



CANARIES WITH GRAY ON THEIR WINGS

By President Thomas S. Monson

While I was serving as a young bishop, Sister McKee, a widow in my ward, passed away. Among her things were three pet canaries. Two, with perfect yellow coloring, were to be given to her friends. The third, Billie, had yellow coloring **marred** by gray on his wings. Sister McKee had written in a note to me: “Will you and your family make a home for Billie? He isn’t the prettiest, but his song is the best.”

Sister McKee was much like her yellow canary with gray on its wings. She was not blessed with beauty, gifted with **poise**, or honored by **posterity**. Yet her song helped others to more willingly bear their burdens.

We are sons and daughters of a living God in whose image we have been created. Think of that: *created in the image of God*.

In our world, **moral character** oftentimes seems **secondary** to beauty or charm. But from long ago the Lord’s counsel to Samuel the prophet echoes: “The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

When the Savior sought a man of faith, He did not select him from the **throng** of the self-righteous who were found regularly in the **synagogue**. Rather, He called him from among the fishermen of Capernaum. Doubting,

unschooled, **impetuous** Simon became Peter, Apostle of faith. A yellow canary with gray on his wings qualified for the Master’s full confidence and **abiding** love.

The Redeemer calls you and me to serve Him here below. May a true song come from our hearts as we do so. ♦

From “Canaries with Gray on Their Wings,” Ensign, June 2010, 4.



Dig Deeper

To better understand President Monson's message, match the highlighted words with their correct meanings.

Poise
Posterity
Moral character
Secondary
Throng
Marred
Synagogue
Impetuous
Abiding

A Jewish house of worship
Acting suddenly, without careful thought
Less important
Spoiled or ruined
All future generations
Gracefulness
Continuing
Crowd
Making right choices

Sing Your Sweetest Song

Some people feel they are not as beautiful or as smart as others. But each person is valuable to the Lord. We can be faithful and brave and use our talents to serve others. Then we are like the yellow canary with gray on its wings. We are not perfect, but we are singing our sweetest song!
Color the picture of Sister McKee and her special canary. Then write down three ways you can sing your sweetest song for the Lord.

I can sing my sweetest song for the Lord by:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

