

The Gospel News

Apostle Paul Palmieri

April 9, 1933 – May 6, 2020

By *The Quorum of Twelve Apostles*

IN THIS ISSUE:

*Jesus
Loves the
Children*



Blast From The Past
Page 2

Calendar
Page 2

Word Up
Page 3

Editorial Viewpoint
Page 5

GMBA News
Page 8

**Ladies' Uplift Circle
News**
Page 9

5 Amazing Facts
Page 9

Children's Corner
Page 10

Blessing Bits
Page 12

Our dearly beloved Brother in Christ, Paul Palmieri, age 87, was called home to his heavenly reward on May 6, 2020. He will be greatly missed by his natural and spiritual family throughout the world. We are comforted to know that after many years of laboring for the Kingdom of God on this earth and enduring years of physical pain and suffering that he is now alive and well in the Paradise of God. The scriptures remind us of the promises of God for those that love and serve him: Psalms 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints;" Matthew 25:21, "His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord;" and Revelation 21:4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Brother Paul was born to Antonio and Carmela Palmieri in West Aliquippa, Pennsylvania on April 9, 1933, the third of four children. His parents were faithful members of The Church of Jesus Christ and he was thankful that they taught him to love God and all people, to be good to his fellow man, and to enjoy life regardless of the circumstances. He graduated from high school in 1952 and began working with a local steel company for a short while. He then worked as an electrician for the Aliquippa and Southern Railroad for a total of eleven years. It was in 1952, while attending a Christmas program rehearsal at Church, that he asked a young church girl, Ruth Eleanor DeLuca, out on a date. Their friendship developed into deep and lasting love and they shared nearly 64 years of marriage.

In 1953 he was drafted into the United States Army and served during the Korean War. After his discharge in 1956 he enrolled at Geneva College to study engineering. While attending college he continued working for the railroad, arranging his schedule to accommodate work and school, day and night, for the next seven years. In June of 1956 Brother Paul received one of the greatest natural blessings of his life when he and Sister Eleanor were married.

Brother Paul also testified that in 1956 he received the greatest spiritual blessing of his life when he was called into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He said that after starting school in 1956 he was convicted to draw closer to The Church of Jesus Christ. He did so and on the beautiful day of August 19, 1956, he felt the Spirit of God calling him to surrender his life to Christ. He was baptized by Brother John Ross and his father, an Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ, confirmed him into The Church of Jesus Christ. His wife, Sister Eleanor, was baptized several months later and he testified that their lives were changed forever as they joined together in serving the Church faithfully together in many capacities from that time on.



(Continued on page 4)



This September issue of the Gospel News has a "Children" theme attached to it...

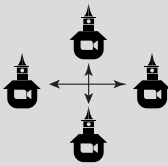


...if you're under 12-years-old and read the Gospel News, we'd love to get a response from you.

...on the Gospel Net. Get an adult to post a note that says, "Hi, my (son, daughter, niece, nephew, friend) who is (X years old) reads the GN!"



Moroni 8:22. "For behold that all little children are alive in Christ..." How cool is that?

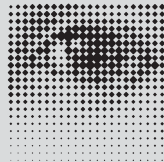


Because of our ongoing navigating this coronavirus, September has turned out to be an "IFFY" month...



...some of us meet live IF possible, area campouts and regional conferences are postponed, IF not possible.

Find it: "And as they looked to behold they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven..."



"...as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them."



BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

One hundred and ninety-seven years ago, on September 21, 1823 the Angel Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith (age 17), who had retired to his bed for the night. "When I first looked upon him, I was afraid, but the fear soon left me. He called me by name and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me and that his name was Moroni, that God had a work for me to do and that my name should be had for good and evil among all nations, kindreds, and tongues, or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people. He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fullness of the everlasting gospel was contained in it as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants, also that there were two stones in silver bows and these stones fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim, deposited with the plates, and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted Seers in ancient or former times and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book."





Purpose Statement

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

Mission Statement

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



Vision Statement

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

Wordup



“Have I REALLY Surrendered All?”

By Elder Doug Obradovich

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you – (John 14:26)

Even when we've experienced complete surrender, most would admit how challenging it is to sustain. Surrender is defined as ceasing resistance to an enemy or opponent, submitting to their authority. As kids I would “give-up” to my older brother, Dane, but only temporarily. Have I employed a similar tactic with God, acquiescing only to hold Him off, or to gain something for myself? Yes, I have certainly enjoyed moments of genuine surrender to God, but I've not successfully maintained this glorious status.

When “all” is brought into the equation, surrender seems nearly impossible. To abandon everything in its entirety goes against the human spirit. When presented with the innate survival mode of fight or flight, little space is given to cede to God's spirit. Instead, reliance is predicated upon the ability to battle or escape, so that self-preservation options are delivered through individual effort. The Word of God identifies human nature as “an enemy to God” (Mosiah 3:19), so resisting God's spirit is a natural reaction. So, it can be inferred that it is human nature to reject God's goodness!

Jesus spoke of an accessible peace if we but submit to His generosity. Although rarely listed amongst peace's antonyms, Jesus identifies fear in opposition to peace. Peace is defined as tranquility; freedom from disturbance; a state of security; a period in which there is no tumult; mutual concord. In these unsettling times, “freedom from disturbance”

feels very foreign. When lost in our natural fears, peace cannot be found. Paul writes, “The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ” (Philippians 4:7). Exactly! It is nearly impossible to fathom peace amongst such turmoil.

Isaiah introduced Jesus Christ 700 years before His birth, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given ... The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus provided the “What To” = “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe in me also” (John 14:1). Jesus added the “How To” = “The comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name ... peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:26, 27).

Candace deliberately places individual comforters on our bed, the sofa, and multiple chairs. Each serves her in protecting and soothing, once she wraps herself within, symbolic of the Lord's “Comforter.”

This chapter concludes with Jesus' call to action and empowerment, “Arise, let us go hence” (v. 31). We need not choose fight or flight, but instead wrap ourselves in God's comforter, where confidence, courage and strength dwells. We can calm the natural swirl of “What If” and accept the surety of the great “I AM,” iterated by all by God and reiterated to you by His Holy Spirit.

Exchange natural fear for spiritual peace by choosing to SURRENDER ALL to the power of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul Palmieri

Continued from cover

In 1963 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering and shortly thereafter was hired by Westinghouse Electric as an Industrial Engineer. In 1964 Brother Paul and Sister Eleanor were blessed with a son, Paul Aaron.

Brother Paul was ordained an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ on April 16, 1967. He was ordained an evangelist on October 27, 1974. He was ordained an apostle on October 12, 1986. One of Brother Paul's best known attributes is that he never said "no" to any office, committee, or task the Church asked of him. His motto was that he would "rather wear out than rust out." Over the years he served in the following offices: Editor of The Gospel News, 1970-1979; GMBA President, 1974-1977; General Church Executive Secretary, 1979-1986; and General Church President, 2005-2018. He also served as the Presiding Elder of the Aliquippa Branch, as Vice President of the GMBA, and as First Counselor of the General Church for many years. He was a dedicated missionary, traveling to the Church's foreign mission fields in Africa, Asia, Europe, Mexico, Central America, and South America. He loved interacting with peoples of all ethnicities, both domestically and abroad, and had a great love for all of the people of the Church. He was a driving force with the world-wide missionary conferences and continuous outreach to the native peoples of the Americas. Some of his other attributes were his ever-present smile, quick wit, kindness, and compassion. He was truly a man of God as he served God and his fellow man for over 53 years as a minister of The Church of Jesus Christ.

One of Brother Paul's favorite scriptures was Ephesians 5:15-16, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil," wherein the Word of God tells us to redeem the time. It is very evident that our dear brother redeemed the time given to him in many wonderful and powerful ways as a witness to the Power and Love of Jesus Christ. Our love and prayers go out to his loving family, his wife Sister Eleanor, his son Brother Paul Aaron and wife, Sister Kimberly and all of his grandchildren. We mourn with them—but more than that—we celebrate his life with them. May the memories of his righteous examples of service remain with us always and may we never forget that Brother Paul reminded us often that "Now is **our time** to do the work!"

In the love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Sister Donna Amormino

The Great Lakes Area Ladies' Uplift Circle gathered for a Spiritual meeting on March 2, 2020 at Detroit Branch 1. Approximately 40 Sisters in Christ including little girls were in attendance to celebrate "100 Years of Tea," in honor of the General Ladies Uplift Circle 100th Anniversary this year, 2020.

The Detroit Branch 1 Circle members presented an evening clearly defining the many "Teas" we have experienced and still enjoy in our service to the Lord. *Sancti-Tea + Humili-Tea + Puri-Tea = Strength*

Chari-Tea is the "Greatest Tea," which is God's Love; it never fails, it overcomes, endures, and bears all things. It's the Pure Love of God. This "Tea" has influenced us to teach our children, our daughters, and young women by the way we model our lives. Our spiritual identi-Tea includes fasting and praying with all energy and heart for Quali-Teas of Jesus Christ, as His followers. "...when he shall appear we shall be like him..."

As Circle Sisters over the past 100 years, we strive to possess additional "Teas," such as Sinceri-Tea, Beau-Tea, Hospitali-Tea, Uni-Tea, Integri-Tea, and Hones-Tea. It's all about our hearts. These attributes were discussed in three breakout groups, allowing us to share with one another in Uni-Tea.

Sister Lisa Champine, General Ladies' Uplift Circle President, addressed us with words of encouragement to look back and to look forward to our development as dedicated Servants of Christ. During our meeting, songs sung included "Fill My Cup, Lord," "Vessels of Gold," and "Are Ye Able?"

After this Spiritual "Tea" session, joyful fellowship followed in a room of Beau-Tea, tables set with pretty tablecloths, China teapots, delicate teacups, matching napkins and flatware. Marvelous finger desserts were sweetly offered and of course, Tea was served.

A lovely evening of natural and spiritual reminders how blessed we are in the Service of our Lord, looking forward to a glorious time in Eterni-Tea!

The Righteous Need Not Fear

By Sister Kay Vitto

While I stood in the grass, with the tall
Trees all around me,
I was enveloped with the sound
of God's anger,
This I would see.
I witnessed a bit of His power,
And I sensed His omnipotent hand,
As the winds blew and the dark clouds
Rolled over so close to the sand.
A storm was approaching,
As the thick clouds descended
closer to the ground,
The whirling, bustling and thundering,
What an ominous sound.
I was enveloped with the knowledge,

This was a taste of God's fury,
As I looked around, I sensed the fear of
Many people being in a hurry.
I knew within my heart, this was just a
Taste of what "could have been,"
The wrath of God towards Mankind,
That has turned to sin.
There were people scurrying around,
Wondering if destruction was near,
In my heart I heard that still small voice
"The righteous need not fear."

Editor's note: This poem was written by Sister Kay over 20 years ago. She has held on to it until now, feeling that the message was for today.

Days of Tribulation *By Evangelist Mark Kovacic*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: "These things I have spoken unto you that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

What a wonderful promise! What comfort! But let's go a little deeper into these words. The word tribulation comes from the Latin tribulo, to thrash, to beat; severe affliction; distresses of life; vexations. Webster's 1828 version of the American English dictionary included a comment that references the Scripture. (That reference is not found in today's modern version of the dictionary.)

Based on the number of occurrences of spiritual tribulations in the Scriptures, tribulations can come from two places: troubling conditions or persecutions. In the last 150 years we have not had much persecution (when compared to the Saints in other ages), but we have been sorely troubled, especially with sicknesses and afflictions. Trouble in the world is not due to our personal wickedness, but rather to the conditions in the world. Noah had to build an ark, not because he wanted to, but because of the spiritual conditions in his day.

In the parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus spoke of four places where the seeds were sown. One of those was seeds sown in stony places, the "same is he that hears the word, and anon [at once] with joy receives it; yet he has not root in himself, but endures for a while; for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, by and by he is offended." And not stated by Jesus, but alluded to, is that same person does not yield a crop or fruit.

We have a choice when tribulations come. We can either stand strong in the Lord, have faith and rely on Him and build upon the solid foundation (Luke 6:48), or we can give up. The choice is ours. I have seen many Saints suffer through many tribulations, and remain faithful and true to their calling and covenant with the Lord.

The warning of tribulations for Israel goes back to the days of Moses. Notice some of the key and prophetic words Moses delivered to the people: "And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you. And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (for the Lord thy God is a merciful God); he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of the fathers which he sware unto them" (Deuteronomy 4:27-31).

There are also many references to hope and comfort from our tribulations, such as those found in the following Scripture: "But we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation works patience and patience, experience, and experience, hope. And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:3-5).

And then there are the words of Alma to his son. "I would that ye should remember that as much as ye shall put your trust in God even so much ye shall be delivered out of your trials, and your troubles, and your afflictions, and ye shall be lifted up at the last day" (Alma 38:5).

Our Lord said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things [food, drink, and clothing] shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient is the day unto the evil thereof" (3 Nephi 13:33-34).

My dear brothers and sisters, stand strong, keep the faith, look to Jesus Christ, or as it is written: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses [the Saints who have gone on before us], let us lay aside every weight [burden], and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith [completes or perfects us]; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the same, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Carolynn O'Connor
carolynn@xelapack.com
734-260-0213

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Chuck Maddox, Jr.
cmaddoxjr@gmail.com
937-266-2506

CONSULTANTS
Alex Gentile
Paul Liberto
Leonard A. Lovatvo
Anthony Scolaro
Cathy Gentile

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Dianne Maddox

DESIGN & LAYOUT
Ken Lombardo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
KarenJo Pandone

QUORUM OF 70 EDITOR
Q70 Communication Team
Q70team@gmail.com
313-820-4503

GMBA EDITOR
Christine Martorana
Christinemaddox13@gmail.com
937-266-2539

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
LuAnn Carson
uannie@comcast.net
724-518-0491

REGION EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST
Michael Zaino
mrzaino35@gmail.com
732-289-4191

GREAT LAKES
Kim Komjathy
komjathy@wowway.com
248-371-9208

MIDWEST
Valerie Dulisse
valdulisse@hotmail.com
203-617-9443

PACIFIC
Jody Greger
jcslldr@yahoo.com
209-810-4880

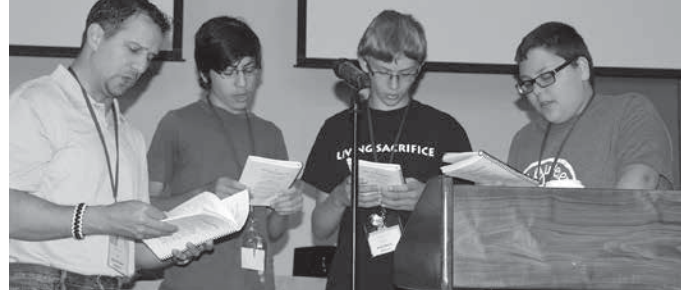
PENN-MID ATLANTIC
Ray Intrieri
lemans65@gmail.com
724-622-7249

SOUTHEAST
Mandy Griffith
mandygriffith324@gmail.com
727-264-7905

SOUTHWEST
Anthony Scolaro
ajsazplanner@gmail.com
732-259-3861

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$30.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799. Periodical postage paid at Greensburg, PA and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: 5465 3rd Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467.



What was your favorite Camp or favorite Camp memory?

"Campout 1979 [Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA], where I got baptized!" -*Sister Denise Bodo, Farmington Hills, MI Branch*

"My favorite camp was Massanetta Springs!" -*Sister Tanya Wood, Hollywood, FL Branch*

"Twenty years ago this August, I was one of twenty-eight souls that gave their life to Christ at GMBA Camp [Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA]. I also met my wife at a GMBA Camp a few years later." -*Brother Dan Arcuri, Mononaghela, PA Branch*

"I don't remember which camp it was, but it was the first time feet washing took place at a GMBA Camp [Greenville, SC 2007]. To my knowledge, it was the first time and it went so smooth. Strong spirit, sweet spirit. Oh, how I think back to that day!" -*Brother Saladin Foy, Freehold, NJ Branch*

"My favorite memory is when my brother and I drove to camp overnight to baptize my niece, Elizabeth Tenorio, in 2019" -*Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch*

"I remember going to Massaneta as a little girl and waiting for the night meeting to end so we could eat the fresh cut watermelon that they had been keeping in the cool springs to get cold. Also, the giant jawbreakers from the general store on the campgrounds!" -*Sister Alaina Cavill, Treasure Coast, FL Branch*

"I miss adult recreation since, last year was the first year I was old enough to participate." -*Zachary Cavill, Treasure Coast, FL Branch*

"The petting zoo and sports." -*Jake Cavill, Treasure Coast, FL Branch*

"The baptisms at Cal U." -*Brother Tom Cavill, Treasure Coast, FL Branch*





"2000 Antiochian Village, when both of my children were baptized, and 2006 Saginaw [MI] when my husband got baptized." -Sister Kathy Golling, Mononaghela, PA Branch

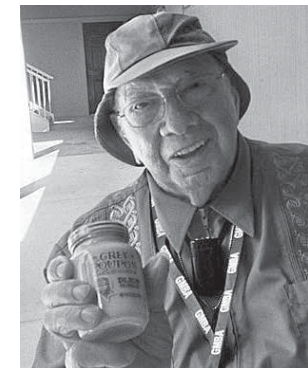
"My baptism at the 1974 GMBA Campout [Walden, Cheboygan, MI]. I had been struggling to make the decision for months prior, and was relieved to finally call for my baptism and go into the waters." -Brother Tim Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch

"At a Camp in Massanetta, I had a vision while Brother Dominic Thomas (President of the Church at the time) was preaching. I saw a personage walk down the aisle by me, carrying a crown on a pillow. He walked to the front and Brother Dominic reached down, took the crown, and put it on his head. My vision faded; another sister in that same meeting saw Brother Dominic with a crown on his head and every time he moved his hands, he was adjusting the crown. We were on opposite sides of the meeting room—it was a blessing I'll cherish!" -Sister Lori Kimmel, Lake Worth, FL Branch

"Favorite Camp - 2000, Favorite Memory - 1981 [Massanetta] ... saw my future wife for the first time!" -Brother Paul A. Palmieri, McKees Rocks, PA Branch

"My favorite thing about Campout is connecting and reconnecting. God is so very good. I love pal-ing around with old friends, reconnecting with dear sisters, staying with my wonderful family, and making new amazing friends." -Sister Suzanne Beeman, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch

"1987 Claremont, CA—the Lord introduced me to a sister who would become my wife." -Anthony Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch



Calling All Youth Ages 5-12! *By Sister Alyssa Maddox*

As GMBA Youth Director, I connect with one of the Church's most important demographics—our children. Focusing my efforts on those ages 5-12, I organize events at GMBA Campout and November Conference specifically for our children. We've had a pajama movie night, painted pottery, and traveled to a trampoline park.

I also mail quarterly newsletters and birthday cards throughout the year. With the help of Sisters Maddy Lambert and Olivia Siebert, we have sent newsletters



regarding being thankful, making New Year's resolutions, and growing with Jesus during the spring season. We also send handwritten birthday cards to every child.

Since we focus on those ages 5-12, once the child becomes a teenager, we share their information with the Student Support Program (SSP), so they can continue to be involved in the efforts of the GMBA.

We currently have over 100 children on our mailing list. We asked a few of them to share what these efforts mean to them:

Lilly Genaro, age 8, from the Forest Hills, FL branch says, "I never get any mail, so I love it when I get birthday cards addressed to me. I look forward to it every year, and I'm always surprised."

Adam Lee, age 10, from the Yucaipa, CA branch, agrees, saying "I like getting mail from the GMBA. It makes me feel

special and happy. They always send me birthday cards. It's fun getting something in the mail. Thank you!"



Audrey Gensburg, age 9, from the Liberty, OH branch, says, "I like getting mail. I enjoy the activities. The New Year's activity was my favorite."



Maverick Arcuri, age 6, from the Monongahela, PA branch, says, "I like doing the fun things!" and his mother, Sister Stefanie Arcuri adds, "I love seeing his face when he gets a letter or birthday card in the mail from the GMBA! It's something special just for him, and it's very much appreciated!"

We enjoy supporting your children in this way and would love to see our mailing list grow! If you would like to add your child, family member, Sunday School class, or anyone ages 5-12 from your branch to our mailing list, email the child's name, birthday, and mailing address to GMBAYouthDirector@gmail.com.



GMBA Camp-In!

Although we were sad to miss our GMBA Campout this year, we were excited to participate in the first ever virtual GMBA Camp In! On July 4-10, we gathered together for a week of virtual fellowship, Zoom services, coffee talks, kids activities, and

more! The theme for the week was "The Power of God," inspired by Moroni 10:7—"And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore I would exhort you that ye deny not the power of God;

for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever." We are thankful that we have this digital technology that allowed us to share the Power of God with one another across the miles!

If you missed some of the activities or just want to experience them again, you can access the GMBA Camp In content on the GMBA YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTIso8i5JIPoKu0o8vb6S0w>

Just click on playlist "GMBA Camp In 2020." You can also access audio only on the GMBA YouthCast at <https://youthcastgmbatcojc.buzzsprout.com> or on your favorite podcast platform (Apple, Spotify, etc.).

Believing in the Unseen By Apostle Jerry Valenti

The scriptures define faith as believing in things that you can't see. Although many people find this difficult to do when it comes to believing in things of God, there are actually many unseen things that we all readily believe in. Here are 5 amazing facts that describe unseen things that we all believe in firmly enough that we take specific actions in life based on that belief.

1 Wind – As Jesus says in John 3:8, we can't see where it's coming from or where it's going. However, we can see what the wind does and, in extreme cases, we may take certain actions – such as staying indoors or securing items that can be damaged by this unseen force.

2 Tomorrow – We may never see it at all. Jesus tells us not to think about it. Yet we all make plans and take specific actions based on the firm belief that tomorrow will come. It may be helpful to read James 4:13-15 to learn that “ye know not what shall be on the morrow” so “ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that”.

3 Weather Forecast – Although it's hardly an exact science, we often make or change plans based on the forecasted

weather – for which we rely on what other people tell us, not on anything we can see for ourselves. In Matthew 16:1-3, Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for having faith in their own weather forecast but not discerning the signs of the times.

4 Electronic Data – All of the information that runs the world is stored on an unseen “cloud”. Unseen satellites tell our GPS devices the route we should take to go from Point A to Point B – and we willingly follow the directions exactly. Yet, many would find it hard to believe that God could have created a “ball of curious workmanship” that directed the travel of Lehi and his family as they traveled through the wilderness. See 1 Nephi 16.

5 Virus – In Exodus 12, the Israelites stayed in their homes and put lamb's blood on their doorframes so their lives would

be spared from an unseen plague. In 2020, people throughout the world are wearing masks and not touching each other to slow the spread of an unseen virus. Unless you're a scientist working in a lab, you've never seen an actual virus particle. Yet, your belief is strong enough that your daily actions revolve around avoidance of these unseen particles.

We believe in all of the above because we rely on the experience and/or expertise of people. There is nothing wrong with this but the scriptures tell us that “if we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater” (1 John 5:9). So, if we're willing to take action based on what people say about things we can't see, how much more should we who have the Holy Ghost within us be willing to take action based on our faith in God?



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Blessing of Children By Sister LuAnn Carson

In The Church of Jesus Christ our babies are blessed (not baptized) after the example of Jesus Christ. This ordinance of blessing children is not 'man made.' Scripture speaks to us, “it is solemn mockery before God, that ye should baptize little children. . . teach parents that they must repent and be baptized, and humble themselves as their little children, and they shall all be saved with their little children. And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world” (Moroni 5:9-12).

At the birth of Jesus, we find the ordinance of blessing practiced. In the Bible we read, “Then took he [Simeon] him (Jesus) up in his arms, and

“And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.”

blessed God” (Luke 2:28). Christ Himself was blessed as a baby, setting an example for His Church to follow.

Further on into Christ's life and ministry, He sets another example by showing that children are important in God's kingdom. Not only did He disapprove of His disciples' rejection of the children; but He also held them in His arms and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16 reads, “And they brought young children to him [Jesus] that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those . . . But when

Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the

(Continued on page 11)



What Is It Like to Spend a Year Crossing a Wild Ocean?

In the centuries after Noah's ark landed, all people spoke the same language. Instead of doing something good with this and serving God, they decided to build a huge, tall tower and reach heaven with it. God saw them and put a stop to it. He mixed up all their language! No one could understand each other. (See Genesis Chapter 11.) What foolish people.

But a wise man named Jared asked his brother to pray. They asked God not to confound their language and to lead them to a new place to settle that would be a blessed place. God was pleased by them and told them to gather supplies, plants, animals, containers of fish, birds and honeybees, and leave. There were twenty-two family and friends on this epic journey.

After months of travelling in the wilderness and across waters, the people finally reached the great ocean they were going to cross. They relaxed, like a long, long vacation, probably so relieved to be out of the wilderness, and stopped calling on God! This was a sin! Four years passed and the Lord came and spoke to the brother of Jared from a cloud. The wonderful brother of Jared was so sorry he had forgotten to call on God and begged God to forgive them all.

God reminded him that he would not always work with people and if they sinned until they were fully ripe (totally bad) that God would cut them off from his presence. (See Ether 2nd chapter.) And God forgave them and said, "Go to work and build barges like the ones you were instructed to as you travelled so far." They followed God's directions.

The eight barges were built small, the length of a long tree. They were extremely water tight, and they were light upon the water,

like a swimming bird. They were made so that when the door was shut it was tight. A hole in the top and the bottom were made to get air, but they had to be shut immediately if water started pouring in! That would be so scary!

When the Brother of Jared realized they could not have fire, he prayed and asked the Lord to touch sixteen stones so they could bring light into the darkness of the eight barges. As Jesus reached to do so, the Brother of Jared saw his finger and fell with fear on the ground. (See Ether 3:7.)

Jesus told him He had never seen such faith in any man before and He showed Himself to him. Then Jesus told him the plan of God and showed

him all people that had ever been and would ever be. That means he saw you and me! Jesus explained the great plans of God to this good man, then gave him the sixteen stones to give them light for their journey across the sea. (See 3rd chapter Ether.) He put two in each barge.

The people filled their barges with all manner of food for them and their flocks and herds, and whatever beast or fowl they were taking. Can you imagine being locked up in a small barge day after day with each other and noisy, scared, smelly animals? And sometimes almost running out of air?

With twenty-two people divided into eight barges, that means there were probably only

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

GOD	FAITHFUL	EIGHT	WILD	PROMISED	IS
BROUGHT	BRAVE	BARGES	OCEAN	LAND	LOVE
TWENTY	PEOPLE	ACROSS	TO	SERVE	
TWO	IN	THE	THIS	HE	

two people in some barges and families in others. I wonder how they tied themselves, their supplies and animals so they wouldn't fly all over when the barges hit rough seas or were sucked down by currents and blown constantly by huge winds!

When they had done all of this, they got aboard and set forth into the sea. And God caused a furious wind to blow upon the face of the water, towards the Promised Land, which is the Americas, far across the ocean.

They were tossed on the waves and buried in the depths of the sea. Day in and day out—what a wild terrifying ride! Think how the animals would have cried out in fear too!

How did they fight fear? The Book of Ether tells us that they prayed and sang songs thanking the Lord. (See Ether 6:9.) And the brother of Jared did sing praises unto the Lord, and did thank and praise the Lord all the day and night. When they were buried deep in the ocean, they cried unto the Lord and He'd bring them back to the top again (so they could get air in their barge). How scary not to have a good air supply! I think I would want to be in this faithful man's barge, what about you? And can you imagine how well you would get to truly know everyone you travelled with? You would know when they were brave, or lazy, seasick, or hurting, or fearful.

It took three hundred forty-four days to cross the ocean, nearly a year! I cannot even ride any dizzy carnival ride! I also like to be alone and quiet every day with no one bothering me. How did they do it? How much love and forgiveness they must have had for one another. How on earth could these brave people stand being tossed high on waves then buried deep, deep in fast ocean currents down where the whales swim and bump against their sealed barges?

Can you imagine their joy when they landed ashore! Fresh air! Water for baths, and solid ground! God had brought them halfway across the world to a new, wonderful land promised for those who would serve God and love one another.

This land is our land in the Americas. But we must be good, loving followers of God to have the blessings and protections promised to those who serve him. It is our choice. If not, God will not let us stay here and sin and be mean to one another.

He will let us destroy ourselves as others who have gone before us. Think how to please God and have a grateful heart!

With love, your friend, *Sister Jan*

Blessing of Children

Continued from page 9

little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. . . Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." A very familiar scripture, but can you imagine your child or grandchild being in the arms of Jesus?!

An amazing event is recorded in The Book of Mormon, III Nephi 17: 11-24: "And it came to pass that he commanded that their little children should be brought. So they brought their little children and set them down upon the ground round about him, and Jesus stood in the midst . . . and he said unto them: Blessed are ye because of your faith. And now behold, my joy is full. . . and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them. . . And he spake unto the multitude, and said unto them: Behold your little ones. And as they looked to behold they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them." What a miraculous occurrence! One of my very favorite scriptures. Christ did not offer a single prayer that encompassed the children as a whole. Instead, He held each individual child in His arms, offering a prayer exclusively for every one. It must have taken quite a long time, but apparently Jesus knew that even though His time on earth was limited, the children were that important to Him.

In the scripture, Christ placed great value on the qualities of children. He wants us to be like children: meek, submissive, forgiving. Whenever watching the sacred ordinance of blessing a baby, it is impossible to look upon that child in the arms of a minister and see sin. A child is the essence of purity and perfection.

Christ speaks in Moroni 5:22, "I love little children with a perfect love; and they are all alike and partakers of salvation."



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

Blessing Bits

BB He Opens Doors

A year ago, I left a position with a company due to a very difficult manager. God opened a door for me to work one mile from my husband Jerry's place of employment, and we had one solid year of carpooling. We enjoyed our extra time together and our relationship drew closer to each other and God. About one month into quarantine, the owner of my previous company called and apologized to me for the way the manager had treated us. They were embarrassed. She had been relieved of her responsibilities and they were hoping I would consider coming back. I had just prepared a lesson on forgiveness and thought it was for me to share. Little did I know God was speaking directly to me and preparing my heart to accept their apology. In the middle of the quarantine when everything around me was closing, God was still opening doors. - Sister Linda Morle, Fort Worth, TX Branch

BB Similar Blessings Years Apart

When I was about 6, we were taking one of our family trips. We were coming home, and the car started to overheat, so my dad pulled over to check the radiator. In those days, we had no antifreeze, we used water in the radiator. He was releasing the pressure on the cap and it burst off and sprayed up at him, covering his face, arms, and upper body with boiling hot radiator

water. He was in excruciating pain; we didn't know what to do. My mom remembered we had a bottle of blessed oil in the glove box. She put a little oil on each of the spots and told my brother and me to pray that God would relieve his pain. He drove us home that day, but we knew he was in pain. However, by the time we got home, his pain had greatly diminished. By the next day, he was doing remarkably well. He healed quickly with almost no visible scars. When my mother applied the oil, she missed a few spots on the underside of his upper right arm, the arm he lifted the cap with. These 3 or 4 spots scarred—proof that God came to his rescue and not only relieved his pain and helped him heal, but also helped him not to scar. The only scars from the incident were the ones that did not receive the blessed oil. - Sister Lucy DeCaro, Lindsay, CA Branch

Recently Tony and I were having our Saturday BBQ and I was cooking the tri-tip while Tony was making the rice and BBQ sauce in the kitchen. I reached up to close the lid of the barbecue. I miscalculated where the handle was and I touched the hot cover with the palm and thumb of my right hand. The pain was excruciating, and felt like it was immediately starting to blister. I looked at the dial on the cover and it showed the temperature at 500 degrees! As you can imagine, my hand was on fire with pain. Remembering the experience about my dad and the radiator, Tony ran for his

blessed oil and applied it to my hand, and said a beautiful prayer. During dinner, I could not even hold the silverware; Tony had to cut my meat for me. But by the end of the meal, my hand felt a lot better... the burning had diminished and it started feeling numb. I lay down for a nap and when I woke, there was a blister on my thumb, and the skin on the palm of my hand had a leathery strip across it, but NO blister and no pain! Thank God for His blessings and love for us. By the next Sunday, the hand looked normal, as if nothing had ever happened. -Sister Lucy DeCaro, Lindsay, CA Branch

Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Zarella Scolaro at zarellamosqueda@gmail.com [in approximately 150 words].
Answers to Question of the Month to gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org.



Question for this month: If you could go back in time and be present for one scriptural event, what would it be?



Answer from last month: We are all missing Campout this year! What was your favorite Camp or favorite Camp memory?

My favorite would have to be 2019 Camp [California, PA] considering it was my first since I was 6. My favorite memory from last year was definitely the youth black box meeting. It was so Spirit filled and powerful!" -Giovanni Lind, Lake Worth, FL Branch

Turn back to page 6 for answers to this question.



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