

The Gospel News

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*With Spring
 Comes New
 Beginnings*



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Latter Day Journey

A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

Reflecting on the messages and encouragement we have shared with the Church over the past several years, the theme of our latter day journey has been reinforced many times. Articles such as *It Is Always Good to Know the Way* (Dec 2020) and *The Ark of Safety* (June 2021) have incorporated the vision we have of a spiritual kingdom on the earth and the encouragement from the Lord that we are on His journey to realize the fulfillment of this vision. The scriptures, with many confirmations in experiences and gifts from God, have given us confidence that The Church of Jesus Christ is more directly and actively engaged on the latter day journey today than ever before.

Unique and Special Journey

God determined, in His perfect wisdom and timing, to begin a different era (or dispensation) of time in the early 1800s. This era of time ushered in the Lord's church and priesthood authority once again upon the earth and eventually will culminate in the fulfillment of Jesus's prayer, wherein He stated, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Our restoration message is unique, with a common thread of beliefs that include the personal journey of salvation for believers in the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, but also that our heavenly Father has initiated a special journey of restoration and salvation for ALL people of the world. We anticipate this journey will include a future complete revelation of God's Word throughout history, resulting in God's Kingdom of Peace on earth. If you truly believe in the restoration, then you know that this fabulous journey that was initiated in 1829 is the vision we see today. The vision: a promised land (in the flesh), unlike any promised land the world has ever seen. A promised land that is so unique, even the created elements will be peaceful and exclaim the Love of God.

Past Can Reveal Future

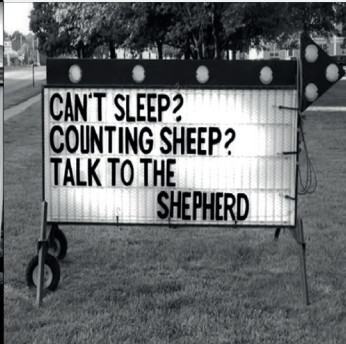
Since we have embraced God's latter day promise and the journey toward our promised land, a detailed examination of the scriptures helps us understand the past so that we can see a glimpse of the future. There are many parallels when we consider the past scriptural examples of God's people being directed on a journey to a promised future. Consider for a moment the Jaredite story and how God directed a people to the promised land of America. Remember the House of Israel, and how the hand of God moved in mighty ways to eventually allow them to live in the land promised to the patriarch Abraham. Later in time, the Book of Mormon records the fantastic deliverance of Lehi's family from the destruction of Jerusalem and their journey to America.

In each of these examples, we can notice common threads or parallels in the process of change from crisis to deliverance to fulfillment.

(Continued on page 6)



Yea, there are many who do say:
If thou wilt show unto us a **SIGN...**
then we shall know of a surety;
then we shall believe.
Alma 32:17



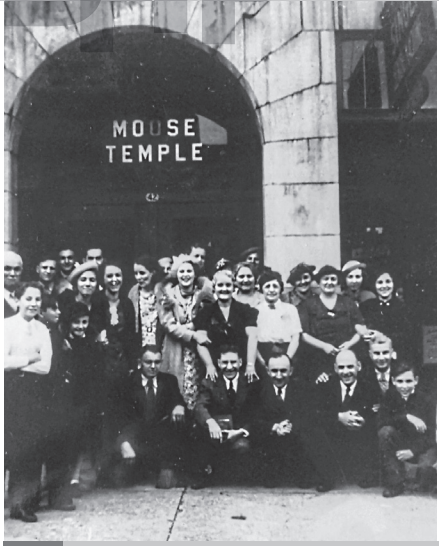
"And these **SIGNS** shall follow them that believe..."
Mark 16:17

(a little March humor because we need to laugh)



BET Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck



Windsor, Ontario became a mission on March 17, 1939 with Brother Joe Lovalvo as Presiding Elder. "It was through a series of challenges, struggles and persecutions that ultimately led to the erection of a place of worship. With just a handful of members in 1934, the Collisons' home was more than adequate for the Church services. In facing an obvious need in 1937 for a more suitable place of worship after the sudden influx of converts from the Baptist Church, the saints secured the use of the Moose Temple. Later they rented an old store building on Pierre Avenue and fixed it up as a meeting place." The Windsor congregation was made of many cultures working together. There was a blend of Italian immigrants, English Canadians, Native Americans, African Americans, and other nationalities joined by the Spirit of God, breaking down the cultural barriers that existed between them. Surely God was at work to help these individuals worship and lend their talents to complete the work of God. "They had many trials in that storeroom on Pierre Avenue as the people residing in the apartment above them would attempt to disrupt the meeting by making loud noises, hammering on the floor, shouting and using the Lord's name in vain, until it became unbearable." Through fasting and prayer and many experiences, they built a building on Howard Avenue dedicated on January 17, 1943 by William H. Cadman.- The Church of Jesus Christ History Volume 2.



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.



“Everybody Love Everybody” *By Brother Doug Obradovich*

“Do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again” – John 6:35

Ryan on second base and Wiley up to bat. How could I have lost focus on our twin grandsons in that moment? Yet, I allowed my attention to shift to some random child I had never even seen before. I’m still thinking about him. It was his t-shirt inviting, “Everybody love everybody.”

Love is defined by differing adjectives like passionate, compassionate, platonic, romantic, familial, empathetic, self-serving, and unconditional in a Godly sense. But whenever Jesus addressed love, He was referencing the latter, called agape love. This selfless charity is goodwill and benevolence, born in moral nature and strong character. Agape inspires willful acts of faithful service.

Surely that size 2 outerwear was soliciting unselfish love. Equally certain is how much more complex this love is than the statement may seem. Too often love is dismissed as a lightweight subject, even judged as immature fodder, lacking depth. You may find this a

harsh judgment; but it is understandable, given our limitations. Although this assessment may expose an individual’s own spiritual immaturity and/or lack of depth, please consider how few of us, if any, have firsthand experience in the love Jesus was intending. Absence of any personal, accurate reference can leave a lacking in expertise.

When given the opportunity to pinpoint the most critical facet in His Father’s foundational message, the Son answered succinctly, “Love.” Even Jesus’ answer is processed through our own individual encounters. We filter “Love the Lord thy God” and “Love thy neighbor” through what we have seen, heard, felt, and given to others. Imagine if we truly loved God as Jesus demanded. Consider if we loved one another exactly as He purposed. I submit there would be no room for any sin, whether in thought or in deed. Indeed.

No room for sin defines righteousness. But even righteousness is scrutinized through our spiritual constraints. Most often man evaluates through the resulting behavior of others, or the “What,” which is an Old Testament application. When love becomes the “Why,” and motivation is pure, the New Testament application, per Jesus’ demands, is fulfilled, “If

you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Conduct answers “What,” the basest means of determining each other (“Judge not” – Matthew 7:1). The impetus answers “Why,” as causation remains the most challenging (“For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” – I Samuel 16:7).

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar” (1 John 4:20). Anger, resentment, or dislike for either an individual or an entire people may be defended. But not justifiable. Given the biased nature of our own perspective, we can always rationalize how others deserve our wrath. But this innocent child’s t-shirt leaves no room for such separation, whether warranted by some specific offense or general reasons, based upon religion, color, gender, ethnicity, etc.

Everybody. Love. Everybody.

“Everybody” allows for no exclusions, whether identifying him who loves or him who is loved. “Love,” as God intends, is unconditional.

Quite a beautiful day at the ballfield when that small, random passerby challenged my spirituality. It only improved when Wiley’s single knocked Ryan home for a score.

Denying Yourself

By Sister Michelle Watson

Scripture tells me to submit to God. In other words, let God be boss.

But isn't submission for wimps? I don't want to be wimpy. I want to be strong and brave and powerful and driven and energetic and more like a roaring lion than a clueless sheep.

Here's the good news: Submission isn't wimpy or weak. It's not sluggish or passive or ignorant.

It's lively and resolute, diligent and dynamic.

In fact, submitting to God may be the hardest, bravest, most lion-like thing some people ever do in life.

We confuse submission with defeat, like it's a failure to be ashamed of.

Quite the opposite.

Submission is active. It's punching, kicking, and pushing the devil out of your life. And it's putting on your spiritual hiking boots and following Jesus on whatever adventure He's got planned next.

Submission is rad. (Repeat that again and again.) Submission is rad.

What Does It Mean to Submit My Will to God's Will?

In a certain sense, my will is my wiring. It's my default mode of operations. I make a beeline to that thing I want. And I take the path of least resistance.

I'm asking God to disconnect that default wiring and plug me straight into the Holy Ghost GPS. (We're on an adventure in the great wide, remember? We need directions.)

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray to God the Father, He said, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

In heaven, whatever God says goes, period. He says, "Sunshine" and the clouds part. He says, "Sing" and the angels harmonize. I want my heart to be a little heaven like that. Whatever God says goes.

Submission is a two-part thing.

Part 1 is the willingness to submit to God.

Part 2 is resisting the devil.

(Thank you, James 4:7.)

Romans 6:12-13 helps me out, too. It basically says that I either yield to sin or to God. Either way, I'm yielding.

It's a mistake to think that I'm somehow "stronger" if I resist or reject God. In reality, I'm far stronger when I'm giving Satan the stay-away one-two-punch.

Mosiah 3:19 reinforces this for me, too. I have to "yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit," but I also have to "put off the natural man."

That's saying, "Okay, God. You're the leader. I'll follow you." While at the same time saying, "My wiring is working against me. I'm gonna fight it until my neurons have blazed a new trail. Till following God is my new

default, my new path of least resistance."

Why Is Submitting to God So Hard?

Well, there's the whole "rewiring the default" concept. That doesn't happen overnight.

Beyond that, submitting to God isn't "a thing." There's not a lotta support out there for it or much modeling for submission. But there's plenty of modeling for "do your own thing." We love doing our own thing.

Some of us are attracted to the rugged individualist or lone wolf. Just leave me alone to do my own thing. I won't bother you. You don't bother me. Have a nice life.

Others are more keen on the idea of being a "boss." Girl boss. Mom boss. Like a boss. World's best boss. If you don't have a mug or tumbler with the word "boss" on it, I'll buy you lunch. (Go check. You've got one.)

Bottom line: We don't want to be accountable to anyone. In any relationship. Period.

Since the world ain't gonna model submission for me, I need scripture to unlock this forgotten art.

What Do I Need to Submit To?

The simplest answer: God and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave two commandments—love God and your neighbor with everything you've got. Those need to be the twin North Stars that guide my life. When I get lost in the weeds and don't know what to do, then I need that Holy Ghost GPS to guide me in those pesky details that aren't explicitly covered in God's Word.

But wait. Does scripture give specific guidance regarding submission?

Glad you asked! While reading on this subtopic, I discovered that there are a few specific things that scripture explicitly asks me to submit to.

- Christ as head of the church (Ephesians 5:24, Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18)
- Church leaders as shepherds (Hebrews 13:17, 1 Corinthians 16:15-16, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15)
- The authority of scripture to guide my actions (Joshua 1:7-8, Psalm 119:133, James 1:22-25)
- My brothers and sisters as equals (Ephesians 5:21)
- Burdens that Christ sees fit to allow (2 Corinthians 12:7, Mosiah 24:15)

So, I need to ask myself how well I'm doing in all these areas.

- Do I recognize Christ as the leader of The Church of Jesus Christ? Or do I trust too much in certain leaders?
- Do I help support the ministry by praying for and building up my brothers and volunteering to assist where I can? Or do I tear them down with critique and complaints?
- Do I live a life that blatantly (or subtly) contradicts the commandments in scripture?
- Regarding my brothers and sisters, am I quick to make amends, prefer them first, give them the benefit of the doubt? Or do I secretly think I'm "better" than them?
- Do I whine about my trials and seek pity? Or do I give thanks despite the struggles?

Sobering questions for me.

There's another aspect of submission that I found in scripture, and that's submission in specific relationships. Ready? Here they are.

(Continued on page 7)

Book of Mormon 90-Day Reading Challenge

By Brother Josh Gehly

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Last month in our editorial, Brother Duane carefully gave instruction on the precious Word of God especially the Book of Mormon. He explained how holding onto the scriptures keeps us on the path leading to eternal life, how it sets the bar to measure all other revelation and the miracle of its coming forth. It brings to life God's great and eternal promises. The Book of Mormon bridges God's covenants from the past and presents them before us for fulfillment in the near future. How precious!

Make no mistake, the Book of Mormon is a living miracle. A few people were called by God to see the golden plates in person. It changed their lives. Frontier farmers and school teachers transformed into lifelong proclaimers of God's restored revelation. Nothing could get in their way. You can find the testimony of the Three and Eight Witnesses in the front of any Book of Mormon. They all forcefully proclaimed the truth of the Book of Mormon to the world until their dying days.

Joseph Smith, Jr. was once ripped from his home in Ohio. The mob kicked everyone from the house except his adopted baby, who died shortly afterwards. Joseph was beaten, tarred and feathered, and poisoned while unconscious. He was sued hundreds of times, arrested multiple times, and killed by an armed mob with fellow eyewitness and natural brother Hyrum in 1844. The day before they were killed, the duo read passages from the Book of Mormon in prison to gain comfort.

A different mob once took David Whitmer and others from their homes in Missouri. The armed assailants pointed their guns to the church members and demanded they give up the Book of Mormon or die. David preached with such vigor and inspiration that the vigilantes astonishingly let them go. Facing death—David held firmly to what he knew to be true.

On yet another occasion, angry men chased down a member of the Eight Witnesses Hiram Page, beating him mercilessly. The persecutors harassed Hiram about his faith in God and belief in the Book of Mormon. They asked why God didn't save him. Barely breathing, Hiram responded with words of faith. He remained bedridden for quite some time after the ordeal.

Eyewitnesses for the Book of Mormon suffered persecution for their firsthand knowledge of the truth. Martin Harris mortgaged his farm and donated the equivalent of \$90,000 to print the Book of Mormon. Our beloved and precious scripture came into the world through the sacrifices of believers in the face of severe opposition.

All this for a book you and I have on our shelves today. Do you count the cost and value the text as strongly today as our founding fathers? Tell me, did you read a few pages this week? When was the last time you read the Book of Mormon cover to cover? Has it been a few years? Have you ever?

I would like you to join me in reading the Book of Mormon cover to cover over the next 90 days. It is a gift so precious God sent an angel from heaven to deliver it to the world. Included in this Gospel News edition is a 90-day Book of Mormon reading challenge. May your witness of the Book of Mormon blossom. May your faith in the risen Christ be forever strengthened through reading His words.

Turn to page 8 to see the plan and join Brother Josh in the 90-Day Book of Mormon challenge!

Latter Day Journey

Continued from cover

Journey: Spiritual Crisis

In the Lord's infinite and matchless wisdom, there is perfect timing when the scales of justice must be balanced; the love and mercies of the Lord for His creation versus allowing sin to utterly destroy the people of God. In these times of spiritual crisis, known ultimately by God, the Lord has chosen special divine intervention to sustain a group of people who would perpetuate the Love of God. Using just one of our previous examples, the family of Lehi was living during the time period when the scales had to be balanced against the House of Israel and their failure to serve God in complete obedience. Lehi was given divine knowledge and inspiration to begin a journey. He and his family were obedient, eventually resulting in a righteous people living in the promised land of America.

Today, we understand the plan of God is to restore the House of Israel back to a full and true worship of Jesus Christ and into the lands promised to their ancestors. The House of Israel and all mankind are in a spiritual crisis of great magnitude. Refer to the writings of Moroni in the Book of Mormon (Mormon 8:26-41). We cannot deny the fact that our world today is in great sin and confusion. Do not be deceived, for God will not allow this sinful condition to remain unchecked without intervention. Clearly the scriptures declare that creation will not end in sin, but in glory. We know the word of God proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached to all nations before the end of the world comes. Also, the day is sure to be fulfilled wherein "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

Journey: Spiritual Leader

The Brother of Jared, Moses, Lehi, and Nephi were all tasked with a great responsibility: Listen to the Lord. Trust in the Lord. Communicate the vision of the Lord. Direct the family of God to the Lord. Follow the journey as the Lord leads.

In a macro sense, The Church of Jesus Christ is today's spiritual leader for the nation and for the world. As an organization, we are certainly not the biggest, strongest, or most wealthy. We simply hold the truth through the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. We have the vision. God has given us the priesthood authority of Jesus Christ. We must remain humble and follow the

journey as the Lord leads us to the promised land.

In a practical sense, there will be men, as there were in the past journeys, that are tasked with the great responsibility to lead. The Book of Mormon calls out leaders in the latter days. "...[T]he Lord of the vineyard sent his servant; and the servant went and did as the Lord commanded him, and brought other servants..." (Jacob 5:70). "...[T]he life of my servant shall be in my hand..." (3 Nephi 21:10). "...A seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer..." (2 Nephi 3:6).

As the Lord directs The Church of Jesus Christ throughout the journey to our promised land, He will use spiritual leaders to help us follow His will and lead the way, naturally and spiritually.

Journey: Judgment and Destruction

In all periods of time, God affirms His ultimate hatred of sin and wickedness, and at times does so with great fury. The scripture tells us that the Lord God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11), but when a spiritual crisis threatens the total welfare of the people of God, the Almighty intervenes. The confounding of the language, the flood, the plagues upon Egypt, destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the siege and captivity of Jerusalem in 600 BC, are all examples of the wrath of God upon wicked and unbelieving people.

Are we any different today? Can our nation be spared the displeasure and judgment of God if sin continues? The Book of Mormon answers clearly. "And if the time comes that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you..." (Mosiah 29:27). Also, Moroni records a warning concerning the land of America. "And now, we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fulness of his wrath shall come upon them" (Ether 2:9).

The Church of Jesus Christ has been warned. God is not pleased with the wickedness upon the promised land of America. We as a nation have an opportunity to change, to repent. However, the judgment of God awaits if we will not. Do not be deceived with the cultural norms being embraced today in our society. What was sin to God in the past, is sin to God today. What God has promised for mankind from the beginning of time, will be everlasting.

Journey: Safety / Travel / Protection

The Brother of Jared and his group were led into the wilderness. The Lord directed Moses and the House of Israel through the desert by His mighty hand; a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Lehi and his family were directed to leave Jerusalem and the Lord provided the Liahona, a compass, to lead them in the proper direction toward the promised land. "And it did work for them according to their faith in God; therefore, if they had faith to believe that God could cause those spindles should point the way they should go, behold it was done..." (Alma 37:40).

The word of God reveals that a separation will occur between the sincere believers and the wicked. This may be a 'wilderness' type of experience for the people of God as we see what God has provided in the past to sustain, protect, and prove the faithful. The prophet Joel declares, "...and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them...Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith..." (Joel 2:17-19). Nephi also speaks of our day. "For the time speedily cometh that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people, and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people..." (2 Nephi 30:10).

How will God preserve and protect The Church of Jesus Christ, along with all sincere believers? We must wait faithfully and with great confidence to see how the Lord will act. What the steps on the journey will be for us, we do not completely know. However, we do know that like with the Liahona, we must be willing to see God work. We must be faithful. We must trust in God, not trusting in our own natural comforts or wealth for assurance. There may be a wilderness experience for us as the people of God, since the Lord has frequently led His people in miraculous ways from crisis to deliverance. Please anticipate this part of the journey with joy, not dread. Our Lord delivers His people.

Journey: Miracles

Manna, Water from a Rock, Walking on Dusty Ground at the Bottom of the Red Sea ...

Moving a Mountain, Illuminating Rocks for Light, Sophisticated Ships to Cross an Ocean ...

Providing the Brass Plates, Liahona, Angels Appearing ...

If you could have dinner with one person from the scripture other than Jesus, who would it be and why?

Continued from back cover

"Deborah. She is such an incredible woman and example of choosing the right, even when it is difficult. I would love to pick her brain; one of my favorite verses in the Bible was spoken by her: Judges 5:7, 'The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.'" - *Sister Rebecca Wilcoxson, Erie, PA Branch*

"Nephi, because he saw the whole plan of salvation 600 years before and He is from the Seed of Joseph. Therefore, I would ask him how was it like to experience all that?" - *Sister Lissette Kerby, Irvine, CA Branch*

"Brother of Jared ... a LONG dinner to discuss 1) his perspectives on the Tower of Babel and their journey, 2) the story of the stones that were touched by the finger of the Lord and 3) preview of what Lord showed unto him!" - *Brother Paul A. Palmieri, McKees Rocks, PA Branch*

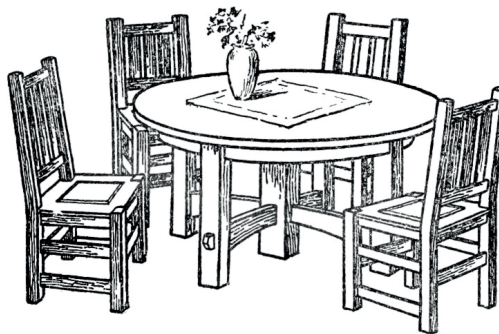
"I choose the Three Nephites because they have been here on this earth since before Christ came to the Americas, they walked and talked with Him and are still here on this land till He comes again. They have greater insight as to the future of the Seed of Joseph, Zion, and the New Jerusalem. It would be so rewarding to sup with them and hear all the many wonderful experiences they would have to share with me, for they have met with many wonderful prophets we could also talk about too." - *Brother Michael McGuire, Cape Coral, FL Branch*

"Martha, Mary's sister. Since she was the one getting ready for the meal with Jesus, I think that means that she would have been a good cook." - *Sister Dianne Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch*

"I would have dinner with Abish. I'd ask her about her remarkable conversion to the Lord and thank

her for her boldness to step forward at just the right moment." - *Sister LuAnn Carson, Monongahela, PA Branch*

"Apostle Paul. He was the epitome of atonement, dedication, perseverance, and sacrifice. Apostle Paul was originally a well-educated and well-written sinner, dedicated to the persecution of Christians. After Jesus converted him on the road to Damascus, Apostle Paul dedicated his life to Christ and the conversion of the Gentiles. Without Paul, we would have only one half of the New Testament." - *Brother Frederick Keener, North Georgia Mission*



"Mary, mother of Jesus. Because I've always been curious how Jesus was as a child, teenager, and in early adulthood, I would want to know more about His upbringing and how they prepared Him for the future as the Son of God. Also, after having lost my 24-year-old son in 2008 and knowing what it's like to bury a child, I would converse with her about her emotions witnessing the death of her Son (at least I didn't have to do that!), because she was one I thought of after getting the news of my son and my heart broke for her more than ever after experiencing this loss." - *Sister Dienna Rogers, Irvine, CA Branch*

"Ruth, because she left everything behind to follow Naomi to a land she didn't know with people who would look down on her. What faith!" - *Sister Anita Znoy, Creekside, MI Branch*

"Martha. I've always admired her faith when she rushed out to meet Jesus the day her brother had died and said, 'Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou with ask of God, God will give it thee.' Jesus saith unto her, 'Thy brother shalt live again'. Martha saith unto him, 'I know that he

shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' (John 11:21-24) I know everyone admires Mary for sitting at Jesus' feet and Martha always gets the bad rap for complaining. But to me, Martha had great faith. First, she tells Christ that He could've healed Lazarus, then states anything He asks of God, God will do, and then acknowledges that she believes that Lazarus will resurrect on the last day. To me Martha had great faith, knowledge, and understanding." - *Sister Karen Jo Pandone, Farmington Hills, MI Branch*

"Paul, because I would want to talk about his conversion from Saul to Paul. Also how he learned to be content in whatever situation he would be in, his travels, and so much more." - *Sister Sharon Sloan, Forest Hills, FL Branch*

"There are a number of people I would love to have dinner with for various reasons, but if I had to narrow it down to one, I thought about who dealt with the most adversity in their lives. But even with that limiting parameter, it was still hard to narrow it down, so I settled on Nephi I. A provider, shipbuilder, visionary, temple builder, protector, record keeper, and more." - *Brother Mark Kovacic, North Georgia Mission*

"Nephi, because I would love to hear his wonderful vision he had and what else he saw that was not written down." - *Brother Michael Zaino, Edison, NJ Branch*

"Sariah: She was the faithful wife of Lehi who left a comfortable home with her family and husband to suffer danger in the desert and ocean in the migration to America. She was a strong woman and an advocate for all her children (6 sons and 2 daughters)." - *Sister Flo Perri, Lake Worth, FL Branch*

"The Brother of Jared - I would like to talk to him about what it was like to actually have enough faith to see The Lord, and I would also like to ask him his name!" - *Brother Robert Golling, Monongahela, PA Branch*

"I would love to speak with the Apostle John so that he could explain to me (more fully) the book of Revelations and how to be more prepared for the times that are about to come." - *Sister Denise DiFalco-Dickson, Detroit, MI Branch #1.*

Denying Yourself

Continued from page 4

- Citizens to government – Romans 13:1-7, Matthew 22:21, Titus 3:1, Alma 17
- Wives to husbands – Ephesians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1
- Children to parents – Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20
- Young to old – 1 Peter 5:5, Leviticus 19:32
- Servants to masters – Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24, 1 Peter 2:18

These are power relationships, folks, and they make me uncomfortable. You? The

indoctrination of the modern world has made these scriptural truths unpalatable. We collectively recoil.

Yet, these truths lead to human flourishing when they're rendered as God intended. (Too often, we see only the perversions of these relationships, so we throw the baby out with the bath water.)

The gospel is order, not disorder.

Peace, not chaos.

Spiritual revelation, not political revolution.

When I, as a follower of Jesus, focus on radically changing my heart, really loving others, and

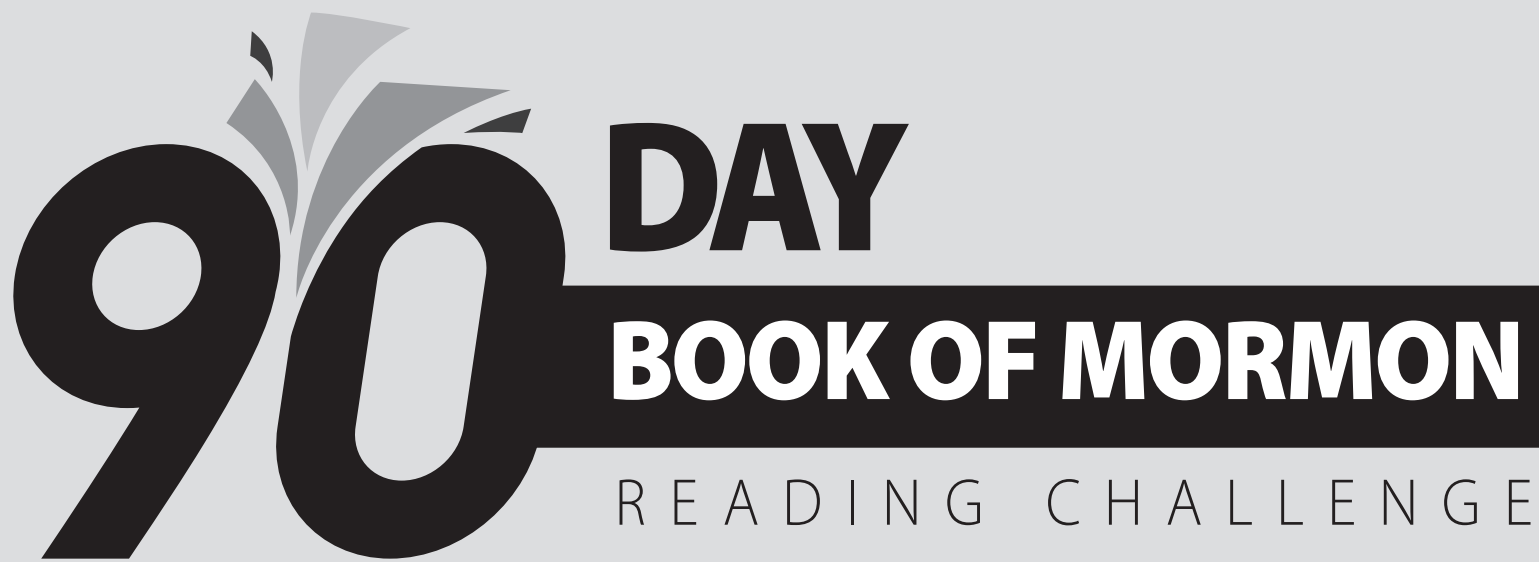
submitting in these relationships, then I can make a real change, a life-giving impact. And all glory goes to God where it belongs.

Submission praises and honors God. It testifies of God.

(Want proof? I found it here: Titus 2:4-5 and 9-10 and 1 Peter 2:13.)

When I let go of my stubborn will, then my hands are free to cling to Jesus with one and punch the devil away with the other.

(Originally published on the Gospel Blog)



90 DAY

BOOK OF MORMON

READING CHALLENGE

DAY	READ	DAY	READ	DAY	READ
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	1 Nephi 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Mosiah 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 61	Alma 58-60
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	1 Nephi 4-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	Mosiah 18-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 62	Alma 61-63
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	1 Nephi 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 33	Mosiah 21-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 63	Helaman 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	1 Nephi 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 34	Mosiah 24-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 64	Helaman 2-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	1 Nephi 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	Mosiah 27-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 65	Helaman 5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	1 Nephi 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 36	Alma 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 66	Helaman 7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	1 Nephi 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 37	Alma 2-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 67	Helaman 10-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	1 Nephi 20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 38	Alma 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 68	Helaman 14-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	2 Nephi 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	Alma 6-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 69	3 Nephi 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	2 Nephi 2-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	Alma 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 70	3 Nephi 2-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	2 Nephi 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 41	Alma 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 71	3 Nephi 4-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	2 Nephi 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 42	Alma 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 72	3 Nephi 7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	2 Nephi 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 43	Alma 15-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 73	3 Nephi 10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	2 Nephi 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Alma 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 74	3 Nephi 13-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	2 Nephi 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 45	Alma 20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 75	3 Nephi 16-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	2 Nephi 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 46	Alma 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 76	3 Nephi 19-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	2 Nephi 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 47	Alma 25-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 77	3 Nephi 22-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	2 Nephi 26	<input type="checkbox"/> 48	Alma 28-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 78	3 Nephi 27-30
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	2 Nephi 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 49	Alma 31	<input type="checkbox"/> 79	4 Nephi
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	2 Nephi 29-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 50	Alma 32-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 80	Mormon 1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Jacob 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 51	Alma 35-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 81	Mormon 4-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Jacob 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 52	Alma 37-39	<input type="checkbox"/> 82	Mormon 7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Jacob 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 53	Alma 40-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 83	Ether 1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Enos Jarom Omni	<input type="checkbox"/> 54	Alma 43	<input type="checkbox"/> 84	Ether 3-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Words of Mormon	<input type="checkbox"/> 55	Alma 44-46	<input type="checkbox"/> 85	Ether 7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Mosiah 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 56	Alma 47-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 86	Ether 10-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Mosiah 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 57	Alma 49-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 87	Ether 13-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Mosiah 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 58	Alma 51-52	<input type="checkbox"/> 88	Moroni 1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Mosiah 9-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 59	Alma 53-55	<input type="checkbox"/> 89	Moroni 7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Mosiah 12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 60	Alma 56-57	<input type="checkbox"/> 90	Moroni 9-10

Straight Talk By Brother Adrian P. Vasquez

Dear Young Adults,

I'm going to be straight with you, stay young as long as you can because it's not fun but eventually, we have to face it and grow up. We also have God on our side, which means that we have bigger targets on our backs. We go through so many things in life, from growing up to completing life goals that we have focused on since we were kids.

While I'm writing this letter, I'm going to be honest, I've been going through a tough vibe right now and thank God that I have spiritual mentors that have been by my side. These days are tough, and I have been upset with them, but that was me just being prideful by not seeing what they were attempting to do. We have spiritual mentors that will always be there, and we need to show them some grace and kindness, that we are a family of Christ, and we need them with us through our "Tug of War" with life.

We go through a battle between our spiritual and natural life, we play "Tug of War," we forget that as a child of God, we already won. We need

to remember to celebrate more, even after the bad days, the next day is a whole new day. As young adults, we are going through school, relationships, jobs, and just life in general. When you wake up to start the day, you don't always know what to expect. We follow a schedule, but during that schedule, what happens if you are getting tacos for lunch, and they drop right before you are getting to your car? Think about that situation, what would you do, how would it make you feel? If that is a bad moment in your day, you can't dwell on that moment. In Matthew 28:30, Jesus states "...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." If we know that God is with us until the end of the world, He must be with us through the end of day, and we need to celebrate that.

It's okay to get tired and rest, because being a young adult or adult is tiring; you can't try to complete everything in life, it's possible but not in one day. It's okay to rest, it's okay to ask for help, it's okay to just enjoy the naps. God knows our hearts and understands that we try the best we can. Through our struggles and past mistakes,

or even the mistakes that we haven't made yet, God knows our path and it's tough to understand what God is trying to do with us. One of my favorite scriptures about resting is Mark 4:37-38. It's one of my favorites because you have Jesus napping, but he is napping on a pillow. I have no idea on how He made the pillow, but He is the Son of God. If we know that Jesus can nap during a storm that is about to occur, why can't we nap when we are tired of our troubles and we want to escape for a bit? It's okay to rest and enjoy that nap.

So, hopefully this letter will bring you some encouragement, and know that life is difficult when you need to figure out the balance between the spiritual and natural life. This is coming from a brother who is struggling with finding that balance but making life better, so if you feel like you are the only one going through rough times, think again and put your hand out. I can assure you that the family of God will be right there with you. Love y'all and appreciate y'all, family.

Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Life Lessons By Sister Luann Carson (continued from the previous issue)



Lesson from Nursing:

When I worked at the hospital I often received reports from the previous shift nurse that went something like this: "Stay out of room 319. He's the meanest person you'll ever meet. He will ruin your day." Of course, I couldn't avoid a patient in my care for sixteen hours. So I would go into that room first. After introducing myself I would ask the patient what I could do to make the day better. Most of the time it was just a tiny act like getting a warm blanket, providing a snack, explaining the 'whys' of the patient's treatment, helping make a phone call (you get the idea). Afterwards, the patient usually ended up being as sweet as honey.

Lesson: A little kindness goes a long way.
Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another."

Lesson from the Olympics:

After scoring a zero on a dive in the Olympics, Pamela Ware said,

"I was so ready for this competition and I made a mistake... But I am proud because I have done everything possible to make it to where I am. And I'm human!" Then said she has no plans to quit working toward a gold medal; she promised, "I'm not letting it defeat me!"

Lesson: Everyone is human and makes mistakes. Remember to forgive others and yourself.

Matthew 6: 14 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you"

Lesson from my granddaughter:

One day my granddaughter said to me, "Right now my Bible is open to" (and she proceeded to quote a verse). When I asked why, she just said she liked that verse. She then told me that she reads scripture, and even though she doesn't always understand it, she tries to remember verses she likes. (She's only in third grade.)

Lesson: Read scripture whether or not you understand it fully.

II Timothy 2: 15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God."

Lesson from my mom:

Whenever my mom testifies, she always praises God for 'my Jesus.' One day I realized how important that possessive pronoun is. He's not just a Savior of the world, someone who died for man. Jesus is my personal Savior; He died for me!

Lesson: "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!"

Psalms 19: 14 "O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Lesson from the sky:

One day while hiking I heard thunder in the distance. When I looked up I saw a sky filled with black clouds. Because the weather forecast said no rain, I continued to hike. Only a few minutes later I was drenched in a downpour.

Lesson: Read the signs.

Matthew 16: 2&3 "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering... Ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

(Continued on page 11)



Lying Comes To The Garden

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you ever think about lying? I had a very strict dad who worked hard, was tired, and got mad a lot. He'd ground us in our rooms if he was angry at our actions. Sometimes I did not think he was being fair. But he was the boss at my house.

I remember biking home late from my friend's house and making up a lie, a good excuse, so my Dad wouldn't be angry with me. I remember being so relieved when he wasn't at home. I hated lying. Besides, if you make up a lie, then you have to remember it later just in case.

Mother had taught us kids not to lie, to pray, say we were sorry and mean it, be kind, do not steal, and help other people. These are some of the basic Ten Commandments God gave Moses to teach His people and the world. (See Exodus 20.) Besides, the Bible tells us God does not like liars. It is better to tell the truth and live with your choices, bad or good. It is better to be sorry for our mistakes and repent.

The first big liar talked about in the Bible happened when Adam and Eve were together in the Garden of Eden. God told them they could have and use anything in the garden but not the fruit from one special tree, this is the tree of knowledge. (See Genesis Chapter 3.) Then the evil one, the devil, the liar in the form of a snake came to trick Eve. He told her, "Didn't God say you could eat anything in this garden?" Eve answered, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said not to eat of it or touch it, lest we would die."

The tricky serpent told her, "You truly won't die." He wanted her to disobey the Lord. "God knows that if you eat it...you will know good and evil." And when Eve looked at the tree and saw it was good for food, and it was pleasant to the eyes and especially a tree to make a person wise, she took of the fruit, ate it, and gave some to Adam to eat too!

And they realized they were naked and sewed together fig leaves for aprons to cover themselves. That evening they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden and they hid themselves. "Where are you? God called. Adam answered, "I heard your voice and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself" "Who told you were naked? Did you eat from the tree I told you not to touch?" And Adam told him Eve gave it to him. And God asked Eve, "What is this thing you have done?" And Eve said, "The serpent tricked me and I did eat. And the Lord God told the snake, "Because you did this, you will be cursed more than all animals. And you shall crawl upon your belly and live in dust all of your life. And humans will hate you and bruise your head!"

To Eve He also told her how hard her life would be and that it would be hard having babies. Because Adam chose to disobey he would have to work hard too, and the ground would have thistles and thorns. Life would be hard for them now.

But the Lord still loved them. He made coats and clothes for them out of animal skins and sent them from the Garden of Eden. A special angel with a flaming sword was put at the entrance so Adam and Eve would not eat from the other special tree, the tree of life.

They came out of the Garden and had children and hundreds of great-grandchildren. Adam lived to be 930 years old! (See Genesis 5:5.) They were still loved by God even though they made such a huge mistake.

Don't forget God does not like us to lie. So if you make a mistake, or if you lie, admit it to God. Ask for forgiveness from the persons you had harmed. Pray for help to never do it again! Remember, our God has a great big plan for you and loves you.

With love, Your friend, *Sister Jan*

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Latter Day Journey

Continued from page 6

And it is recorded of the Nephites' journey, "...therefore they had this miracle, and also many other miracles wrought by the power of God, day by day" (Alma 37:40).

Oh, we have glorious miracles provided by the Lord today. The Church of Jesus Christ incorporates 'testimony time' in many of our formal worship services on a weekly basis. The blessings and miracles of the Lord are abundant. However, there is a day before us the prophets say — "...the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land..." Jeremiah 16:14-16). So glorious and so miraculous will be the works of the Lord for the people of God, that the former miracles and the former blessings will not be spoken of any more. There will be in that day, the days of our journey, miracles and blessings that our current imagination cannot fathom.

Journey: Expanded Knowledge

In the account of the Jaredite journey, the brother of Jared received such a perfect knowledge of God that the spiritual veil was removed and he was able to see Jesus Christ (Ether 3). The Lord spoke to the brother of Jared and stated, "...for never has man believed in me as thou hast" (Ether 3:15). With such accurate knowledge concerning God and great belief, all the revelations of Jesus Christ were revealed unto this man.

The House of Israel's journey from Egypt was a similar experience. The Lord spoke to Moses and detailed knowledge of God was once again

delivered during their experience toward the promised land. The commandments of God were brought forth, written by the finger of God (Exodus 31:18).

The family of Lehi received commandment to return to Jerusalem and obtain "...the record of the Jews and also a genealogy of thy forefathers..." (1 Nephi 3:3). Lehi and the Nephite civilization were spiritually preserved through this knowledge of God which was contained in the brass plates. Nephi states, "...they were desirable; yea, and even of great worth to us..." (1 Nephi 5:21).

The latter day journey we are on as a people, will also include expanding our knowledge of God and His glorious revelations. The record which the Lord instructed the brother of Jared to write will be given to The Church of Jesus Christ (Ether 4:5-7). The full knowledge and witness of God in the brass plates will be given (1 Nephi 5:18). The complete records of Nephi along with many other records that the Lord God has commanded to be written will be revealed to the world (2 Nephi 29:10-13). Oh how glorious will be our rejoicing, how amazed we will be as we read and know the marvelous works of God done among the nations! Our minds will truly be expanded with the knowledge of God.

Journey: Promised Land — America

- A land that is choice above all the lands of the earth
- A land of promise
- He that doth possess it (land) shall serve God
- The place of the New Jerusalem which should be built, unto the remnant of Joseph
- The place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven

America, the land where the Kingdom of God will be established, as it is in heaven. The

journey, however, is not toward a land. The journey culminates in a time, and a place, and a condition of ultimate love and peace while in mortal life. None of us have ever experienced such joy and contentment. The report given in the Book of Mormon concerning The Church of Jesus Christ on the land of America after Jesus had resurrected, includes these descriptions:

"...there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people."

"...no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness..."

"...surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God."

"...but they were in one, the children of Christ, and heirs to the kingdom of God."

"And how blessed were they!" (4 Nephi vv. 15-18)

The Church of Jesus Christ — this is our vision, our hope, our promise. The latter day journey is before us, and the more righteous in Jesus Christ. We pray all will listen and obey the instruction given to Joshua: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

In the love of God,

The Quorum of Twelve Apostles

James Crudup, Joel Gehly, Pete Giannetti, John Griffith, Scott Griffith, Paul Liberto, Thomas M. Liberto, Leonard A. Lovalvo, Frank Natoli, Paul A. Palmieri, Peter Scolaro, Jerry Valenti

DONATION REMINDER

It is not too late to send in your donation! If sending a check, make it payable to The Church of Jesus Christ and send to 6899 Bayshore Dr., Lake Worth, FL 33462. You can also go to <https://thechurchofjesuschrist.org/media/gospel-news/and> scroll down to donate online. Any donation is appreciated!



Life Lessons

 Continued from page 9

Lesson from my four-year-old grandson:

Every Tuesday my daughter takes my grandson to the library for story time. Last week's theme was making music. The kids made instruments such as guitars and shakers for their craft. Playing their instruments, they all marched through the library. As they marched, my grandson began to sing "The Standard of Liberty" (all three verses, word for word). He sang out with all his heart, showing no embarrassment or self-consciousness.

Lesson: Never be ashamed of the Gospel.

Romans 1: 16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."

Mark 8: 38. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words . . . of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed."

Blessing Bits

March Blessing Bits

BB He Is Faithful Through and Through -

Brother Jim and I were both raised in the Church. I grew up in western Pennsylvania and attended the Imperial Branch and Jim grew up in New Jersey and attended the Hopelawn Branch, where we attend today. In the beginning of our relationship God gave us many experiences to let us know He was the one that brought us together. Before we met, while living in Pennsylvania, I was praying that God would provide a mate who shared my beliefs. I asked Him to show me and my future spouse a dream about each other. Brother Jim was also praying for a helpmate at that time. God answered both of our prayers! Several years into our marriage, we accepted that we were not going to have any children, and God has given us much peace through it all. No matter how big or small a trial may be, we go through it together with God by our side. Today we are blessed to share 24 years of marriage and the ability to work for the Lord in our home branch, and in the mission field. -Sister Mitzi Calabro, Hopelawn, NJ Branch

BB As for Me and My House -

We recently had a new floor installed in our home. Unfortunately, the workmanship was not what it needed to be, so the floor had to be taken out and reinstalled. When the new floor was removed, the

installers found mold growing on the subfloor. It had only been there for a period of six months, but the mold was growing quickly. Had the floor not needed to be replaced, we would never have known about the mold. We thank God that it was caught before it could cause any damage to our health. -Brother Chuck Maddox, Lake Worth, FL Branch

BB My God Can Do ANYTHING! -

My sister Valerie was born when I was 14 years old! I had prayed so hard for a sister, being the older sister of 3 boys. Val was born with Microcephaly (smaller-than-normal head resulting in a smaller brain). During that time, I read up on her condition and the encyclopedia stated that children born with that disorder usually didn't live past the age of 18. This upset and disturbed me, so I slammed the book closed and said, "My God can do ANYTHING!" The Lord gave her to me; the Lord answered my prayers. I loved her and took care of her! Larry and I promised my mom that we would care for Val after she passed away. I really didn't understand what that would entail, but the Lord helped us with our commitment, not only to my mom but more importantly to Him! It's been 21 years since mom passed away. In recent years, Val has been spending time living with my brothers, Pete (and Lori) and Mike (and Jan) Capone. Not long ago my nephew had a dream about my brother Mike, who passed away in May. Amazingly, he spoke about Val. "This is my dear sister," he said, "Take good care of her." Imagine

how much the Lord must love the powerless and those with disabilities! And He expects us to do the same. Miraculously she has lived 3 times longer than her life expectancy—she is 55 years old! And after all these years, she remains a blessing in our lives. I praise God for His goodness and mercy. - Sister Vanessa Watson, Tse Bonito, NM Mission

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.



Question for this month: Write one word that represents Easter for each letter in the word "RISEN."



Answer from last month: If you could have dinner with one person from the scripture other than Jesus, who would it be and why? "Mary Magdalene: I'd like to know what it was like to be a woman to follow Jesus with his group of disciples, to fellowship with him, witness his miracles and also to be the first to witness his resurrection." - Sister Mary Bertolo, Detroit, MI Branch #1.

Turn back to page 4 for more answers to this question.

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. Mark 13:26