

EXAMPLE MATTERED

Whenever I heard the words “missionary work,” I used to think of giving away a Book of Mormon. While I had previously given away copies of the Book of Mormon, none of the people I gave them to seemed interested. But I didn’t know that for the past year and a half, I have been a missionary just by being who I am and sticking to my standards.

It began on the first day of school one year. I had arrived at my first class early, and so I sat down at a desk

in the middle of the classroom. A girl named Alicia* came in and sat in the far back. Since I was alone, I invited her to sit with me. She had just moved from Mexico over the summer, so she didn’t have any friends yet. I was glad we had most of our classes together. That’s how we became friends.

But our lives were very different. Alicia wore outfits that differed from my standards and used bad language. In her old school, she talked back to her teachers, and grades weren’t important to her. She had a bad family life and



would sneak out and go to parties.

As we have become good friends, I have noticed a good change in her. She no longer wears inappropriate clothing. She is careful to not use bad language. She has improved her grades, even competing for the highest scores. Her family life is getting a lot better too. She never sneaks out anymore or goes to bad parties.

We talk about her changes and improvements. Alicia told me that one night her boyfriend came over and wanted her to break the law of chastity. She was about to give in when she saw in her mind a flashback of all the improvements she's made and how proud she is of herself. She wasn't willing to throw it all away. So she said no and broke up with him. That was the greatest thing for me to hear from her, and I am so proud of her.

Missionary work truly can occur by example as we live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Name withheld

* Name has been changed

STRENGTHENED BY PERSONAL PROGRESS

I first finished Personal Progress right before the new value, Virtue, came out. My Young Women leaders encouraged me to wait to get my Young Womanhood Recognition until I completed the new value, so I agreed to do so. I had no idea what was in store for me. We received the new booklet, I completed the Virtue experiences, and then I saw the Virtue project: read the entire Book of Mormon. I hate to admit it, but I had never read the

MY CAMP DECISION

Last August, I had an important decision to make. I could either go to Young Women camp with my ward or attend a volleyball camp. I would be trying out for the volleyball team at school, and the volleyball camp was highly encouraged. It showed you were dedicated if you attended it. I had been praying about whether I should go to Young Women camp or volleyball camp. I had a strong impression to go

to Young Women camp.

The biggest lesson I learned at Young Women camp was about blessings we receive when we follow the Lord. The following week, I went to tryouts. I made the volleyball team and progressed to varsity at the end of the season. My testimony grew immensely.

I know whenever we are faced with decisions, we can pray and receive answers.

Tiare G., Utah, USA

For more on Young Women camp, see page 24.



Book of Mormon cover to cover. This was my new challenge for the year.

Over the year, I read the Book of Mormon from beginning to end. When I completed my reading, my testimony had grown so much! The stories came alive, and reading the scriptures gave me a lot of spiritual advice. I encourage everyone to read it, discover for yourself the blessings, and help your testimony grow. It will change your life. Even if you just read for a set number of minutes every day, you will learn so much. After receiving my Young Womanhood Recognition, I decided I would wear my necklace every day to remind myself of the promises and covenants I have made with Heavenly Father and the many things I learned from reading the Book of Mormon. I am so thankful that my Young Women leaders encouraged me to complete the Virtue value. I hope you will take the challenge to read the Book of Mormon and let it touch your life.

Abbie S., Utah, USA

I SAID HELLO

About a month into the school year, I was sitting in my drama class listening to two young women talk about a new kid in the class. I could see that many students were talking to him. At first I thought nothing of it, but then I had the feeling that I should go over and talk to him. So I sat down next to him and said hello. I found out he was a fellow skateboarder.

We clicked from the beginning, and it didn't take long before we were skateboarding every day after school. He has now become one of my best friends. He even came to seminary once and was able to learn a little more about the Church. I'm glad that Heavenly Father prompted me to simply go over and say hi. I know that Heavenly Father cares about me and will prompt me in little things like that.

Benjamin F., Georgia, USA