

The Gospel News

IN THIS ISSUE:

*The Harvest
is Great!*



Blast From The Past
Page 2

Word Up
Page 3

Editorial Viewpoint
Page 5

GMBA News
Page 6

**Lorain Branch
100th Year
Celebration**
Page 7

**Ladies' Uplift Circle
News**
Page 8

Children's Corner
Page 10

**Question of the
Month**
Page 11

Blessing Bits
Page 12

Tse Bonito 50-Year Anniversary and Tent Meetings

By Brothers Armand Giovannone and Andrew Capone

A year of Jubilee; the acceptable year of the Lord. The Tse Bonito Mission celebrated their 50 year anniversary by doing exactly as Isaiah states: "to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Isaiah 61:1-2).

Before the week started, there was an experience of the Spirit of God pouring down like a strong latter rain, and three words were given: Healing, Restoration, and Deliverance. The mission of the week was to give the Navajo people exactly this. From all over the country, brothers and sisters of the Church came to promote, help, and be a part of the event. These efforts were not in vain, as there were over 70 visitors, countless experiences and testimonies, and most importantly, seven new names written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

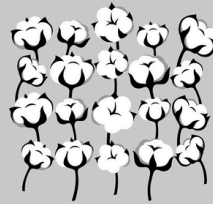
Besides the tent meetings themselves, the week was filled with several activities. With community outreach as a large focus, every neighborhood in Tse Bonito, Window Rock, and Fort Defiance was canvassed. Members took to the streets in local flea markets passing out fliers, praying for people, and singing the Songs of Zion. Every night, meals were prepared for the community at the church. The goal for the week was to show the Navajo Nation the love of God, and the members of the Church did everything they could to accomplish this.

None of this would have been possible without the involvement of our young people. Youth in Action played a critical role throughout the week. Their zeal and talents were used to help in whatever ways were needed. This varied from outreach, cleaning the branch, assisting with the VBS, speaking in the meetings, and much more. Especially recognized were the musical talents the young people brought with them. The YIA choir performed in several areas throughout the town. The Spirit was particularly powerful when our choir sang Friday evening for the tent meeting. Immediately following the choir singing, "How Great Thou Art" in Navajo, the gift of tongues came forth and the interpretation being, "Blessed be the name of God! Blessed be the name of God! Blessed be the name of God! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to God in the Highest! Blessed be the name of God!"

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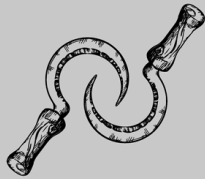


Mark your calendars to attend or pray for those attending the General Church October Conference: 10/9/24 – 10/13/24



John 4:35
Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are _____ already to harvest.

REV 14:15
And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy _____, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.



II Nephi 19:3
Thou hast multiplied the nation, and increased the ____ — they ____ before thee according to the ____ in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.



Alma 26:7
But behold, they are in the _____ of the Lord of the harvest, and they are his, and he will raise them up at the last day.



Proverbs 10:5
He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that _____ in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

Isaiah 23:3
And by great waters the seed of Sihor. The harvest of the river, is her revenue; and she is a _____ of nations.



Luke 10:2
Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the _____, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.



BFTP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

Sixty-two years ago this month Brother John Bilsky's infantry division of the U.S. Army stationed in Augsburg, Germany was on high alert and first to invade Cuba during The Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962.

The U.S. Air Force surveillance aircraft showed what appeared to be nuclear-capable Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles in addition to Soviet military support personnel based in Cuba, leaving most of the eastern half of the U.S. vulnerable to Soviet missile attack. President John F. Kennedy called for Soviet Premier Khrushchev to dismantle and withdraw, but he refused. President Kennedy enacted a naval quarantine around Cuba. Khrushchev ordered the build-up to proceed, and diplomatic negotiations deteriorated.



Left: Patch of the 24th infantry taro leaf with black surrounding.

Right: Bro. John Bilsky in Augsburg, Germany 1962



(Continued on page 6)



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.



“Believe It or Not”

By Brother Doug Obradovich

“Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)

COVID-19 was one of the newest iteration of sickness some choose to deny or refuse to trust reports of its deadly affects. I have heard strangely similar things about Cancer throughout my life. Regardless, diseases are indiscriminate, and whether we believe it or not, they strike with no concern for our thoughts of their existence.

The Word identifies belief as good, but clarifies it's merely a starting point, “Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” (James 2:19). Our knowing is good; more critical is how we show we know. Jesus identifies our belief + our reaction will determine our spiritual trajectory, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give them eternal life” (John 10:26-27). He also recognizes our faith in Him will establish our eternal landing point, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him

should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Paul categorizes our disbelief as impotence, “For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true” (Romans 3:3-4). Man’s unwillingness to believe is inconsequential to God’s existence. Our denial of God is of no import to His truth. However, His believers can be the tipping points for the unbelievers. When believers stray from God’s commands, they can confirm the suspicions of unbeliever. On the contrary, when the unbeliever witnesses genuine manifestations of commitments by believers, especially when God’s blessings become evidence to His divine truth, such undeniable can be the very reason they begin to believe.

Some deny God is real. Yet, He continues to be. You can be the evidence to His truth. Believe it or not.

August 1992. Bryan Norcross, weatherman on WTVJ, mentioned strong winds in the Caribbean were moving north in the Atlantic. We paid little attention, thinking it just another summer storm in the Atlantic, so posed no apparent threat. Our lack of concern had no consequence on Hurricane Andrew when it abruptly turned westward and aimed its angry swirl directly at South Florida. Its momentum paid no attention to whether we believed it or not. I grew up confident I was ¾ Serbian and ¼ Italian. Last year a DNA test revealed I was also part Croatian, Greek, and multiples of other European ethnicities. I had spent my life “knowing” I was Serbo-Italian, but my bloodline continues expanding, regardless of whether I believe it or not.

Experiences and miracles were plentiful throughout the tent meetings. Most notably, our Brother Larry Watson was cured from a heart attack, to the point where the doctors had to reverse their initial diagnosis. The word of the Lord, tongues, interpretation of tongues, visions of Christ, dreams, healings, and even someone's relative rising from the dead through the saints' prayers were all made manifest.

At the conclusion of the week, the saints gathered together to witness seven souls render their lives to Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ welcomes two new brothers and five new sisters, all of whom are Navajo, descendants of Joseph. One of the candidates had to be carried into the water, and following her immersion, the Spirit of God filled her body

and she began to speak in tongues, with the interpretation being, "Thus saith the Lord, thus saith the Lord: Come, My children! Come, My children, My covenant people! I've called you! I've called you! I've called you! Come into the waters. Be clean! Be clean! I have died for you, thus saith the Lord."

A special thanks is due to all our brothers and sisters who made this event possible, and to the Tse Bonito Mission for their dedication throughout the years. For those who were there, we can truly say that we felt and witnessed great things. The word of the Lord at the end of the week urged us to take the fire we felt and bring it back to our home branches and communities and show our neighbors that Christ offers Healing, Restoration, and Deliverance.



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What happens to those who never hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

By Brother Josh Gehly

The Gospel of Christ

The saving message (Gospel) of Jesus Christ is simple and plain (see 3 Nephi 27:13-15):

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

Jesus' actions above guaranteed a just judgment upon all mankind and plan of salvation for those who render obedience to the Gospel. He is the door of salvation and justice simultaneously. Jesus Christ declared His plan of salvation and called it His doctrine (see 3 Nephi 11:31-41). Those who hear the Gospel message (Romans 10:17) are given a binary choice to believe or not believe and act accordingly.

The Doctrine of Christ

The doctrine of Jesus Christ is simple and plain for those who hear the Gospel of Christ. The Lord identifies the following commandments as my doctrine for all mankind, everywhere (see 3 Nephi 11:31-41):

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Faith | <i>believe in me</i> |
| 2. Repentance | <i>ye must repent</i> |
| 3. Baptism | <i>be baptized in my name</i> |

The saving message of Jesus Christ must be heard, believed upon (faith), hearts must be pricked to turn from sin (repentance) and lives must be dedicated to the Savior through a covenant (baptism). Jesus Christ gives two promises for those who obey His doctrine: "the same...shall inherit the kingdom of God" (3 Nephi 11:33) and they shall receive "the Holy Ghost" (3 Nephi 11:35). The Lord gave authority to His disciples to perform baptisms in 3 Nephi 11:21-26 and bestow the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands (see Moroni 2).

The Gospel and doctrine of Jesus Christ could not be more simple, plain and pure. Yet for some it leaves two lingering questions: What about those who do not have the capacity to understand the Gospel and need for repentance? Second, what happens to those who never hear the Gospel and ignorantly sin? The Book of Mormon answers both questions as clearly as it explains the Gospel and doctrine of Christ.

Little children are not "capable of committing sin." They "need no repentance nor baptism" and are "alive in Christ." Those who claim children need baptism deny "the mercies of Christ, and setteth at naught the atonement of Him and the power of His redemption" (see Moroni 8:8-29). In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the death of the perfect Lamb of God automatically atoned for all children too young to consciously sin and rebel against God. Their salvation is automatically assured. Baptizing children is not necessary. The atonement is all that was necessary for children to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

(Continued on page 8)

It's Time to Move Forward *By Sister Sydney Loyalvo*

In life, we have many interactions and experiences. Amazing and beautiful things can happen, and there's a saying that says, "you take the good with the bad." To me, it rings true. Good things happen, but it is inevitable that bad things happen as well. It is easy to appreciate the good things and be thankful, but as always, it can be hard to accept when something doesn't go our way. Additionally, when we make choices and decisions, looking back, they may not always be the "right" ones. As humans, it is easy to cling to the past and be upset about certain experiences. It is also easy to carry grief and guilt about not making the "right" choice, even when it is clear that God does not want us to look backwards.

I humbly admit that I have struggled with these feelings in the past and even currently. It can be especially hard as a young person, when there are many things to juggle: school, careers, church, family, friends, and the future. The pressure seems high, and one "wrong" move or decision can feel like the end of the world. There have been many times where I felt angry that certain circumstances did not work in my favor. I would dwell on the "why's" and the "what if's," wondering why I couldn't catch a break. I have also been angry at myself for making "wrong" choices and feeling like a disappointment in God's eyes.

Clinging to the negatives of the past is detrimental to us as people of God, and it doesn't create space for positive experiences or feelings in our lives. Especially when the Lord makes things new every day and wants us to move forward. As followers of Christ, we have surrendered our life to Him. He forgives us of our sins and loves us unconditionally. Why should we feel discouraged or dwell on the past when He wants us to move ahead? Philippians 3:13-14 says "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing

I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ." When we put the past behind us and move forward, our sole focus can be on the Lord.

I am by no means perfect and have made mistakes in my life. And as I already mentioned, I have felt upset, guilty, and sometimes unworthy of God's love because of choices I made. I am a worrier, and have spent many nights with my racing thoughts, focusing on my mistakes or what I could've done to improve certain situations. But what does that worry do for me? It just creates more negativity and less time for me to focus on the great things in my life that God provided for me. It also takes away my focus on Him.

It is liberating to know that He loves me anyway, He wants me to move forward, and that I am not defined by my past mistakes. Isaiah 43:18 says, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old." We have a clean slate daily with the Lord. When we look forward to focus on God as opposed to clinging to the past, our lives are richer and fuller. I know when my heart and mind are focused on Him, I am full of feelings of thankfulness for His promises, especially His promise of Salvation.

I wish that I could get back the hours and nights that I spent upset and dwelling on the past. I also wish I could've reminded myself of God's promises. Today, I feel thankful for the simple, small reminders in my life where I am shown that the Lord loves me no matter what my past was. My hope is that this can be a reminder to someone out there: it is time to move forward and not look back. God loves us, forgives us, and makes all things new.

(Blast From The Past - continued from page 2)

Brother John Bilsky was stationed in Augsburg, Germany in the 24th Infantry Division, the first division to go into Cuba. Because this division had suffered a defeat in Korea (the men were not trained properly) and lost its flag's colors, it was the first to go into a new battle to win back its colors. Their patch had a black circle because of the defeat. "When I was stationed there during the Cuban Crisis, we spent two weeks at an airport with large Air Force Transport Planes getting ready if there was trouble in Cuba".

Sister Bertha Jean was living in Fort Pierce, Florida and they were engaged to be married. She remembers sitting on the

beach and seeing large battleships off shore in the distance and didn't realize what was going on at that time. During a Sunday service in October 1962, when the crisis was at its peak, Sister Rose Rogolino had a vision of Brother John in his uniform passing through the meeting, and knew that he was in danger. The Church was called to immediate prayer for him. Just as the situation was spiraling out of control and the world teetered on the brink of nuclear war, President Kennedy received word on October 27 that Khrushchev wanted to talk. They struck a deal that ended the crisis the next day. We can see how God loves His children and the importance of prayer. Brother John didn't see battle, and the 24th infantry won its colors back at a later time.

Lorain Branch 100th Year Celebration *By Sister Edna Calabrese*

On Sunday, June 30, the Lord blessed us with a cool summer day. It was a perfect day for the 100th Celebration of the Lorain Branch. (Technically 102 years.) A few brothers and sisters who had attended the GMBA Campout spent the day with us for this beautiful event. We started the meeting with a brief review of the history of the Lorain Branch from our Presiding Elder, Brother Nephi DeMercurio, Jr.

Several of the ministry spoke on their memories of the branch. Visiting ministry included Brother Wayne Martorana and his son, Brother Lucas and his family, along with Brother Tim Scolaro and his wife Sister Renée (who grew up in Lorain) and Brother Eric Baez, along with his family from Columbus. Also visiting was Sister Bonnie Smith (Calabrese), who was raised in Lorain, and Sister Denise Pennell (raised in Lorain) with her husband Brother Joe. It was also very nice to have

Brother Mike Nuzzi in attendance with us as well. A beautiful Spirit prevailed throughout the day, which was felt by all in attendance.

After the ministry finished introducing the service, the Lord's Supper was passed and the meeting was opened up for testimony for those wishing to express their memories of days gone by when they were a part of the Lorain Branch, and the strong spiritual role it played in their lives.

The day ended with a beautiful luncheon provided by the brothers and sisters. Everyone was able to enjoy some good food while visiting and fellowshiping with one another. As we sing many times, "For it's good to be a saint of latter days!"



Gospel News Testimonies

My special memories of the Gospel News go back many years. As a child, when we received the monthly Gospel News, my Mom and I would always check the back page first. We would enjoy reading the New Arrivals, Weddings, baptisms, Branch and Mission News. I also enjoyed the Children's Corner Bible stories and would do the puzzle. (I still do the puzzles and read the story!) We saved every copy of the Gospel News and my job was to put them in binders. We had the first copy of the Gospel News that was printed March of 1938, a little before my time. That's about 1,000 copies!

A few years ago, I went through all the issues, made copies of the articles the members contributed, and sent copies to them. They enjoyed receiving them, which brought a blessing of the memory from many years ago, which they had forgotten. Recently, we passed the issues of the Gospel News over to other members and one of the Historians of the Church. The Gospel News is a good way to keep in contact with news from other Branches and Missions around the World and the blessings they are experiencing.- Sister Flo Perri, Lake Worth, FL Branch

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My Circle Story *by Sister Susan Genaro*

My story of being a Ladies' Uplift Circle member started when I was a teenager. My mother, Sister Rita Molinatto Koeth, would take my sister, Sandra and me to the Ladies' Uplift Circle in Warren, Ohio. Our sisters at that time would raise money to purchase strong, durable fabric to send with Brother Joe Ciarolla, who would take it to Mexico for the sisters there to make clothing or blankets with it. They were always working on projects to sell to earn money for the missionary efforts of the Church. Their example made such an impression on my young mind.

Brother John Genaro and I married in 1984, and we moved to Gastonia, North Carolina. The small group of sisters there didn't have a Ladies' Circle, but our mothers would fund, or send funds, from the Warren Ladies' Circle to assist Brother John for projects in the countries to which he traveled for the Church. Once again, their example made an impact on my opinion of earning and providing funds for missionary work. In 1996, we moved back to Ohio where I joined the circle of the Niles, Ohio Branch. When the Niles and Warren Branches merged into the Liberty Branch, we had a large group. We were blessed to have sisters of all ages, from their nineties on down. Our group has since gotten smaller, and we meet once a month on Zoom. We hold a rummage sale every other year at the branch, and we have a bakeless bake sale for every collection. That way, whether we have an ongoing fundraiser or not, we are bringing in funds.

I have held the office of President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Word Give, in my local Circle. I've held the office of the Secretary of the Midwest Area Ladies' Uplift Circle, and currently hold the office of Financial Secretary for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. My favorite part of the General Circle's business meeting is the disbursement of the monies. Yes, I'm one of those who enjoy a business meeting!

(Editorial Viewpoint - continued from page 5)

What about adults who never hear the Gospel of Christ shared in a testimony or a sermon? Are they predestined to hell without hope? Again, the Book of Mormon answers with hope. Jacob declared where there was no law there would be no punishment nor condemnation (see 2 Nephi 9:25). In other words, someone cannot be sent to hell according to a set of rules from a rulebook they never heard. He explains how the atonement of Jesus Christ delivers the ignorant from "death and hell...and they are restored to that God who gave them breath, which is the Holy One of Israel" (2 Nephi 9:26). King Benjamin further describes how the blood of Christ atones for those who died ignorant of the Gospel

With regards to the Ladies' Uplift Circle Pledge

To Read and Search the Scriptures: I love to read, and read daily. I was given a Study Bible when I was baptized and enjoy using that version to better understand what is written. I really enjoy reading the Book of Mormon as well, and appreciate our Church's edition. Sometimes I go down rabbit trails with references, but it's all good study!

Ask God to Direct and Bless the Circle: We've been blessed with many wonderful teachers in the past years, and I enjoy studying with our sisters where we receive different points of view on scripture or hear experiences about the lesson.

Visiting the Sick: One of my favorite things to do is send cards to those in need of comfort, healing or uplifting. I also enjoy calling sisters to stay in touch, and/or take lunch to them, so we can spend some time together.

Not to Find Fault or Offend in Word or Deed: I believe we need to treat each other with kindness, patience, and respect. We are a spiritual family, and sometimes see each other more than our natural family. We need to be honest with each other and if someone has offended us, speak directly to them about it.

Help Each Other and Helping Others to the Best of Our Ability: One of the best ways we can help each other is to pray for one another. I set aside at least one day a week to fast and pray for our Ladies' Circles members, Branch members, General Church members, friends, co-workers, and others. I have an ongoing list of people to pray for, especially on the day(s) I fast. I'm thankful to God for the sisters of the Ladies' Uplift Circle, for the impact they've made in my life, and for the fellowship we shared in the past, and still share now.

plan (Mosiah 3:11).

Judgment and hell are as real as the death of the body. The atonement of Christ—a cornerstone component of the Gospel message of Jesus—allows the blood of Jesus to cover the ignorant and the innocent. Our fervent pursuit should be the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ to all mankind. Truly in our day and age, fewer and fewer could claim ignorance of the good news of Jesus Christ. Let us build upon the Rock of our salvation, embrace the hope offered through the atonement and resurrection of Christ and prepare our hearts and the hearts of those around us for the great judgment day when we will stand before His presence.

Not Deserving of God's Blessings

By Brother Jerry Valenti

Jesus has related three parables to the Pharisees, who have been critical of Him spending time with sinful people. Each parable features someone or something that was lost and then found, resulting in great rejoicing. In each case, the lost item or person represents sinners who are lost from the family of God and then brought back into the family when they repent.

The third of these parables tells the story of a young man (known as the prodigal son) who leaves home and wastes all of the money given to him. After some time passes, this man repents of what he has done and returns home. His father kills a fatted calf for a great feast and throws a big party to celebrate his son's return. However, there is another son in the story, one who has remained at home the entire time, faithfully working for his father. This son is out working in the field one day and returns home to hear a great celebration in progress. When he hears that this party is to celebrate the return of his younger brother who has wasted so much of his father's money, he is very angry and refuses to join the celebration.

When the father comes out to speak to his older son, this son says to him, "Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf" (Luke 15:29-30).

And, you know what? He's right!! After what the younger son did, he doesn't deserve anything from the father. At this point in the story, the father seeks to diffuse the situation by assuring his older son that the return of his brother doesn't at all diminish what he will be inheriting. However, he does add that it makes sense to celebrate: "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found." (Luke 15:32)

Now, of course, this isn't a story about money — it's a parable with spiritual application. So, who does the older brother represent? Well, considering the audience for the parable, the older brother most likely represents the Pharisees who Jesus was speaking to. They certainly had the attitude that they had "earned" blessings from God by keeping His commandments their entire lives and that people who were sinners were entitled to nothing (not even the attention of a "godly" person). The Pharisees would certainly not be attending any parties to celebrate a sinner repenting. However, if we're not careful, the older brother can also represent us — the current servants of God. How can this be?

Well, envision someone whose life has been ruined as a result of the sins they have committed. Perhaps it's someone who has wasted all of his money and/or ruined his health because of drug abuse. Or perhaps it's someone who sleeps around and has ruined marriages and other relationships, perhaps even contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

If such a person comes into church, would we welcome them? Or would we ignore them and hope they don't come back? If they ask for prayer to be healed or assisted in life, would we petition the Lord on their behalf? Or would we say they did it to themselves, so why would God help them? If they say they want to repent, would we accept that? Or would we say they have to prove themselves by changing their lives first? In short, do we feel like a sinner doesn't deserve anything from God? If we do, we're right — they don't deserve anything from God. But the thing to remember is — neither do we.

That's right, even though we've repented and been baptized and are keeping His commandments (all things that we should be doing), we are still not in a position to feel that we deserve anything from God. All of the blessings we receive, all of the answered prayers, and, ultimately, the salvation of our souls are all gifts from God. Even as we become more righteous people, let's not take pride in that but rather recognize that it's the Holy Ghost within us that is helping us to grow spiritually.

So, let's be careful to not view sinful people as being unworthy of the Lord. We were once where they were — perhaps our sins were different, but they existed — and perhaps someday the Lord will bring these current sinners to where He has brought us. Whenever anybody repents and give their lives to the Lord, they become just as much a part of the family of God as we are.

And, happily, regardless of how many people join the family of God, our blessings are not diminished (just like the father tried to assure the older brother in the parable). God has more than enough blessings in His storehouse for all of us — we may not deserve them, but we're so thankful that He showers them upon us anyway.

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God's Big Plan

Dear Friends,

Did you know that God has a plan for you? He has a plan for each of us who ask Him. Every child at your school is special to the Lord and loved by God, even the ones we do not like, the unkind ones! God has a plan for them too. The secret is to learn to pray, have faith and hope, be kind, read the scriptures, and thank God for all the good things in your life! And your special plan will work itself out!

My Sister Lana went to University to learn how to teach blind children or kids with vision problems to be Independent. She even taught them to wait on the corner on the curb and to listen to the clicks of the changing signals to know when to safely cross the street. She taught them skills to get on the buses in her city and travel wherever they wanted to go! It was God's plan for her to learn how to help and teach them. She loved it. It kind of made me scared to see how brave they were. It made me quit complaining about my little problems and instead thank God for all of my freedom and independence I have, while I said a quiet prayer for them!

With money, she taught them how to carefully fold up each different bill so no one would trick them, pretend to give the right change, but cheat them! Also, their books were not made of flat paper but written with bumps called Braille. When you are out, look. Many elevators will have those raised dots on the wall or by the buttons to help other blind people read them. I can't.

God knows what we are going through! The Apostle Paul taught us in the Bible (See Romans 8:28), "All things work together for good for those that love God, to them that are the called according to his purpose." I want to be called according to God's purpose. I want to do what He wants me to do!

Do you love God? Can you help others? Are you willing to go to school or other places where you are the kind person? You can make a big difference in someone's life who is new, scared, and has no friends. Even if you are worried they will become too attached to you, it pleases God when we show loving kindness to others. Help these other people! You can figure it out.

Ask God to help you be brave, not shy. Don't hide. If you get a new chance to try something good, pray, be the kind, hard-working person in the group. People will count on you and trust you.

Join a new group. Maybe they will like you; maybe they won't. But the brothers and sisters will love you and be on your side either way and even if you feel rejected, you will continue to grow. Maybe that group is not right for you! We all have times when a door is shut and it is just not the right thing for us at that time, or God is saying "No. Not the right thing for you." And you will learn more and grow. And this will lead you to the next interesting place in God's plan for you. Just keep praying over everything!

In our Book of Mormon, in Alma Chapter 34, we are told to pray over everything we do. Give it a try. It is one way to find your plan day by day and have a blessed, interesting, happy life!

With Love,

Your Sister in Christ and Friend,

Sister Jan

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What advice can you give to those baptized at camp the last few years or someone who is just starting their journey with Christ?

More photos from Tse Bonito

“Always make time to pray and read the scriptures daily. Be involved with your branch and church activities. Build friendships in the church to stay connected.” -Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch

“Stay close to the brothers and sisters, attend church meetings regularly, and read scripture daily. Your relationship with Christ will increase the more you give Him control of your journey.” -Sister Kathy Natoli, Detroit, MI Branch 1.

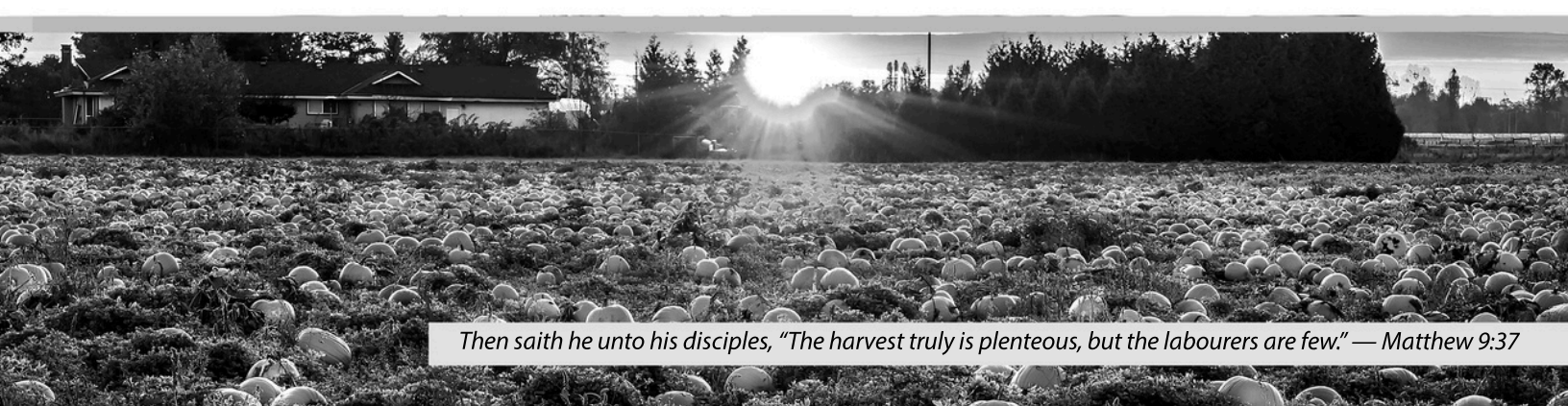
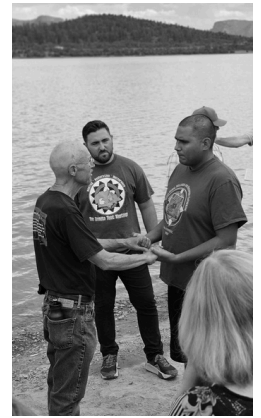
“Be intentional about reading, studying, learning, and applying the word of God daily.” -Brother Frank Natoli, Detroit, MI Branch 1

“Take it one day at a time. Choose today to make the right choices, spend time in prayer, attend meetings, do things that are pleasing to God, and shine your light. Then wake up tomorrow and make that same choice again. It can feel daunting to think about enduring to the end or your long-term service to the Lord. Just focus on today.” - Sister Carolynn O’Connor, Farmington Hills, MI Branch

Pray as much as you can, and read the scriptures daily.” -Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch

“When you feel yourself struggling spiritually or facing some temptation, don't hesitate to ask the ministry or saints for prayer and/or encouragement. You don't need to face this alone. We are there to support you!” -Brother Tim Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch

“To stay strong in your beliefs! Seek out the “seasoned” brothers and sisters in your branch and ask about their experiences and how they overcame obstacles they faced.” -Sister Kim Morle, Atlanta, GA Branch



Then saith he unto his disciples, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.” — Matthew 9:37

Blessing Bits

BB Answered Prayers

Our daughter, Sister Audrey Moore, asked for her baptism and was baptized at GMBA Campout this year! Praise God! Our prayer has always been for our children to commit their lives to the Lord, not because we tell them to, but because they know He's real, feel His Spirit, and know His Truth! Amen! - Sis. Colleen Moore, Columbus, OH Branch

BB My Faith Is in Him

Since the beginning of the year, I have not felt great off and on, and I have been going through multiple rounds of hormone testing. Each time, something came back concerning, but nothing was adding up and my doctor could not figure out what was wrong. We finally narrowed it down to a potential autoimmune disorder and I scheduled another test. The week before, I was getting terrible headaches and was anointed. During the anointing, I felt a warmth on my head and then my headaches disappeared completely. I went in the following week for my test and the results came back completely

normal. The doctor said that there is nothing more to be concerned about, and I can follow up in six months for a check-in. Praise God! All of my symptoms are gone and I know He healed me. - Sister Christine Martorana, Lake Worth, FL Branch

BB An Unbelievable Miracle

Since the age of fourteen, I have suffered with gradual worsening of digestive issues starting with an eating disorder, reflux, and in the last six months, severe pain while eating, period. My doctor conducted a swallow test followed by an endoscopy a few weeks ago. Brother Dan McNamara anointed me the day before the endoscopy because I was so concerned that the pain could be the result of esophageal cancer or other problems. After the procedure we went to eat and since that time I have been healed and able to eat ANYTHING and EVERYTHING! Seems like 75 years never happened and I can continue using my talents for God a little longer. - Sister Diane Surdock, 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:

Tell us what you are grateful for in your life and share with us what helps you stay in the Spirit of Gratitude especially when times are tough.

A

Answer from last month:

What advice can you give to those baptized at camp the last few years or someone who is just starting their journey with Christ?

Turn to page 11 for answers



Then saith he unto his disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." — Matthew 9:37