

The Gospel News

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Celebrating One Hundred Years

By Sister Karen Progar, Historian

When this year began, the General Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ had a plan to celebrate its 100th Anniversary at the Fellowship Weekend that was to take place in Arizona at the end of April. Sadly, as we all know, COVID-19 cancelled plans for many activities. I am sure that we will celebrate formally when we are together in person again, but Sister Lisa Champine, our President, decided to host a Zoom Meeting on the day (May 2, 2020) we were to have our banquet. Here's a little of the joy we felt to be together, if only virtually!

Sister Gelsa Staley, Vice President provided our devotions for the meeting, using Philippians 4:11-13, speaking of being content in no matter what state we may be in and realizing that we can do all things through Christ, our strength giver.

Our meeting was a joyful celebration of our history, with an emphasis on the present, while celebrating our beautiful past. The meeting featured five keynote speakers. It should be noted that none of our speakers knew the others' topics, and the Lord provided a beautiful and cohesive program for us to enjoy.

Sister Erin Light talked to us about "Reclaiming our Joy". Sister Alicia Draskovich followed on a complementary theme, "Abounding in Hope". She used Romans 15:13 as her scriptural reference, which states in part, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...."

The whole group participated in an interactive quiz on our history. Here are the questions and correct answers:

- Brother who had the initial experience and encouraged Sister Sadie Cadman to proceed with the organization - Brother Alexander Cherry
- Location of the First General Circle Conference held on September 23, 1920 with 13 sisters in attendance - The home of Sister Sadie Cadman
- Sister who held her Circle Office for the longest period of time - Sister Mary Wilson (secretary)
- First Donation to The Church of Jesus Christ - \$20.00

(Continued on page 7)









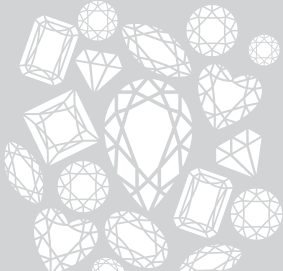
100 years and 5 eras of leadership

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle

Welcome and thank you for coming!
We'll begin shortly.

100

General Ladies' Uplift Circle
100 Years of Leadership

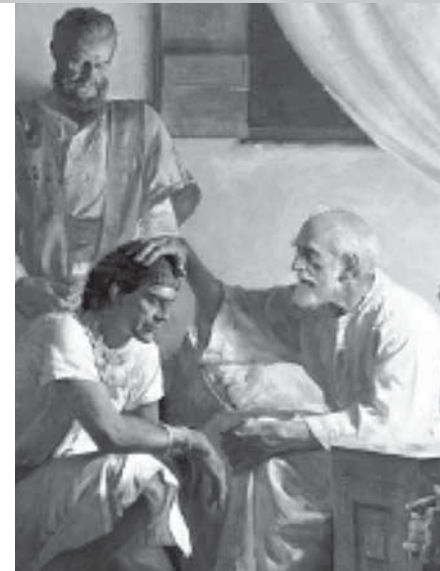
	<p>These diamonds represent the interactive celebration we are having for the 100th year of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle.</p>		<p>Fill in some of the blanks below with answers you can find in this Gospel News issue or go Jeopardy-style and fill in the questions.</p>
<p>Brother who had the initial experience and encouraged Sister Sadie Cadman to proceed with the organization.</p> <p>_____</p>		<p>\$20.00</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 23, 1920 • 13 sisters in attendance • The home of Sister Sadie Cadman <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>		<p>Location of first Circle organized outside of the U.S.</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Wakpala, South Dakota</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>		<p>El Círculo de Elevación de Damas was loosely organized in 1987 in Mexicali and in 1988 in T.J. Then in 2017 it was formally organized with offices, locals, areas and muchas hermanas hermosas.</p>	

BFTIP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

Eighty-five years ago this month, at the General Conference of 1935 in Cleveland, Ohio, Church President W.H. Cadman urged the ministry to stand up and "be men" in taking the Gospel to the Native American People. Brother Cadman used the scripture found in 2 Nephi 1:21 when Lehi blessed and admonished his sons before his death, "Arise from the dust, my sons, and be men, and be determined in one mind and in one heart, united in all things, that ye may not come down into captivity." Brother Cadman admonished the conference to not be slow in performing our duty and asked, "Is it not time we were doing something worthwhile?" (Source: A History of the Church of Jesus Christ by W.H. Cadman, page 235)

The Songs of Zion, Send Hunters and Fishers: "Call out the hunters and fishers to find them. Fish with the sunlight, and hunt with the moon, And run thru the caves and the rocks that surround them. Bring back My people, oh, bring them home soon."





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.



“No -Ite” Zone

By Elder Doug Obradovich

“All mine are thine, and thine are mine” – (John 17:10)

Spiritual unity is achievable. But when we venture

into other facets of our lives, such agreement is challenging; maybe even impossible. In John 17, Jesus identifies us as His own (“mine”) and further identifies us as God’s also (“thine”). If we humbly accept being His and His Father’s, why is it so difficult to be one another’s?

Joseph’s brothers fought him over sibling rivalry. Paul opposed Peter over favoritism (Jew vs Gentile). Saul tormented David over petty jealousy. Today’s unprecedented exposure makes harmony more problematic than ever before. Weekly headlines bring divisiveness framed by skin color, politics, ethnicity, gender, culture, age, economics, religion, and even healthcare. The Word continually warns not to succumb to such underminings:

- **Philippians 2:2** – “Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”
- **Romans 12:16** – “Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.”
- **1 Corinthians 1:10** – “Speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
- **1 Peter 3:8** – “Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.”

My joy. Likeminded. One accord. Not high things. Condescend. Own conceits. No divisions. Compassion. Courteous.

Perusing social media might confound one’s rectifying such scripture with the posts of those who are “mine” and “thine.” Too often these are

predicated upon identities other than “Saint,” which can be as simple as political designations. If all feel aligned with God’s intended views, and society is split 50-50, these immediately separate, with half the readers = instantaneous division!

Paul writes, “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8). Post these things!

Continual peace was achieved for 167 years in the Americas 1,800 years ago: “There was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people” (4 Nephi 15). Hidden within verse 17 verse lies the secret: “Neither were there Lamanites, nor any manner of -ites; but they were in one, the children of Christ.”

No -ites of any kind. Not Republican-ite. Not Democrat-ite. Not Italian-ite. Not Anglo-ite. Not white-ite. Not black-ite. Not brown-ite. Not male-ite. Not female-ite. Not old-ite. Not young-ite.

“They were IN ONE = THE CHILDREN OF CHRIST!”

Over 167 years, the Saints were unwilling to jeopardize their highest calling as “HEIRS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD” (v. 17). They understood that anything opinion-based was an area of separation and would fail in reaching the mark. They accepted their greatest calling as “mine” and “thine” as fact-based. Their standing before God spoke to truth, honesty, purity, loveliness, virtue, and praise. They refused to give into “any manner of -ite.”

Might we re-establish and dwell within a “NO -ITE” zone!

How to Stop Worrying & Fear (In a World of Uncertainties) *By Elder Humphrey Inwe- Lagos, Nigeria*

Text - Luke 12:31 **Main Scripture** - Matthew 6: 25-34, Helaman 12:1-3 **Memory Verse** - Philippians 4:6-7, Alma 34:15-16

Have you been worrying about anything lately? Have you been afraid? Most of us have. These are worrisome times. In today's world, the struggles and strivings of life have become the *new normal*. The scriptures in this message expose the *attitude of the majority*, where a *passion to accumulate wealth* and the *desire for more possessions* not only give birth to *greed* and *selfishness*, but cause us to worry about things we need, strive for things we desire, crave things we want and fight to gain more "things" in the struggle to survive, thereby giving birth to corruption that has destroyed nations and has caused serious moral bankruptcy.

However, the truth of these *verses* is staggering, when we accept and apply it. Our *minds should not be fixed on life's problems and perplexities* but should be fashioned in the likeness of the **Heavenly Man** - "*Jesus... said... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except, a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God*"- **John 3:3**. The nature of a Christian therefore should not have *anxious thoughts and futile strivings, in various guises and disguises; it is a sin that reflects unbelief in God's gracious promises of provision* - **Matthew 6:34**. How much more important is it then that we should praise and thank God that we have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and forgiven of the sins we commit or omit.

Our Lord's simple lesson about the birds of the air and flowers of the field also exposes the futility of *anxious strivings* and *futile cravings*, for God provides for the simple sparrow and clothes the lovely lily of the field in magnificent beauty. *Worry is a fruitless exercise* and too often has a **detrimental effect on the home, family, and our health**, for *anxious thoughts cannot achieve anything* and are likely to increase *fretfulness, spawn fear, and cause illnesses*.

Redemption is not only the forgiveness of sins committed in our bodies. It is also being clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

Redemption is becoming fully and increasingly identified with the very nature and mind of the Lord Jesus Himself. **Redemption** is becoming so fully identified with Christ Jesus our Lord that we can say with Paul... *that the life that I now live in this mortal body is not me... (my old former self, my old-man, my Adamic sin-nature)*, it is not me that lives and influences my life choices and thoughts, but the *indwelling Spirit of Christ*, Who has sway and influence on my *newly 'born-again' human spirit* - **2 Corinthians 10:5**.

Jesus lived a life encompassed by problems and perplexities, sorrow and scorn, disappointments and disease, rejection, hatred, and contempt, but He lived an exemplary life that was free from worry. **Why was the Lord Jesus free from worry?** Well, **His every thought was captive to His Father**. *Every difficulty he faced was immediately given to His Father in prayer, through the indwelling Holy Spirit*. **(1)** All potential worry was overtaken by an unfeigned dependence on God, the Father. **(2)** All temptation was rebuffed by the never-changing Word of God, and **(3)** All difficulties were infused with a desire to do the Will of the Father, through a Spirit-led trust in God - **Isaiah 54:14, 2 Timothy 3:1**.

Although Jesus was fully God He lived His life fully as a Man. He demonstrated to us the way that God created us to live - in total dependence on Him, casting all our care on Him and seeking first the Kingdom of God, for His holy name's sake - **2 Nephi 32:3**. Rather than permitting our minds to be dragged down into the decay of the world, through *fretful worry and anxious thoughts*, **we should take every thought captive to Christ, and allow our hearts to ascend into heavenly places in Him, knowing that His way always turns out for the best** - especially when it differs from our own objectives! When we trust Him in

everything, His plan for our life becomes even better than the plans we make ourselves!

We must realize that **the testimony of a good conscience is the glory of a good man**.

Having a good conscience promotes joy. A good conscience is able to bear exceeding much, and is exceedingly joyful even in the midst of adversities; but an evil conscience is ever *fearful and unquiet*.

Rather than permitting worry to darken your heart and cloud your mind you should look to Jesus and seek the Saviour with all of your heart and soul and mind and strength - for He is not only your *Redeemer and King but is the personification and embodiment* of all that is the **Kingdom of Heaven** - for Jesus Christ is all in all - **1 Corinthians 1:26**.

Let us therefore seek first the **Kingdom of God** and **His righteousness**, by seeking Christ and setting our mind on the Lord Jesus and trusting Him in every circumstance of Life - even when we don't understand, for in so doing, the worry of the world will be replaced with the wisdom of the WORD, as our mind rests in Him - **Philippians 4:6-7**.

MY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, creator of the heaven and earth, You have shown us that every thought that comes into our mind can be turned to evil or good - worry and defeat or faith and victory.

We thank You that now we have access to the very mind of Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Help us to take every thought captive, by turning our mind to the Lord Jesus, for we know now that in seeking the Saviour we seek *Your Kingdom and Your Righteousness*, which is the foundation of faith in God and rest in Christ Jesus - we ask in Jesus' Precious Name, AMEN.

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Decisive or Divisive? *By Elder Anthony Scolaro*

"I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt; that: 'they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof.'" – from the Testimony of Joseph Smith

This divine message delivered 200 years ago left no room for doubt in Joseph's mind about joining any of the religions of that time. It was a decisive moment for him, one that required a revolutionary shift in his thinking. But it was a major milestone in the plan that God had ordained from the world's foundation. The ancient records that we now know as the Book of Mormon lay buried in a hillside not far from the Smiths' home, and it was God's due time for them to come forth.

A shift in thinking was likewise required when we (or our progenitors) joined The Church of Jesus Christ. At some point, accepting the Restored Gospel—like salvation itself—involved a decision to believe and receive what the Lord had revealed.

Over the years, some in the Church experienced rejection and persecution when they turned from former religions and past ways of life. The Bible records many instances where tribulation, persecution, and rejection befell God's servants; this occurred in our day as well. In other cases, friction developed not between the saints and unbelievers, but with other Christian believers, with doctrine being the divisive element. Whether in answering questions about our beliefs, or from being deliberately provoked, when discussions focus on differences they can lead to contention, which Jesus taught comes not from Him, but is of the devil (3 Nephi 11:29).

"He knows the time, the place..."

Sharing the Gospel, "planting and watering" (1 Corinthians 3:6), doesn't always require going into the history of the apostasy and restoration, at least not initially. It's more in the meat category than it is milk (Hebrews 5:12), and if care and discernment aren't exercised, Joseph Smith's testimony can be taken as an attack on people's beliefs, ending opportunities for further discussion. As the Lord did with Joseph Smith, with Saul (who became the Apostle Paul), and countless others who sought His truth, He knows the time, the place, and the means of turning each of us to it.

As we see spiritual warfare between good and evil escalating in today's world, I envision us being compelled to focus more on our commonality when encountering other believers in Christ. Jesus told His disciples who boasted about preventing someone outside their circle from doing miracles in His name, "Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us" (Luke 9:50). The need for restoration wasn't about the believers; the problem was with *institutions*, not *individuals*.

If the beauty and power of the Restored Gospel shine forth from us, they can have a decisive, not divisive, effect on people's lives. We rejoiced earlier this year when leaders of the Navajo Nation invited a group of our brothers and sisters, including the presidents of our General Church and Quorum of Seventy, to join them on a goodwill trip to Israel, along with representatives from other churches. That invitation was extended not from debating doctrine, but as the result of years—decades, actually—of putting into practice the blessed truths contained in the Gospel that Jesus restored.

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Leadership and Servanthood (April 1987)

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

It Is Written

This article is an attempt to show the results of Christian Leadership and Servanthood, as well as to show the dire consequences when these two very important characteristics become marred with avarice, arrogance, and self-righteousness. It is hoped that the reader will see that when men forget the teachings of our Savior, and indulge in their own selfishness and pride, the chastisement of God comes upon them and the loss of His Spirit and His gifts are the subsequent wages received.

This article is not intended for ministers only, but for every person who may aspire to leadership in The Church of Jesus Christ.

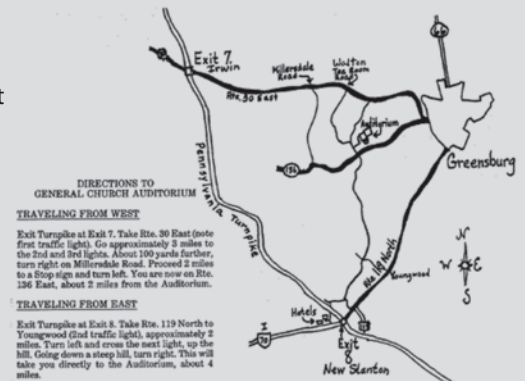
Contrary to the old cliché, "He's a born leader," I submit that no one is born with a total gift or attribute of leadership and servanthood, except where God has willed it so. He has decreed, however, that some men, in certain instances, should carry out His purposes, as Jermiah, of whom the Lord said that He had ordained him a prophet while he was still in his mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5). And, of course, the greatest of all, Jesus Christ, who was ordained before the world was, to be the Savior of all mankind (John 3:16, Isaiah 53). Other than the above instances, I believe that leadership and servanthood are learning processes. For example, no one is born an accomplished singer or musician. It takes years of hard, diligent study to develop a beautiful voice or master an instrument. One does not become a great opera singer or a concert pianist overnight. It involves dedication, perseverance, and much sacrifice to reach such a goal. Similarly, leadership and servanthood are not achieved without years of humble obedience to the Lord.

One cannot develop into a great leader unless one has learned to be a good follower; nor can one learn complete service to God until one has learned to serve others. Only by learning the ways of the Master first and applying them in his own life can a person achieve that goal of leadership and servanthood. A simple analogy is this: One has to serve an apprenticeship before becoming a journeyman. Jesus told His disciples that if they would aspire to greatness, they should learn to be servants (Matthew 20:26-27).

(Continued on page 7)

GOSPEL NEWS FACTS 1980S - Did you know...

1. In 1980, Brother Ken Lombardo designed a new letterhead for the Gospel News.
2. The General Church Printhouse in Detroit began printing the Gospel News in 1980. Previously, the Gospel News was printed by Bethlen Press, Inc.
3. The first World Missionary Conference was held in August 1983. Sister Rosanne J Scolaro (Champine) wrote an article about the exciting event.
4. A hand drawn map of directions to the General Church Auditorium was included in 1987.
5. In 1989, a Gospel News annual subscription was \$6.



Leadership and Servanthood

Continued from page 6

Moses, though he was raised in luxury and glory in the house of Pharaoh, had to learn humility by tending sheep for forty years (Acts 7:29-30). The apostles had to learn by being followers of Jesus in every respect. He gave them examples of love, compassion, forgiveness, and obedience. Peter wrote that Christ not only suffered for us, but left us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21). The Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to "let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Timothy 4:12). To Titus he wrote a wonderful letter, saying:

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. (Titus 2:7-8)

Peter and Paul, two great leaders of the Church, were teaching the essentials of leadership and servanthood.

Leadership is a combination of humility with firmness, and strength with resilience. It is written that Moses was the meekest man in Israel (Numbers 12:3), yet he was immovable in keeping the commands of God in their entirety. Likewise, a Church leader must be humble, yet allow no one to wrest the Word of God; nor can he allow himself to be inveigled into

compromising the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Humility and meekness do not necessarily indicate weakness; nor a resignation to adversities: but rather a resilient strength to face criticism and opposition and be able to "bounce back," as it were, and "turn the other cheek." Humility and meekness also indicate a willingness to submit to the will of God; to reconcile yourself to whatever is imposed upon you by the Lord. Paul's answer to the brethren who pleaded with him not to go to Jerusalem is a case in point: "...What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13). The same Paul, writing to the Corinthian community, said:

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (II Cor. 4:8-11)

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is filled with examples of persons endowed with that resilient strength gained through faith, "of whom," the writer says, "the world was not worthy."

Leadership involves a love for God and for the Church, a love for humanity, and a burden for the souls of men and women. A leader must feel

somewhat like Jeremiah, who in the anguish of his soul cried out, "Oh, that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people" (Jer. 9:1). A good leader should feel the burden for the sins of the people as Jeremiah did. He must have that inward yearning to gather souls for Christ and lead them closer to the Lord. He must feel the burden of the flock over which God has made him a shepherd. Job once said in his grief, "Did I not weep for him that was in trouble? Was not my soul grieved for the poor?" (Job 30:25). A good leader must possess a deep concern and love for humankind as expressed by Christ when He wept over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37).

A good leader has the ability to bring a church closer to Christ. He can do so by his Christian life and behavior. Paul instructs Timothy what to look for in a leader. He enumerates the qualifications in no uncertain terms (I Timothy 3:1-7). A good leader must share leadership responsibilities with others, not as a "lord," but in the spirit of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. He cannot assume that others are his servants, but must know that he is a servant of all. I submit that a leader should not take too much responsibility upon himself, as it has a tendency to open the door for Satan to step in and begin to fill him with self-importance, eventually bringing disaster on himself and his flock.

Celebrating One Hundred Years

Continued from cover

- Year The Gospel News introduced the column, "Our Women Today" - 1966
- Year the First General Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend was held - 1995
- The General Circle Conference Anniversary that was postponed - 25th (1945)
- The first Circle organized in Canada - Windsor
- Magazine that the Circle subscribed to - McCalls
- Location of the first International Circle organized (outside of the U.S. and Canada) - Africa
- Location of the first Circle on a Native American Reservation - Wakpala, SD
- Year that the subject of Questions first appeared in the minutes? - 1926

I then had the opportunity to share how my history in the Circle impacted my spiritual growth in the Church and the opportunity I was provided to serve the people of God.

Sister Angela Yoder spoke to us about our DNA, the Blueprint for our organizational structure, also focusing on our organization's history.

Our final speaker, Sister Terri Bravo, spoke to us of the courage and mission of Queen Esther to save her people, who came to the kingdom "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14), emphasizing that Esther had a dangerous mission that she willingly accepted with confidence in God.

Since on the Zoom platform we are able to see the other participants, it was truly a blessing in this time when we are missing the fellowship of the Saints. It seemed as though no one wished to end the afternoon. Sister Lisa afforded us the opportunity to testify. We were privileged to hear the testimonies from many of our sisters throughout the U.S., as well as Canada and Mexico. We heard much about how the Circle impacted their lives. We reluctantly closed a meeting that brought us joy in a time when we were so in need of each other's support. While this was not the Anniversary Party we had planned, it was surely an afternoon well spent in celebration of the Circle.

One Way to Study Scripture

By Sister Christine Martorana

Now that it is October, we are all back in school full swing. Some of us are taking classes virtually and others are in person. Either way, we have one thing in common: we need to study! When we have a test coming up or a new topic to learn, one of the best things we can do is to study the material that our teachers give us. Studying is how we make sure that we earn a good grade on the test or the assignment.

The same is true with scripture. If we want to earn a “good grade” with God, we need to understand the material that He has given us. This means that we need to study the scripture. We need to spend time with the Bible and Book of Mormon and really learn what God wants us to learn.

Just like when we study for school, there are different strategies for studying scripture. It is important to find the strategies that work for you. Below is one strategy you can try. It is called the SOAP Method. Although I did not make this up, I think it offers a helpful

framework we can use for our scripture studies.

S – SCRIPTURE

- Choose the scripture you want to read. This might range from a few verses to an entire chapter. Ask God to direct you. Read the scripture slowly. Don’t rush through it. Let God direct your attention to certain verses, phrases, and words. Write down what stands out to you.

O – OBSERVE

- Observe what God is showing you in this scripture. Write down the overall message of the reading. Are there any truths that God wants you to learn? Warnings? Commands? Guiding principles? What questions do you have about what you’ve read?

A – APPLY

- Now, apply what you’ve read and observed. Make it personal to your life. How does this affect you? Does it make you want to make a change? To understand something differently? Is this a reminder for you? Write down what God is prompting you to do, think, or feel.

P – PRAY

- Now that God has spoken to you, pray. It is your turn to speak back to God. Thank Him for this message, and ask Him to continue to help you with your studies. Ask Him to guide you as you implement what He has revealed to you.

Make it your goal to give the SOAP method a try within the next week. Hopefully, it will be one strategy you can use to help you study and understand God’s word.

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

Continued from back

Christ teaching the Sermon on the Mount. – *Sister Rosanne Champine, Detroit, Branch #1, MI*

The day of Pentecost – *Sister Sandy Capone, Irvine Branch, CA*

I would go with Nicodemus to visit Jesus. Asking him questions, listening to Him talk with Nicodemus, basking in His glory!!! – *Donna Pepe, Fort Worth, TX*

Jesus feeding the 5,000. I want to meet the young boy who gave his lunch to Jesus! – *Sister Theresa Bravo, Edison, NJ Branch*

The sign of the birth of Christ on this land. To see the sun go down and the sky stay as bright as mid-day all night long would be a sight to behold. And to stand next to Nephi and see his face light up with joy, knowing the prophecy had come to pass. That would be an awesome event to witness. – *Brother Rich Nath, Fort Worth, TX Branch*

I would love to have been there to see Jesus descend from heaven onto this land and to hear the Master’s voice and spend time with our precious Lord. – *Sister Patty Ignagni Machnik, Detroit, Branch #1, MI*

Back in Eden, when we could walk and talk with the Lord. – *Sister Juliette Coppa, Monongahela, PA Branch*

The transfiguration of Christ – *Sister Gail Bridges-Bright, Quincy, FL Branch*

3 Nephi 11, When Christ visited the people on this land. (But I’d want to make sure I arrived exactly then and not a minute earlier.) – *Brother Anthony Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch*

The woman who washed Christ’s feet with her tears. – *Sister Sharon Sloan, Atlanta, GA Branch*

5 Jesus is the Difference By Apostle Jerry Valenti

John Chapter 2 describes the first public miracle of Jesus in which He turned water into wine for a wedding feast. Anybody at that feast who knew the details would have seen that the difference between the beginning beverage and the ending beverage was Jesus. There are 5 amazing facts within this account that we can liken to our own spiritual walk, illustrating that Jesus is the difference in our lives.

1 Gathering of Disciples – Verse 2 notes that the disciples of Jesus were together at the wedding with Him. If we were just a random group of people today, it might be frightening to gather together due to virus concerns. However, as disciples of Jesus, we can gather with peace and confidence. What's the difference? Jesus is the difference.

2 Do What He Says – In verse 5, in preparation for the miracle, the servants are directed to Jesus and are instructed, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it". Some people find the Word of God not worthy of their time or attention. As servants of God, we hang on every word that comes from Jesus, knowing that we will be blessed in this life and in the life to come. What's the difference? Jesus is the difference.

3 Do Your Best, Jesus Does the Rest – In verse 7, the servants take the best they have (water) and fill the waterpots to the brim. In the verses that follow, the water has been converted to the best wine. How did plain water change to excellent wine? Jesus made the difference. We came to the Lord having done the best we could do (however insufficient) and He converted us into the sons and daughters of God. Even now, our human efforts are not worthy of a place in God's kingdom but yet we are worthy of that kingdom. Why? Because Jesus has made the difference.

4 The Best is Yet to Come – In verse 10, the governor of the feast states his surprise that the best wine has been saved for last. Of course, it's the best wine because

it came from Jesus. If you read today's news reports, the conditions in the country and the world sound very bleak. Yet, we excitedly look forward to the unfolding of latter-day prophecies and eventually the kingdom of God for eternity. Without Jesus, everything is bleak. With Christ, the best is yet to come.

5 Believe in Miracles – "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him" (verse 11). The purpose of miracles today is the same as it was when Jesus was on earth – they illustrate His glory and power. Sadly, many people can see a miracle occur and not believe that it has anything to do with God. We, on the other hand, go out of our way to attribute all good things to God. What's the difference? Jesus is the difference!



Ladies' Uplift Circle News

By Sister LuAnn Carson

Many people look to this verse for comfort and dwell on its promise. I love this verse! It means that I'll get good grades, find the perfect mate, be able to buy my dream home and car, have healthy children when I want, and everything will always work out according to my perfect plan. Hmmm. Wait a sec! We were in the middle of building our dream home when my husband lost his job that he held for over 30 years. I've seen good people suffer. Is this verse a lie!?!? Is it MY perfect plan that matters? Or God's?? Maybe I should examine the verse a little more

carefully. The phrase 'all things' is used. Can that mean ALL things, negative as well as positive?

In Ether 12:6 Moroni tells us, "ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith." A trial of faith would be an experience that tests faith. Moroni elaborates on his words by showing examples of men whose faith was tried. Alma and Amulek had to be cast into prison so that God could free them by causing the walls to tumble to earth. Moses, Lehi, Nephi, Abraham, the brother of Jared (to name a few) all had to exercise their faith through trials before God blessed them.

(Continued on page 11)

"And we know
that all things
work together
for good to those
who love God, to
those who are the
called according
to His purpose."
Romans 8:28



How Do We Face The Changes In Life?

I am so blessed. I sit in an air-conditioned house in a neighborhood where I do not feel afraid. I have enough food for a while and I have running water, electricity, showers and bathrooms. I truly miss my family, friends, and their hugs. But during this crisis, I can talk on the phone, go to Zoom meetings for Church and support, send a card, pray, and safely trust God for the future.

Can you imagine how scared the foolish people from the Tower of Babel felt? One day they were building a huge tower to reach God (See Genesis chapter 11 and Ether Chapters 1-6). God was not pleased so He touched them and suddenly their one language was changed into many. They could not communicate at all! They had to leave their big city! They scattered across the world. How did it feel? How were people acting when they had to start over?

The Brother of Jared asked his good brother to pray and beg God not to confuse their language or the language of their friends. He said to ask the Lord to lead them all to a special land, even the best in the world! God heard the prayers and led them safely from their city into the wilderness.

God said, "Go, I will take you to a land that is choice above all the lands of the earth! Gather friends of your brother and yourself. I will raise up from you a great nation. There will be none greater on the face of the earth if you serve me. Gather your flocks of every kind, seeds of every kind!" The Book of Mormon calls this group the Jaredites. God sent them to the wilderness. He told them to bring fish; how did they carry them? I wonder! And they trapped birds to take with them. They even carried swarms of bees and honey. Now there actually was (and is) a honeybee in the Americas before

the European colonists brought them. These would be the stingless honeybees that live in the jungle areas of southern Mexico. They can be raised and live in large colonies—maybe these were the bees the Jaredites brought.

The Lord met with the Brother of Jared in a cloud and gave directions where they should travel. They crossed many waters in barges that they built. Finally they reached the shore of a vast ocean. They were tired and relaxed. Four years passed in this way! Then the Lord came to the Brother of Jared and spoke to him for three hours telling him they had been wrong to forget God! And they all repented. The Lord told them he was taking them to the best land in the world, a place chosen for

people who served God.

He told them how to build eight barges that were waterproof and airtight and light on top of the water like a bird (duck). They were not huge ships; they were long like a tree. The boards were close together and they were shaped like a dish. They did not have sails or decks because the Lord was going to send fierce winds and blow them across the ocean. There were no windows because at times the barges would be far below the waves, bumped by large fish and whales.

The Brother of Jared was worried that there was no light in the barges. He asked the Lord to touch eight small glassy stones and give them light. When the Lord did, the Brother

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

AFTER	BABEL	EVERYONES	BROTHER	GOOD
THE	GOD	LANGUAGE	JARED	PROMISED
TOWER	MIXED	HE	AND	LAND
OF	UP	LED	FRIENDS	

of Jared had so much faith he saw the hand of Jesus and fell down to worship him. Jesus told him no other man had ever had so much faith. Jesus was pleased. Then He showed the Brother of Jared all of the people who had ever lived or were going to. Can you imagine! He saw you and me! He told him many things.

The Lord had them put two stones in each end of each barge. They would have light for their journey. He had them put a hole in the top and in the bottom of each barge. When they ran out of air they were supposed to open the hole and if water started rushing in, immediately shut them before they were drowned! Then they would pray and beg God to save them! Can you imagine how scary that would be gasping for air?

When the huge waves sent them spinning to the deep ocean bottoms, how did they keep themselves, their food, animals and birds from being crashed on the floor? Do you think they had "seat belts" to hang onto? Think how afraid and dizzy—carsick—they would feel. They would pray with all their hearts to God to deliver them. And God did. The Brother of Jared sang beautiful songs of praise and trust in God all day and all night.

They travelled like this for three hundred and forty four days—nearly one year. Finally their barges landed across the ocean. We believe it's on the eastern coast of that great country we call Mexico.

So when we worry about this bad virus messing up our lives and changing things, remember the Jaredites and what they went through! We have it so much better. God has a plan for our lives, just like them. Do not fear. He will help you through all changes. Trust. Sing when you are afraid. Pray. Thank the

Lord. With love, your friend, *Sister Jan*

Ladies' Uplift Circle News Continued from page 9

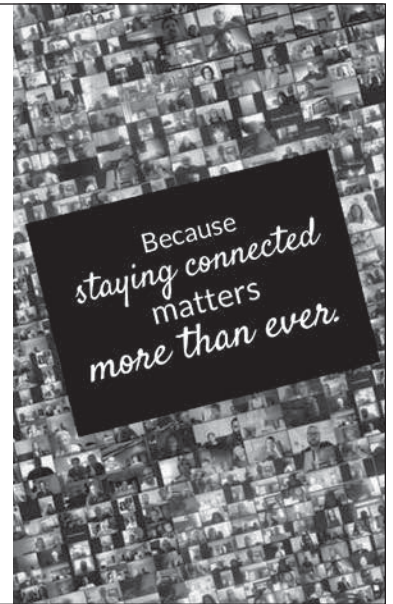
I Peter 1:7 tells us, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." So this verse is saying that our trials are of value, even great value, (greater than gold)! Maybe job loss, illness, any troubles we experience can work to bring us closer to God, to strengthen us spiritually, and maybe even be of a benefit to others.

Further in Ether chapter 12 we read, "I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith." So through the tests and trials of life we receive witness of God's glory. And then all things (All things!) work together for good to them that love God. . ."

"It may be pain in the night
But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me
Love never fails
You make all things work together for my good
You make all things work together for my good
You make all things work together for my good. . ."
(Your Love Never Fails by Jesus Culture)

STAYING CONNECTED MATTERS!

*We recently sent a flier requesting your donation for your yearly subscription. We appreciate all of the quick responses and ask that those who have not yet sent in their donation do so soon.
Thank You!*



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Blessing Bits

BB Write it Out

After struggling with a chronic health condition for over a year, I finally surrendered my situation fully to the Lord. I wrote out a commitment to God affirming that I would stop stressing about it, and that instead I would fully trust and obey Him, however bad it may get, however long it may take. A few weeks later, a brother from across the country reached out and shared that God had revealed to Him that I had done this. He shared that he had had a vision of Christ instructing me to stand firm on my commitment and reassuring me that God sees me, is walking with me, and has good things ahead in my life. Although I am still enduring the trial, I praise God that He cared enough to acknowledge my commitment and confirm that my life is in His hands. – *Brother Jared Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch*

BB Planning with God

We had two trees, 50 and 75 feet tall, that needed to come down. We prayed, asking God for His help. The plan was to use a steel cable fastened to the top of the tree and have someone in a tractor at the other end pull when the signal was given. Well, after cutting deep into the first tree to help it fall in a certain direction, the tree began to fall prematurely, and crashed to the ground right where we had

planned, without our help to guide the fall. Everyone watched in awe. All credit, honor, and glory to God for that which He hath done for us! Without God's hand to guide the direction of the fall, it would have hit the house. Scripture tells us without Him we can do nothing. Praise God for His almighty hand of protection!
– *Brother Bel Brown, Kinsman, OH Branch.*

BB He Has Better Plans

I knew I wanted to be a nurse, but I didn't realize how hard the process would be. I spent my first two years taking all prerequisites, only to be placed on a waiting list. I didn't want to wait long, so I applied for the accelerated program. I was hopeful and prayed a lot, and although my grades were not the best, I thought I had a good shot at getting in. Unfortunately, I didn't. I started making other plans, figuring out my options while I waited. Then, a week before the next application deadline, I thought, 'why not apply once more?' Sure enough, in March 2020 I was accepted into the program! I am very grateful to God for this journey, because although everything didn't go as I had planned, He had something better in mind. God is always looking out for me and taking care of everything; I just needed to trust Him.
– *Sister Emily Landrey, Mesa, AZ Branch*

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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: Thanksgiving is coming soon. Share three things you are THANKFUL for.



Answer from last month: If you could go back in time and be present for one scriptural event, what would it be? I would like to go back to 4th Nephi; they had all things in common. The happiest people on the face of earth. -- *Brother James Calabro Hopelawn, NJ Branch*

Turn back to page 8 for answers to this question.

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