

# The Gospel News

## IN THIS ISSUE:

*Happy  
Father's  
Day!*



**Blast From The Past**  
Page 2

**Word Up**  
Page 3

**Editorial Viewpoint**  
Page 6

**GMBA News**  
Page 7

**Ladies' Uplift  
Circle News**  
Page 8

**Children's Corner**  
Page 9

**Question  
of the Month**  
Page 11

**Blessing Bits**  
Page 12

## A Message from the Quorum of Twelve Apostles

# THE JOY OF THE SAINTS

**W**hat is the Joy of the Saints? In Enos 1:3, we read of the wrestle Enos had before God, to understand the words often spoken by his father, "concerning eternal life, and the Joy of the Saints..." From this we know that the greatest Joy of the Saints is eternal life. Yet there are many more Joys of the Saints to experience and understand as we walk the path leading to eternal life.

Is the Joy of the Saints being together with the family of God? Yes, it is. Many of us can look back and remember attending Church services together as a tight-knit family. The Church was the main part of our lives. We attended Sunday School, morning praise and worship services and afternoon testimony, communion, and fellowship meetings. We brought lunches with us and ate together, often sharing with others and enjoying special treats with all. Most of us also attended mid-week services for praise and worship and MBA youth gatherings. As young people we felt the love of our senior saints and came to love them as our own parents and grandparents.

Most importantly, we spent time in each other's homes, eating dinner together and then fellowshiping for hours, singing and testifying of God's love in our lives. It is often said that the Hospitality of the Saints was an important lesson in teaching us the love of Christ. It is easy to conclude that Hospitality is one of the Joys of the Saints and could be a major factor in drawing others to Christ. Hospitality is reaching out to others to let them know they are welcomed and loved. Hospitality is helping those in physical, emotional, or financial need. What God expects from us in the area of Hospitality is summarized in the scriptures referenced below.

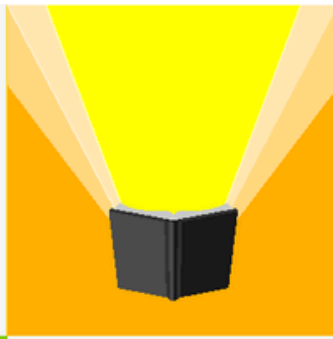
### **Hospitality is Love for One Another**

- Let love be easily seen, be kind and affectionate one to another with brotherly love, prefer one another, distribute to the necessity of saints, and be given to hospitality. (Romans 12:9-13)
- A bishop must not only be given to hospitality but must be a lover of hospitality as well as a lover of good men. (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8)

(Continued on page 4)



Sunday, June 21st is Father's Day. Natural, spiritual, and extended family.



Find a scripture about sunshine to brighten your day. Or a hymn, that's even easier.

Pray for someone who is about to graduate from school: be it nursery, elementary, junior high or high.



And don't forget about the college graduates. They need prayers for jobs.



Planning for GMBA Campout? What a blessing it would be to see you there.

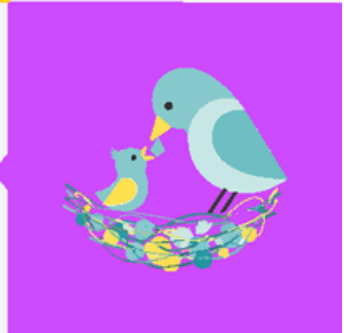


At least once this month, make a plan to visit a senior member after church.

Drink in some sunshine today. Hopefully, it's shining where you live.



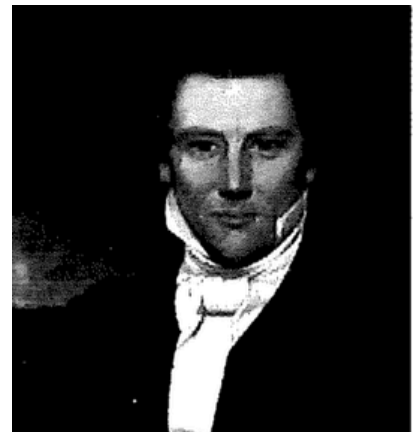
Send a card to someone who's been a spiritual father to you. Let them know the impact they've made on you.



# BFTP Blast From The Past

One hundred eighty-two years ago this month, on Thursday, June 27, 1844, an angry mob stormed the jailhouse in Carthage, Illinois, that held Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum. Killing them both, the martyrdom of Joseph Smith would throw the early saints into a contentious struggle for leadership that would ultimately result in Sidney Rigdon, first counselor to Joseph Smith, taking his followers east to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From there, a young William Bickerton would be baptized, ordained into the ministry, and Quorum of Seventy to be used of God, in time after the breakup of Rigdon's group to organize The Church of Jesus Christ in Greenock, Pennsylvania, in 1862.

Joseph Smith ▶



## 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.



## My Father's Business

By Brother Doug Obradovich

*"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" - Luke 2:49*

He spent years gathering the data needed and honed in on his specific cabinetry skills. Once ready, he opened his own kitchen cabinet shop. He remained a business owner for the rest of his career. I was born into my father's business. I began working in my father's business when I was very young. My first responsibility was sweeping and cleaning his shop and showroom. Afterwards, I learned the skills demanded in each workstation (cutting, assembling, constructing, sanding, finishing, and finally, installing). But I never outgrew sweeping and cleaning. That's how it is when it's your father's business.

Years of experience left me with a strong understanding of building and installing kitchen cabinets. Despite this knowledge,

I never shared my father's passion. I carry no memory of having desired to follow into his business, so I never fully appreciated nor embraced all that was available to me. While I don't remember discussing any of this with my brother or sister, none of us ever pursued my father's business.

Jesus was also born into His father's business.

Although Joseph was a carpenter, and Jesus had learned the trade ("Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary...? - Mark 6:3), He was not the Father I was addressing above. There is an account of Jesus' family visit to Jerusalem for Passover when he was only 12 years old. As their trip concluded, the caravan left the city. A full day after departing, they discovered Jesus was not with them and they immediately returned to Jerusalem. Three days after their discovery, they finally located Him. He was discovered in the temple amongst the "doctors" (learned scribes and Pharisees). He was in deep discussions about the things of God, which amazed those witnessing the dialogue ("Astonished at His understanding and answers.")

Mary was apparent in her exhaustion, and surely in finding her lost son. She voiced fear, confusion, and anger as she questioned, "Son, why has thou thus dealt

with us?" He seemed equally perplexed, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my father's business?" He wondered why they needed to hunt for Him, being resolute in where He must be and what He must be doing. He wondered why she had not known what He assumed would be obvious. Throughout His life, He had not simply learned His Father's business; He appreciated it. He embraced it. But most importantly, He had always been about His Father's business, loved His Father's business, lived His Father's business, and finally, when His days would come to an end, He had fulfilled His Father's business. "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Jesus always knew. But He did none of this for Himself. He did all of this for you. For me. For all of mankind, His entire creation. And in the end, He did all of this for His Father. Should any one of us question Him as His mother did when He was 12 years old, He would provide the same answer, with the same sincerity, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

So, how 'bout you? Are you about your Father's business?

### **Hospitality is to Rescue Others in Need**

- Jesus told them to feed the hungry and thirsty, to take in strangers, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and those in prison—that when they have done so to one of the least of His brethren, they have done it unto Him. (Matthew 25:35-40)
- Do not turn away beggars because you see them as undeserving of your help. We are all beggars before God. (Mosiah 4:16-19)

### **Hospitality is to Give to Others Joyfully**

- Above all things, have fervent charity among yourselves and use hospitality one to another without grudging. (1 Peter 4:8-9)
- The Apostle Paul instructed the saints to follow his example of laboring to support the weak, and quoted the words of Jesus, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:34-35)

### **Hospitality is to Comfort All Who Are in Trouble**

- God comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those in any trouble, by knowing we ourselves are comforted by Him. (2 Corinthians 1:4)
- Do not judge some members as unworthy of help. There should be no division in the body—the members should have the same care one for another. (1 Corinthians 12:20-26)

### **Hospitality Is to Forgive Others as God Has Forgiven You**

- And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32)
- Receive one another as Christ also received us to the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

### **Hospitality Blesses Us in Unexpected Ways**

- We are reminded to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Hebrews 13:2)
- He which soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully—so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

### **Hospitality Is Doing the Right Thing Even When It’s Not Convenient**

- Jesus taught the people not to invite family, friends or rich neighbors to a feast expecting to be recompensed, but to call the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind, and by so doing, they would be blessed at the resurrection of the just. (Luke 14:12-14)
- And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Jesus’s parable of the good Samaritan is a powerful example of love for others. He noted that it was necessary to love God with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbor as thyself. In the parable, a traveler was attacked by thieves who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him and left him half dead. A priest came upon him and passed by on the other side. A Levite also passed by and did likewise. But a Samaritan came and had compassion on him, bound his wounds, set him on his own beast, and took him to an inn to care for him. When Christ ended the parable, he asked, who was neighbor to the wounded man, and the answer was, “He that showed mercy on him.” Jesus said go and do likewise. (Luke 10:30-37)
- Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

The scriptures are very plain on the personal joys we can experience if we practice hospitality. They also point out how others may need a helping hand from time to time and that we should try to let them know they are loved and needed. God has promised to bless us if we follow His commandments.

There is no doubt that many people you know seem to have no need for assistance. In fact, you may feel that you also have no need for assistance. If so, please take a moment to consider some possible needs that are not obvious:

- Are you sometimes lonely, feeling life is passing by too quickly?
- Has it been a long time since you have been invited to dinner or an event?
- Do you spend too much time watching TV or catching up on social media?
- Are you reluctant to share your needs with others?
- Would it be nice to have someone to talk to?
- Do you need to add something new to your rigid daily routine?

If the answer is “yes” to any of these questions, it is very likely that someone in your circle of friends would also answer “yes” to some of these questions. If you are lonely, consider taking the initiative of hosting an activity—or simply call, write a note, or send a text to someone who needs to be lifted up—and you will be lifted up yourself. If you would like to have an event at your home but need some help to get it done, invite others to join you—you can provide the house and ask volunteers (perhaps a youth group) to assist. Invite others to dinner at your home if you are able—or send a gift card for a delivered meal to someone in need. Do your best to say “yes” when you are invited to fellowship with the saints—you will be blessed and whoever invites you will be blessed.

In closing, we ask you to think about how you have been blessed by being a part of The Church of Jesus Christ. Then, we ask you to consider the need for our members, children, young people, visitors of all ages—and anyone in your circle of friends—to have an opportunity to experience some of, or more of, what we have been blessed with. Can you turn your thoughts and desires into action?

Remember:

“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalms 118:24).

You can touch someone’s life today by showing them the Joy of the Saints through the Hospitality God intends for His people.

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*

To learn more about The Church of Jesus Christ, with Headquarters in Monongahela, PA, please visit our website. The World Operations Center for world-wide missionary efforts is in Greensburg, PA.

[www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.org)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Sabrina Fisher

gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org  
226-238-2305

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

David Tenorio

dtenorio9897@gmail.com  
908-205-9397

**CONSULTANTS**

Paul Liberto

Leonard A. Lovalvo  
Anthony Scolaro  
Carolynn O'Connor

**CIRCULATION MANAGER**

Shannon Hamet

sis.shannonhamet@gmail.com

**DESIGN & LAYOUT**

Ken Lombardo

**COPY EDITOR**

Anthony Scolaro

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Shannon Hamet

**QUORUM OF 70 EDITOR**

Q70 Communication Team

q70team@gmail.com  
313-820-4503

**GMBA EDITOR**

Sydney Lovalvo

sydlovalvo@gmail.com  
248-872-5078

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Marty Jumper

Becbogmart@comcast.net  
724-302-6599

**REGION EDITORS**

**ATLANTIC COAST**

Andrew Tenorio

andrew.tenorio@thechurchofjesuschrist.org  
908-405-8323

**GREAT LAKES**

Kim Komjathy

komjathy1976@gmail.com  
313-461-3176

**MIDWEST**

midwest@thechurchofjesuschrist.org

**PACIFIC**

Jody Greger

cjcsldr@yahoo.com  
209-810-4880

**PENN-MID ATLANTIC**

Ray Intriери

ray.intriери@thechurchofjesuschrist.org  
724-622-7249

**SOUTHEAST**

Mandy Griffith

mandygriffith324@gmail.com  
727-264-7905

**SOUTHWEST**

Anthony Scolaro

anthony.scolaro@thechurchofjesuschrist.org  
732-259-3861

**THE GOSPEL NEWS**

(ISSN 0279-1056) is a monthly digital publication published by The Church of Jesus Christ, World Operations Center, 110 Walton Tea Room Road, Greensburg, PA 15601-9998, 724-837-7799.

**DONATIONS TO BE SENT TO:**

25565 Gibraltar Rd.  
Flat Rock, MI 48134

## Fathers-in-Law

By Brother Mark Kovacic

Comedians have made a career out of jokes about mothers-in-law; not so much for fathers-in-law. Fathers-in-law are not a popular subject topic. Additionally, very little is found in the Holy Scriptures regarding fathers-in-law. We understand what “in-laws” are, but what are the signs of a “bad” father-in-law? Here are some general signs: often displays toxic, controlling, or disrespectful behavior, such as undermining your marriage, violating boundaries, and creating conflict (what my father-in-law called “stirring the pot”). If these signs are present, it may be time to seek additional help and/or counseling.

On the other hand, we have the signs of a good father-in-law such as Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law and high priest of the Midianites (the Midianites were descendants of Abraham and Keturah). Jethro greeted Moses and the children of Israel during the great Exodus from Egypt. Moses revered him; they asked about each other’s welfare; and they went into the tent. Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel’s sake, and all the travail that had come upon them and how the Lord delivered them.

Notice how they first discussed what had been happening (the niceties). Jethro learned of all that God had done for Moses and the children of Israel. Especially, how the Lord had brought Israel out of their Egyptian slavery. Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the Lord had done. He proceeds to give Moses wise counselling in Exodus 18:10-24, where Jethro said,

“Blessed be the Lord, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh; Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.

“Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses’ father-in-law before God.

“And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. And when Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he did with the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? Why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto evening?

“Moses said unto his father-in-law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

“And Moses’ father-in-law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Harken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: and thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. Moreover, thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.”

“So, Moses hearkened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he said.”

(Continued on page 8)

## Strengthened Through Serving

By Sister Sydney Lovalvo

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about service. Our service to God, to one another, and to our Church. Personally, as a young person, I feel that so many people have served me to help grow my relationship with the Lord, and I will be forever grateful. Some examples: the brothers and sisters at my branch who continually showed (and still show) me love and support, anyone who has ever been involved in a GMBA Campout that allowed me to grow spiritually, and my family, who helped instill in me a desire to serve God. As I thought deeper about this, I knew that without these acts of service, my life would be very different.

My teenage years and early twenties were filled with ups and downs, but what was consistent was the love of God and the way that the saints served me. As I've settled into my late twenties, I've been filled with gratitude for the ways the people of God showed up for me and continue to. I know many of you have the same experiences as I do, whether you are navigating young adulthood or in my shoes. Reflecting on this now makes me want to serve others. It also makes me want to encourage all of you to serve each other as well. Even while writing this, I understand that we are all probably serving, whether we know it or not. In the formative times of young adulthood, when we can serve each other by just being supportive, reaching out to a friend in need, or offering a prayer, it can create a bond that lasts a lifetime, and we need strong bonds in the Church.

One day while in college I felt the need to reach out to a sister from church around the same age as me. I knew she had been having some stress regarding one of her courses, and I wanted to check in on her. That check-in turned into an hour-long conversation, catching up on life, church activities, and how thankful we were that God brought us this friendship. At that moment I didn't know that I was "serving" this friend. But what originally was a moment checking in on her turned into a conversation that blessed me richly, and I left that conversation feeling thankful for the wonderful friendships God blesses us with.

What I am trying to get at is that my act of "service" turned into almost an instant blessing for me, even though it was something small like checking in on someone. Our lives are busy, especially as young people. There are school, career, and life changes that feel overwhelming to us. But when we take the time to be there for someone or offer encouragement, it becomes a blessing for us, too.

Over the last couple of years, I have been able to visit saints with my grandfather. Before the visits, I had never met them, but I left gaining new relationships and feeling overwhelming love that only the Lord could provide. While they might have felt grateful that we visited, I left feeling completely blessed and appreciative of our time together. What one might call my act of service, flipped and became something extremely impactful to me.

I'm not writing this to brag or say that I am this wonderful sister who serves others and tell you to be like me. I felt called to write this because when I have ended up doing something so small for others, my heart fills because the Lord blesses me with wonderful time with that other person. I want to encourage you all to try to spend time with others and find blessings. Young people are busy, I understand. However, it can be as small a gesture as a text or phone call saying, "Thinking of you today." It can be grabbing lunch after church on Sunday. It can be asking someone, "How can I pray for you?" I know that the Lord will see your efforts, as He has seen mine, and will bless you. Connecting with others throughout the Church, family, and friends reminds us of all of God's goodness, and how He continues to provide for us, listen to us, and love us.

**What If?** *By Sister Angela Yoder*

I am sure we have all had moments when we stop to consider how things work together to bring a particular outcome. Think about how it would be if circumstances were just left to chance. What if my father and mother had never met? What if the sun did not rise in the morning and set in the evening? Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." Of course, it was in God's plan how everything was to be and how it would happen, but, in this devotion prepared for a PMA Area Ladies' Circle Conference, we explored, "What If?"

**What if...** God had never created Adam and Eve? There would be no human life.

**What if...** Noah had not built the ark? The flood would have destroyed all life.

**What if...** Moses had not received the Ten Commandments? There would be no moral guidelines.

**What if...** Pharaoh had 'Let Moses' people go'? God's power would not have been shown through the plagues.

**What if...** David had not slain Goliath? The Israelites would have been servants to the Philistines.

**What if...** Daniel had prayed to King Darius' gods? An angel would not have been sent to shut the mouths of the lions.

**What if...** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had bowed to the idol? God's mercy would not have been revealed by sparing them from the fiery furnace.

**What if...** Paul and Silas never publicly preached the word of God? Their chains would never have broken in prison.

**What if...** Jesus Christ had never been born? We would have no Savior.

**What if...** The Gospel had never been restored on this land? The Church of Jesus Christ would not exist.

**What if...** Sister Sadie Cadman had never desired to form a women's group? There would be no Ladies' Uplift Circle.

**What if...** The Ladies' Uplift Circle had never actually organized? Hundreds of thousands of dollars would never have been raised to support missionary work.

**What if...** No one invited you to become a Ladies' Circle member? The auxiliary would never have grown to what we are today.

**What if...** You were not a Ladies' Uplift Circle member? We would not be spending time together today!

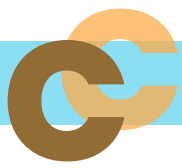
At the PMA Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Fellowship Weekend held on March 27-29, 2026, three ladies asked to join the Ladies' Circle. Thank God for our new members, and more are welcome. Ladies, If you want to help with the work of the Church, join the Circle. We assist in the missionary work of the Church, both physically and financially. We have Circle friends throughout the domestic Church, and throughout the world, promoting close fellowship among the members. You do not have to be a member of the Church to belong to the Circle. Enjoy the wonder and beauty of The Church of Jesus Christ through the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Lastly, learn and study the word of God under the guidance of the seasoned sisters that teach and guide us with lessons and devotions. Great opportunities are waiting for you in the Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

**(Fathers-in-Law - continued from page 6)**

Let's review the organizational lessons this father-in-law advocated:

1. Don't take on more than you can handle—to not burn out yourself.
2. Select high quality and high integrity. As a matter of fact, integrity is so important that a worker who is intelligent but lacks integrity will wreck you.
3. Train, train, train—new workers need to know what is required of them and what they can expect.
4. Trust but verify staff and management. (See King Mosiah and Judges)
5. Be open to suggestions—no one has all the answers.
6. Don't forget the niceties.

So, we see that fathers-in-law can be a blessing, or not. If you are a father-in-law, walk close to God, keep Jesus as your guide, and examine yourself often.



## *Words Have Power, Prayer Has Power To Change Us!*

**D**ear Friends,

Have you ever been angry at someone and said something that later you feel sorry for? Did you ever hurt someone or tell a lie, got caught, and now people do not trust you? Or have you heard a secret and told others about it so they would like you, think you were important, or you would get attention? Maybe you knew it was wrong but it slipped out and now you're sorry! That was your tongue being uncontrolled!

In the Bible, the Apostle James warns us about controlling our tongues. He said in James 3:2-18, "The tongue is a little member (part of our bodies) and brags about many things; it is a fire, and causes so much trouble. In the world, every kind of animal has been tamed by people. But the tongue can not be tamed (controlled easily)." Out of our same mouths we bless and pray to God, we can then curse others! We need to think about what we do and say!

James goes on to warn us to be careful if you have a heart full of bitterness, envying others, or hate. This is not from God. It is from our enemy, the devil. It will cause confusion and every evil work. But prayer can change us from doing this behavior. God can help us to be peaceful, forgiving, gentle; full of mercy, forgiveness, and good deeds without showing favoritism or being fake.

Wouldn't you want a friend like that? You have one in Jesus. You can learn to be kind, caring, and fair. Even when you are really angry you can ask God to help you. He already knows you inside and out, so do not be dishonest and lie about what you are feeling, thinking or doing. Ask the Lord to help you with this change. When you are so angry you feel out of control, pray. You can try talking to someone about it or go outside and take a run (with adult permission!). Do something to calm yourself. Step away from the person or thing that is so upsetting. Refuse to let the devil influence you!

Jesus calls Satan the "father of all lies" (John 8). He is the one who tries to deceive, trick, and make us believe things about God and ourselves that aren't true. He started at the beginning of time. He always tries to tear us down and fill us with bad feelings. When we find ourselves angry, lying, gossiping, feeling fearful or hateful, we need to stand up to that devil and call on God. Remember, even when we have

made a mistake, God still loves us. God understands what is going on inside us!

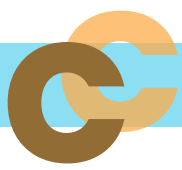
James also promised in James 3: 7-8, "Pray and submit yourself to God. Resist the devil and he will flee (run away) from you." So, while you are turning away from sin and praying not to do the sinful thing, do an activity that will keep your mind on God. You can try singing a hymn, repeating a verse from the Book of Mormon or Bible, calling a brother or sister in Christ, or asking the elders to pray for you. Ask God's help to resist! And keep doing this.

You can and will change, with the help of our Lord. Then thank God deeply. Remember how much the Lord loves you. Help someone else as soon as you can. Be grateful, we can change with the Lord's help. I'm living proof. So are all the brothers and sisters at church. Remember, we love you and the Lord loves you. You are precious to us. Keep growing! We want you to have a blessed and happy life.

With care,  
Your friend and Sister in Christ,  
Sister Jan

*Sister Jan*





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

JAMES            GOD  
 THREE            LOVES  
 SEVEN  
 SUBMIT  
 YOURSELF  
 TO  
 THE  
 LORD  
 RESIST  
 DEVIL  
 AND  
 HE  
 WILL  
 FLEE  
 RUN  
 AWAY  
 FROM  
 YOU  
 PRAY  
 THANK

## PRAYER PUZZLE

UNSCRAMBLE THE PRAYER WORDS!

1. RYAERP →	5. ESUJS →
2. TAHKNS →	6. VOEL →
3. FTIAH →	7. OJY →
4. RAISEP →	8. NISGSELB →

ANSWERS: 1. PRAYER, 2. THANKS, 3. FAITH, 4. FAITH, 5. PRAISE, 6. LOVE, 7. JOY, 8. BLESSING

## ***“What is a Godly trait your father (or father figure) displays that you admire or strive to imitate?”***

“My father, Brother Joe Draskovich’s love for serving others and loving his neighbors unconditionally.”

– Brother James Draskovich, Forest Hills, FL Branch

“Loyalty”

– Sister Diana Vektor, Six Nations, Canada Mission

“Faithfulness, Kindness, and Goodness”

– Sister Pamela Poisson, Treasure Coast, FL Branch

“I admire how my dad always thinks of those who are alone or going through hard times and encourages them through visits, phone calls, inviting them to dinner or holiday gatherings, bringing them communion, anointing them in the hospital, and more. He is an example of James 1:27.”

– Brother Jared Scolaro, Mesa, AZ Branch

“One trait that I admire in my father is his steadfast faith. No matter what challenges or uncertainties come, he continues to trust God, remain prayerful, and lead with quiet strength. His example has shown me the importance of staying grounded in faith and treating others with patience, humility, and love. It is a trait I strive to imitate by trusting God more deeply and trying to reflect Christ in the way I live and serve others.”

– Sister Sabrina Fisher, Muncey, Canada Mission

“Although my father was not of our faith, I always admired his spirit as a searcher of truth. As he drove my siblings and me to Sunday services, he shared painful stories of his past experiences with church leaders, yet he offered me a life-changing piece of advice: ‘don’t be afraid to look for something better.’ Though he passed away when I was sixteen, his advice sparked an intense search for God and a church defined by love and heartfelt praise. For a while, I wrestled with the very existence of God, praying, ‘God, if You really exist, let me know and direct me to the church where You want me to go.’ My search led me to Sister Mary Ann VanBree Pasko, who told me of a church where miracles happened. At a GMBA Campout in 1972, I was overwhelmed by the love, singing, and preaching. I told my mother, ‘Mom, I found it! The church I have been looking for!’ I began attending the Edison, NJ Branch and joined the ‘Thursday Nighters’ under the guidance of Brothers Augie D’Orazio and Don Ross. That November, at my first GMBA Conference, the spirit of repentance fell upon me. On November 19, 1972, I was baptized by Brother Augie D’Orazio in the Raritan Bay at Perth Amboy, beginning my journey with God and His Son, Jesus. I am grateful to my father for always encouraging me to seek something better. I found it in The Church of Jesus Christ. May God’s name be praised forever!”

– Sister Theresa-Ann Bravo, Edison, NJ Branch



## BB God's People are Everywhere

This past spring break, I decided to travel and visit with the saints in the Pittsburgh area. I'm always blessed to be around the saints, both at home and away. When I got home, I was feeling a more than usual amount of sadness, knowing I had to jump back into my regular routine (school, work, etc). I prayed about it and asked the Lord to be with me and to restore the joy I felt in fellowship with the saints that prior week. The very next morning, during my lunch break at work, I was reading scripture in my car and saw a familiar car pull up next to me. I went back into the store where I work to see Brother Ken Lombardo and was so blessed to chat with him for a bit. This has become a somewhat recurring event, and I'm blessed every time to greet and be greeted with the love of God in a world that lacks it.

-Brother Andrew Tenorio,  
Edison, NJ Branch

## BB Jesus Cares!

I was sitting outside on my swing, thinking of the many changes in my life, when I heard very distinctly "I'll take care of you."

*"He'll take care of me! So I am satisfied! He said He'll take care of me! So I am satisfied!"*  
The Songs of Zion #83 "He'll Take Care of Me!"

-Sister Jan Cornell,  
McKees Rocks, PA Branch

## BB The Goodness of God

I adopted my great-nephews, eight- and ten-year-old boys. I began to pray and talk with God concerning this matter, because at the time I was 71 years old. I asked God how I was going to raise these children on my retirement and social security. My other question was, "Lord, these children need a male role model in their lives, and I am not married." The Lord said to me, "You can't do it, but I will." It has been seventeen months and He has provided more than what we've needed.

-Sister Beatrice Hopkins,  
Quincy, FL Branch

*Got a blessing?  
Share it here!*



Send us your Blessing Bits by contacting Sister Elizabeth McDonnell at [eksanchor@gmail.com](mailto:eksanchor@gmail.com). (In approximately 150 words). Send answers to Question of the Month to [gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org](mailto:gospelnews@thechurchofjesuschrist.org).



### Question for this month:

When was a moment during the summertime when you saw God working in yours or someone's life?



### Answer from last month:

What is a Godly trait your father (or father figure) displays that you admire or strive to imitate?

*Turn to page 11 for answers.*

