Peace: The Anxiety Antidote*** *By Sister Mandy Griffith*

**L**ike many fruits of the Spirit, peace is an intangible gift: a heavenly by-product of us walking and living within the Spirit of God.

Now, peace can be broad, wide, vague, and commonly referenced, but today we're not talking about warm-and-cozy-fireside-Christmas peace, or join-hands-across-the-globe-to-end-war peace, but we're going to narrow the channel all the way down to one, individual space: your head space. Your peace of mind.

The Book of Mormon beautifully calls it "peace of conscience" in Mosiah 4:3, as a result of their faith in Jesus Christ and the joy to know they received a remission of sin. What a gift! Baptized members may easily recall feeling like a weight was lifted after their baptism—because it was! The weight of sin was washed away by the blood of the Lamb. What a peace to our minds and souls of the blessed assurance that we have been redeemed!

However, the world does not experience this peace of conscience. One health statistic referenced the commonness of troubled thoughts and the presence of anxiety is found in one out of every four people. While the medical community has its respectable place to support patients in their physical and mental needs, let's look at what the Spirit of God can provide for our needs.

Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Aren't there moments where you would love nothing more than the peace of God to "keep your mind?" No, please keep my mind, Lord—don't give it back to me—I only fill it with worry, angst, and fear. Just keep me in that peaceful head space.

"He will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee..." Isaiah 26:3.

Well, to obtain this peace, we have to put some effort in, don't we? These verses instruct us to pray, give thanks, and stay focused. If we "stay" our minds on Christ, He will "keep" us in perfect peace. The peace that passeth understanding will not be found in the TV murder mysteries, the comedians of the day, or the Instagram feeds. If we're looking for an escape from anxiety, entertainment is not the answer. It's a temporary distraction.

To keep our minds stayed on the Lord, we must quiet our worried thoughts and pray. Study His word to hear His voice. Communicate your fears and anxieties with the One who can keep your mind for you: Keep your mind calm. Keep your mind safe. Keep your mind focused. Keep your mind peaceful.

Romans 8:6 says, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

"To be spiritually minded...IS PEACE!" It's the anxiety antidote!

So where's your head these days? Because the measurement of your peace lies between the thoughts in your head. If peace is a heavenly by-product of walking and living in the Spirit of God, then you can give yourself the litmus test to discover your personal results.

On a daily basis, do you find your mind more anxious than you'd like it to be? Evaluate:

- What thoughts are consuming me?
- What actions are producing these feelings?
- Why am I feeling anxious?
- What can I do differently to produce a different outcome?

Open the scriptures and listen to God speaking to you. Get on your knees and give thanks and praise as you supplicate to the Lord. Divert the mental conversation and aim for that higher spiritual mind. That's where peace lives. That's where fruit grows.

Jesus Christ is the embodiment of the gift of peace. He offers Himself freely to us all. Adopt that peace of conscience and eradicate anxiety with the antidote of peace. Claim this intangible gift!

# A Conversation with a Missionary Sister

By Sister Marty Jumper

Sister Michelle Watson from Pinetop, Arizona, shares her experiences as a Circle Sister who participates in the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ.

**GLUC: How long have you been involved in missionary work and with which of the indigenous people have you worked?**

Sister Michelle: When my husband and I first got married in 2006, we began attending the San Carlos Mission in Arizona, where we worked with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, attending church on Sunday and helping with the annual Vacation Bible School. In 2016, we relocated to Pinetop, Arizona, and that's where we are currently. We are working alongside the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

**GLUC: Have you been/or are you still involved with VBS? If so, can you give an overview of how the VBS is structured, who helps facilitate it, and approximately how many kiddos participate?**

Sister Michelle: The San Carlos VBS is a big endeavor, with usually 80 to 100 kids enrolled. My husband and I led that VBS for three years, from 2007 to 2010. The volunteers stay at the church building all

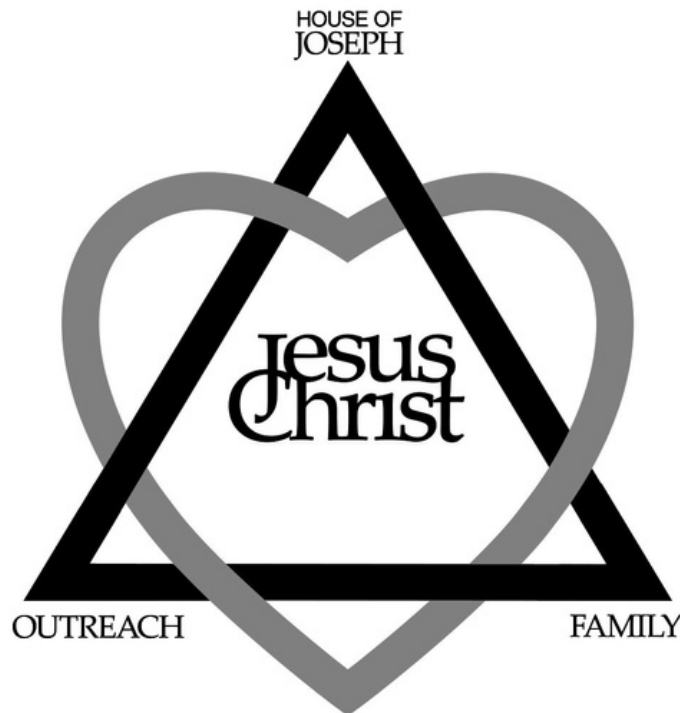
week, lending lots of time for work projects, fellowship, fun, and eating, of course! We often have a lot of opportunities to connect with the people who live in San Carlos over the course of the week.

In Pinetop, we have a wonderful daytime VBS, where kids from the community and the reservation sing songs, learn Bible stories, and do crafts and games that teach them that God loves them! We've been blessed to have Youth in Action assist us many times over the years, always a huge blessing.

**GLUC: Do you still have an active Circle? If so, can you give a brief overview of how often you meet? Anything of interest to share?**

Sister Michelle: Yes, we meet every other Wednesday night. Our bi-weekly Circle meetings are a great time for the sisters to meet, reconnect, and study God's word. We have two special events throughout the year, our Springtime Tea and our Christmas Dinner. Having a beautiful meal together and fellowshiping with just the sisters is a treat for some of our sisters who aren't accustomed to getting treated to a fun, girly event.

(continued on page 11)



*This graphic was the focus of discussion brought forth by the apostles during General Church Conference in April and describes the Spiritual Priorities of the Church with Christ at the center of everything we do.*



## The Safety of God's Arms

the lane beside me to swing around the stopped muscle car. This is just what I did, as I thanked God!

Fumbling with my phone out of shock, I called 911 and told them where the dangerous car was blocking both lanes! Then I went happily on my way and enjoyed Sunday School then Church.

I actually put the driving incident in the back of my mind until near the end of the meeting. I was listening to the brothers preach and we sang the old song, "Dwelling in Beulah Land." The third verse talked about the safety of God's arms! I realized I'd already forgotten the wonderful miracle that morning. I hadn't even told anyone of God's mercy and kindness! I had to testify as I begged God to forgive me for not being way more thankful!

How did it happen that I was safe? God had slowed me down in the morning when I decided to drive my car back into the garage, go into the house, and put away my passport. I am not usually worried or precise like that! In fact I can't think of ever doing anything like that! But that delay was just enough time to keep me from being right behind the car that spun out of control!

God is good—so, so good. We who love Him have the Safety of His arms constantly! Let us remember when God has helped us. Let us thank him! Let us tell others. They need to know too.

With much love and care,  
Your friend and Sister in Christ,

*Sister Jan*

Dear Friends,

How many times does God watch over us and we forget to tell others, or we just think it's normal and go on with our life? Today was one of those days for me.

I live about 30 miles or 35 minutes from Church, all on big freeways. As I was backing out of my drive on this bright Michigan morning, I noticed I'd left my important passport in my purse! Several days earlier I'd used it when I went over to Canada to visit a Sister and family from Church. I was surprised I'd forgotten to put it away when I unpacked.

Usually, I'd just let myself take it along with me to Church and when I came home, put it away. But, for some reason, (God), I thought I'd better drive back into the garage, run into the house to the room where I kept important papers, and quickly put it back. Part of me was saying, "No, do it later Jan! You have a class to teach! Don't be late!" The other part was so calm and I told myself, "You're all right. Go put the passport away and be safe." So I did.

Hopping back in my car, I was zooming down M-14 listening to my Christian Music channel. My lane merged over onto U.S Highway 23, and I took the route quickly to move over to the far third lane so I could merge onto the next portion of the expressway and drive to our church building.

I'd just done so when a fast-moving muscle car ahead of me in the far lane suddenly went off onto the shoulder of the road! The driver jerked his steering wheel and the car spun in two big circles, raising dust and lying sideways across his far lane and half of my lane as it stopped! The driver had his head down over the steering wheel.

He wasn't moving! But I was!

Looking quickly in my rear view mirror I saw a truck pulling a trailer coming almost beside me! My lane was going to be blocked! The best thing to do was quickly push the gas pedal down and zoom into

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

THANK  
GOD  
FOR  
THE  
SAFETY  
OF  
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ARMS  
CONSTANTLY  
TELL  
OTHERS  
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HIS  
GOODNESS  
GOD  
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(continued from page 2)

In December he traveled to New York to meet Joseph Smith. In March 1832, along with Smith, they were tarred and feathered. Sidney was knocked unconscious with severe cuts and bruises to his head and remained delirious for several days. He was also jailed with Smith and others in Liberty Jail in Independence, Missouri. According to Sidney's son, Brigham Young made walking canes out of the wooden boxes Joseph and Hyrum were placed in. He gave Sidney a

cane which was his constant companion for 30 years and never denied his testimony. Young offered to bring Sidney to Utah but he declined the offer. "The religious world did not know him because he taught a doctrine that they did not believe and condemned him...but when God shall come to take up his jewels, Sidney Rigdon may shine brighter and more glorious than they..." John W. Rigdon (son of Sidney Rigdon).

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**GLUC: How has your history with the Ladies' Circle influenced your missionary work?**

Sister Michelle: My mom, Sister Lynette Huttenberger, attended Ladies' Circle faithfully growing up, and my memories as a girl are of sitting with the older sisters and hearing about their lives and how God had worked with them. That time with them was forming me. They didn't entertain me. I just absorbed what I heard falling from their lips.

My mom was asked to take a leadership role in the Circle. She was incredibly shy and didn't see herself as someone "in charge." The sisters lovingly supported her, and she has held MANY leadership roles in the Circle over the years. Seeing her overcome her shyness taught me that God might want to use me in ways that would take me out of my comfort zone. If my mom could do it with God's help, then so could I.

I learned to crochet in Ladies' Circle! That's been a hobby I've carried with me throughout life. I've been able to use it to make gifts of love, and that's been a big blessing.

**GLUC: Is there a particular Ladies' Circle event/activity that is memorable to you, if so what and why?**

Sister Michelle: I remember loving the Ladies' Circle weekend retreats when I was a teenager. It was a time to connect with my friends and learn from the older ladies. Growing up in the Pacific Region, we'd often book a hotel

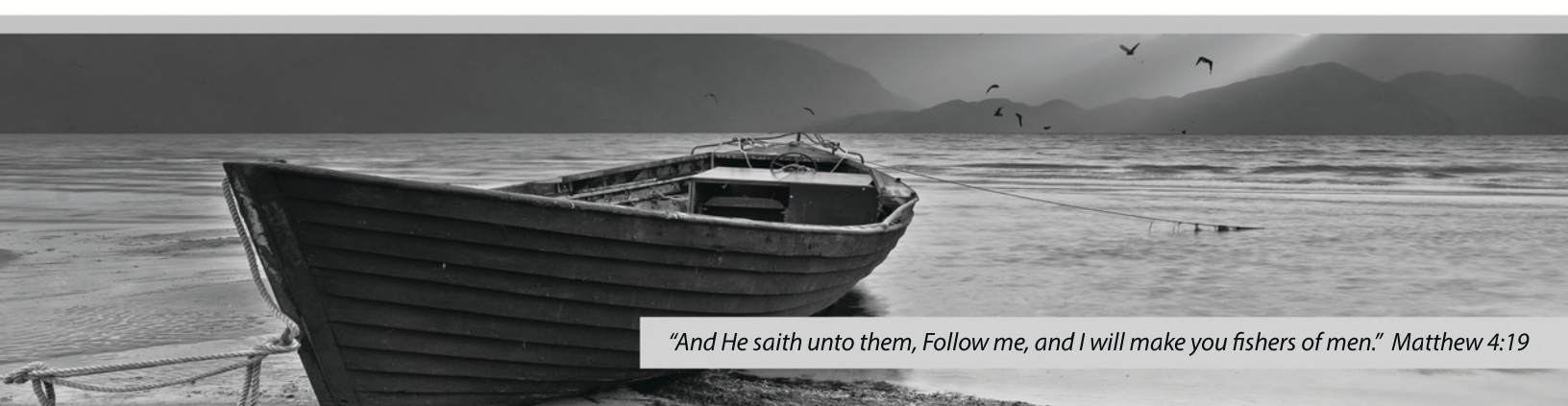
for the weekend and have seminars on Saturday followed by a "fun night" where the sisters would tell jokes, stories, and let their hair down.

**GLUC: What do you notice about the indigenous ladies with whom you work through the Ladies' Circle?**

Sister Michelle: In both San Carlos and Pinetop, there are many strong native sisters who carry the spiritual load for their family. They provide spiritual direction and they pray hard for their families, often praying their sons and husbands into the Church by faith. One of the native sisters in our branch rejoiced when her husband was recently baptized. Little did they know that the coming year would be so incredibly difficult, with all three of their sons experiencing terrible injuries and sickness. Praise God, everyone is doing well and she was able to have her husband by her side during that time, praying with her with the same faith she had.

**GLUC: Is there anything else you'd like to share to encourage our sisters?**

Sister Michelle: Don't be afraid. Maybe you think that you won't have anything in common with someone from a different culture. You might be worried that needy people will demand more of your resources than you can give. You might be worried that God might call you to relocate or take a leadership role. Whatever it is, don't be afraid.



*"And He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19*

# Blessing Bits

**BB** **A Joyous Day** - In December, I was overjoyed to witness my granddaughter, Emma Lanfranco, being blessed in a small, private ceremony on Christmas Day. Four generations of family gathered around her as she was blessed by my nephew, Brother Ryan McDonnell. Although my daughter Nicole does not attend church regularly, my heart rejoices that she desired that Emma would be blessed. I'm thankful for the teachings our children receive when they're young. As the scripture says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)- Sister Rita Gamache, Bell, CA Branch

**BB** **Let Them Come Unto Me** - Going to church was a struggle a few weeks back. The baby was really cranky and I kept having to leave the room every five minutes to not disrupt the meeting. I had a split second thought that it wasn't worth it to be at church. Then I saw a sign in the back room of the Levittown Branch that I'd never noticed before. "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." I really felt that God was talking to me at that moment, letting me know not to be discouraged and reminding me how

important it is to bring our child(ren) to church. I love how He's always there when we need Him. - Sister Leanna Rozzelle, Levittown, NJ Branch

**BB** **God Opened the Way** - Brother Josh and Sister Ana Benyola came over to my house following a recent baptism in Lake Worth. We only had a short time in between the baptism and the start of the service for Josh to get cleaned up after baptizing our new sister. Upon getting to my house, Josh accidentally locked his keys in the car with the engine running. We attempted to unlock the car with a hanger, but we did not know what we were doing. We also tried to call a company to help us but knew this would mean we would have to miss church to wait for them to arrive. Minutes later, one of my neighbors who was walking his dog saw what we were doing and said he had a kit in his house to unlock locked car doors. Within ten minutes, he had the car door unlocked and we were able to make it to church on time. I had never seen this neighbor before and have not seen him since. Afterwards, Josh shared that he prayed for God to unlock the door or send someone who could. God instantly answered his prayer and ensured that the evil one did not take away our joy on that Sunday. -Sister Alyssa Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

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).

Q

**Question for this month:** What is your favorite Church summertime activity and why? (VBS, YIA, Campout, MBA socials, etc.)

A

**Answer from last month:** Turn the word "DADS" into an acronym. What does each letter stand for when you think of your dad or the dad you aspire to be?

Turn to page 7 for answers



*"And He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19*