

The Gospel News

IN THIS ISSUE:

Camp In

The Gospel News Team hopes you enjoy this special issue fully focused on the July 2021 Camp In held July 24-30. In this issue, you will find...

- Articles focused on the camp theme "**SURROUNDED**" and the three sub-themes "**FOCUSED,**" "**JOYOUS,**" and "**VICTORIOUS**"
- Personal reflections of times when brothers and sisters have felt **SURROUNDED, FOCUSED, JOYOUS,** and **VICTORIOUS**
- A look back at the history of GMBA Campouts
- GMBA Camp Trivia
- How you can stay up-to-date on the upcoming GMBA Camp In events



Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

What a year! I don't think any of us would have ever guessed that GMBA Camp would be virtual two years in a row. Many of us faced unexpected challenges over the last year; some lost loved ones, some lost their jobs, we've missed birthday parties, proms, graduations, seeing family and friends, etc. We've had our whole lives upended and had to adjust to a new way of life with a computer screen being our primary contact to the outside world. Through it all, one element of our lives stayed the same... Jesus Christ.

Through it all, we have been **SURROUNDED** by His love, grace, and mercy. Through it all, we've been able to cling to the hope that Jesus Christ offers us. Our **FOCUS** on Him reminds us where our hope comes from (Psalm 121: 1&2). We are **JOYOUS**, a prolonged state of happiness, because of the love that God has for each of us (1 Nephi 11:22&23). Lastly, because of the price that was paid on the cross, we know that Christ is **VICTORIOUS** (Mosiah 15:8, 1 Corinthians 15:57).

So make a joyful noise and give praise to His name! No problem that this world puts in our way, not even a pandemic, can ever take away the gifts that Jesus Christ offers us. We are **SURROUNDED** (Hebrews 12:1) by Him. The battle, big or small, is His and was won on the cross. It is up to each of us to stay focused on Him, to be joyous because of Him, and to claim the victory Christ has won.



May God Bless you this week. Our prayer is that you each receive a blessing and portion of His Spirit in your homes while you view the content and participate in virtual Camp.

Love in Christ,
Brother Dan Arcuri, *Camp Director*

VICTORIOUS



To him that
OVERCOMETH
will I give to eat of
the tree of life,
which is in
the paradise of God.
Rev 2:7



He that
OVERCOMETH
shall not be hurt of
the second death.
Rev 2:11

To him that
OVERCOMETH
will I give to eat of
the hidden manna,
and will give him
a white stone...
Rev 2:17



And he that
OVERCOMETH,
and keepeth my works
unto the end,
to him will I give power
over the nations.
Rev 2:26



He that
OVERCOMETH,
the same shall be clothed
in white raiment...
and I will confess his
name before my Father,
and before his angels.
Rev 3:5

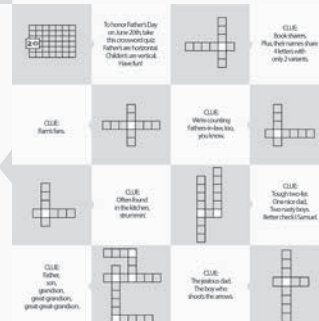


Him that
OVERCOMETH
will I make a pillar in
the temple of my God...
and I will write upon him
my new name.
Rev 3:12

To him that
OVERCOMETH
will I grant to sit with
me in my throne,
even as I **OVERCAME**,
and am set down with
my Father in his throne.
Rev 3:21



LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS
(reading across):
3. Mormon/Moroni
6. Abraham/Isaac
8. Jethro/Moses
9. Jacob/Dinah
11. Eli/Phinehas/Hophni
13. Alma/Alma/Helaman/
Helaman/Nephi
15. Saul/Jonathan



FOCUSED

B-FP Blast From The Past

By Sister Kellie Speck

Forty-five years ago this month, GMBA campout was held in Augusta, Kansas, July 24th through the 30th, 1976. It was recorded as one of the hottest campouts, where average daily temperatures were over 100 degrees and over 90 degrees in the shade. Over 1,000 cans of soda were sold daily. Salt tablets were being handed out to everyone to prevent dehydration. The cabins were not air-conditioned so some of the brothers slept out under the trees just to sleep comfortably, and some of the sisters slept in the main meeting hall which was the only air conditioned building on camp. There were over 500 in attendance and they had a blessed week of revival, even with the heat. Brother Lou Vitto, GMBA Chaplain stated, "It was the end of the Moses era and time for the Joshuas to rise up. Joshua was to take over and lead Israel into Canaan. Who will rise up and lead the people?" Many young and old were converted that week to answer the call of Christ. Some of

those baptized are in the picture below: Brother Auggie D'Orazio baptized Brother Jim Speck, Brother Isaac Smith baptized his son, Brother Brian Smith, Brother Lou Ciccatti baptized his son, Brother Randy Ciccatti, Brother Larry Watson's first baptism was Sister Elizabeth Lotgering, Brother Lawrence King baptized his daughter, Sister Connie King Gottschall. There were a total of nine baptisms. The other four not pictured are Doug Obradovich (Lake Worth), Ron Dziak (Lorain), JoAnn (Ali) Niehl (Glassport), and Jean Chiaverotti (Sterling Heights).





Save the date!

GMBA CAMP•IN

July 24-30, 2021

For schedule and updates visit gmbacamp.com

Live & Pre-recorded Seminars



Praise & Worship



Virtual Kids' Day



Blessings Upon Blessings!



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July 2021





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.

Wordup

SURROUNDED

"Protected By Purity"

By Elder Doug Obradovich

"I am troubled" (III Nephi 17:14)



My career began in San Francisco, California, training 3,000 miles from home. For 6 weeks, my dear friend, Brother Tommy Smith, drove in each week from Modesto to take me to church. Just prior to flying out, God had directed me to the beautiful scripture above. As a newly ordained teacher, I wondered if I would use this in one of our church visits. A month and a half later, Sister Rose Lovalvo generously opened her home to accommodate my saying goodbye to the Modesto Branch. As 20+ young people mingled below, I connected with a brother on the second-story landing. He confided how lost he had been feeling as he contemplated quietly slipping away from The Church.

I immediately remembered the scripture. Ahhh, it wasn't a large church service God had prepared me to address, but instead He was focused upon this, His single lost lamb. He had guided my eyes, inspired Sister Rose's tender heart to coordinate this chance interaction. He was utilizing a seemingly unremarkable

moment to recover this one precious soul. God was also using this moment to teach me the preciousness of one soul. Spectacular always seems to happen when you least expect it!

This scripture notes a similar instance, but on a much grander scale. Jesus had recently endured emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical torment, to the point of His violent death in Jerusalem. Evil manifested through a few influential men, who stirred the masses into such frenzy that they were coerced to cry out, "Crucify Him!" Too often mankind is at its worst when individuals cowardly conceal themselves amongst mobs. Soon afterwards, the resurrected Son of God reappeared in the Americas and again selflessly turned His attention upon others. He knew His task at hand, but He also recognized He would have to tend to His own needs.

The Word records Jesus, "did heal them every one as they were brought forth unto Him" (III Nephi 17:9). He then applied loving self-care, "He commanded that their little children should be brought," and the congregation, "set them upon the ground round about Him and Jesus stood in the midst." His ache was

palpable as, "Jesus groaned within Himself" and emoted, "Father, I am troubled."

I shared this account with my brother, lost in his own suffering. I explained how the Lord had given me this scripture months prior, which I told him was God speaking directly to him. Then I encouraged him to follow Jesus' example during His own struggle. "**SURROUND** yourself with the children of the saints," suggesting their innocence and purity would protect him, assuring him even his decisions would improve if he stayed encircled by the young people. We then went downstairs, where we allowed ourselves to be engulfed by these loving young people.

My brother from the second-floor landing and I have since remained separated for 37 years by many miles, but we now share the ministry together. Each time I picture him, we are together in Sister Rose's home, standing safely amidst the young people, protected by their purity. I now see I wasn't simply in California for professional training, but also for God's tutoring. Modesto, Modesto, you will always be the place where God reminded me to choose to be **SURROUNDED** by His protective purity.

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But I say unto you... be different!

By Evangelist Mark Kovacic



There is a saying that is attributed to Albert Einstein; it's the definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. And there is an old Chinese proverb that says, to defeat someone you need to do something different.

In the Book of Alma of the Book of Mormon, there are some very detailed accounts of the wars between the ancient Native Americans called Nephites and Lamanites. Some may wonder why, but we know that everything in the Scriptures is there for a purpose. They teach us to be focused and reliant on the Lord.

In the 49th chapter of Alma is told about how the Nephites prepared for war in a very different way, so much so that the Lamanites were "astonished exceedingly." The Nephites created great mounds of dirt around their cities to "shield them from the arrows and the stones of the Lamanites." The mounds were so high that the Lamanites could not hit the Nephites with their stones and arrows.

In the same manner, Jesus astonished the people in his home village. After expounding the scriptures in the synagogue his neighbors said, "From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?" Jesus is different. He is taking us to the next level. The evidence is seen in his Sermon on the Mount. Let's review some of it.

"You have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment. But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there you remember that your brother has ought against you; leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way."

"You have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery; but I say unto you, That whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

"You have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oath. But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne, nor by the earth, for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King, neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these comes of evil."

"You have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, but I say unto you, That you resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him two. Give to him that asks thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away."

"You have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them

(Continued on page 11)

History of the GMBA Campout 1968-2021



"The scripture that inspired the theme for GMBA Campout 2008 is all about how Jesus gently shifts our perspective so that we can more fully understand what is most important to Him. The scripture, Luke 10: 17-20, describes the seventy Evangelists returning from two years of missionary work ecstatic over the powerful miracles they performed in the name of Jesus... Those who attended the camp were reminded of the same thing. Asked many times to rehearse the day of their conversion, the saints remembered the great change that took place in their lives – and the great sacrifice that made it possible." - Originally published in the September 2008 issue of the Gospel News



"Our theme this year was Back to the Basics. Sunday always seems to be the actual take off point for the week – and it was. Our brothers were blessed in speaking the word of God. The overlying theme of the Sunday morning service was 'love,' reverting back to the most basic of Christ's teachings: 'That ye love one another, as I have loved you.'" - Originally published in October 1996 issue of the Gospel News



"In each camper's registration packet was a note pad on which was imprinted, W.H.Y.D.T.T.S.U.T.G.O.G.W.Y. The campers' first job was to figure out the puzzle." - Originally published in the November 1993 issue of the Gospel News



"This year's Recreation Committee, Bro. Doug and Sis. Candace Obradovich, succeeded in their goal to include everybody, athletically inclined or otherwise, in the fun and games. In addition to the usual sports events, teams also participated in such things as a scavenger hunt, a church-related trivia game, a spelling bee using words from the scriptures, and a quiz game, based on television's "Hollywood Squares..." These and other well-planned activities provided all present with a chance to spend time together laughing and playing." - Originally published in September 1986 issue of the Gospel News



"It is always difficult to put into a few words the sum experience of a camp. If everyone left having felt better and more joyful in some way, then our prayers were answered. The Spirit of God always comes through for those open to it's touch." - Brother Tom D'Orazio, Originally published in the Sept 2013 issue of the Gospel News



GMBA Camp Trivia:

1. The first Campout was held in 1967 in Arlington, KS at the YMCA Ranch. The officers were Brothers Isaac Smith, Joseph Milantoni, and August D'Orazio. What was the camp theme song?
2. In what year was The Country and Western named the Camp songbook?
3. The 1980 GMBA Camp was held in Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, VA. This year, the Camp director was Brother Ryan Ross and the Camp theme was "Study to Show Thyself Approved." What fun event happened for the first time at this Campout?
4. The 1993 GMBA Camp theme was "Stir Up the Gifts of God" and the Camp director was Brother Joel Calabrese. In each camper's registration packet was a notepad with the following letters printed at the top: W.H.Y.D.T.T.S.U.T.G.O.G.W.Y. What did this stand for?
5. The 1995 GMBA Camp was held at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. The Camp theme was "Get Fit for Life" and the Camp theme song was "Jesus on the Inside." Who was the Camp director and why was this significant?
6. There have been four years since 1967 when we did not have a GMBA Campout. What were these years and why did this happen?
7. The 1969 GMBA Camp was held at Camp Radford in Yucaipa, CA. The Camp theme was "Jesus Use Me." There was not a Camp director that year. Instead, who coordinated the Camp?
8. How many years were Campouts held at Massanetta Springs? What other locations tie for this many Campouts?
9. How many U.S. states has Campout been held in?



"The annual G.M.B.A. Campout was held along the shores of Lake Erie at Dunkirk, New York. It saw an overflow of campers, and its size could in no way hold the anxious throng that desired to assemble together. This is not to say that camps in preceding years were not as fruitful, only that more sought to attend. The present year of 1974 finds us beginning to look to August when campout will again be held. This year, camp will begin August 25 and conclude on August 31. It will be in the northern regions of Michigan. We know our fellow M.B.A. members in that area have begun to extol its existence well located amid surrounding areas of interest..." - Excerpt from February 1974 Gospel News, written by James. D. Gibson

"We need to LIVE the Camp theme 'Glorious Day!' There was a reason why the theme built up to the last day of 'Glorious Life' and we can keep that Spirit going by choosing to be happy people and choosing to live closer to Christ as we do at Camp and keep that fire going Daily! It will be contagious!" - Brother Jason Monohagn, 2012



Answers from Question of the Month: Describe a time when you felt Surrounded, Victorious, Focused, or Joyous.

By Gospel News Team or Gospel Blog Writer.

Whether in a big meeting at Campout or by myself in my car, I always feel surrounded by God when I'm singing praises to Him! - *Sis. Mallory McNamara, Gospel Blog Writer*

I definitely felt surrounded by God at GMBA Camp 2019. Every time we were all together I definitely felt overwhelmed with the Spirit of God. - *Bro. Giovanni Lind, Gospel Blog Writer*

There are times when I'm doing something solitary, such as reading scripture, praying, writing, or preparing a church lesson, and I feel surrounded by the Holy Spirit. Even though I'm alone in a room hunched over some type of desk work, I don't feel alone. I strongly sense that the Lord is taking me by the hand and leading me through the task at hand. I know this is the case when I stop, and I feel like I've just left a conversation. - *Sis. Michelle Watson, Gospel Blog Team*

When I felt FOCUSED

Honestly, during the pandemic! I have spent more time reading and studying than I probably ever have, and I look at that as a beautiful blessing in the midst of a challenging time. I wake up early a few days each week before my work day begins and spend it with the Lord. It's a wonderful way to start the day and focus on Him. - *Sis. Natalie Shawver, Gospel Blog Writer*

I recall a time when I felt so focused on God, that nothing else mattered. It was during a Campout at Saginaw Michigan. We were in an evening meeting, standing and singing Amazing Grace. Almost in unison, without prompting, we all took the person's hand next to us and raised our arms high. It was such a feeling of unity and an unusual time when we as a group did not shy away from expressing ourselves through physical actions. It was wonderful! - *Sis. Dianne Maddox, Gospel Blog Writer*

When I felt JOYOUS

I feel focused when I am listening to worship music. I focus on the lyrics which helps me draw close to God. - *Bro. Chuck Maddox Jr, Gospel News Team*

I felt so much joy the first time back in the church building after being away from the Brothers and Sisters due to the pandemic. - *Sis. Sophia O'Connor, Gospel News Team*

Outside of my baptism and wedding day, the most joyous moment was the birth of our son 8 years ago. We tried for 7 years to get pregnant and had two miscarriages along the way. So when Jack came fully healthy, we were blessed beyond measure! - *Bro. Rich Nath, Gospel Blog Writer*

When I felt SURROUNDED by God

GMBA Camp in Saginaw when after the meeting we were instructed to greet each other with a word of encouragement to the other person, i.e., tell them how they have impacted your life. Tears flowed like I've never experienced. One of thousands. - *Bro. Ken Lombardo, Gospel News Team*

Shortly after my husband died and I was alone I called my cousin and Brother John DiBattista was there, he prayed over the phone for me and after we hung up, I saw a personage standing next to me, God had sent His comforter and I felt His presence. So many times the Lord has encompassed me in His care—too many to write about. - *Sis. Virginia Surprenant, Gospel Blog Writer*

Working as a teacher during the pandemic has brought many challenges but I am thankful to say I can literally feel God's presence in my classroom. He has constantly surrounded me and my students and kept us all safe. I often pray for God's "hedge of protection" and I know He has continuously answered my prayers this year. - *Sis. Alyssa Maddox, Gospel Blog Writer*

I felt victorious after Lucas and I crossed the finish line at the Miami Half Marathon in January of 2020. Not only was this a literal victory, but it was also a spiritual one because I knew that God had given us the strength to train for and complete this race. I prayed to him on many of my training runs and throughout the entire race, and He was with me every step of the way! - *Sis. Christine Martorana, Gospel News Team*

When I felt VICTORIOUS

Occasionally I drive our Church Van to pick up people that need a ride. One particular Sunday it was looking like I did not have many people to pick up (and I was a little bummed). But before the last couple of stops I said a quick prayer. And during those last stops the van filled up with people that don't normally come to church, and they brought friends. Driving back up the mountain toward church with a full van, I felt victorious! God heard my prayer and filled up the van! - *Brother P., Gospel Blog Writer*

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We Had 'Em All the Way!

By Apostle Jerry Valenti

A famous baseball announcer from years ago had a catch phrase that he used during some baseball broadcasts. When his team appeared to be on the way to defeat but somehow managed to pull out the victory, he would exclaim, "We had 'em all the way!". When servants of God are involved in a battle, things may look bleak at times, but when it's all over and we are **VICTORIOUS**, we can look back and see that God had it all the way. Here are 5 amazing facts relating to scriptural battles where God had it all the way.

1 Moses vs. Pharaoh – What chance did one man have of freeing the entire nation of Israel from the cruel bondage of Egypt? Even the people of Israel doubted their chances. Yet, in the end, it was no contest as God pounded away at Egypt with plague after plague until the Pharaoh finally had to give in. When Pharaoh's army pursued the people of Israel, God threw in a parting of the Red Sea for good measure. God had it all the way!

2 David vs. Goliath – Observers were horrified when young David faced off against the giant Goliath. But David knew who was on his side as he shouted to Goliath, "This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand!" (1 Samuel 17:46). One stone and the battle was quickly over as the giant fell dead—they had him all the way!

3 Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal – Talk about being outnumbered! Elijah, by himself, took on 450 prophets of Baal in a public contest to determine who served the true God. Of course, Elijah wasn't alone—he was so certain that God would make him victorious that he taunted his opponents that their god was probably sleeping and they should shout louder to wake him up (1 Kings 18:27). Finally, God rained down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice and they had the victory over the prophets of Baal—they had 'em all the way!

4 2,000 Stripling Soldiers vs. the Lamanites – The 2,000 young men who stepped in to fight the battle in place of their fathers had no battle experience, but "they had been taught by their mothers, that if they

did not doubt, God would deliver them" (Alma 56:47). The battle was fierce, but when it was over, not only were the Lamanites defeated but the 2,000 young men all survived. God had 'em all the way!

5 Jesus vs. Sin and Death – The greatest victory ever was when Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, then defeated death by resurrecting on the third day. As a result, we can look forward to resurrecting to eternal life and say, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55,57). When we're with Jesus in His eternal kingdom, if we're able to reflect on the challenges of our earthly lives at that time, Jesus may well smile and say, "We had 'em all the way!".

SURROUNDED

Ladies' Uplift Circle News

Imagine waking up to find yourself completely **SURROUNDED** by enemies. How might you react?

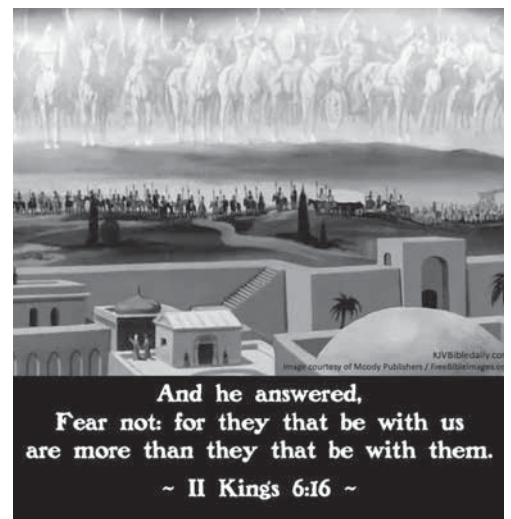
God's prophet Elisha found himself in exactly this situation. The King of Syria decided to try to take Elisha prisoner and sent an army with horses and chariots to the city where the prophet was staying. During the night, the Syrian army surrounded the city.

"And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them: (II Kings 6:15 & 16).

So we see two totally different responses to the same situation!

Knowing that he and Elisha were alone, the young servant must have been perplexed by Elisha's

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And he answered,
Fear not: for they that be with us
are more than they that be with them.
~ II Kings 6:16 ~



Elisha Is Surrounded by Enemies

pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the eyes of the servant and he saw. The mountains outside were full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha!

Then when the army came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord and said, "Strike these people with blindness, I pray." And the Lord blinded them all.

And Elisha said unto them, "This is not the way, or the city: Follow me, and I will bring you to the man you are looking for." But he brought them to a different place, Samaria.

Then he prayed, "Lord, open the eyes of these men that they might see." And when the Lord opened their eyes, they saw they were in the

middle of Samaria!

The King of Israel (that they'd been attacking) asked Elisha, "Shall we smite (attack) them?"

And Elisha, the man of God answered, "No. Bring them bread and water that they can eat and drink and return back to their master, the King of Syria."

So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel! God fought for his people just like He can fight for you. God sent angels and chariots of fire, just like He can for us. Do not fear. Turn your cares over to the Lord. He is our Creator and has all power!

With love, your friend, *Sister Jan*

There will be a lot of times of trouble when we are alone. But, if we know how to talk things over with God in the name of Jesus, there are also many, many times when we think we are alone and we aren't!

In long ago Bible days, the king of Syria warred against Israel. He discussed his plans with his generals, saying, "In such and such a place will be where we set up camp!" (See 2 Kings chapter 6.)

And Elisha, the man of God, was praying for his country and the Lord told him where their enemy was planning on hiding. Elisha sent to his King of Israel and warned, "Beware that you do not pass such a place; for the Syrians have come down!"

So the king of Israel sent to the place where the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once, or twice. Every time, God would warn Elisha and their enemy, the King of Syria, called his people and asked, "Who is the spy that is telling the King of Israel all our plans?"

And one of his servants said, "No one is a spy. It is Elisha, the prophet of God in Israel."

And the King of Syria said, "Go and find out where this man is so I can send and capture him!"

Then he sent horses pulling chariots and a great army of soldiers to sneak out at night and **SURROUND** the city where Elisha was. And when the city awoke, the servant of Elisha was filled with fear and asked Elisha, "Oh no! What shall we do?"

And Elisha said, "Do not fear: for those that are with us are more than those that are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I

I F P
V U N J Y L B D A
B K E I O U K L L V H F W
J N B Y H U D I E M V I G C V A H
R W W G L T B V J N M W I W J R I R N
C I Y L Z G N S A J M Q G V Q Z F A F F A
K E M I B L J V C Y E O S O C N E L F Y Q
G X O F U F U Z Y E F A U C P C A A X J B W B
I B Z U L B R K T Z R N C O O X E R K Z T J S
N X L T Q C G T K X H O N Y Y I P D E O Y W S A N
J M D A W H Z D L N A G T O D U O F A K V C M Z Y
K L A W A R J V W J I C T W V G L X Z I H M X J H
L E E R J K A A V O L B D K B L Q H S U L C T Q F R N
R U X J F D B Z Y U L K B I H C T N A F G D A Q O E J
Z O J G G U I D E A V Y C K K F U K H T B B C I H Q B
M N E W Z L C C D I C Z S A S O T X B T J U W A G
R M E P J T L F I T E S R P B W Y R N N Y K Q T U
W M L W Q B W H E W V U P R O R I E G Y O T K C N
Q J G V M D S W C L P C A X N D M C W I M Q Q
V H Q A O C N E X U C M Y G L I O E X C V L D
H D Z Z S M K N B K T L Y N O A U K M O H
Q A N G N E F H D R U H W T M Y N B K D S
P E I V F C A P L E H V E P G Y D T B
M T B Z T O L A F X Z S O R S L O
P K M W J R X P C I T F W
V C Y E V E M W H
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WHEN	FULL	AND	GOD	US	HELP
WE	OF	DOUBT	WILL	SEND	BRING
ARE	FEAR	PRAY	GUIDE	WISE	JOY

Answers to the Question of the Month, "Describe a time when you felt Surrounded, Joyous, Victorious, or Focused."

I was flying to NY, to visit my mother, who had Alzheimer's. A woman came up to me in the airport. She sat next to me and asked what was wrong. I told her about my mother and about my Church. She said she belonged to the same church although I had never seen or heard of her. She told me that she had taken care of her blind mother for years. Then she stood up and said she had to get to her gate. It was just a few feet away. She hugged me and kissed me. I reached down for a tissue in my lap, and when I looked up, she was gone. I watched every person board that plane from the gate she showed me, but I never saw her again. I felt God's all-encompassing love, like a "blanket wrapped around me."
- Sis. Sharon D'Amico, Gospel News Team

When I felt
SURROUNDED
by God

As I went into surgery for cancer. - Sis.
KarenJo Pandone, Gospel News Team

When the Lord healed me of a
fracture in my spine. - Bro. Michael
Zaino, Gospel News Team

When I felt
VICTORIOUS

I've felt focused when I've made trips to
foreign countries for the sole purpose
of uplifting the church because the
distractions of life quickly pale in
comparison to the purpose at hand. -
Bro. Frank Natoli, Gospel News Team

When I felt
FOCUSED

Surrounded Continued from page 9

answer. "And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (II Kings 6:17).

What did Elisha see that his servant didn't? And the bigger question is, why? The prophet Elisha had his eyes (heart) focused on God, allowing Elisha to see the Lord's host, while the servant looked through a man's natural eyes.

We aren't likely to wake to a physical army surrounding us, but we do have an army of natural concerns that can steal our focus. When we feel these spiritual enemies closing in, we need only to ask God to 'open our eyes' to the mighty army of the Lord that surrounds us.

As Elisha pointed out (and is reiterated throughout time), "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). It's exciting to know that God is greater than any enemy we face!

We can easily feel **SURROUNDED** and outnumbered by the enemy army of worldly cares and oppressions. But with our eyes focused on the army of the Lord, we can allow ourselves to live joyous lives!

If we focus on Christ and His everlasting joy, that enemy army will be blindly led away to bother us no more. We will be victorious (just like Elisha), triumphing over the world. (Read what happened to the Syrian army in II Kings 6:18-19.)

On the mountain, in the valleys There was Jesus
In the shadows of the alleys
There was Jesus
In the fire, in the flood
There was Jesus
Always is and always was
No I never walk alone
You are always there
(There was Jesus- Dolly Parton & Zach Williams)

When my eyes are focused, and I look behind me,
before me, left, right or above me, I see Jesus. What a
joyous sight!

But I say unto you...be different!

Continued from page 5

which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

And how do we accomplish this task of being different, going to the next level? Apostle Paul told his protégé Timothy, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." And to the Saints in Corinth he said, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." And finally, he told them, "for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." If we want to be **VICTORIOUS** and our lives to be **JOYOUS**, it's time for us to be different, and to stand apart from the world.

Trivia: Answers

1. This Church Is Your Church
2. 1974
3. GMBA Camp Olympics
4. What have you done today to stir up the gift of God within you?
5. Sister Tonia Davis (now Monaghan) - she was the first woman camp director
6. 1999 and 2011 - World Missionary Conference; 2020 and 2021 - GMBA Camp In held instead
7. The California Area MBA
8. 6, California University PA., and Saginaw Valley State University
9. 15

Let the Lord's Love Surround You

Written by Sister Sydney Lovalvo

There is nothing quite like the feeling of being **SURROUNDED** by God's love. It can make your heart beat out of your chest, give you goosebumps, and possibly make you cry. I will say this, when I talk to others about feeling God's love, almost every person has a different answer. But, each answer has a commonality: we have never felt anything else like it before.

While it is a truly amazing feeling, for someone who has not given their life to the Lord, it can also be confusing. "Is this my time to ask for my baptism?" "What if I never feel this way again, and I missed my opportunity?" These are all questions that went through my head when I felt God's love **SURROUND** me. I loved the feeling and was thankful that I was able to feel that way, but I also wondered if I would stop feeling that way and miss my calling.

I remember the first time that I truly and completely felt **SURROUNDED** by the Lord's love. It was at a Campout in 2013, I was fourteen years old, and the theme was Living Sacrifice. It was the evening where the GMBA officers would take the young people and have our own special meeting, commonly known as the "Black Box" meeting. As I sat in the meeting, we watched videos of other young people giving their lives to the Lord. Honestly, that is all I remember because my heart started to beat out of my chest, I felt a warmth all

over my body and had an intense calm feeling. I knew I was being surrounded by God's love for the first time, and it was so beautiful. Hours later, I grappled with the thought that potentially that feeling was my calling and that I had missed it. I was terrified that I had let the Lord down.

This happened to me again the next three Campouts. I felt so much emotional turmoil, and let that stand in the way of enjoying the Lord's Spirit and my time with the saints. I would counsel with my dad, and he would tell me to enjoy these feelings and not let my guilt get in the way. The Lord knows my heart and when I was ready to give my life to Him, I would. While the words were encouraging, for someone who has not been baptized yet, hearing that can still be hard to accept.

Eventually, in 2016 at Campout, I was baptized and felt that exact same love of the Lord **SURROUND** me that I felt in 2013. I looked back and felt bad for the younger Sydney, the girl who struggled to enjoy feeling the Lord's love and Spirit because she was so stressed about "missing her time." My advice to you would be to let the Lord's love **SURROUND** you and enjoy it to its fullness. It is meant to make you feel good. It is meant to make you understand that the Lord is by your side. You are not missing your time; do not feel guilty, just enjoy it, and know that the Lord loves you.



We are so excited to gather in person again, but until we do, this year's theme and message is for all of us! When it looks like you are **SURROUNDED**, overwhelmed, or overcome with your circumstance... look again! You are **SURROUNDED** by something else too. Fix your **FOCUS** on the God who is with you, not what is before you. **SURROUND** yourself with the family of God, the word of God, and praise and worship to God. Then, you will be **SURROUNDED** by **JOY!** Then, you are **VICTORIOUS** in Jesus!

We are excited to worship with you in our Virtual GMBA Camp In!

Much love,
Your GMBA Officers

For Schedule and updates visit gmbacamp.com

And I feel love close in around me, like a blanket wrapped around me; And I hear the words, "It's all right."— SOZ 164