

The Gospel News

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*Hallelujah,
 Christ Arose*



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Go to the House of Joseph

By The Quorum of 70 Evangelists

I, Oliver [Cowdery], being commanded of the Lord God, to go forth unto the Lamanites, to proclaim glad tidings of great joy unto them, by presenting unto them the fulness of the Gospel...I will walk humbly before him, and do this business, and this glorious work according as he shall direct me by the Holy Ghost; ever praying for mine and their prosperity, and deliverance from bonds, and from imprisonments, and whatsoever may befall us, with all patience and faith.— Amen.

Our brother Oliver wrote this letter prior to traveling west with a small band of missionaries. The group pressed forward for miles on foot through the brutal winter of 1830-1831. They carried only a few provisions and freshly printed books of scripture, the Book of Mormon. The group was received warmly by the indigenous populations of then-called "Indian Territory".

A command had been given. 'Go, preach to the Lamanites.' Missionaries sacrificed time, money, and health to fulfill the commandment from the Lord. Still, the early restored church abandoned their efforts and never went back. After The Church of Jesus Christ organized in 1862, the Lord quickly re-sounded His alarm. Being instructed to pray over direction for the Church, the Spirit revealed to Church President William Cadman that, "He [the Lord] would provide us a home in the Indian Territory, by the preaching of the Gospel." After a promising first trip, a disunified church in Pennsylvania again abandoned the work.

Since that time, the Church has unified around its specialized commission from God, but with only fragments of dedicated missionaries striving to fulfill the original command achieving moderate successes. Permanent missions are established at Muncey, Six Nations, San Carlos, Tse Bonito, Saugeen, and White River. The Gospel continues to expand to indigenous populations throughout the Western Hemisphere. After nearly 200 years, the foundational promise remains: "...the Almighty manifested to us, that He would have none other than the true Gospel taken to the seed of Joseph; that this people had the Gospel purer than any other people, and that He would employ this people for the accomplishment of that purpose."

(Continued on page 4)



A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the
poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven.



A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:4

Blessed are they
that mourn:
for they shall be
comforted.

A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the
meek:
for they shall inherit
the earth.



A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they
which do hunger and
thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.



A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:7,8

Blessed are the merciful:
for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.



A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the
peacemakers:
for they shall be called
the children of God.

A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:10

Blessed are they which
are persecuted for
righteousness' sake: for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.



A Beatitude Bouquet:
Matthew 5:11

Blessed are ye, when men
shall revile you, and
persecute you, and shall say
all manner of evil against
you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be
exceeding glad:
for great is your reward in
heaven: for so persecuted
they the prophets
which were before you.



BFP Blast From The Past



Of the three chiefs in Muncey, Canada, George Nicholas was considered the most religious. It was for that reason, according to his daughter, Sister Faye Albert, that Brothers Paul Love, Alma B. Cadman, Anthony DiBattista, and W.H. Cadman made their way to the Nicholases' home in the fall of 1932. Julia, George's wife, would be baptized within days, but it would take two and a half years before George would ask for his baptism. This occurred 80 years ago this month not in Muncey, but in Detroit, where the spirit of repentance fell upon him while he and his wife attended the April 1934 General Church Conference at the corner of Hall and Devine. In 1939, Brother George would become Muncey's first Native American minister.

Back row left to right: Brother George Nicholas; his daughters Joyce in arms and Bernice; Brother John Hall. Front row left to right: Sister Julia Nicholas, Sister Feebie Hall.



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.



“Don’t Stop Rising Up”

By Brother Doug Obradovich

“Touch me not, for I have not yet ascended to my Father” (John 20:17)

upright and breathing again. But He was not finished resurrecting! He had a greater distance to travel still, because He had yet to “ascend to my Father.”

include multiple low points, which may involve disappointments and discouragements, all of which create opportunities to shine Jesus Christ.

Mary Magdalene delivered sobering news to Peter and John that Jesus’ body had been moved from the sepulcher (she guessed the soldiers must have removed it). The 2 disciples headed to the tomb and found her report accurate, believing her once they viewed the empty grave (“And he saw, and believed” - John 20:8). They left to return home, while Mary stood just outside weeping. She was soon dialoguing unawares with Jesus (she thought Him to be a gardener and asked where He had lain the body of her Savior). He answered simply, “Mary” and hearing Him say her name, she knew instantly.

Not unlike any one of us. We are not yet ascended to the Father. Yes, if you have committed yourself to Christ, gone into the waters of baptism, and found salvation, you have undoubtedly raised yourself from some low point in your life. You have arisen from sinner to saint. You have elevated yourself from a fallen state to one of a glorious standing before God. But you have not yet ascended to the Father.

We are called to arise from these events, whether they involve the death of loved ones, destitution, or defeat. Momentum = mass x velocity, but upward momentum must also factor in gravity. So stopping momentum or pausing while arising results in falling back or sinking lower, which is not God’s intended direction for us. Once Jesus Christ climbed up from the slab, shedding the 3-day-old death linens behind in the sepulcher, He maintained upward momentum. Just as He said to Mary, He was still on the move: “I have not yet ascended to my Father.”

She turned to Him, possibly on the verge of running into His arms, because we read that He quickly said, “Touch me not, for I have not yet ascended to my Father.” He was not done resurrecting! He had already arisen from the dead, standing

We are each intended for greater places than wherever we are today. We are all meant to continue rising. In that spectacular moment, our heads emerged out of the water of baptism, we may have experienced nearly perfect purity, feeling closer to God than ever before. We may even have felt ready to meet God. But we were just beginning to arise. In the normal spiritual journey, baptism is all I have described, but at that point, we were not yet ascended to the Father. We had (and have) much further to go and much more life to experience. These life experiences

Just as you are only beginning your own upward momentum. The resurrection power of Jesus Christ doesn’t only take place after death; it begins its claim on you immediately as you burst up and out of the waters of baptism. But you aren’t finished there; in fact, you are only just beginning. So, please, don’t stop rising up, because you have not yet ascended to your Father!

Happy Easter, early risers!

(continued from cover)

This is our job, our reason for being entrusted with the pure Gospel in The Church of Jesus Christ. It is difficult to measure our success in bringing the message of the Restored Gospel to the Native Americans, which is required before the Choice Seer can "...convince them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them" (II Nephi 3:11). However, there are several indications within the Church and among our Native American contacts that this work is now progressing faster than it ever has. These signs and wonders include:

1. House of Joseph missionary efforts are now active in more than 15 States, 4 Canadian Provinces, and 7 Central and South American countries.
2. Our missionaries are reporting that Native American contacts are sharing their beliefs with us and accepting that they are connected to or part of the House of Israel.
3. Members of all ages are participating in outreach efforts among the Native Americans.
4. The Church has ordered two mobile homes to be positioned at San Carlos and Tse Bonito so that visiting missionaries can readily make longer-term visits to assist in the work among the Apache and Navajo Nations, respectively.
5. Following a brief period of analysis and suggestions, the 12 Apostles have united to accept a very direct approach to making the missionary efforts among the House of Joseph in the Americas our priority objective.
6. The 70 Evangelists have also reviewed and are in full support of this priority for the missionary efforts of the House of Joseph.
7. The Lord is providing very specific revelations to the Church on a regular basis, reinforcing our very first Church command. The below experience is a wonderful example

of how specific the Lord's direction is, as well as his encouragement, assistance, and future blessings!

At the October 2022 General Conference an experience was reviewed and accepted by the Priesthood of the Church. The Lord revealed very directly to us that now is the time to Go! with all of our strength to the House of Joseph, and He will bless us. The below is a portion of this experience:

"...know that in My plan, it begins with the House of Joseph. And as I have made covenant with those righteous throughout the ages of time, My covenants will be fulfilled! And so now it is in My plan that the knowledge of My Son Jesus Christ begins with the House of Joseph! And this will unlock the latter-day blessings. So as you have been given now the record that reveals who Joseph is and where this starts, go now to them! Let your energies be placed upon them so that you may see My hand move! And fear not the natural questions that arise in your mind, for I the Lord God will provide. I the Lord God will make the way! And remind now, as I have said, My people of what they have to prepare for and that they may know that I the Lord God see and know all things, thus saith the Lord!"

Will you unite with our prophetic purpose of existence, or will another generation pass before we gather the gumption to ignite the scriptures and bring about their fulfillment? Let us find ourselves in unity with the commission of this Church in belief and action. As William Cadman exhorted, "Now, my brethren and sisters, don't you feel the Spirit of God in [these promises]? If so, are you not willing to perform the part God has intended you to perform to produce such glorious results? Which is: carrying the Gospel to the seed of Joseph."

GMBA GMBA News

By Brother Jack Lovalvo

Growing up in the Church, I was constantly surrounded by older role models. Thanks to my parents and their efforts to get me to every campout and conference, I grew close to groups of young people that helped me get through the trials of everyday life as a teenager.

When I started my junior year of college in 2019, I had a new life ahead of me. This was my first semester at Syracuse University as I had moved there to finish my degree. After the first few weeks of classes, my focus quickly shifted, with little time spent in between for the Lord. I had experienced a complete culture shock, where the routine that I had followed my entire life changed. As a 20-year-old, I was alone without my family. MBA on Wednesday and Church on Sunday turned into putting off school work any way I could and sleeping in late on weekends.

This was the first time in my life that I felt like I was a different person.

One evening while waiting in line at the dining hall, I was randomly reminded of a core memory I had experienced at a campout a few years prior. I quickly ate and ran back to my room to text the person I shared this memory with, feeling excited to reconnect after years of no communication. Shortly after I sent a text message to this sister, we quickly picked up right where we had left off years prior.

As our conversation continued, I began to explain what I was going through personally, and how it had affected my spiritual walk with God. I always had time to fix my eyes on the Lord, but I had created excuses to stop doing it routinely.

(Continued on page 11)

Isaiah 53

By Brother Duane Lovalvo

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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: 6899 Bayshore Dr Lake Worth, FL 33462.

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO: 6899 Bayshore Dr., Lake Worth, FL 33462.

I was struck, recently, by the words of Isaiah in the 53rd Chapter. There are few, if any, Old Testament prophets that describe the Lord so vividly as this humble man who lived eight centuries before the birth of Christ. Nephi stated that ALL the prophets foretold the coming of the Savior. But we are left to wonder how much prophetic clarity has been lost with the removal of the “plain and precious” things from the original Biblical text so many centuries ago. Thank God the words of Isaiah have been preserved!

Isaiah 53:2 says, regarding our Lord, “...he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him there is no beauty that we should desire him.” I hate to say this, but it’s very apparent that Jesus didn’t look like a movie star. God did not and does not want mankind to follow Him for any other reason other than He is the Son of God.

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our face from him...” (Isaiah 53:3) When Christ walked throughout the Holy Land He was often thronged by thousands of people. Many sought healings. Others were attracted to His authority and the truth of His words. No doubt, many others came to see if He would perform any miracles. But in the end, when things got difficult, they all left Him. Even the disciples ran away when the guards finally “captured” Him in the Garden of Gethsemane.

“Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...but he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:4-5) We all know the story of Christ’s suffering. He was beaten and buffeted, they pressed a crown of thorns on His head, and He was whipped mercilessly (creating bloody stripes on his body). But as the prophet says, we have received a great blessing through the Lord’s sufferings. All of our sin, all our problems, all our afflictions can be given to Jesus. That’s why we often hear ministers say, “Give it ALL to Jesus!” Christ Himself told us, “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb so he opened not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7) When Jesus was brought before the Chief Priest, He said nothing. When Pontius Pilate asked Him to defend Himself, He said nothing. When Pilate offered to release Him, the people called for Barabbas...and Jesus said nothing. All of this was necessary to fulfill the will of God.

“And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no evil, neither was any deceit in his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:9) On that great and terrible day, Jesus Christ was nailed to His cross and “lifted up” for the world to see. Two thieves (the wicked) were crucified with Him. He begged the Father to forgive His tormentors. In the end He cried out, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” signifying that He bore this all alone. Yet, He never uttered angry or bitter words. His body was placed in a rich man’s tomb (Joseph of Arimathea).

“Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:12) They said He was possessed with a devil. They accused Him of being a sinner, worthy of death, because He claimed to be the Son of God. But He proved them wrong and arose, out of the grave, winning a tremendous victory over death. And through His resurrection, the souls of all men and women will at some time be reunited with their bodies once again. And they will find Him there, standing at the Bar of God, making a claim for His followers.

Abinadi described this moment perfectly, “Having ascended into heaven, having the bowels of mercy; being filled with compassion towards the children of men; standing betwixt them and justice; having broken the bands of death...” (Mosiah 15:9).

Resurrection Stories

What is your resurrection story? How did Jesus touch your life and ultimately cause you to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ?

"He touched my life through the spirit of the saints. They were filled with the Holy Spirit in humility." -Brother Anthony Micale, Mt. Laurel, NJ Branch

"I was on an outreach trip, administering food to the needy. On my way home, I began to have a repentant spirit upon me and great joy of that feeling came into my heart." -Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch

"I haven't been baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ, but I was baptized in another church. However, I did want to share my resurrection story. Jesus has been very good in my life. I grew up in a Christian home, going to church every week, and considered myself a good Christian. That being said, there was a disconnect with God. After attending The Church of Jesus Christ, I felt a love and acceptance that was amazing. I felt the love of God more than before! Since then, the relationship with God has grown stronger than ever before. I feel loved and accepted now, and I know that He is always there for me." - Logan Smith, Oldham County, KY Mission

"At age 18, I began to search for God's purpose in my life. One evening I accompanied my mother as she went to the church building to practice music with the Quintet singing group. I sat in the front pew and listened to them practicing songs for the upcoming Sunday service. As I listened, my eyes were fixed on the communion table in front of me and specifically the inscription "This Do in Remembrance of Me." These words seemed to leap off the table and entered into my heart. I felt the Lord call me at that moment. Shortly after, I requested baptism. While standing at the river bank getting ready to go into the waters, my back was turned towards my mother. Within herself she said to the Lord, "But he's just a boy?" The Lord then spoke to her "That is how you see him... but that is not how I see him." I was baptized, and we came back to the church building where I was confirmed by the laying on of hands of the ministry. After the confirmation prayer and while embracing the brothers, the gift of tongues came forth and the interpretation immediately followed... 'Retain in your heart, My child, the promise you have made unto Me, and I will give you a place of rest.'" -Brother Patrick Monaghan, Columbus, OH Branch

"I was contemplating baptism as I began to realize and appreciate the beauty of the Gospel: restored to its fullness and established around the world, we are one and the same. This topic was reintroduced during a youth seminar with our brother evangelists months later. The next day, a brother preached about all the wonderful gifts of the Lord and the promise He made to us if we obey His commandment to repent. I prayed continually through my stubbornness. The following Wednesday night I promised the Lord I would ask for my baptism if the lesson was going to be about baptism. Surely it was! Praise God I was born again on September 22, 2019." - Brother Andrew Tenorio, Edison, NJ Branch

"I came to know The Church of Jesus Christ at the age of 10, but through the years, I would come and go. At my lowest, I just felt like a burden to everyone; I wanted to end it all because I just ruined everything, it seemed. One Sunday, Sister Donna Pepe was being ordained a deaconess. A beautiful Spirit was in the branch from the singing to the visions that were had, and the message God had for us, and I had my own experience too. It was the best decision I've ever made, for a better redeemed life to start my relationship with God has been such a huge miracle and blessing!" -Sister Heather Duran, Forest Hills, FL Branch

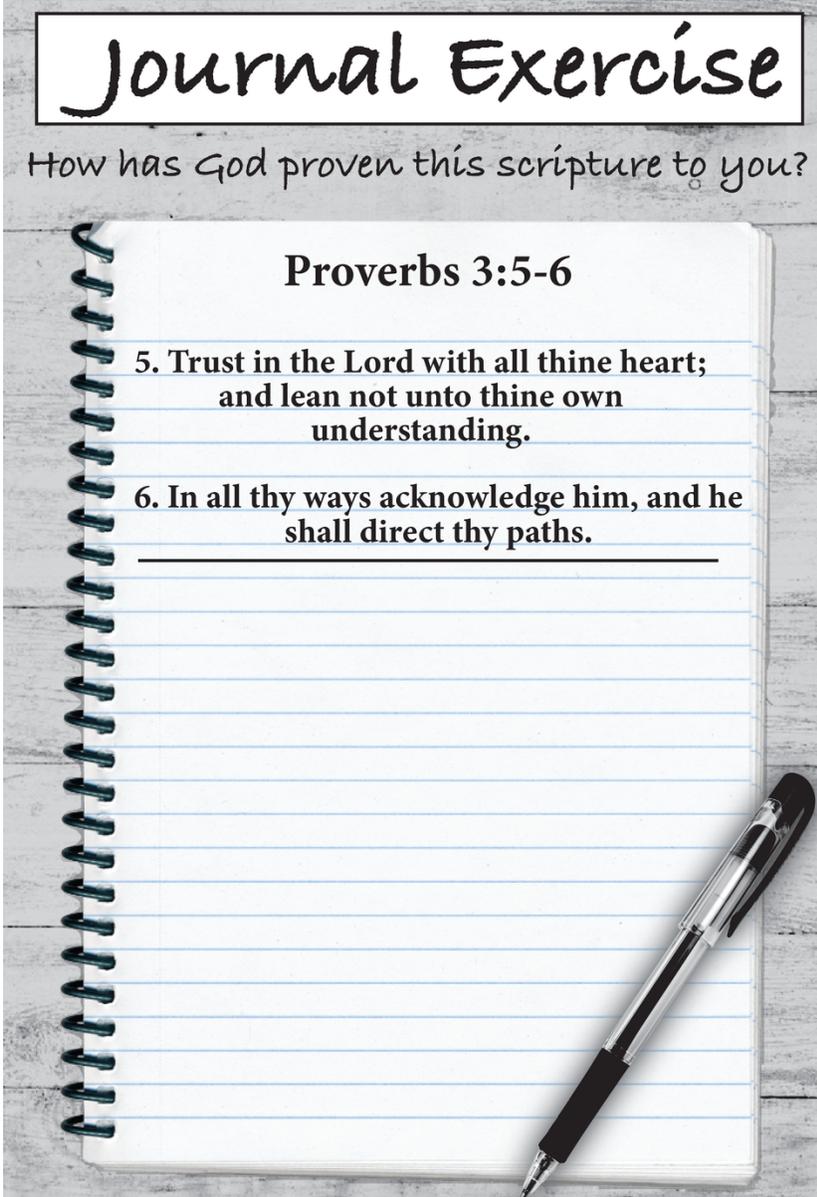
"I was raised in the Church. The first time the Lord called me I was 14 years old. I ran as fast as I could away. It was almost 6 years later when He called again. This time I was at home wrapping Christmas gifts. I remember stopping and going outside on the porch and looking up at the sky and talking to the Lord about what His Spirit was telling me. I'd been living a life far from what He wanted, and I was ready to turn it around and give my life to Him. That same night the Lord gave my grandfather, Clarence Kirkpatrick, a dream about me. He told him if I returned to the life I'd been living I would die. I began to visit the branches with my grandparents and separated myself completely from my previous way of life, and about a month later I asked for my baptism. I've always said when the Lord wants you it doesn't always happen in a church service. He speaks to us right where we are. I just celebrated my 45th spiritual birthday on January 29. I'm so thankful God didn't give up on me." -Sister Jan Offet, Bell, CA Branch

"After attending for 5 years, becoming involved in the Church's auxiliary groups, and visiting the Native American missions in Ontario, Canada I desired baptism at the age of 16. I had experienced God's Spirit in the meetings and asked for my baptism during an evening service at GMBA Campout in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1971. God protected me from many dangers as a child, guided my school and life decisions, and has been faithful to me all of these almost 52 wonderful years." -Sister Cindy Henderson, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

I've grown up in the Church my whole life, and I knew I wanted to be baptized someday, but never knew when. About 2 years ago, I remember 2 Sundays in a row where the message was on baptism, and one of my peers was called. I remember feeling like I was called, but I fought it and held back. I then started to really pray about when my time would be. When there would be times in a service where I thought it would be good to ask for my baptism, I would think, 'Oh, this family member isn't here,' or not today. I'll wait.' During January of 2022, my mom challenged me to read the whole Book of Mormon. As I would read late at night, something would stick out to me and get me excited about baptism, but by morning the feeling had gone. I also thought that I had to fix certain problems in my life before I asked. In June 2022, I remember hearing the GMBA podcast of Brother Larry Watson telling how God spared him from a Russian prison. He was talking about how having a spirit of repentance was key to baptism. I felt like he was speaking right to me. That night I couldn't sleep, so I read some scripture. I read 2nd Nephi 28:32- "Wo be unto the Gentiles, saith the Lord God of Hosts! For notwithstanding I shall lengthen out mine arm unto them from day to day, they will deny me; nevertheless, I will be merciful unto them, saith the Lord God, if they will repent and come unto me; for mine arm is lengthened out all the day long, saith the Lord God of Hosts." In that moment, I realized that I would still sin and be imperfect, yet God was still merciful and wanted me to come to Him. I knew then that God had been calling me for a long time, and that it was my choice to accept his calling. So, at 1:00 AM on a Wednesday morning, I told my parents that I wanted to be baptized! (They were shocked that it was 1:00 AM but very excited). I then thought about when I would be baptized. That weekend I and some of our youth were going to Pinetop YIA. For the next couple of weeks, a lot of my peers would be gone for church events across the country. So, we planned to have my baptism that same day, in our Wednesday night service. On Wednesday night, June 8 2022, I was baptized by my father, Bro. Scott Griffith and confirmed by my grandfather, Bro. Ron Genaro. That weekend our group went to YIA and had such a blessed time out there. I had prayed asking how could God use me there if I wasn't baptized? God answered my prayer, and I am so grateful that He welcomed me into his kingdom, imperfect. There were many confirmations that my baptism was going to happen, and I praise God for His blessings toward me. God is good." -Brother Wesley Griffith, Forest Hills, FL Branch

"Jesus touched my life at a Sunday Service in 1995 while attending the Hollywood Branch. I was a very shy person; I didn't like speaking in front of crowds. The Spirit was on me so strong that my seat was on fire. I kept denying getting up asking for my baptism. The service continued and finally God touched me in such a mighty way I couldn't control myself, I had to get up and ask to be baptized. That was the best decision I made in my life. The reason I kept holding back was because I was a senior in high school, I had all these thoughts of the things I wanted to do that were worldly. Brother Paul DiNardo baptized me in July of 1995. The Hollywood Branch will always be in my heart. Thank God for His grace and mercies; that's what kept me all these years." -Sister Katrina Hopkins, Quincy, FL Branch

Over the years we have written often about the benefits of gratitude and journaling. This month we are starting a new interactive section which includes a journal prompt. Use this space to journal your response.



Journal Exercise

How has God proven this scripture to you?

Proverbs 3:5-6

5. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
Love

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

Fruit of the Spirit: Love

By SisterCarolynn O'Connor

Our next Topic Series will be on the Fruit of the Spirit. We have asked nine sisters to bring each of the Fruits to life over the next several months. In Galatians 5:22-23 Paul lists the Fruit of the Spirit as: **Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance**

Love is listed first, and appropriately so. When asked what the greatest commandment was, the answer was given in Mathew 22:37-39, "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love thy Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The simplicity of the answer where ALL things are rolled into these two commandments strikes me every time; but thinking further, are there only two instructions here, or are there really three directives listed instead? Is it also important to love YOURSELF?

As I began writing this article about love, I was wondering what I have to offer on this subject that has not already been said. I stopped writing and began listening to the Saturday night Evangelist meetings in Irvine and Brother Chat Young mentioned something that really caught my attention: He explained that in order to fulfill the command to Love God above all and your neighbor as yourself, you actually need to Love YOURSELF! Was I missing this the entire time? When you think about it, how much love are you required to give your neighbor if you don't really love yourself? The answer is very little, and likely not what God had hoped for when he told us to love thy neighbor as thyself. How do you learn to love yourself to adequately follow the commandment?

After some contemplation I realized that the answer is really simple: God made you just as you are. Ephesians 2:10 says "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." We are God's handiwork, and He would not make something that was unable to be loved or to show the love necessary.

He sees your faults, struggles, and imperfections and loves you still. Follow His example and love yourself, accept yourself and your faults. Maybe you are not the best writer, or you don't have the strongest singing voice, or maybe you struggle with a disability, health challenge, or addiction.

Maybe you are quick to judge, you find it hard to focus when reading scripture, or you have a hard time fasting. That's all ok, continue to work on your faults and challenges of course, because sometimes those get in the way of you being your best self, but recognize where your strengths are and feel gratitude for those things that you do well. Maybe you are always the first to help someone in need, first to volunteer or attend every meeting, and always cleaning up at the branch. Maybe you are great at organizing events or taking care of the finances. All of it counts, and God can use you. Recognize your contribution and love yourself. All our talents are needed to bring the Gospel forward.

For almost everything we individually lack, there is a person in the scriptures that had the same issue and was used by God in some way. Some lacked faith, some were greedy, others had physical disabilities, could not speak well, or were selfish, but God worked with all of them.

It says that for some, He healed their imperfection, but in many other situations they continued to struggle with these challenges, yet God used them for amazing things. Maybe the difference or the reason they were chosen was the love that they showed God and their neighbors in return.

Love the amazing, beautiful person that you are. You have so much to offer. God chose you despite your faults and gave you the Holy Spirit to make up for where you individually struggle. Be kind to yourself. Don't look back; there is nothing you can do to change the past. Look forward towards the ways God can use you. Give yourself grace, and then follow His commandment and extend that same love to God and your neighbors. Don't let your view of yourself limit what you have to offer. Amazing blessings await!

Interviews with the House of Joseph

By Apostle Jerry Valenti

If you were able to go back in time and conduct interviews with different members of the House of Joseph who are mentioned in the scriptures, they would probably share with you their prophecies of future events regarding their descendants. Here are 5 amazing facts that quote some of those prophecies. Think of it as the House of Joseph of the past weighing in on the House of Joseph of the current day.

1 Lehi (Brought family from Jerusalem to Americas) – After reading the plates of brass and finding a genealogy of his fathers that told him that he was a descendant of Joseph: “These plates of brass [will] go forth unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people who [are] of [my] seed. These plates of brass [will] never perish; neither [will] they be dimmed any more by time.” (1 Nephi 5:18-19)

2 Nephi (Son of Lehi) – “Many generations after the Messiah shall be manifested in body unto the children of men, then shall the fulness of the Gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed –

And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord” (1 Nephi 15:13-14).

3 Joseph of Egypt (One of 12 Sons of Israel) – “A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins...and unto him will [the Lord] give power to bring forth [His] word unto the [House of Joseph] – and not to the bringing forth my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them” (2 Nephi 3:6,11).

4 Moroni (Captain of the Nephite army) – After writing the “Title of Liberty” on a torn

piece of cloth: “We are a remnant of the seed of Joseph, whose coat was rent by his brethren into many pieces; Even as [a] remnant of [that] garment [was] preserved, so shall a remnant of the seed of [Joseph] be preserved by the hand of God, and be taken unto himself” (Alma 46:23-24).

5 Ether (Jaredite Historian) – “A New Jerusalem [shall] be built up upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph... and blessed are they who dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb; and they are they who are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph, who [are] of the house of Israel” (Ether 13:6,10).

Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Don't go to the tomb. He is risen!

By Sisters Marty Jumper and Kathy Palensar

For many years, every Easter morning, the members of the Aliquippa Branch would get a phone call from Brother Feo Rossi saying, “Don't go to the tomb. He is risen!” How blessed we are to know that to be true. Loosely stated, the Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ is to bring that good news of the Gospel to all nations and to focus on the indigenous peoples of the Americas. A great place to start is with the children. As written in Proverbs 24:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

The Ladies' Uplift Circle has been a strong supporter of the Church's work with the Seed of Joseph, especially with Vacation Bible Schools. We reached out to several of our Circle Sisters and asked them to share their experiences as they participate in the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. This interview is with Sister Kathy Palensar from Lakeside, Arizona, who is the Southwest Area Ladies' Circle President.

A Conversation with a Missionary Sister

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

Sister Kathy: Well, I grew up and was raised right next to the Navajo Reservation. So I was among the Navajo people from birth until 19 when I moved to Albuquerque, NM, to go to college. I ended up moving to Phoenix/Mesa, AZ, for a few years where I got married and finished school. Then my husband and I lived in Florida while he finished his degree. We then moved to Lakeside, AZ, in 2006, right near the White Mountain Apache Reservation, and have been working with the Apache people ever since.

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?

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Have You Ever Had A Friend? Have You Ever Needed a Friend? Jesus Is a Friend Who Is Always There!

Dear Girls and Boys,

Did you ever notice the way a happy little group of young children join together easily to play? I love how a child will run up and copy the others, and they are instantly friends. Maybe they play side by side at first. Maybe they're running together, digging in the sand, throwing a ball, or poking at bugs with long sticks. The part I love to see is how friendly and kind they are, how they accept each other.

We need to keep being accepting and kind like that when we grow up. We are not supposed to be thinking we are better than others or be afraid of others for no reason. God and our Jesus love each of us, all nations, colors, and whatever place in life we have. And God made us all different!

In 2 Nephi 26:33 Nephi teaches us that God says all are alike and he invites everyone to come unto him...black and white, bond (servants) and free, male and female and he remembers the heathen (those who do not know about God and his laws).

In fact, God did not even want us all to be all alike, or He would have made it so. Think. What if everyone was all alike? We'd look like an army of robots. How would we even know which person was our mom, or our dad? How boring, how strange.

Your friends will not be perfect. Love them anyway. Forgive them. Talk out any problems. You are not perfect either. But don't you want to be loved? Don't you want to be forgiving too? Learn to truly say you are sorry, and be forgiven.

The Apostle Paul teaches us in a message he gives to the Ephesians (Chapter 4:32), "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

That means when your friend annoys you or even is unkind, you will forgive them. You will make your heart soft, not hard, and you will be kind. You will give them another chance.

You also can make new friends all your life. My mother, Sister Mary Rich, broke her leg and ended up in a wheelchair in a special

home. Yet at age 92, she was still a kind-hearted, wise, listening person and made new friends!

One of her wealthy, but lonely, new friends knew she was going to die soon from an illness. She asked my mother if she would sit with her at night because she was afraid to die alone. My mother said yes, held her hands, and prayed with her night after night, and was blessed to help her new friend until she passed away. I was so touched by my mother teaching me that I can be useful and helpful and kind wherever I am and no matter how old I am! We each can be like that too. Kind, praying friends to the end!

We are supposed to love one another. We are supposed to reach out with kindness to everyone we meet, even if we are a little shy or worried they'll reject us. Jesus taught us the greatest commandment is "Love God with all your heart, your soul and with all your mind. And the second greatest commandment is "You shall love your neighbor like yourself!" (See Matthew 22-37-39.)

We can have many, many friends throughout our lives. This week be kind to someone new. Accept someone different than you with a smile, or let him or her join your game. Help them! Thank the mailman, a teacher who helps you, or the person at the grocery store.

Before you take the best of something for yourself, think about the other person. Would they like it too? Can you love them as you do yourself? Share, be kind. Have fun. This big old world is full of people of all ages who are kind, interesting, fun, and nice, and would be a loyal friend! Find a new friend this month. Shine the light of Christ, which is in you. Follow the directions of Jesus. You won't be sorry; your world will get bigger and better!

With love,
Your friend—Yes

Sister Jan

Scan the QR Code to craft with Sister Jan Bork and friends! To scan the link, just open your camera on your phone and hold it over the code and the video will come up.



(Continued from page 4)

She then implored me to “Make Time to Reconnect.” Through our conversation, I was reminded of all the things I had gone through, and how I was delivered out of them only because of the Lord’s intervention.

Moving forward, I made it a mission for myself that there shouldn’t be a day that goes by where I can’t do at least one thing to remind myself of the Lord’s greatness.

When you can seek the Lord first, you will see growth in all facets of life. For all that He’s done for me in the three years since then, He deserves praise daily. This is one of countless instances where a brother or sister from the Church made an impact on my life. A simple reminder that day from a dear friend in Christ helped me get back to where I needed to be.

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Sister Kathy: The Lakeside branch had VBS in the past but had stopped for a while. I believe it restarted back in 2007, and we have had one every year since. I try to be very involved in the planning process as well as actively participating in it every year. We try to have the VBS the first or second week in June. And typically, we have a few people support it from out of the area, but it is mainly run by members of our local branch. We have a van or two that we drive down to White River every day to pick up the kids that want to participate. We typically get between 25-40 kids. I have also participated in the VBS in San Carlos every year, up until 2020 when COVID started.

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 Kathy: Yes, we do have an active Ladies’ Circle. We meet every other Wednesday night. We have about 10 ladies that come in person and about 2 or 3 that join on Zoom. We have different sisters who take turns presenting a lesson for the group. Every year we plan a Ladies’ Circle tea party, usually in the spring, a craft night, and a Christmas dinner.

GLUC: Has your history with The Ladies’ Circle influenced your missionary work in any way?

Sister Kathy: Any Ladies’ Circle meetings that I have been a part of growing up were focused on the missionary work of the Church. Activities were focused on the native people we lived near.

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

Sister Kathy: There are so many, but the one that comes to mind is when I was asked to teach a lesson to the sisters when I was a young teen. I knew I was too young to have anything that would be new to the sisters, but they encouraged and loved me and made me feel like I had an important part to play in the Ladies’ Circle.

GLUC: What do you notice about the Indigenous ladies with whom you work through The Ladies’ Circle?

Sister Kathy: These ladies want to feel a part of our branch congregation. They have something to contribute, and want to feel important just like all of us.

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

Sister Kathy: I am just so excited to have a small part in what the Lord is going to do with the Seed of Joseph. I can’t wait to see God’s hand move! I don’t want to miss any of it. My word of encouragement is to try and make an effort to be a part of the VBS on a reservation. It will change your life. It has changed mine.

God bless you!

Blessing Bits

BB Power in the Blood - I'd been ordained a deaconess in the Mira Loma, California Mission. One Saturday morning, I went to clean the church building. Prior to cleaning, I'd always kneel to say a prayer. I started cleaning in the sanctuary and, once finished, moved into the kitchen to sweep. As I was sweeping, I got a splinter in a finger on my left hand. I tried everything to remove the splinter, but nothing that I tried worked. After a week of having this splinter in my finger, I started to notice that the site was becoming infected and swollen. That Sunday, as Brother Ken Jones was passing The Lord's Supper, he handed me the wine glass. As I took a sip, a drop of wine fell onto my infected finger and right then and there, I felt a tingling and saw that the infection and swelling had gone away. The Lord had allowed a healing to occur! It's a blessing that I'm reminded of many times as I partake in this holy ordinance. -Sister Lorraine Larmore, Hemet, CA Branch

BB Bridging the Distance - Living in Oregon, far away from any branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, has always left us with a desire for more contact with our spiritual family. When COVID hit in 2020 isolating us all, it gave my mother and me the gift of weekly Zoom classes and meetings with the saints — the one thing we'd desperately needed. All of these years later, our Wednesday night group continues to meet on Zoom so that we can enjoy that

fellowship. We've all become closely involved in each other's personal and spiritual lives. We've become prayer warriors for each other, holding each other up before the Lord no matter the physical distance between us. While we have shared losses, we have also shared tremendous blessings as we continue to pray and study together. What a beautiful gift to be so physically removed, but feel so close to our brothers and sisters! -Sister Janie Offet, Eugene, OR Outpost

BB How Can I Ever Sufficiently Praise Him? - I fell while at the doctor's office and was immediately sent to the emergency room. Medical personnel conducted an MRI and found multiple lesions on my head and neck. I was given a diagnosis of multiple myeloma. I saw several more doctors and all the tests read the same — cancer. I was anointed at Church and continued with my appointments. I needed one more round of bloodwork before beginning treatment with the oncologist, but prior to my appointment, I received a phone call from him. He told me that although I have these lesions on my bones, the bloodwork shows they are not cancerous. I do not have multiple myeloma. I never went to the oncologist, and today I am cancer free. I am truly blessed and count my many blessings each day! -Sister Nancy DiFede, San Diego, 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.

Q

Question for this month: Name three things that your mother did that you try to emulate.

A

Answer from last month: What is your resurrection story? How did Jesus touch your life and ultimately cause you to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ?

Turn to page 6&7 for answers.

"He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star. He's the Fairest of Ten Thousand to my soul." — Saints Hymnal 230