

# Ensign



**COVER STORY:**

Christ's Ministry  
and Miracles, p. 40

Teaching Children to Worship, p. 24

President Spencer W. Kimball:  
Man of Action, p. 46





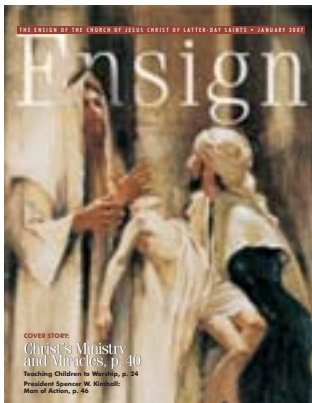
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**Raising of Lazarus, by Jeffrey Hein**

*Jesus “cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin” (John 11:43–44).*



*"It is not so much what we know that is important, as what we do and what we are."* —President Spencer W. Kimball



## ON THE COVER

*Master, I Have Brought unto Thee My Son*, by Walter Rane, courtesy of the Museum of Church History and Art.



## MESSAGES

### FIRST PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

#### **4** The Forces That Will Save Us

PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

*The eternal gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will save us from the disorder, violence, chaos, destruction, misery, and deceit that are upon the earth.*

### VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

#### **63** Become an Instrument in the Hands of God



## FEATURE ARTICLES

#### **10** Living Right ELDER RICHARD G. SCOTT

*Success can be found in living with patterns of faith, obedience, integrity, and sacrifice.*

#### **16** All Things Bear Record of Him ADAM C. OLSON

*Young adults in Germany share their testimonies of the Savior.*

#### **21** Getting Back on Track LARRY W. SIDWELL

*Our family had been derailed from the gospel by a series of choices—until we were touched by faithful Primary teachers.*





24

## 24 Teaching Children to Worship

JOAN HUGHES AND HELEN HUGHES

*It is not always easy, but we can teach our children to behave in ways that invite the Spirit.*

## 28 The Earrings

VIKTOR MAKAROV

*We were disappointed to discover that my wife's earring was missing—until we realized we could lose something even more valuable.*

## 30 Lost on the Tundra

TODD CROSLAND

*My dream became a nightmare, but I realized I had plenty to keep me going through the cold, dark night.*

## 33 Home Teaching the Single Sister

SALLI HOLLENZER

*Home teachers have the opportunity to bless the lives of single sisters, who may not have the influence of the priesthood in their homes. One sister shares ideas based on her experience.*

## 40 Christ's Ministry and Miracles

*See the Savior's life through artists' eyes.*

## 46 Spencer W. Kimball: Man of Action

GARRETT H. GARFF

*President Spencer W. Kimball taught that "the Master's plan is a program of doing, of living, not merely knowing."*

## 53 Waiting for the Bus

SAM AN ANDERSON

*The time I spent waiting was boring and frustrating. Then I noticed the Ensign lying on the seat of my car.*



53

## 54 Easing the Pain of Miscarriage

SUMMER THORP

*You can do much to support parents dealing with miscarriage. Here are some suggestions.*

## 58 Keeping the Sabbath and Keeping My Job

KENDAL BRIAN HUNTER

*A member whose job requires him to work on Sundays shares several ways he honors the Sabbath.*

## 60 Taking Courage in the Hymns

*Turning to sacred music sustained these members facing challenges and helped them move forward.*

## 64 To Be Edified and Rejoice Together

A. ROGER MERRILL

*Great power comes to us as we learn to teach and receive by the Spirit. Only the Spirit can communicate specifically and individually to each of us what we need to know.*

### DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

The *Ensign* welcomes submissions that show the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in the lives of Latter-day Saints, especially articles with personal experiences and gospel insights. This month, we are especially interested in how you or others have adapted Church programs and materials to fit the needs of those with **mental or emotional disabilities**. We invite you to share your experience in a 500-word narrative labeled "Adapting 2" and send it by February 16.

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# Ensign

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OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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54

## USING THIS ISSUE

**Teaching about meaningful worship.** After reading “Teaching Children to Worship” (p. 24), talk with your children about how they feel when they behave reverently. How are your meetings different for them—and for you—when everyone participates in worship?

**Remembering President Spencer W. Kimball.** After reading “Spencer W. Kimball: Man of Action” (p. 46), have you identified ways that you can become a man or woman of action? Learn more about the twelfth President of the Church by typing “Spencer W. Kimball” in the “Quick search” field of the Gospel Library. From [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) select Gospel Library, and then click on HTML (Text) under Church Publications.

**Feeling the Holy Ghost through music.** After reading “Taking Courage in the Hymns” (p. 60), consider ways you can benefit from the hymns more often. Consider memorizing the words of your favorite hymn.



70

## DEPARTMENTS

### LESSONS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

**36 Thou Art the Christ**  
ELDER C. SCOTT GROW  
*Studying the New Testament can transform our lives and help us become more like the Savior.*

**70 LATTER-DAY SAINT VOICES**  
*A Book of Mormon comes through a mugging, a suit finds a new owner, a father defends the truth.*

### COMING IN FEBRUARY

**Look for articles on:**

- Finding hope and strength in the gospel as the only Church member in your family.
- Restoring peace and unity through “turning the other cheek.”
- Choosing to follow the wisdom of God instead of the wisdom of men—even when it doesn’t seem to make sense to do so.

### 74 RANDOM SAMPLER

*Family home evening for couples, swapping and sharing, a family service calendar, chatting with children.*

### 76 NEWS OF THE CHURCH

#### GOSPEL TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Art, 40                 | Jesus Christ, 16,       |
| Book of Mormon, 70      | 36, 40                  |
| Callings, 21            | Marriage, 28            |
| Character, 10           | New Testament, 36       |
| Children, 24            | Prayer, 30              |
| Compassion, 54          | Primary, 21             |
| Decisions, 10           | Reverence, 24           |
| Ensign, 53              | Sabbath, 58             |
| Faith, 10               | Satan, 4                |
| Family Home Evening, 75 | Scriptures, 30          |
| Food Storage, 74        | Service, 53             |
| Home Teaching, 33       | Singles, 33             |
| Hymns, 60               | Spiritual Protection, 4 |
| Inspiration, 71         | Temptation, 4           |
| Kimball, Spencer W., 46 | Unity, 28               |





# The Forces That Will Save Us

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST  
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

I feel impressed to sound a warning voice against the devil and his angels—the source and mainspring of all evil. I approach this prayerfully, because Satan is not an enlightening subject. I consider him to be the great imitator.

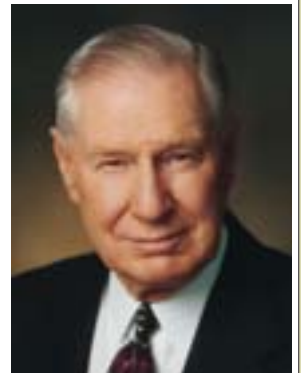
I think we will witness increasing evidence of Satan's power as the kingdom of God grows stronger. I believe Satan's ever-expanding efforts are some proof of the truthfulness of this work. In the future the opposition will be both more subtle and more open. It will be masked in greater sophistication and cunning, but it will also be more blatant. We will need greater spirituality to perceive all of the forms of evil and greater strength to resist it. But the disappointments and setbacks to the work of God will be temporary, for the work will go forward.<sup>1</sup>

It is not good practice to become intrigued by Satan and his mysteries. No good can come from getting close to evil. Like playing with fire, it is too easy to get burned: "The knowledge of sin tempteth to its commission."<sup>2</sup> The only safe course is to keep well distanced from him and any of his wicked activities or

nefarious practices. The mischief of devil worship, sorcery, witchcraft, voodooism, casting spells, black magic, and all other forms of demonism should always be avoided.

However, President Brigham Young (1801–77) said that it is important to "study . . . evil, and its consequences."<sup>3</sup> Since Satan is the author of all the evil in the world, it is essential therefore to realize that he is the influence behind the opposition to the work of God. Alma stated the issue succinctly: "Whatsoever is good cometh from God, and whatsoever is evil cometh from the devil."<sup>4</sup>

My principal reason for choosing this subject is to help young people by warning them, as Paul said, "lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."<sup>5</sup> We hope that young people, unfamiliar with the sophistries of the world, can keep themselves free of Satan's enticements and deceitful ways. I personally claim no special insight into Satan's methods, but I have at times been able to identify his influence and his actions in my life and in the lives of others. When I was on my first mission, Satan sought to divert me from my future path and,



**A**ll who come unto Christ by obedience to the covenants and ordinances of the gospel can thwart Satan's efforts.





**T**he Prophet Joseph Smith related from his own experience, “The nearer a person approaches the Lord, a greater power will be manifested by the adversary to prevent the accomplishment of His purposes.”

if possible, to destroy my usefulness in the Lord’s work. That was more than 60 years ago, and I still remember how reasonable his entreaties seemed.

#### **Satan’s Enticing Appeal**

Who has not heard and felt the enticing of the devil? His voice often sounds so reasonable and his message so easy to justify. It is an appealing, intriguing voice with dulcet tones. It is neither hard nor discordant. No one would listen to Satan’s voice if it sounded harsh or mean. If the devil’s voice were unpleasant, it would not persuade people to listen to it.

Shakespeare wrote, “The prince of darkness is a gentleman,”<sup>6</sup> and, “The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.”<sup>7</sup> As the great imitator, Lucifer has marvelous powers of deception. As Paul said to the Corinthians, “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”<sup>8</sup>

Some of Satan’s most appealing lines are “Everyone does it”; “If it doesn’t hurt anybody else, it’s all right”; “If you feel all right about it, it’s OK”; or “It’s the ‘in’ thing to do.” These subtle entreaties make Satan the great imitator, the master deceiver, the arch counterfeiter, and the great forger.

We all have an inner braking system that will stop us before we follow Satan too far down the wrong road. It is the still, small voice within us. But if we allow ourselves to succumb to Satan’s tempting, the braking system begins to leak brake fluid and our stopping mechanism becomes weak and ineffective.

Nephi has given to us the pattern or formula by which Satan operates:

“And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.



“And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none—and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance.”<sup>9</sup>

The First Presidency described Satan: “He is working under such perfect disguise that many do not recognize either him or his methods. There is no crime he would not commit, no debauchery he would not set up, no plague he would not send, no heart he would not break, no life he would not take, no soul he would not destroy. He comes as a thief in the night; he is a wolf in sheep’s clothing.”<sup>10</sup> Satan is the world’s master in the use of flattery, and he knows the great power of speech, a power his servants often employ.<sup>11</sup> He has always been one of the great forces of the world.

I once heard Ernest LeRoy Hatch, former president of the Guatemala City temple, say, “The devil is not smart because he is the devil; he is smart because he is old.” Indeed, the devil is old, and he was not always the devil. Initially, he was not the perpetrator of evil. He was with the hosts of heaven in the beginning. He was “an angel of God who was in authority in the presence of God.”<sup>12</sup> He came before Christ and proposed to God the Father, “Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor.”<sup>13</sup> This he wanted to do by force, destroying the agency of man.

Satan became the devil by seeking glory, power, and dominion by force.<sup>14</sup> In contrast, Jesus, chosen “from the beginning,” said unto God, “Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.”<sup>15</sup> What a difference in approaches! Wrong as Satan was, he was persuasive enough to entice one-third of the hosts of heaven to follow him.<sup>16</sup> He practiced a great deception by saying, “I am also a son of God,”<sup>17</sup> persuading others to love him more than God.

### **Agency—Our Alternative**

Our agency, given us through the plan of our Father, is the great alternative to Satan’s plan of force. With this sublime gift, we can grow, improve, progress, and seek perfection.

Without agency, none of us could grow and develop by learning from our mistakes and errors and those of others.

Because of his rebellion, Lucifer was cast out and “became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto [the Lord’s] voice.”<sup>18</sup> And so this personage who was an angel of God and in authority, even in the presence of God, was removed from the presence of God and His Son.<sup>19</sup> This caused great sadness, “for the heavens wept over him—he was Lucifer, a son of the morning.”<sup>20</sup> Does this not place some responsibility on the followers of Christ to show concern for loved ones who have lost their way and “are shut out from the presence of God”?<sup>21</sup> I know of no better way than to show unconditional love and help lost souls seek another path.

Satan does, however, perform an important negative function. In the book of 2 Nephi we are told, “For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things.”<sup>22</sup> Indeed, Peter warns, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”<sup>23</sup>

C. S. Lewis, a Christian author, gave us a keen insight into devilish tactics. In a fictional letter, the master devil, Screwtape, instructs the apprentice devil Wormwood, who is in training to become a more experienced devil:

“You will say that these are very small sins; and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. . . . It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. . . . Indeed, the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”<sup>24</sup>

C. S. Lewis also wrote: “A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. . . . You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down.”<sup>25</sup>

The Prophet Joseph Smith related from his own experience, “The nearer a person approaches the Lord,

**P**rotection against the power of Lucifer and his hosts lies in the spirit of discernment through the gift of the Holy Ghost. This gift comes undeviatingly by personal revelation to those who strive to follow the counsel of the living prophets.



a greater power will be manifested by the adversary to prevent the accomplishment of His purposes.”<sup>26</sup>

#### **Our Defense: Stand Firm**

However, we need not become paralyzed with fear of Satan’s power. He can have no power over us unless we permit it. He is really a coward, and if we stand firm, he will retreat. The Apostle James counseled: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”<sup>27</sup> He cannot know our thoughts unless we speak them. And Nephi states that the devil “hath no power over the hearts” of righteous people.<sup>28</sup> We have heard comedians and others justify or explain their misdeeds by saying, “The devil made me do it.” I do not really think the devil can make us do anything. Certainly he can tempt and he can deceive, but he has no authority over us that we do not give him.

The power to resist Satan may be stronger than we realize. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “All beings who have bodies have power over those who have not. The devil has no power over us only as we permit him. The moment we revolt at anything which comes from God, the devil takes power.”<sup>29</sup>

He also stated, “Wicked spirits have their bounds, limits, and laws by which they are governed.”<sup>30</sup> So Satan and his angels are not all-powerful. One of Satan’s approaches is to persuade a person who has transgressed that there is no hope of forgiveness. But there is always hope. Most sins, no matter how grievous, may be repented of if the desire is sincere enough.

#### **Discerning Evil**

Satan has had great success with this gullible generation. As a consequence, he and his angels have victimized literally



hosts of people. There is, however, an ample shield against the power of Lucifer and his hosts. This protection lies in the spirit of discernment through the gift of the Holy Ghost. This gift comes undeviatingly by personal revelation to those who strive to obey the commandments of the Lord and to follow the counsel of the living prophets.

This personal revelation will surely come to all whose eyes are single to the glory of God, for it is promised that their bodies will be “filled with light, and there shall be no darkness” in them.<sup>31</sup> All who come unto Christ by obedience to the covenants and ordinances of the gospel can thwart Satan’s efforts. The humble followers of the divine Master need not be deceived by the devil if they will be honest and true to their fellowmen and women, go to the house of the Lord, receive the sacrament worthily, observe the Sabbath day, pay their tithes and offerings, offer contrite prayers, engage in the Lord’s work, and follow those who preside over them.

There are forces that will save us from the ever-increasing lying, disorder, violence, chaos, destruction, misery, and deceit that are upon the earth. Those saving forces are the everlasting principles, covenants, and ordinances of the eternal gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. These same principles, covenants, and ordinances are coupled with the rights and powers of the priesthood of Almighty God. We of this Church are the possessors and custodians of these commanding powers that can and do roll back much of the power of Satan on the earth. We believe that we hold these mighty forces in trust for all who have died, for all who are now living, and for the yet unborn.

My prayer is that through the spreading of righteousness, the evil hands of the destroyer can be stayed so that he will not be permitted to curse the whole world. I pray that God will overlook our weaknesses, our frailties, and our many shortcomings and generously forgive us of our misdeeds. May He bring solace to the suffering, comfort to those who grieve, and peace to the brokenhearted. ■

#### NOTES

1. See D&C 3:1; 65:2.
2. Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 373.
3. *Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe (1941), 257.
4. Alma 5:40.
5. 2 Corinthians 2:11.
6. *King Lear*, act 3, scene 4, line 148.
7. *The Merchant of Venice*, act 1, scene 3, line 99.
8. 2 Corinthians 11:14; see also 2 Nephi 9:9.
9. 2 Nephi 28:21–22.
10. In James R. Clark, comp., *Messages of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 6 vols. (1965–75), 6:179.
11. See Jacob 7:4.
12. D&C 76:25.
13. Moses 4:1.
14. See Moses 4:3–4.
15. Moses 4:2.
16. See Revelation 12:4; D&C 29:36.
17. Moses 5:13.
18. Moses 4:4.
19. See D&C 76:25.
20. D&C 76:26.
21. See Moses 6:49.
22. 2 Nephi 2:11.
23. 1 Peter 5:8.
24. *The Screwtape Letters* (1961), 56.
25. *Mere Christianity* (1960), 124.
26. In Orson F. Whitney, *Life of Heber C. Kimball* (1945), 132.
27. James 4:7.
28. See 1 Nephi 22:26.
29. *The Words of Joseph Smith*, ed. Andrew F. Ehat and Lyndon W. Cook (1980), 60.
30. *History of the Church*, 4:576.
31. D&C 88:67.

## IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After prayerfully studying this message, share it using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. Following are some examples:

1. Ask family members to imagine they are sitting around a fire. Talk about the dangers of playing with fire. How is this like becoming “intrigued by Satan and his mysteries”? Share some of President Faust’s examples of how we can overcome Satan’s deceptions. Challenge the family to be righteous examples in thwarting his plans.
2. Bring a small toy car, a picture of a car, or have the family look at a car nearby. What would happen if someone were driving and the brakes failed? Cite President Faust’s example of our own inner braking system. Testify of the importance of strengthening our sensitivity to the Holy Ghost and heeding the still, small voice to combat the devil.
3. Using the article, write down some of Satan’s devices and some of the spiritual tools we have to combat Satan. Talk with family members about the devil’s tactics, and explain that we have the power to defeat him. Testify that righteous living can thwart Satan.



**Your character will be the yardstick that God will use to determine how well you have met your mortal probation. Strong moral character results from consistent correct choices.**

**BY ELDER RICHARD G. SCOTT**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

**M**y intent is to share some lessons learned in the crucible of my own life's experience to help you build securely on the foundation you have laid thus far. That will require mentioning some of the innermost feelings of my heart. Would you consider that I am in a private setting with you as an individual or a married couple? Forgive me if I speak quite plainly from my heart.

#### **A Pattern for Success**

This world is in serious trouble. The fundamental values of our society are being undermined. There is a continual crumbling of principle, virtue, integrity, and religious values—the foundation stones of civilization and definitive ingredients of peace and happiness. I will share with you as simply and as clearly as I am able a pattern for success and happiness in life despite these conditions.

God has given you the capacity to exercise faith so that you may find peace, joy, and purpose in life. However, to employ its power, faith must be rooted in something secure. There is no more solid foundation than faith

in the love Heavenly Father has for you, faith in His plan of happiness, and faith in the willingness and power of Jesus Christ to fulfill all of His promises.

Some of the principles upon which faith is based are:

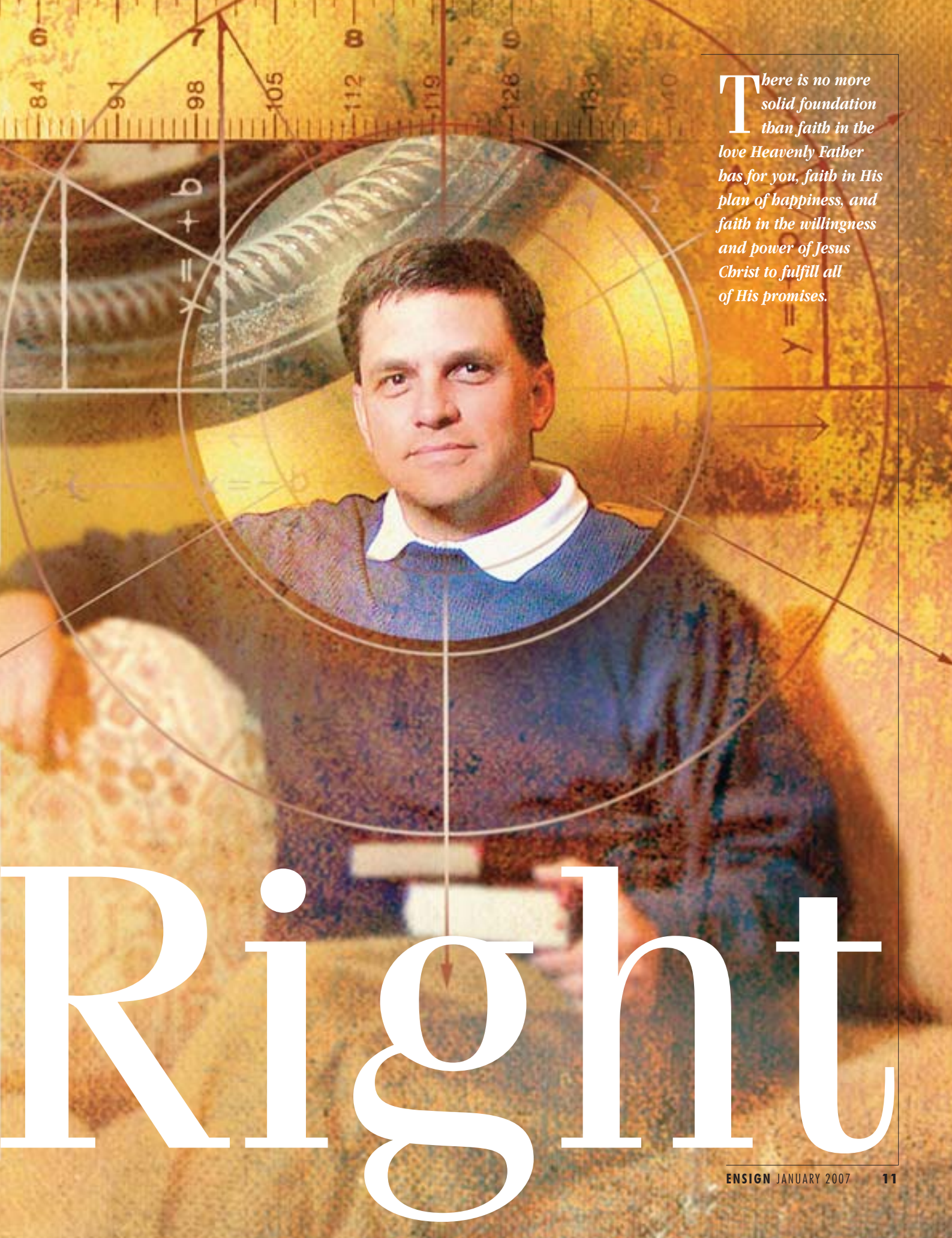
- Trust in God and in His desire to provide help when needed, no matter how challenging the circumstance.
- Obedience to His commandments and a commitment to living a life that demonstrates He can trust you.
- Sensitivity to the quiet promptings of the Spirit and courageous follow-through.
- Patience and understanding when God lets you struggle to grow and answers come a piece at a time over an extended period.

#### **Exercising Faith**

You must understand and use the power of the interaction of faith and character. God uses your faith to mold your character. Character is woven patiently from threads of doctrine, principle, and obedience. Character is the manifestation of what you are becoming. Your character will be the yardstick that God will use to determine how well you have met your mortal probation. Strong moral

# Living






*There is no more solid foundation than faith in the love Heavenly Father has for you, faith in His plan of happiness, and faith in the willingness and power of Jesus Christ to fulfill all of His promises.*

# Right



A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a light-colored t-shirt, a brown vest, and patterned pants, is walking on a narrow, yellowish ledge. The background is a large, abstract, colorful wall with a grid-like pattern and some text like "32 NDS", "INCH", and "AGATE". Several white arrows point from the text towards the woman and the background.

**A**s you walk to the boundary of your understanding into the twilight of uncertainty, exercising faith, you will be led to find solutions to the challenges of life you would not obtain otherwise.

character results from consistent correct choices in the trials and testing of life. Such choices are made with trust in things that are believed and, when acted upon, will be confirmed as true.

As you walk to the boundary of your understanding into the twilight of uncertainty, exercising faith, you will be led to find solutions to the challenges of life you would not obtain otherwise. No matter how strong your faith is, God will not always reward you immediately according to your desires. Rather He will respond with what in His eternal plan is best for you. Your exercise of faith will forge strength of character available to you in times of critical need. Such character is not developed in moments of great challenge or temptation. That is when it is used.

The bedrock of character is integrity. Worthy character will strengthen your capacity to recognize the direction of the Spirit and be obedient to it. It is more important than what you own, what you have learned, or what goals you have accomplished. Your consistent exercise of faith builds strong character. In turn, fortified character expands your ability to exercise faith, thereby enhancing your capacity and confidence in conquering the trials of life. And this strengthening cycle continues. The more your character is fortified,

the more enabled you are to exercise the power of faith.

### **Obeying Our Father in Heaven**

Wherever you live, whatever your occupation or focus in life, you will be drawn into the battle for the souls of men and women. Be valiant in that struggle. It is waged on the basis of character. Satan and his troops have defined their character by resolute opposition to the will of our Father and consistent violation of His commandments. You solidify your character by consistent correct choices.

Neither Satan nor any other power can weaken or destroy your growing character. Only you can do that through disobedience. That is why Satan is so intently focused on tempting you to make decisions that will undermine your character. Satan is an accomplished master at making devastating choices appear attractive, even reasonable. So be careful. The decisions you make will profoundly affect life now and for eternity. Make them wisely.



## Making Decisions

There are two patterns for making decisions in life: (1) decisions based upon circumstance and (2) decisions based upon eternal truth. Satan encourages choices to be made according to circumstance. That is: What are others doing? What seems to be socially or politically acceptable? What will bring the quickest, most satisfying response? That pattern gives Satan the broadest opportunity to tempt an individual to make decisions that will be harmful and destructive, even though they may appear most appealing when a decision is made. With this approach there is no underlying set of values or standards used to consistently guide those decisions. Each one is made for what appears to be the most attractive choice at the moment. Those who choose this path cannot expect the help of the Lord but are left to their own strength and to that of others influenced to act in their favor. Sadly, most of God's children make decisions this way. That is why the world is in such turmoil.

The pattern of the Lord is for His children to make decisions based upon eternal truth. This requires that your life continue to be centered in the commandments of God. Thus, decisions are made in accordance with unchanging truths, aided by prayer and the guidance of the Holy Ghost. In addition to your own strength and capacity, you will enjoy divine inspiration and power when needed. Your actions will be predictable and will bless the lives of all in the circle of your influence. You will have a meaningful life of purpose, peace, and happiness.

There is no guarantee that life will be easy for anyone. We grow and learn more rapidly by facing and overcoming challenges. You are here to prove yourself, to develop, and to overcome. There will be constant challenges that cause you to think, to make proper judgments, and to act righteously. You will grow from them. However, there are some challenges you never need to encounter. They are those associated with serious transgression. As you continue to avoid such mistakes, your life will be simpler and happier.

Strive to make decisions based upon eternal truth.

Please never allow yourself to make an exception to that pattern of life to gain a temporary, appealing advantage or to participate in an experience you know to be unworthy. I have seen so many young couples and individuals fumble the ball of life because they look to the wrong sources for how to live. They become distracted from true principles by being tempted to compromise just a little bit to gain influence, position, or acceptability. They justify those deviations, rationalizing that later a greater good could be accomplished. In the long run that pattern will take you where you definitely do not want to be.

**T**here are two patterns for making decisions in life: (1) decisions based upon circumstance and (2) decisions based upon eternal truth.





**D**rink deeply  
from the  
fountain of  
the revealed word  
of God. Hold fast  
to His word.



### Standing for Truth

How can you keep your resolve to live worthily? How can you be sure that the determination in your heart will not be eroded by the pressures around you? If you are blessed to be married, rejoice in that companionship and in your children. Let there be absolutely no secrets kept from each other. That will provide powerful insurance for continuing righteousness and happiness. Decide issues together. Keep the gospel light burning brightly in your home through scripture study, prayer, and the other things you know to do. Honor and live temple covenants as you receive them. Drink deeply from the fountain of the revealed word of God. Hold fast to His word. Keep the Sabbath day holy. In short, continue to do what you know you should do. Wherever you go, stay tightly connected to the Church and consistently serve in it.

As an exceptional son or daughter of God, you are sorely needed. There is an urgent need for men and women who will stand for principles against the growing pressures to compromise those very principles. Men and women are required who will act nobly and courageously for what the Lord has defined as right, not for what is politically correct or socially acceptable. We need individuals who have the spiritual, righteous influence that will motivate others to enduring good. We need politicians of integrity, businesspeople who are honest and morally clean, attorneys who defend justice and the legal system, and government officials who preserve principle because it is right. Above all,

we need mothers and fathers who will preserve the sanctity and safety of the home and the integrity of the family, where faith in God and obedience to His commandments are taught as the foundation of a productive life.

You can be an essential part of that shining light, that righteous

influence to increase the moral fiber of your country and home. There are so many with whom you will associate who live their lives for the moment. They do not understand the need for principles, eternal laws, and truth. They have been brought up in an environment where decisions are made on the basis of today's circumstances or tomorrow's opportunities for gain. Show them a better way. There are some things that are wrong because God decreed they are wrong. Truth is not determined by what people think, no matter how influential they may be. Truth was determined by an Almighty God before the Creation of this earth, and it will exist forever.

Oh, there can be transitory euphoria from power, influence, or material wealth, but true, lasting happiness, the kind that is felt in the early hours of the morning when you are truly honest with yourself, can be garnered only by obedience to the teachings of God. You must have honesty, integrity, chastity, virtue, and a willingness to forego something attractive, even apparently desirable for the moment, for greater good in the future. I speak



of the willingness, when circumstance demands, to lay everything on the altar to defend true principles.

### **Willing to Sacrifice**

An example will illustrate the kind of moral courage I mean. Some years ago a persuasive, able individual with great influence in the U. S. Senate leveraged legitimate concerns for the defense of his country for personal ambition. Some of his colleagues became concerned with allegations made against him. They decided that an investigation was required to determine whether his actions were justified and honorable or whether he should be censured. Discussions were held concerning who should participate in the search for truth.

A relatively unknown senator—but a good man with faith in God and unquestioned integrity—awoke from a nightmare and told his wife that he had dreamed he had been put on the committee.

She responded, “Oh, no! That would be political suicide.”

He went to the office and returned home after a long day, ashen white.

His trembling wife said, “No! You’ve been put on the committee.”

He responded, “Worse than that. I have been asked to be its chairman.”

Then, with characteristic devotion to duty, he and other valiant men began the difficult, trying evaluation of evidence to discover truth and to put an end to false practices. It was not an attack against an individual but against wrongdoing in high places. Though that action did later cost him his political career, I will ever remember him for his courage, integrity, and willingness to sacrifice personal gain for the greater good he gave his nation.

### **Trusting the Lord**

Will you prayerfully consider what we have discussed together? There are many willing to be led by your righteous example. Because you have been enlightened, you owe to those who follow, the best example you are capable of giving. Not only will they be blessed, but your life will be enriched

as well. Come to know of the great influence for good that flows from individual acts born of conscience and principle rooted in truth. Resolve that each moment of your life will reflect your determination to humbly be an example of righteousness, integrity, and conviction. With such a life you will succeed in the purpose for which you came to earth.

I began this message indicating that I have validated in my personal life the truth of the principles shared. There have been times when my choice to stand for principle against strong forces implied that there would be significant personal loss. But that did not deter me. I was determined to do what was right. The anticipated loss, however, did not occur. Somehow, doing what was right opened far greater and more meaningful opportunities. I testify that you will never go wrong when you trust in the Lord and in His promises, no matter how severe the challenge.

May the Lord strengthen your resolve, your exercise of faith, and your use of growing character so that you may be every bit the instrument for good that He desires. I testify that He lives. As you worthily seek His help, He will guide you in your life. ■

*From a commencement address given on April 22, 2004, at Brigham Young University.*



## **HELPS FOR HOME EVENING**

Most *Ensign* articles can be used for family home evening discussions, personal reflection, or teaching the gospel in a variety of settings.

1. Discuss character traits that are valued by your family. Share how these traits have been passed down through generations.
2. Invite family members to think of a time when choosing the right was difficult. What truths helped you choose the right? Share ideas from the “Standing for Truth” section about how to build character.
3. Write *yes*, *no*, and *maybe* on three separate pieces of paper. Have family members pick one of the papers and discuss situations where *yes*, *no*, or *maybe* would be a righteous answer. Refer to the “Making Decisions” section to evaluate which decisions would be based on circumstances versus eternal truth.

# All Things Bear Record of Him

BY ADAM C. OLSON  
Church Magazines

**H**e is the Way, the Light, the Bread of Life, the Living Water, the Chief Cornerstone. Throughout His New Testament ministry, the Savior related His divine role and teachings to concepts the people could understand.

These young adults in Germany have also learned that “all things bear record of [Jesus Christ]” (Moses 6:63). Here they share their witness of Him.

## The Way

*“Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?”*

*“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:5–6).*

René Cyron:

“I grew up in a part-member family. I had to make up my mind early which way I would follow. I was impressed by the Bible stories my mother told me. I saw how my mom lived. I saw how my father’s family lived. I saw how people I admired at church lived. I knew

that they followed the Savior’s way, and I decided to be baptized.

“Now when I make choices, I think of what I have learned of Him, and I try to emulate Him. He has shown me a more perfect way. He can help us develop and express the qualities within us. I would be miserable if I couldn’t change, but I know that through Him, change is possible.”

## “I Stand at the Door, and Knock”

*“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man bear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).*

René Cyron:

“The Savior is knocking because He loves us. He has much to offer, but He has given me the freedom to choose to open the door to Him or not. He would teach me, help me with my strengths and weaknesses.

“I can open the door by being meek and accepting that He can teach me. I can open the door by accepting what is taught, recognizing I have things to change.

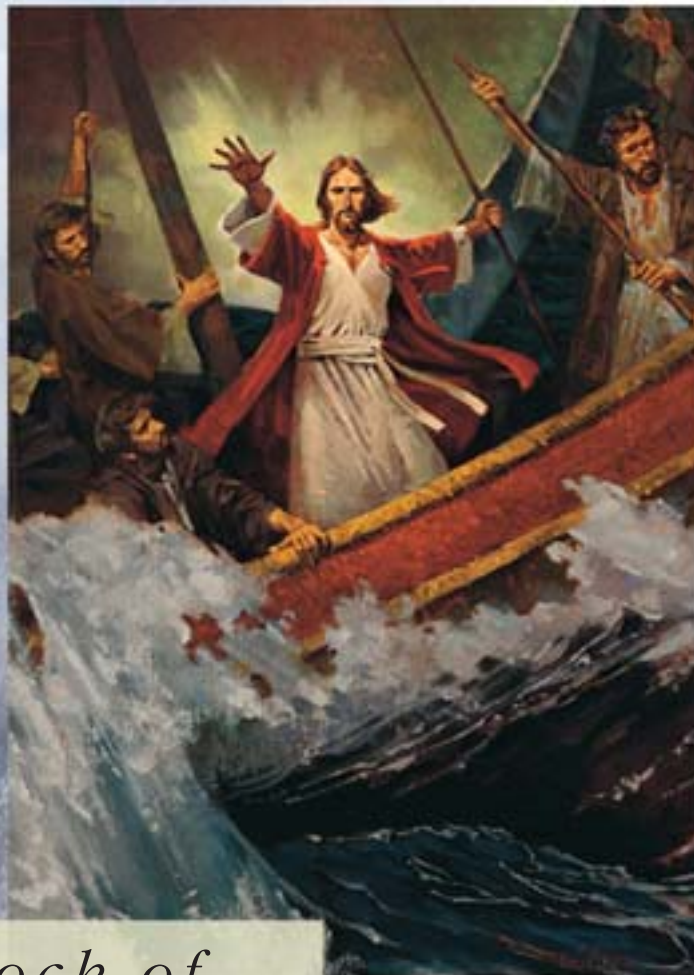


René Cyron





*He Is the Way*



## The Rock of

## Our Redeemer

“I hope I will always recognize Him at the door, because others are knocking too. And I am asked to do the same, to find others and invite them to come unto Him. Through us, they should be able to get a glimpse of Him.”

### The Rock of Our Redeemer

*“Therefore whosoever beareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

*“And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon*

*that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock”* (Matthew 7:24–25).

*“Remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; . . . which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall”* (Helaman 5:12).

Maike Adler:

“I grew up as a member, but about the time I was 14, I had to decide how committed I was—which way my life would go. Would I go with my friends to the parties they kept inviting me to, or would I go to seminary? I talked to my parents, and I

prayed. I gained a testimony, and I knew I had to go to seminary.

“Without the Savior, my whole life would be totally different—my friends, my values. I wouldn’t know why I’m here. There are a lot of people with advice, but the values and morals of the world change and shift. If I’m built on something that’s not firm and it shifts, I have to rebuild every time. You have to have something unchanging to build on. Christ never changes. His right is always right. You can lean on Him. He never lets you fall.”

### The Light of the World

*“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”* (John 8:12).



Maike Adler



Jan-David Wohlleben:

“His gospel is a light that gives clear direction in life, a direction I can cling to. Through His teachings, we gain understanding of why we’re on earth. Through His Atonement, we can return to God through repentance. I’m more thoughtful now of the things I do, more careful with the words I say.

“As a member of Christ’s Church, you never have to be alone. There is always help

available. He gives me comfort; He helps me with my challenges; He helps me with decisions when I ask with a sincere heart in prayer. Following Him has changed my life.”

#### **Living Water**

*“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. . . .*

*“Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:10, 14).*

Jasmin Zanardo:

“I am grateful for the gift of the gospel. I have many friends outside of the Church. They say: ‘I don’t know all the things about God, but I see the way you live, and I admire you.’ It makes me feel so grateful that I have something to hold to, because they don’t; they’re still thirsty.



**Jan-David Wohlleben**



## *The Light of the World*

## *The Bread of Life*

“We should be witnesses of Christ to others so they know Him, so they can come and drink of the water of everlasting life.”

### **The Chief Cornerstone**

*“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. . . .*

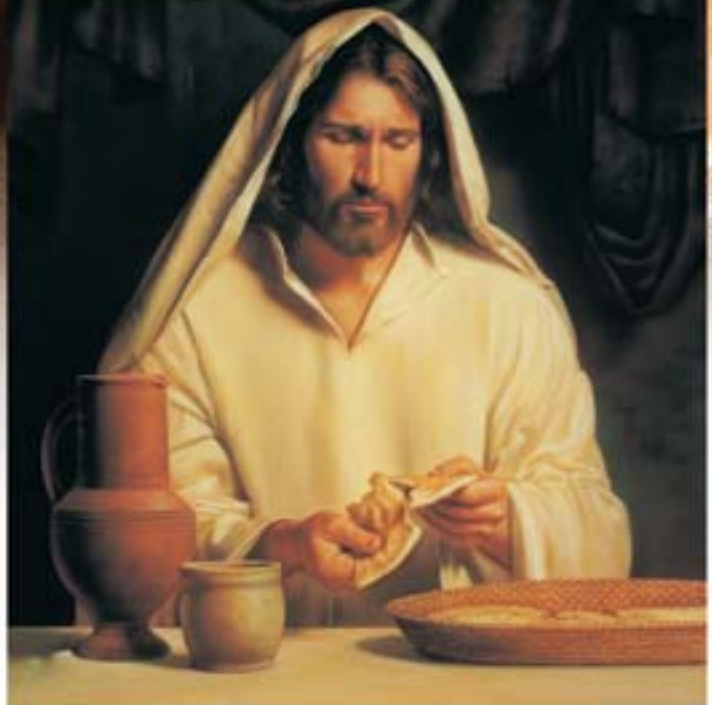
*“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

*“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

*“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:13, 19–21).*

Jasmin Zanardo:

“The world is confused because what the world offers isn’t enough. There are many religions with truth. But the gospel we have is complete. The foundation we have is firm.”



### **The Bread of Life**

*“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).*

Jasmin Zanardo:

“I was born in the gospel, but everyone has to find out for himself or herself at some point if the Church is true. I was 12 when I wanted to know, and I found out. Through the Atonement of Jesus, I came alive. Through some difficult trials, I have been comforted to know who the Savior is and what He has done for us. His love for us is so great. He sacrificed Himself for us. He is my life.” ■



**Jasmin Zanardo**



# GETTING BACK ON TRACK

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DILLEEN MARSH

BY LARRY W. SIDWELL

*After my grandfather fell away from the Church, we were detached from our heritage until loving Primary teachers reminded us of the blessings we could claim.*

Occasionally I hear someone in the hallways of our ward meetinghouse say something like this: “They’ve got me working in the Primary.” It is said as a half apology to the listener for apparently not having a more glamorous calling. But as I reflect upon my family’s activation in the gospel, I earnestly convey my belief that no job in the Church, especially in the Primary, is less significant than another.





My great-great-grandfather Job Sidwell and his family accepted the gospel in 1842. No amount of persuasion could keep them from practicing their newfound faith, and they soon set out to follow the Saints to Nauvoo. But by the time they arrived, the Prophet Joseph Smith had been martyred and Nauvoo had been abandoned, so they embarked on the long trek across the plains.

His son, my faithful great-grandfather, William Sidwell, died tragically in a train accident in 1905. Perhaps resentful about the loss of his father and the life his family had been thrown into, William's son—my grandfather George Wallace Sidwell—left the Church and vowed never to return. After serving in World War I, George came home and married a Latter-day Saint woman, Alvira, who had one child from a previous marriage. They moved to Idaho, bought a farm, and had another child, Wayne Wallace Sidwell—my father. George refused to let his young son attend church, so it seemed this branch of the Sidwell family had been derailed from receiving the blessings of the gospel.

My father eventually married Rebecca Gwartney, a strong-willed, intelligent girl who heartily disliked the Latter-day Saints. They initially had three little boys, each two years apart, who were a handful for the young mother. I was the second boy. When I was four years old, my grandmother Alvira offered to take the boys off my mother's hands every Wednesday afternoon by taking us to Primary. My mother, glad for the weekly reprieves, set aside her contempt for the Latter-day Saints and agreed.

We loved going to Primary. My grandmother continued taking us for about a year, until she became sick and no longer could. We howled our disappointment to our mother until she finally gave in and drove us to town for Primary. Because it was too far for her to go back to the farm before she had to pick us up, and perhaps because she was wary about the doctrines her boys might be exposed to, my mother stayed for Primary. She sat in the back of the chapel with her arms folded and her brow furrowed, discouraging any contact from Primary leaders or teachers.

However, those women in Primary treated my mother with the utmost respect and love. They showered her





**M**y mother sat in the back of the chapel with her arms folded and her brow furrowed. Nevertheless, the sisters in Primary reached out to her in love and respect.

with attention. Sitting in the back of the chapel, my mother learned the simple truths of the gospel from loving sisters who magnified their callings. The Holy Ghost pricked her heart.

One day my mother came home from Primary and announced to my father, “Wayne, I have gained a testimony of the gospel, and I have to be baptized.” Surprisingly unruffled by the announcement, my father answered, “Well, I should be baptized too.” They called the missionaries, took the discussions, and in 1949, when I was six years old, my parents were baptized. A year later we were privileged to be sealed as a family in the Salt Lake Temple—a building my great-great-grandfather had lovingly labored on about a hundred years earlier. It was a day I shall never forget.

My branch of the Sidwell train had been derailed from the gospel by a series of choices. We could have remained detached from our heritage for many generations. But faithful Primary teachers who lovingly shared the gospel with my mother and her sons picked up the Sidwell train and

#### ACROSS THE GENERATIONS



**Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Unto the Rising Generation,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1985, 11.**

*“The rising generation can also affect, adversely or affirmatively, the older generations.”*

set it back on the strait and narrow track. Their influence has reached the many descendants of my parents, Wayne and Rebecca. It will also reach thousands of souls on the other side of the veil through temple ordinances because of my mother’s tireless family history work.

Somewhere within the stewardship of each of us is someone who needs our help and encouragement.

I was a four-year-old child when my Primary teacher touched my heart. My mother was an adult when the sisters in the Primary reached out to her. There are undoubtedly many more stories like mine, where a Latter-day Saint magnifying his or her calling unknowingly becomes an instrument in the Lord’s hands, making it possible for others to receive the Lord’s blessings. They may not yet have been recognized, but the Lord knows, the mother knows, the four-year-old child knows, and his descendants know what those Primary sisters did for them. May we all magnify our callings, love those we serve, and allow the Lord to bring about powerful changes through our efforts. ■

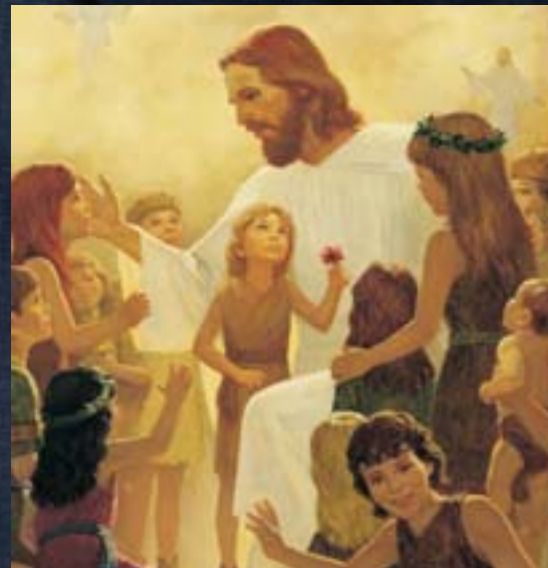
**W**hen the Savior ministered to the Nephites following His Resurrection, He took care to include the children in the transcendent acts of worship that took place. It is recorded that “he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them, and prayed unto the Father for them.” He said to the multitude, “Behold your little ones.” The adults watched in awe as angels descended “as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and . . . the angels did minister unto them” (3 Nephi 17:21, 23, 24).

Our children were not there; nor were they present during the Savior’s mortal ministry when He said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14). Yet our children are also precious to Him, and their hearts can be touched by the Holy Ghost. One of His opportunities to so touch our children is in sacrament meeting, the sacred worship service held in His name for all Church members.

#### **Children Can Worship and Feel the Spirit**

Even very small children can experience the beautiful, sacred, tender feelings bestowed by the Holy Spirit, and all children have a need and a right to do so. For our children to feel the Spirit, they need to take part in sacrament meeting and be tranquil enough to sense the whisperings of the still, small voice. It is not always easy, but we can teach our children to “be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). In addition to setting an example of reverence for children, parents, relatives, teachers, and leaders may find the following thoughts useful in helping children to experience reverent worship.

The teaching of reverent worship begins at home. The earlier this teaching begins with young children, the easier it is. We need to teach our children how important it is to feel the Spirit; what to do to obtain these special, sacred feelings; and how to recognize them. We can also try to provide quiet moments conducive to the Spirit in the home. Many families have daily devotionals with scripture reading and hymn singing, in addition to family home evening.



BEHOLD YOUR LITTLE ONES, BY GARY KAPP

# Teaching Children to Worship

BY JOAN HUGHES AND HELEN HUGHES

*Parents can help children be reverent and feel the Spirit in sacrament meeting.*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID STOKER, POSED BY MODELS





**T**he teaching of reverent worship begins at home. Many families have daily devotionals with scripture reading and hymn singing, in addition to family home evening.



Parents can take time in the home to explain to little ones why we attend sacrament meeting. During family prayers we can ask the Lord to help each child understand what we are trying to teach them.

We can remind our children before Church meetings what will happen and how we will all take part: “We enter the chapel quietly. We sit down together as a family and listen to the prelude music. When we listen to the music, we are getting ready for the sacrament service and can feel the Spirit. This is a happy feeling of peace and calm.”

Children can likewise be taught to listen in silence for the few minutes of a special musical number. Music is a vehicle of the Spirit, and children can feel that Spirit even if they don’t understand the words.

### **Helping Children Take Part**

Children of all ages can enjoy taking part in the hymns at various levels. Tiny children love to listen for repeated phrases in the text. A great many of our hymns have such phrases or choruses, and we can help little ones to hear the words. If we whisper upcoming words into the child’s ear, he or she will hear the words as they are sung. For example, at the beginning of the chorus we might whisper, “Listen for ‘Jesus shows his smiling face,’ ” and then watch the smile spread on the child’s face when the congregation sings those words.

As children grow older, they can learn to join in the singing of these special phrases. Children love to sing, “Oh, it is wonderful” or “Glory to God” or “Beautiful day.” Gradually, children can join in longer parts, whole choruses, and eventually the entire hymn. It helps if we practice at home.

Children who can read a little can learn to read the hymns in the same gradual way, and they have a great sense of accomplishment in doing so. This sets a pattern for them so that as they become teenagers they will be more likely to continue singing the hymns.

Children can learn to pray from the earliest age. At home, instructed by parents, even tiny children fold their arms and bow their heads with the rest of the family. The same happens in sacrament meeting during the invocation, benediction, and sacrament prayers. We can read the beautiful, meaningful sacrament prayers at home with our children, explaining to them at the level of their understanding what the words mean. It may be helpful for some older children to try to memorize the prayers. As with the hymns, they will “hear” the words if they know what they are. We can also explain the meaning of the sacrament in a way that our children can understand.

### **Helping Children Be Reverent**

We can do much to help our children appreciate the talks given in sacrament meeting. President Spencer W. Kimball



counseled: “An occasional whispered comment to clarify . . . the speaker’s message may help the child to relate to what is happening. For example, the father could whisper, ‘That is Gordy’s daddy speaking now. He’s talking about pioneers.’”<sup>1</sup>

From time to time the parent can also briefly summarize what is being said and draw the children’s attention to any scripture stories they would recognize: “You know this story! It’s about Abinadi and King Noah.”

Of course all this must be done in very quiet whispers, into the child’s ear, so as not to distract others.

Some parents may reason, “Our children are reverent until after the sacrament has been passed, and we feel that is enough.” But the whole meeting is devoted to worship, and our children are invited to all of it. We take the sacrament to remember the Savior’s Atonement and to renew our covenants with Him. The talks are extensions of that remembrance and commitment.

Our children need to feel and show respect for the speakers. We can lovingly counsel our children: “I know you don’t understand everything, but the speakers will tell us what they feel the Lord wants us to learn. I’ll help you understand a little, and then we’ll talk about it more after we get home.”

When we sit with investigator friends in church, we long for them to feel the Spirit and be converted. In a sense our children are also our investigators. Do we not feel the same longing for them?

### Helping Children Feel the Spirit

Many people come to sacrament meeting with a desire to draw closer to the Lord and to be inspired by the Holy Ghost. Irreverent behavior by any of us can distract others from the desire to worship. Elder Alexander B. Morrison,

who served as a member of the Seventy from 1989 to 2000, tells about African sacrament meetings: “Everyone, children and adults alike, watches the speaker with intense, rapt concentration. There is no squirming on the benches, no wandering in and out for drinks of water, no visits to the restroom. *Under such circumstances the level of spirituality in sacrament meetings is high.*”<sup>2</sup>

We cannot force our children to worship, but we can help them to behave in ways that invite the Spirit. Each child is unique, of course, and what works with one may

not work with another. But parents who prayerfully determine to help their children worship and feel the Spirit will find to their joy that they are entitled to revelation and inspiration on the matter.

In addition to the immediate family, others can encourage reverence and respect from children. Speakers can use simple language and include familiar scripture stories. Music directors and organists can include music that the children will recognize and enjoy. Priesthood leaders can work to ensure that the meetings invite the Holy Spirit to be present.

### A Tremendous Opportunity

Worship services are a tremendous opportunity for children to learn about self-control and respect

for the rights and needs of others. These sacred gatherings are occasions for all of us to work together to help children learn to feel and desire the ministrations of the Holy Spirit. Then as they grow they will gain a deep, abiding love for the Savior, a love that will sustain them on the strait and narrow path back into His arms. ■

### NOTES

1. *We Should Be a Reverent People* (pamphlet, 1976), 4; quoted in *The Latter-day Saint Woman: Basic Manual for Women, Part A* (2000), 53.
2. *The Dawning of a Brighter Day: The Church in Black Africa* (1990), 26; emphasis added.

### REVERENCE



*“We need to strengthen our sacrament meetings and make them hours of worship in very deed.*

*Cultivate a spirit of reverence, an attitude in which people come into the chapel and are quiet and reverent and thoughtful. . . . Sacrament meeting ought to be a time of spiritual refreshment for our people, when, on Sunday, they gather to partake of the sacrament and renew their covenants with the Lord.”*

**President Gordon B. Hinckley, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Regional Conference, Apr. 27, 1996; quoted in *Ensign*, Aug. 1997, 6; July 1997, 73.**

# The Earrings

*The day after my wife lost her gold earring, I realized we had lost something so much more important.*

BY VIKTOR MAKAROV

Once, for my wife's birthday, I gave her a pair of wonderful gold earrings. They suited her very well since she has a long, graceful neck, and the earrings were made in the shape of concentric circles bound together so they could move and play in the sunlight. My wife, Yelena, looked stunning whenever she wore them. She loved these earrings.

Then came the day of that best of all holiday celebrations, our branch Christmas party. I was in charge of this activity for our branch in Penza, Russia, so I was hurrying, wanting to get there as quickly as possible to make sure everything was ready for the activity. Yelena did not hurry but continued carefully getting ready. When my patience gave out, I told her to stop with her makeup, insisting that she looks great even without it. That was my mistake. She told me that she wasn't going anywhere, and I would have to go to the party alone.

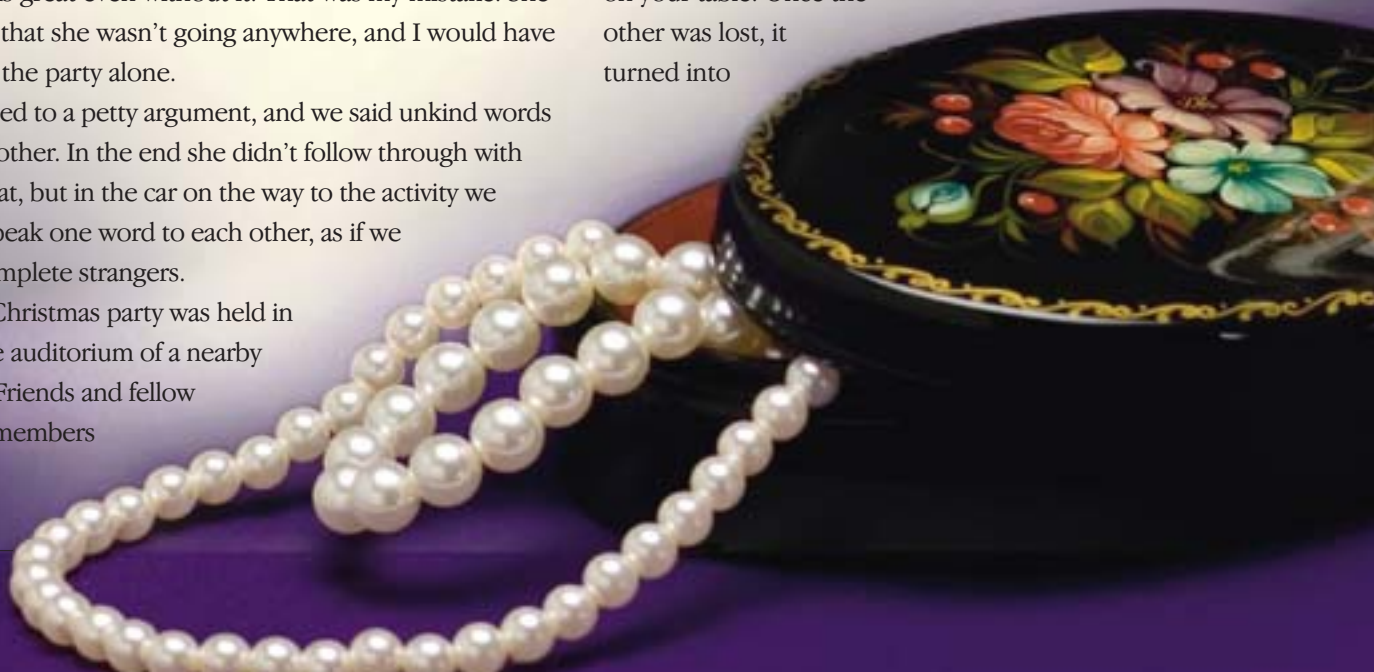
This led to a petty argument, and we said unkind words to each other. In the end she didn't follow through with her threat, but in the car on the way to the activity we didn't speak one word to each other, as if we were complete strangers.

Our Christmas party was held in the large auditorium of a nearby school. Friends and fellow branch members

had helped us decorate the room with flowers and pictures of our Lord's life and death. When we arrived we sat down in our seats, and my wife discovered that she was wearing only one earring. This was an unpleasant surprise, and we completely forgot about our argument. We looked all around us, but in vain—the earring was nowhere to be found. We decided it would be best to forget about it for the moment and watch the wonderful concert our friends had prepared.

Although the concert really was fabulous, my wife and I weren't able to fully enjoy it. Our day was spoiled, and we returned home in low spirits. We were sad to lose the earring, not only because it was expensive and beautiful, but more important because it was a gift of love for my wife.

When I woke up the next day, I realized we had lost something else much more important than a gold earring: the unity between us. Turning to Yelena, I said, "Look at this other earring. See how beautiful it is and how the light plays on it. Think about how much gold and effort were required to make it, and see how it's just lying there alone on your table. Once the other was lost, it turned into



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILY LESHMAN, POSED BY MODELS





something far less than when it was part of a pair.

We are like this also. When we are united, we can be a beautiful, powerful, and creative force for good. But when we are not united, we don't have the same strength, power, or beauty."

Tears appeared on my wife's face. She came over and embraced me. Her voice shook as she spoke, but her words touched me from head to toe: "We should never argue. We should be like Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. We love each other, and we had our marriage sealed for eternity in the holy temple. The devil wants to destroy all families on earth, but he can't do it if we are united. I love you even more after this incident. God has shown us what a family really is."

I held her in my arms, tears streaming down my cheeks. Now I knew that I held in my arms my greatest blessing. ■



# Lost on the

*Alone on the unforgiving Alaskan tundra, I gained strength during the night from the scriptures written in my memory and in my heart.*

BY TODD CROSLAND

This was to be an adventure of a lifetime. Exploring the Alaskan tundra had been something my friends and I had talked about for years. Finally, our dream had become a reality. We were on our way to the ruggedly beautiful land of Alaska.

We began our journey in mid-April, a time when the Alaskan wilderness was still blanketed with snow. We arrived in the late evening in Talkeetna, a town near the Denali National Forest. We met with our guide, who had

arranged for snowmobiles and a place for us to stay. Our plan was to wake up at dawn and begin exploring.

## **Lost and Alone**

The weather was unseasonably warm for Alaska, so the snow was soft and slushy. Cutting through the heavy, wet snow was difficult on a snowmobile, and each of us had trouble and kept getting stuck.

At one point in our adventure, I became separated from the rest of the group. My snowmobile kept sinking into the slushy snow, and I kept lifting it out, only to travel a few feet and then become stuck again. Eventually, my snowmobile got stuck and sank four feet into the snow. I tried to pull it out of the slush, but that was like trying to drag the machine out of wet cement. I spent the afternoon and all my strength trying to pry my snowmobile loose from the strong hold of that slushy bog. I kept praying that my guide and friends would return to help me. Hour after hour went by, but there was no sign of anyone.





# Tundra

When it began to get dark, I really started to worry. Although I had dressed warmly, my clothing was completely drenched with perspiration underneath my parka from my efforts to pull the snowmobile free. As the sun began to set, I felt the intensity of the harsh Alaskan climate. I shivered uncontrollably as the temperature dropped below freezing.

“They’ve got to come back to me soon,” I thought. “Certainly, they’ll find me in a matter of minutes.” Minutes soon turned to hours. I was alone in the wilderness—hungry, cold, and afraid. I had to accept the reality that I was going to spend the night by myself in the middle of the unforgiving Alaskan tundra.

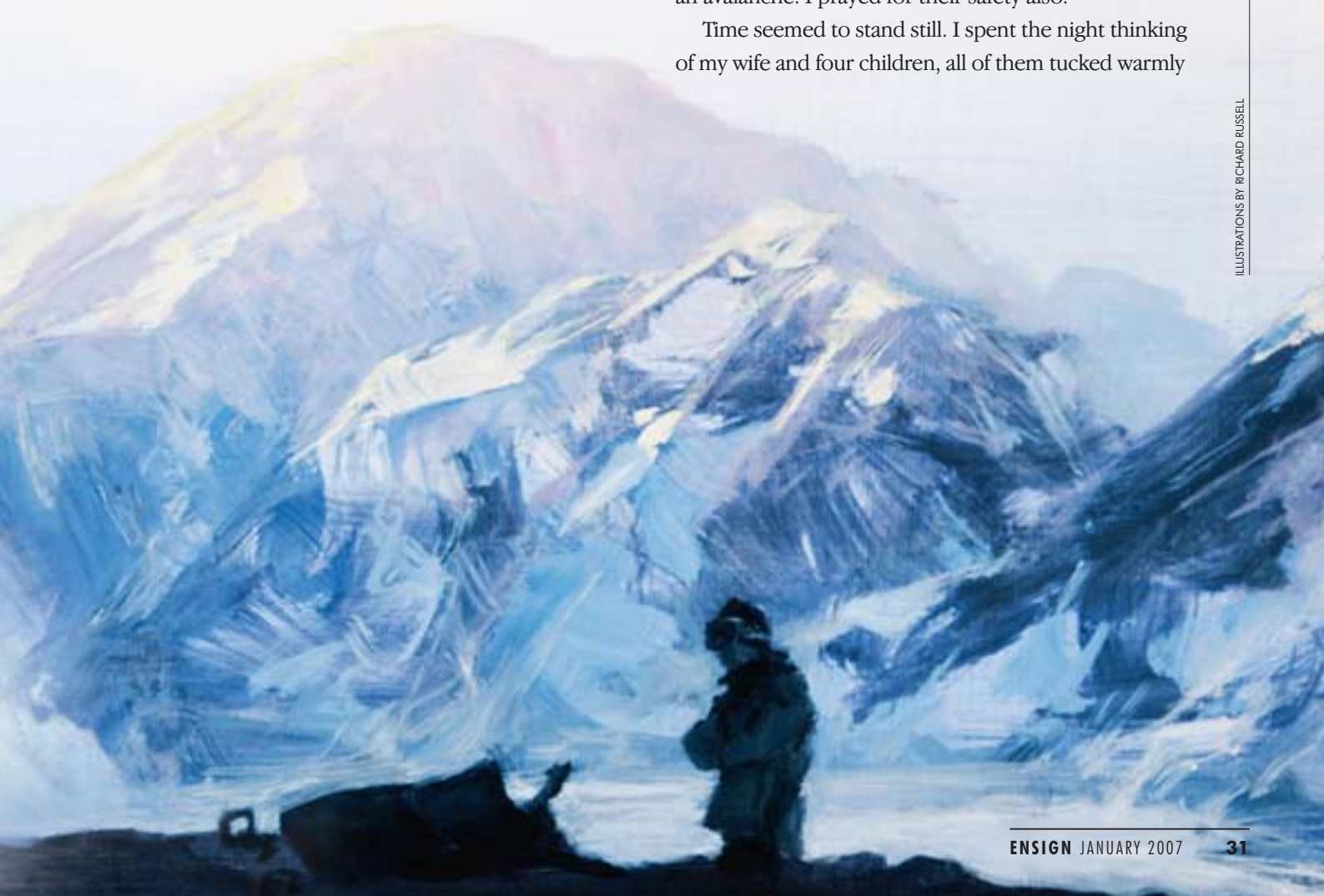
## Strength in the Scriptures

I tried lighting a fire to stay warm, but there was little firewood to be had in the tundra. What wood I found was so wet that I couldn’t keep a fire going. I had a little bit of food and water, but I knew it would last only a short while.

From my years of Scout training, I knew I shouldn’t fall asleep. With my wet clothes and the unbearably cold temperature, I was afraid that if I fell asleep, I might never wake up.

Sitting in the dark, I could hear the sound of wolves howling. This didn’t frighten me nearly as much as the sound of avalanches crashing down in the bitter night. My fear was that my friends might have been caught in an avalanche. I prayed for their safety also.

Time seemed to stand still. I spent the night thinking of my wife and four children, all of them tucked warmly



ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICHARD RUSSELL



## ANSWERS IN THE SCRIPTURES



*“Scripture study deepens understanding. The years have taught me that if we will energetically pursue this worthy*

*personal goal in a determined and conscientious manner, we shall indeed find answers to our problems and peace in our hearts.”*

**President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985),  
The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, ed.  
Edward L. Kimball (1982), 135.**

in their beds and unaware of the danger I was in. I tried to pass the time singing hymns and reciting scriptures to myself. I tried not to look at my watch too often. When I thought an hour had passed, I’d look down at my watch and see that only 20 minutes had passed. I asked myself if this night was ever going to end. “Am I going to get out of here safely?”

### Strength in Prayer

When it began to snow, a feeling of dread sank in my stomach. “I’ve got to get out of here right now,” I thought. “The snow will cover my tracks. No one will ever be able to find me, and I will never be able to find my own way out. I’ve got to leave now or die in the wilderness.”

Once again my thoughts turned to the scriptures. I thought of some of the strong and brave men in the Book of Mormon—Nephi, Helaman, Mormon, and Moroni.

“Father in Heaven,” I prayed, “please give me the strength of these great men. I haven’t the strength to pull my snowmobile out of the sludge on my own. Please, Father, if it be Thy will, give me the strength of 10 men.”

After finishing my prayer, I walked over to the snowmobile in a very weakened state. I was cold and hungry, but even though my body was weak, my faith was strong. I knew by the comforting Spirit I felt when I prayed that my Father in Heaven was watching over me. He would help me in this desperate time of need.

I gripped the handles of the embedded snowmobile. Amazingly, I pulled the machine out on the first try. I had indeed been blessed with the needed strength. I started the snowmobile.

Since the cold had hardened the snow, I could drive without sinking, so I began to follow the tracks back to camp.

I looked eastward and noticed the sun was just beginning to peer over the horizon. I also noticed the silhouette of men on snowmobiles. As the men drew near, I realized that they were my friends. I discovered that they had also been lost and had not known where to look for me.

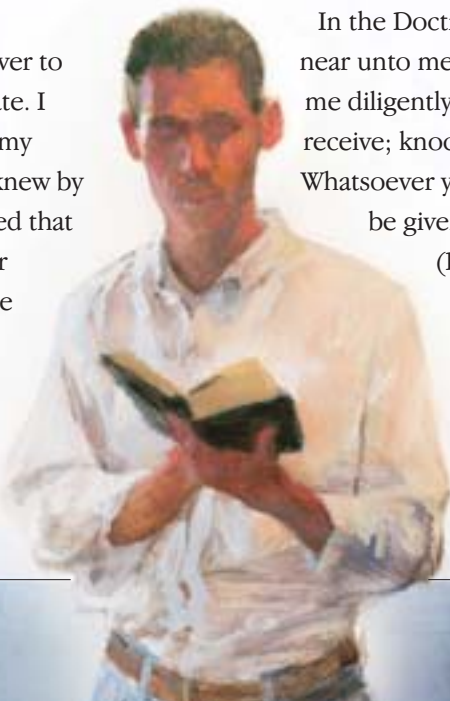
### Strength in the Savior

Many of us can relate to the feeling of being alone in the wilderness. Each of us will have times in our lives when we will struggle with adversity, personal problems, or trials of our faith. Like a bog of wet, heavy slush, life’s circumstances may leave us feeling trapped and alone, unable to muster the strength to make it on our own. At these times of difficulty, there is One who will never forsake us. There is One who will bless us with the strength to pull ourselves out of our problems and press forward. We have a loving Savior, ready and willing to bless us in our individual needs.

In the Doctrine and Covenants, we read: “Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, that is expedient for you” (D&C 88:63–64).

I bear testimony that this scripture is true. As I called out to the Lord in prayer, He inspired me to know what I needed to do; He blessed me with what was “expedient” for me. I am grateful to Him and for the scriptures in which I found comfort that night. ■





# HOME TEACHING THE



PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE BUNDERSON, POSED BY MODELS

# Single Sister

BY SALLI HOLLENZER

*Struggling to raise my children without a husband, I appreciated the service home teachers willingly offered.*

As members of the Church, we can enrich each other's lives in countless ways. Through home teaching, priesthood holders are granted many occasions to reach out to others on a personal level, to "succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees" (D&C 81:5).



**Home teachers use their priesthood to bless the single sisters they visit when they prepare and share messages, offer priesthood blessings, and look for ways to serve.**

Home teachers have a special ability to bless the lives of single sisters, who may not have the influence of the priesthood in their homes. These sisters can benefit greatly from the care and guidance of faithful priesthood holders who fulfill their home teaching responsibilities.

From my experience as a single sister, I would like to share several ways home teachers can influence the spirit and welfare of a single mother's home.

1. Home teachers should be faithful and caring in their visits. One man who served as our home teacher during the

years I was single had also been our home teacher before my divorce. This gave me continuity through a challenging time. This continuity also allowed him and his companion to become familiar with my situation, in turn allowing them to respond better to my family's needs.

2. As a home teacher, show your concern by maintaining consistent contact through visits and phone calls. I knew my home teachers cared about my children and me because of their regular appointments and frequent requests to help.

**Assisting in home maintenance projects is another way for home teachers to serve. Sometimes it's possible to teach skills while performing the household tasks.**





## A SACRED CALLING



*"Home teaching is not just another program. It is the priesthood way of watching over the Saints and accomplishing the mission of the Church. Home teaching is not just an assignment. It is a sacred calling. Home teaching is not to be undertaken casually. A home teaching call is to be accepted as if extended to you personally by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Savior Himself was a teacher. The only perfect man to walk the face of the earth was a humble, dedicated, inspired teacher who brought to His followers salvation and exaltation."*

**President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), "To the Home Teachers of the Church," *Ensign*, May 1987, 48.**

3. A home teacher should be careful not to visit a single sister without a companion.

4. Find ways to support the children of a single mother. My home teachers took a special interest in my sons and invited them on family outings. They also included them in their personal recreation, such as outdoor excursions and rocket launching; ward service projects; and priesthood broadcasts.

5. Be aware of events in a single sister's life and offer priesthood blessings when prompted by the Spirit or when requested. At one point I served on a jury that issued a death penalty sentence. Concerned about how this experience was affecting me, my home teachers came to my home and gave me a priesthood blessing.

6. Draw your wife into your relationship as a home teacher to a single woman. Our long-term home teacher and his wife invited my sons and me to dinner in their home on many occasions. In this environment our family felt accepted and cared for.

7. Assist in home repair projects. My home teachers always asked me if there was a project they could help with around the house. They asked about household maintenance jobs they realized we might not think about, such as turning off the outside water during the winter, maintaining the furnace, or clearing out the storm gutters. They even tried to teach my sons these skills while doing the jobs for us.

8. Thoughtfully prepare lessons for scheduled visits, and bring a positive spirit to the single sister's home. My home teachers shared messages that applied to us, and they also put a lot of creativity into their lessons, which made it enjoyable for everyone. They showed that they were happy to spend time with our family, and they drew attention to the positive experiences

that were happening in our lives.

Now that I have remarried and progressed to another season of my life, I look back on my days as a single sister and realize that my home teachers were one of the key factors in making that period in my life a positive time. I will always be grateful for their friendship and influence on our family. They were truly the Lord's hands in strengthening our family during challenging years. ■



**Home teachers can include single sisters' sons in their own personal recreation, ward service projects, and attendance at priesthood broadcasts.**



# Thou Art the

# Christ



**Let us allow the Savior's words to transform our very lives as we seek to become more like Him.**

**BY ELDER C. SCOTT GROW**  
Of the Seventy

**T**hou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). So stated the Apostle Peter in response to the Lord's question "Whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). And so testify all writers of that sacred text known as the New Testament.

The New Testament is full of firsthand accounts of mortals and declarations of angels proclaiming the birth, life, ministry, death, and Resurrection of the Only Begotten Son of God. From thence comes its majesty.

At the Savior's birth an angel declared, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). On the morning of the Savior's Resurrection, an angel spoke again, saying, "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said" (Matthew 28:6). Angels prophesied of His Second Coming with these words: "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

### **The Savior Testified of Himself**

The New Testament also tells of events that transpired "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet" (Matthew 12:17) and other Old Testament prophets. A stunning example of this prophecy fulfilled is

found early in the ministry of the Savior:

"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

"And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

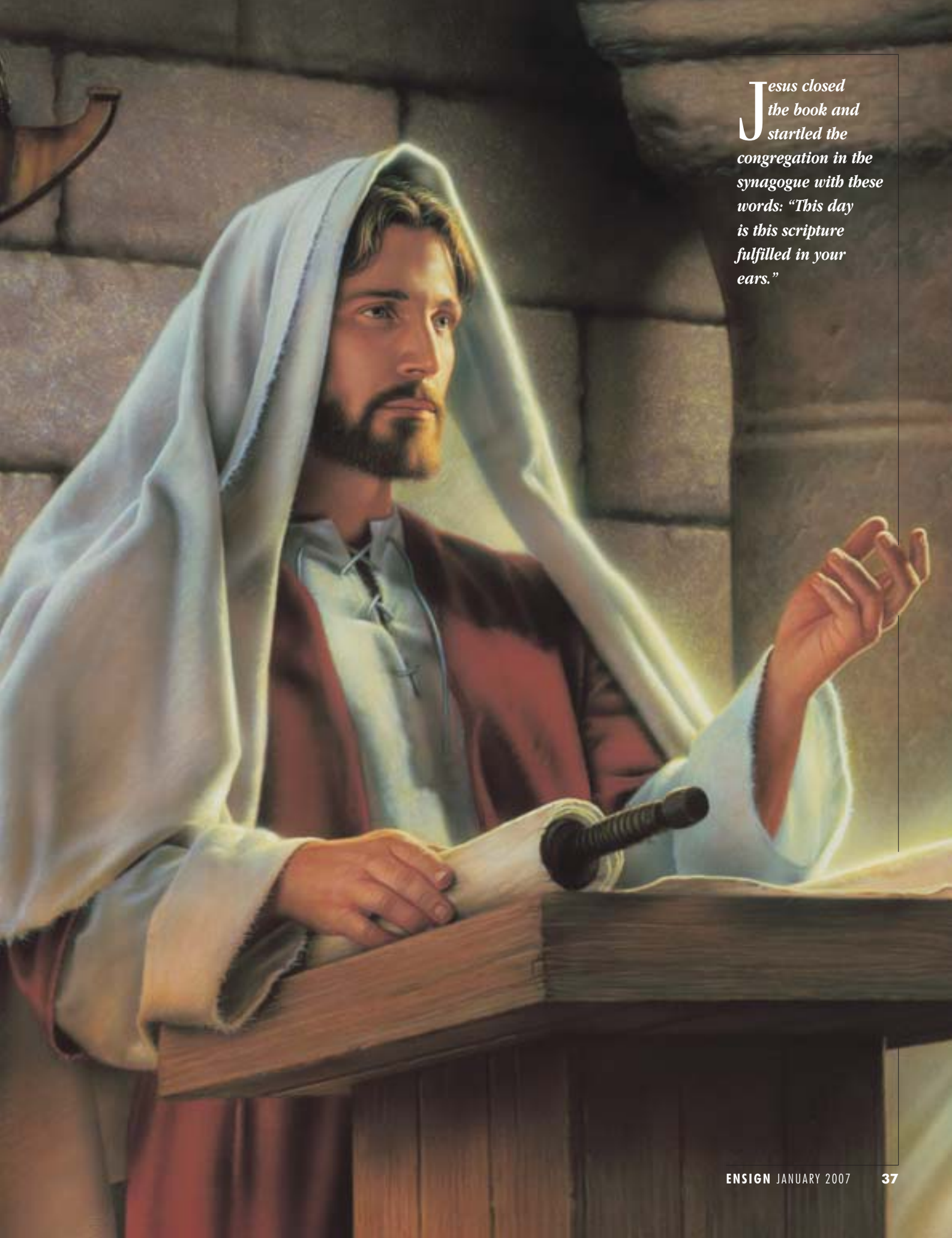
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

"To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:16–19; see also Isaiah 61:1–3).

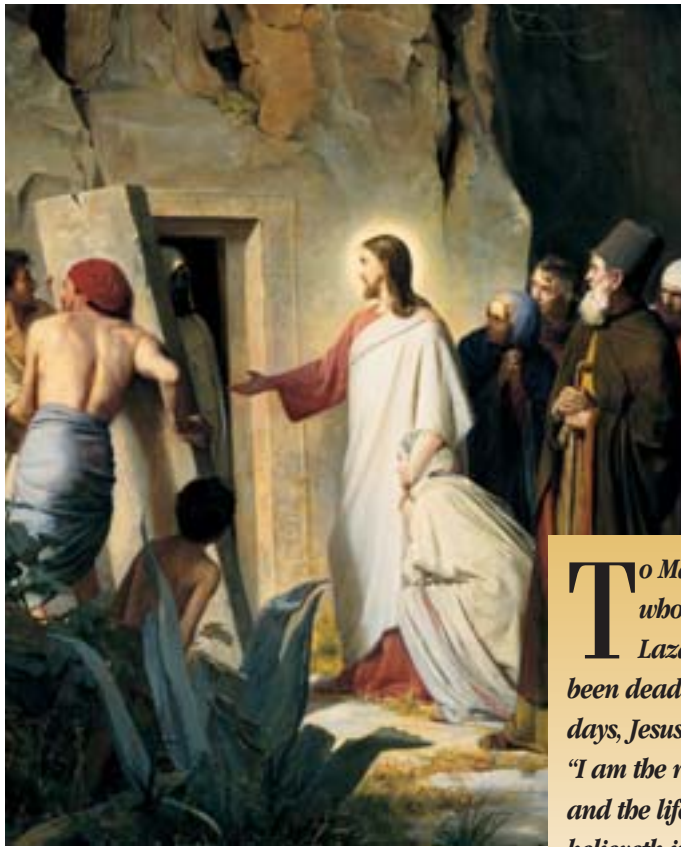
Jesus then closed the book and startled the congregation in the synagogue with these words: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:21). Everyone there would have been familiar with that messianic prophecy. But never before had anyone declared that *he* was the literal fulfillment of that prophecy, let alone someone whom they had watched grow up in their small community. Jesus was telling them that *He* was the long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God.

This is just one of many occasions recorded in the New Testament when Jesus





*J*esus closed the book and startled the congregation in the synagogue with these words: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."



**T***o Martha, whose brother Lazarus had been dead for four days, Jesus declared, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”*

of Nazareth bore His personal witness that He was the literal Son of God the Father, foreordained to be “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). To the Twelve Apostles He said,

“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,

“And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again” (Matthew 20:18–19).

To the Jews Jesus said, speaking of Himself:

“The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

“And hath given him authority to execute judgment” (John 5:25–27).

He concluded His admonition to them by saying, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39).

To the people in general—many of whom followed Him to Capernaum after being among the 5,000 whom He had miraculously fed—Jesus taught:

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. . . .

“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:51, 54).

Many were troubled by this statement. Could the man whom they knew truly be the Son of God?

Jesus responded, “Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?” (John 6:61–62).

To Martha, whose brother Lazarus had been dead for four days, Jesus declared, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25). To His Apostles, as they ate the Last Supper with their Lord, He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

In answer to Pilate’s question “Art thou a king then?” Jesus responded, “Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world” (John 18:37).

To God the Father, in the great Intercessory Prayer, He said: “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” (John 17:3–4).

### **His Mortal Mission**

What was the Savior’s work? First, it was to overcome physical death. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22). “God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law” (Galatians 4:4–5).

Through His mortal mother He had power to die. Through His immortal Father He had power to resurrect. “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

“No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it



again. This commandment have I received of my Father” (John 10:17–18).

After enduring the agony of the cross, Jesus voluntarily died, saying, “It is finished” (John 19:30). “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost” (Luke 23:46).

The second part of His work or mission was to overcome spiritual death. To Mary’s husband, Joseph, the angel said that Jesus “shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Fallen man was to be redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world” (1 Peter 1:19–20). In the Garden of Gethsemane the Savior made “his soul an offering for sin” (Isaiah 53:10). He told His three chief Apostles, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.” Then “he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:38–39). “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was

**T**hrough the agony and anguish of His very soul, the Savior voluntarily suffered and paid for the sins of all men.



as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:44).

Through the agony and anguish of His very soul, He voluntarily suffered and paid for the sins of all men. “In all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15), He was the only one qualified to pay that ransom. Because of His infinite Atonement, we can inherit eternal life through exercising faith in His name, repenting, and keeping the covenants associated with the authorized ordinances of the priesthood.

#### “That Ye Might Believe”

The ultimate testimony of the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth is that borne by God the Father. At the baptism of Jesus and again on the Mount of Transfiguration, Heavenly Father spoke from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).

In our dispensation Heavenly Father gave the same witness to the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove when He said, “*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*” (Joseph Smith—History 1:17).

Near the end of the book that bears his name, the Apostle John made the following summary statement: “And many . . . signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30–31).

What a blessing it is to have these firsthand testimonies of the Savior and His ministry so readily available to us. As we study the New Testament this year, let our hearts be open to the grand message contained in this sacred book. Let us allow the Savior’s words to transform our very lives as we seek to become more like Him. ■



FIRST VISION BY JEFFREY HEIN

**I**n our dispensation Heavenly Father bore witness of the divinity of His Son to the Prophet Joseph Smith in the Sacred Grove.

**CHRIST'S**

# Ministry & Miracles

**M**iracles were an important element in the ministry of Jesus Christ. They are not only divine acts, but they are also a form of teaching. Through miracles we can learn divine truths such as the result of sin and the cure of sin, the value of faith, the curse of impurity, and the law of love. Miracles occur in response to faith. They are never wrought without prayer, felt need, and deep faith in the power of God. (See Bible Dictionary, "Miracles," 732–33.) As it says in Ether 12:12: "For if there be no faith among the children of men God can do no miracle among them."

Christ's miracles offered proof that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. He said: "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me" (John 10:25). Through miracles mankind "might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing . . . might have life through his name" (John 20:31).

The following artwork depicts some of the miracles that Christ performed during his ministry.



LEFT, COURTESY C. HARRISON CONROY CO., INC.;  
BACKGROUND PHOTOGRAPH BY JED CLARK





**Far left: Christ and The Rich Young Ruler, by Heinrich Hofmann**

*“And a certain ruler asked [Christ], saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”*

*“And Jesus said unto him, . . .*

*“Thou knowest the commandments. . . .*

*“And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.*

*“Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*

*“And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich” (Luke 18:18–23).*

**Above: The Marriage at Cana, by Carl Heinrich Bloch**

*“And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee. . . .*

*“And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. . . .*

*“His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*

*“And there were set there six waterpots of stone. . . .*

*“Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.*

*“And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.*

*“When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,*

*“And saith unto him, . . . thou hast kept the good wine until now.*

*“This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him” (John 2:1, 3, 5–11).*





USED BY PERMISSION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC MUSEUM AT FREDERIKSBORG IN HILLERÖD, DENMARK

**Right: Christ Calling Two Disciples, by Gary E. Smith**

*“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*

*“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

*“And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.*

*“And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.*

*“And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him” (Matthew 4:18–22).*

**Above: Christ Cleansing the Temple, by Carl Heinrich Bloch**

*“And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,*

*“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

*“And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.*

*“And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased” (Matthew 21:12–15).*



USED BY PERMISSION OF ALTUS FINE ARTS

**Left: Living Water, by Simon Dewey**

*“There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. . . .*

*“Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? . . .*

*“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. . . .*

*“. . . Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:*

*“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst” (John 4:7, 9–10, 13–14).*





**Above: Christ and the Palsied Man, by J. Kirk Richards**

*“And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before [Christ].*

*“And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude,*

*they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.*

*“And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee”*  
(Luke 5:18–20).



USED BY PERMISSION OF ALTUS FINE ARTS

**Above: From Darkness into Light, by Simon Dewey**

*“And Jesus . . . said . . . , What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.*

*“And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole”*  
(Mark 10:51–52).





**Above: The Woman Taken in Adultery, by Harry Anderson**

*"The scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,*

*"They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.*

*"Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?"*

*"This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse*

*him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.*

*"So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*

*"And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.*

*"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one" (John 8:3-9).*

**Above right: Trust in the Lord, by Liz Lemon Swindle**

*"And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years . . .*

*"Came behind [Christ], and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. . . .*

*"And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.*

*"And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down*



*before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.*

*"And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace" (Luke 8:43-44, 46-48).*

**Opposite page, center: And He Healed Them All Every One, by Gary Kapp**

When Christ appeared to the Nephites at the temple in Bountiful in the Americas, he said: *"Have ye any that are sick among you? Bring them hither. Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you. . . .*

*. . . For I see that your faith is sufficient that I should heal you.*

*"And it came to pass that when he had thus spoken, all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth with their sick and their afflicted, and their lame, and with their blind, and with their dumb, and with all them that were afflicted in any manner; and he did heal them every one as they were brought forth unto him" (3 Nephi 17:7-9).*

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**Right: Pool of Bethesda, by Carl Heinrich Bloch**

*“Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.*

*“In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.*

*“For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.*

*“And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.*

*“When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?*

*“The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.*

*“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.*

*“And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed” (John 5:2–9).*

COURTESY OF BYU MUSEUM OF ART



**Right: The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, by Paul Gustave Doré**

*“But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.*

*“Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.*

*“And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes” (John 21:4–6).*









# Spencer W. Kimball

## Man of Action

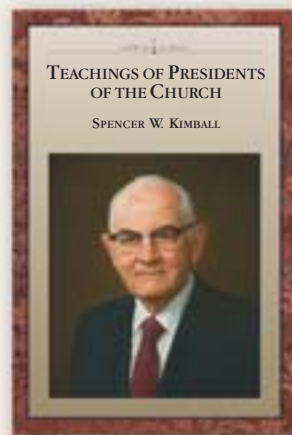
*President Kimball lived what he taught:  
“It is not so much what we know that is important,  
as what we do and what we are.”*

**BY GARRETT H. GARFF**  
Curriculum Department

In 1981 Elder Robert D. Hales, then a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, said of President Spencer W. Kimball, “He is a man of action, demonstrated by the simple sign on his desk that says, ‘Do It.’”<sup>1</sup>

As twelfth President of the Church, from December 1973 to November 1985, this “man of action” encouraged Latter-day Saints to avoid complacency and to reach for ever-greater levels of gospel performance. “We must lengthen our stride,” he said.<sup>2</sup> He further counseled: “Let us remember that it is not so much what we know that is important, as what we do and what we are. The Master’s plan is a program of doing, of living, not merely knowing. Knowledge itself is not the end. It is how we righteously live and apply that knowledge in our own lives and how we apply it to help others that describes our character.”<sup>3</sup>

Throughout his life, President Kimball showed his commitment to living the gospel. His teachings, in turn, offer practical as well as inspiring counsel that can help each of us live the gospel more fully. The following examples are taken from *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball*, which is the Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society curriculum for 2007 in 26 languages, including English Braille.



### Prayer

One of the most trying experiences in Spencer W. Kimball’s life was losing his mother, who died when he was 11 years old. He recalled that the news “came as a thunderbolt. I ran from the house out in the backyard to be alone in my deluge of tears. Out of sight and sound, away from everybody, I sobbed and sobbed. . . . My eleven-year-old heart seemed to burst.”

Even at this young age, however, Spencer knew of the comfort and peace that prayer could bring. During this time of sorrow, a family friend wrote, “My children wept with [my wife and me] as we heard of the prayers of little Spencer and how the loss of his mother weighed so heavily upon his little heart and yet how bravely he battled with his grief and sought comfort from the only source.”<sup>4</sup>

Of prayer, President Kimball taught: “Prayer is such a privilege—not only to speak to our Father in Heaven, but also to receive love and inspiration from him. At the end of our prayers, we need to do some intense listening—even for several minutes. We have prayed for counsel and help. Now we must ‘be still, and know that [he is] God.’ (Ps. 46:10.)”<sup>5</sup>

“Learning the language of prayer is a joyous, lifetime



**Above: President Kimball had a lifelong love of scripture study.**

**Below: The Andrew and Olive Kimball family, 1897. Two-year-old Spencer is on his father's lap.**

**Opposite page: Young Spencer around the time of his marriage to Camilla Eyring (lower photograph).**

experience. Sometimes ideas flood our mind as we listen after our prayers. Sometimes feelings press upon us. A spirit of calmness assures us that all will be well. But always, if we have been honest and earnest, we will experience a good feeling—a feeling of warmth for our Father in Heaven and a sense of his love for us. It has sorrowed me that some of us have not learned the meaning of that calm, spiritual warmth, for it is a witness to us that our prayers have been heard. And since our Father in Heaven loves us with more love than we have even for ourselves, it means that we can trust in his goodness, we can trust in him; it means that if we continue praying and living as we should, our Father's hand will guide and bless us.”<sup>6</sup>

### Scripture Study

As a boy of 14, Spencer Kimball heard a sermon in which the speaker asked who in the congregation had read the entire Bible. Only a few raised their hands. Not being one of those few, Spencer keenly felt the need to read the sacred book from cover to cover,

which he began doing that very night by the light of a coal-oil lamp. In about a year he completed his goal of reading all of the Bible, an accomplishment that contributed to his lifelong love of scripture study.<sup>7</sup>

President Kimball often taught of scripture study. “I ask us all to honestly evaluate our performance in scripture study. It is a common thing to have a few passages of scripture at our disposal, floating in our minds, as it were, and thus to have the illusion that we know a great deal about the gospel. In this sense, having a little knowledge can be a problem indeed. I am convinced that each of us, at some time in our lives, must discover the scriptures for ourselves—and not just discover them once, but rediscover them again and again.”<sup>8</sup>

“I find that when I get casual in my relationships with divinity and when it seems that no divine ear is listening and no divine voice is speaking, that I am far, far away. If I immerse myself in the scriptures the distance narrows and the spirituality returns. I find myself loving more intensely those whom I





must love with all my heart and mind and strength, and loving them more, I find it easier to abide their counsel.”<sup>9</sup>

### Reverence

During a visit to a Church meetinghouse, President Kimball noticed some paper towels on a restroom floor. He threw them away and then cleaned the sink. A local leader was so impressed by this example of care and respect that he subsequently taught others to show more reverence for Church buildings and other sacred things.<sup>10</sup>

President Kimball taught:

“Often, before and after meetings, members of the Church cluster in the chapel to exchange greetings. Some seeming irreverence is due innocently to the fact that we are a friendly people and that the Sabbath is a convenient time to visit, to fellowship, and to meet new people.

Parents should set an example for their families by doing their visiting in the foyers or other areas outside of the chapel before or after meetings. After a meeting, parents can help to carry the spirit of the service into the home by discussing at home a thought, a musical number, or some other positive aspect of the meeting with their children.”<sup>11</sup>

“We must remember that reverence is not a somber, temporary behavior that we adopt on Sunday. True reverence involves happiness, as well as love, respect, gratitude, and godly fear. It is a virtue that should be part of our way of life. In fact, Latter-day Saints should be the most reverent people in all the earth.”<sup>12</sup>

### Devotion to the Savior

In the late 1940s, Elder Spencer W. Kimball, an Apostle since 1943, suffered a series of heart attacks. During the convalescence that followed, he stayed with friends in New Mexico. A Church magazine article later recounted an incident that occurred while he was there:

“One morning during this recuperative period, Elder Kimball’s bed was discovered empty. Thinking that he had taken a morning stroll and would be back in time for breakfast, his attendants went about their duties. But when he hadn’t returned by 10:00 A.M., they began to

worry. A search began.

“He was finally discovered several miles away under a pine tree. His Bible lay next to him, opened to the last chapter of St. John. His eyes were closed, and when the search party came up to him he remained as still as when they first caught sight of him.

“Their frightened voices aroused him, however, and when he lifted his head they could see traces of tears on his cheeks. To their questions, he answered, ‘[Five] years ago today I was called to be an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I just wanted to spend the day with Him whose witness I am.’”<sup>13</sup>

As a special witness of Christ, President Kimball bore testimony as he taught of the Savior:

“Oh, I love the Lord Jesus Christ,” he said. “I hope that I can show to him and manifest my sincerity and devotion. I want to live close to him. I want to be like him, and I pray that the Lord will help all of us that we may so be as he said to his Nephite disciples, ‘Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be?’ and he answered his own question by saying, ‘Even as I am.’ (3 Nephi 27:27.)”<sup>14</sup>

“When we think of the great sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sufferings he endured for us, we would be ingrates if we did not appreciate it so far as our power made it possible. He suffered and died for us, yet if we do not repent, all his anguish and pain on our account are futile.”<sup>15</sup>

“The more we understand what really happened in the life of Jesus of Nazareth in Gethsemane and on Calvary, the better able we will be to understand the importance of sacrifice and selflessness in our lives.”<sup>16</sup>



## Serving Others

Stranded in an airport because of bad weather, a young mother and her two-year-old daughter had been waiting in long lines for hours trying to get a flight home. The child was tired and fussy, but the mother, who was pregnant and at risk of miscarriage, did not pick her up. A doctor had advised the mother to avoid lifting the two-year-old unless absolutely necessary. The woman overheard disapproving comments from people around her as she used her foot to slide her crying daughter along in the line. Nobody offered to help. But then, the woman later recalled, “someone came towards us and with a kindly smile said, ‘Is there something I could do to help you?’ With a grateful sigh I accepted his offer. He lifted my sobbing little daughter from the cold floor and lovingly held her to him while he patted her gently on the back. He asked if she could chew a piece of gum. When she was settled down, he carried her with him and said something kindly to the others in the line ahead of me, about how I needed their help. They seemed to agree and then he went up to the ticket counter [at the front of the line] and made arrangements with the clerk for me to be put on a flight leaving shortly. He walked with us to a bench, where we chatted a moment, until he was assured that I would be fine. He went on his way. About a

week later I saw a picture of Apostle Spencer W. Kimball and recognized him as the stranger in the airport.”<sup>17</sup>

With his many examples of service to others demonstrating commitment to this principle, President Kimball taught:

“God does notice us, and he watches over us. But it is usually through

another person that he meets our needs. Therefore, it is vital that we serve each other in the kingdom. The people of the Church need each other’s strength, support, and leadership in a community of believers as an enclave of disciples. In the Doctrine and Covenants we read about how important it is to ‘. . . succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees.’ (D&C 81:5.) So often, our acts of service consist of simple encouragement or of giving mundane help with mundane tasks, but what glorious consequences can flow from mundane acts and from small but deliberate deeds!”<sup>18</sup>

“Service to others deepens and sweetens this life while we are preparing to live in a better world. It is by serving that we learn how to serve. When we are engaged in the service of our fellowmen, not only do our deeds assist them, but we put our own problems in a fresher perspective. When we concern ourselves more with others, there is less time to be concerned with ourselves! In the midst of the miracle of serving, there is the promise of Jesus that by losing ourselves, we find ourselves! [See Matthew 10:39.]

“Not only do we ‘find’ ourselves in terms of acknowledging divine guidance in our lives, but the more we serve our fellowmen in appropriate ways, the more substance there is to our souls. We become more significant individuals as we serve others. We become more substantive as we serve others—indeed, it is easier to ‘find’ ourselves because there is so much more of us to find!”<sup>19</sup>

## Sharing the Gospel

At a hotel restaurant in Quito, Ecuador, Elder Spencer W. Kimball of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles was sitting with a group that included four missionaries. After ordering bread and milk, Elder Kimball asked the waiter if he had children. The waiter replied that he had a son. Elder Kimball then said, “Bread and milk will make him healthy, but he will be even healthier if you will feed him the food these young men have to give.” The waiter appeared unsure what to make of this statement. Then Elder Kimball indicated that the young men he referred to were missionaries and that







*Left: President Kimball received the Medal of the City of Jerusalem from Mayor Teddy Kollek in 1979. Below: President Kimball with Carole Koizumi in the Japan Sapporo Mission Home. Opposite page, top: President George Albert Smith (seated, center); Elders Spencer W. Kimball and Matthew Cowley (seated left and right), then of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; and others with Navajo Indian tribal leaders. Opposite page, bottom: President Kimball (second from left) and his wife, Camilla (second from right), at the Church's Deseret Ranch in Florida.*

they taught the gospel of Jesus Christ. The waiter said he would be interested in listening to their teaching.<sup>20</sup>

Truly a man of action when it came to missionary work, President Kimball said:

“I feel the Lord has placed, in a very natural way within our circles of friends and acquaintances, many persons who are ready to enter into his Church. We ask that you prayerfully identify those persons and then ask the Lord’s assistance in helping you introduce them to the gospel.”<sup>21</sup>

“There is a spiritual adventure in doing missionary work, in giving referrals, in accompanying the missionaries as they give the discussions. It is exciting and rewarding. The hours, the effort, the wondering, all are worth it when even one soul expresses repentance and faith and a desire to be baptized.”<sup>22</sup>

“Brethren and sisters, I wonder if we are doing all we can. Are we complacent in our assignment to teach the gospel to others? Are we prepared to lengthen our stride? To enlarge our vision?”<sup>23</sup>

### **Love and Spirituality in the Family**

President Kimball was a loving parent. His son Edward said: “My father was always very affectionate. I knew he loved me.” Edward remembered an occasion when both he and his father were in attendance at a solemn assembly in the Salt Lake Temple: “There were thousands of men there. As the meeting ended, [my father] spotted me where I was singing in a chorus. On his way out, he came over, embraced and kissed me.”<sup>24</sup>

In testimony borne from the depth of his heart, President Kimball taught:

“How long has it been since you took your children, whatever their size, in your arms and told them that you love them and are glad that they can be yours forever?”<sup>25</sup>

“God is our Father. He loves us. He spends much energy trying to train us, and we should follow His example and love intensely our own children and rear them in righteousness.”<sup>26</sup>

“A true Latter-day Saint home is a haven against the storms and struggles of life. Spirituality is born and nurtured by daily







**Above: President and Sister Kimball. Below: President Kimball with Ezra Taft Benson, then President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (top photograph), and with Gordon B. Hinckley, then counselor in the First Presidency (bottom photograph). Right: The Kimbells with five grandchildren, Christmas 1974.**

prayer, scripture study, home gospel discussions and related activities, home evenings, family councils, working and playing together, serving each other, and sharing the gospel with those

around us. Spirituality is also nurtured in our actions of patience, kindness, and forgiveness toward each other and in our applying gospel principles in the family circle. Home is where we become experts and scholars in gospel righteousness, learning and living gospel truths together.”<sup>27</sup>

#### “All That I Must Do”

President Kimball’s life and teachings remind us of the need to put gospel knowledge into action, and we find a further reminder of this emphasis in a small but significant change made to the beloved Primary song “I Am a Child of God” (*Hymns*, no. 301). As originally written in 1957, the song ended with these words:

“Teach me all that I must know to live with him someday.” Sometime later, Elder Kimball, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, suggested that one word be changed in that final line. Now the song ends, “Teach me all that I must *do* to live with him someday.”<sup>28</sup>

These lyrics are a beautifully succinct summary of President Kimball’s life and teachings. By word and by example, he taught the things we must do to live with our Father in Heaven someday. If we will



follow such a course of gospel living—of doing all that we must do—we have this prophetic promise from President Kimball: “The treasure house of happiness is unlocked to those who live the gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity and simplicity. . . . The assurance of supreme happiness, the certainty of a successful life here and of exaltation and eternal life hereafter, come to those who plan to live their lives in complete harmony with the gospel of Jesus Christ—and then consistently follow the course they have set.”<sup>29</sup> ■

#### NOTES

1. Quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball* (2006), xxxv.
2. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 262.
3. “Seek Learning, Even by Study and Also by Faith,” *Ensign*, Sept. 1983, 6.
4. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 11–13; see also Edward L. Kimball and Andrew E. Kimball Jr., *Spencer W. Kimball* (1977), 46.
5. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 53.
6. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 56–57.
7. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 59–60.
8. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 62.
9. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 67.
10. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 155.
11. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 162.
12. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 156.
13. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 23.
14. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 31.
15. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 29.
16. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 81.
17. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 79–80.
18. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 82.
19. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 85–86.
20. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 258.
21. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 262.
22. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 259.
23. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 261.
24. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 203.
25. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 212.
26. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 212.
27. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 210.
28. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 1.
29. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 6–7.





# BUS

## WAITING FOR THE

BY SAM AN ANDERSON

When my severely handicapped daughter, Toni, was in school, I had to wait for a specially equipped bus to pick her up and bring her home every day.

Because we lived up a canyon, the school bus didn't come all the way to our house. Every day we'd drive down the canyon to the home of another child who rode the same bus, so my daughter could catch the bus. For several years this was the routine. The mother of the other student and I became friends as we waited together for the bus each morning and afternoon. Then when her son grew too old for the school, Toni and I waited for the bus in a nearby elementary school parking lot.

Without another mother to visit with daily, I began to feel that the five to thirty minutes I waited in the car in the morning and again in the afternoon were boring and frustrating.

I don't remember how the *Ensign* magazine got into my car. Perhaps I had picked up the mail and forgotten to take it into the house. But there it

was, and one afternoon while I was waiting for the school bus, I began to read. Suddenly the bus was there. I left the *Ensign* in my car, and every day when I had to wait for the bus, I read. I found that every month I read the entire magazine before the next issue arrived. I could even complete the general conference issues.

Day by day, month by month, season by season, I began to change. My spirit soared as I read stories of faith and inspiration. Articles by General Authorities stretched and enlightened my understanding of the gospel and its principles.

Reading cover to cover, I pored over every word in the *Ensign*. Many times I met the bus with tears in my eyes. I no longer resented the time I spent waiting.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, my life began to change as I read the *Ensign*. My attitude was softened and my spirituality increased.

When Toni completed her schooling and I no longer waited for the bus, I realized that

I missed the time I had spent reading the *Ensign*. Eventually I found time just before going to bed each night to read an article or two. I still enjoy

the benefits of the articles as the Spirit touches my heart. Monthly I continue to grow. ■

# EASING THE PAIN OF Miscarriage

*How can you help when  
a loved one is suffering?*

BY SUMMER THORP

When I learned that a friend in a distant state had had a miscarriage, I offered a silent prayer as I stared at my computer screen, searching for words of comfort to offer. The only phrase that came to my mind was: “I cried for you today.” I typed those words and sent them in an e-mail, with another silent prayer that I had done the right thing. Although I was unsure about my actions, my friend later told me she had felt touched by my message.

Although statistics on the frequency of miscarriage vary widely, most indicate that miscarriage is fairly common. Yet that fact does not lessen the pain of those who experience this trial.

My sister-in-law Rachel knew there was always the possibility that she wouldn’t carry her baby to term, but she still was unprepared when the miscarriage occurred. Having a pregnancy go awry “isn’t something you can really prepare yourself for,” she says. “This baby was a real person to my husband and me, and still is.”

My friend Sabrina echoes Rachel’s sentiments: “When a woman learns she is pregnant, she feels an instant bond to the tiny life growing inside of her. To lose it is very painful.”

Until I became a mother, I knew little about miscarriage. As friends and family members married and started families, I observed the pain that comes with the loss of a pregnancy, and I experienced uncertainty as I tried to offer comfort during a trial I didn’t fully understand.

As I have since talked with mothers and fathers who have experienced miscarriage, I have learned there is much that others can do to be supportive of those dealing with this trial. Here are some suggestions these couples have offered.

## **Respect Others’ Privacy**

People may be curious about a couple’s plans to have children after they marry. Although questions about these plans may seem innocent, they can cause pain when a couple is experiencing difficulty starting a family.

Rachel had to wait a year after her miscarriage before she could consider trying to have another baby. Questions about why she and her husband were delaying the start of their family only added to the difficulty of waiting. The timing of children is a personal matter and should be left to the couple and Heavenly Father.

We should also avoid passing judgment on a couple because of a miscarriage. No one should consider a lost pregnancy the “mother’s fault.” Most miscarriages have unknown causes.







### **Don't Minimize the Loss**

Now is not the time to share stories of other couples who have experienced similar losses. Doing so may be perceived as an effort to minimize the pain a husband and wife feel.

Sabrina says, "I had a hard time when people related stories of others who had had miscarriages. I especially didn't like it when people told me about others who had more problems than I did, like 'Susie had five miscarriages in a row.' I knew there were people whose experiences were more difficult than mine, but that didn't mean I wasn't hurting in my own way."

### **Recognize That Both Parents Experience Loss**

A mother who has lost her baby experiences a particular kind of grief, but the father needs support too.

Rachel says, "I was the one in tears whom people hugged and loved and comforted. My husband just seemed to comfort me and forget about himself. Others didn't really recognize the loss of our baby as *our* loss. I know Bennett felt strongly for the little one that was growing inside of me and longed to



***Although the grief of a mother who experiences miscarriage may be more perceptible, a father also feels the loss. Both parents can console one another and draw strength from the comfort others offer.***

have the child just as much as I did. But he didn't express the same emotions outwardly. And there wasn't the feeling that expressing those emotions would have been socially accepted either."

Both fathers and mothers look forward to the births of their children. Although a mother may be more open about the loss of her baby, a father also can draw strength from the love and support of others.

### **Ask How You Can Help**

Simple acts of service can ease the strain on family members as they cope with their loss. An offer to help with everyday tasks such as cooking, cleaning, running errands, or grocery shopping might help lighten the load.

The thoughtful act of a friend made all the difference to Kristina and her husband, Dustin. She says, "When I got home from spending eight hours in the emergency room, a friend had a meal waiting for us. This was greatly appreciated since I had no desire or energy to make anything, and I hadn't eaten for more than 20 hours."

If the couple has other children, you



**As couples cope with their loss, you can help ease the strain they feel. Offers to help with cooking, cleaning, running errands, grocery shopping, or other everyday tasks might help lighten the family's load.**



might ask if you could take them for a few hours to allow the couple or mother some private time. Many parents appreciate opportunities to get out and focus on something other than their pain.

For Kristina, a visit from a family member was a welcome distraction: “I was fortunate that my mother flew down to be with me. I needed to talk about what had happened. My mom also helped me get out of the house, which made me more upbeat.” Dustin was grateful as well to know his wife was receiving additional emotional support.

Consider asking the couple if they would like you to inform others about their loss. Rachel and her husband thought the prospect of explaining repeatedly to others that they were no longer expecting a baby would be draining. When people whom they hadn’t personally informed approached the two of them with words of sympathy, they felt relieved. They appreciated others’ genuine compassion and concern.

#### **Support in Simple Ways**

Many parents say that one of the most comforting phrases is simply “I’m sorry for your loss.” Reaching out and offering a listening ear is one of the greatest services that can be offered after a miscarriage. Many couples feel validated when their loss is acknowledged and they

know someone is willing to listen, no matter how long their grieving lasts.

Dustin, who was attending college at the time of his wife’s miscarriage, was grateful to have an opportunity to talk about his feelings: “Talking with some of my professors who are members of the Church provided me an opportunity to express my own thoughts and get additional perspective.”

A simple, heartfelt note or card can brighten a grieving parent’s day. Sabrina says she was comforted when a friend sent her an e-card expressing words of sympathy.

Damaris, another mother who experienced a miscarriage, was touched when a friend brought her yellow roses.

#### **The Savior’s Example**

The Savior provided the perfect example of how to respond to the pain and mourning of a loved one. After Lazarus’s death, Christ traveled to Bethany to be with Martha and Mary. To Martha He offered His testimony of life after death and asked her to reaffirm her testimony. When Mary expressed her grief over the loss of her brother, the scriptures simply state, “Jesus wept” (John 11:35).

The simplest acts can mean the most as a husband and wife come to terms with the loss of their baby. As we seek to follow the Savior’s example, we can help ease the pain of those we love. ■



# Keeping the Sabbath and Keeping My Job

BY KENDAL BRIAN HUNTER

**F**or the past eight years, I have worked at a hospital. Since hospitals are constantly open, keeping the Sabbath day holy has been a challenge. And because many fire-fighters, police officers, military personnel, and others face this challenge, I want to share what helps me obey the Lord's fourth commandment (see Exodus 20:8–11) and keep this sacred day holy.

Those of us who have to work on Sundays may not be able to contribute to our wards in the same way as other members, but we certainly can contribute. Here are seven things I have done to magnify my worship and make the most of my situation.

*1. Focus thoughts on Heavenly Father and the Savior.* Not working on Sundays is just one dimension of the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy; we also need to remember the other dimensions. To stay focused on spiritual things, I listen to wholesome music or Church talks on tape or CD as I travel to and from work. I also study the scriptures or write in my journal during breaks at work.

*2. Keep in contact with ward leaders.* Communicate your work situation and schedule to your bishopric, Relief Society or priesthood leaders, and home and visiting teachers. If they don't already know you, this lets them know who you are, and it also shows your intentions and desires to be a contributing ward member.

*3. Read the Sunday School and priesthood or Relief Society lessons for the week.* Implementing a home study

program has helped me keep up with classes so that when I can go to church, I don't feel lost or behind and I can contribute more to discussions.

*4. Accept callings.* Not all callings need to be done on Sunday. For example, members who cannot attend Sunday meetings can contribute to ward activities, service projects, newsletters, temple work, and more. I recognize the need to be flexible, but I also am determined to magnify whatever calling the Lord gives me.

*5. Participate in other worship and social activities.* Temple worship and home and visiting teaching can serve as supplemental spiritual boosts. I attend as many activities as possible to benefit from fellowship with the Saints.

*6. Take the sacrament whenever possible.* At the hospital where I work, there is an organized branch, which I attend when my schedule allows. I try to move my schedule around so I can attend sacrament meeting, whether at the hospital or in my home ward, as often as possible.

*7. Pray frequently.* Church meetings are designed to draw us closer to the Lord. Praying often throughout the day and the week also invites the Spirit and allows us to become closer to Him.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "Let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed" (D&C 123:17).

I believe that the key is in doing "all things that lie in our power." If we are doing all we can, the Lord will help us draw near unto Him. ■





**T**hose of us who have to work on Sundays can still find ways to keep the Sabbath day holy. I study the scriptures during breaks at the hospital where I work.

# TAKING COURAGE IN THE

# HYMNS

*Two members of the Church share a time in their lives when the hymns gave them the courage to move forward.*

## **Deciding to Serve**

As a child, our oldest son, Brian, never liked to sing. Period. No exceptions. I love music and felt the need to do something to encourage him to pay attention to the profound messages of the hymns. Reminding Brian that the song of the righteous is a prayer to the Lord (see D&C 25:12),





I encouraged him to follow my finger with his eyes as I ran my finger along the words. While the congregation sang the hymns, Brian read them, and I felt that he was, in his own way, offering a prayer to the Lord.

As our four children reached adulthood, our youngest son, Jeff, made the decision to serve a mission and was called to the Idaho Pocatello Mission. Jeff had been on his mission for about six months when my husband, daughter, and I joined Brian, the nonsinger, for sacrament meeting in his singles ward. Brian had recently graduated from college but had not committed to going on a mission. Similar to his aversion to singing out loud, he feared public speaking to the point of being petrified at the thought of speaking in front of people as a missionary.

That day in sacrament meeting three young people who were preparing to leave on missions gave inspiring talks. When the congregation began singing the closing hymn, “I Believe in Christ” (*Hymns*, no. 134), I smiled at my now-grown son Brian and reverted back to my old technique of running my finger beneath the words. It immediately brought a grin to both of us. Then as we sang the third verse and I ran my finger beneath the words, I noticed a subtle change in Brian as he read the verse:

*I believe in Christ—my Lord, my God!  
My feet he plants on gospel sod.  
I'll worship him with all my might;  
He is the source of truth and light.*

*I believe in Christ; he ransoms me.  
From Satan's grasp he sets me free,  
And I shall live with joy and love  
In his eternal courts above.*

I glanced at Brian and found that he was fighting back the tears. At first I was afraid that something was wrong, but then I felt a swelling in my soul and my own eyes began to fill with tears. The Spirit was strong; I felt as if Brian and I had been engulfed in it, although I did not understand why it was happening.

After the closing prayer, my husband, daughter, and I quickly left the chapel with Brian, who was still visibly moved and unable to speak. He and I went to his car and sat quietly. When he could finally gather his emotions, he whispered, “I need to do what Jeff is doing.” I said, “You mean go on a mission?” He responded humbly and tearfully, “Yes.”

I began to cry too, and we both embraced each other and rejoiced. Brian told me that during the hymn his heart had begun to swell, and he had literally felt that “the Spirit of God like a fire [was] burning” (*Hymns*, no. 2). It was a testimony to him that he needed to serve a mission. He could no longer delay or deny the prompting.

After he made that momentous decision, Brian met with his bishop and began the application process. He received a call and served two rewarding years in the England London South Mission, where—with the help of the Lord—he learned to both sing and speak publicly without fear.

*Kathleen Krueger Bishop, Texas*

### Sowing Seeds of Love

As the mother of three young children and a newborn baby, I found that my motherhood experience was not turning out the way I had expected. Our second child, five-year-old Samuel, was severely autistic, which meant I had to deal with some very challenging behavior. I desperately wanted to become the patient, kind, and long-suffering mother I knew I needed to be for my children, but as Samuel's behavior worsened, I seemed to be snapping at my other children almost constantly. Despite starting each day with good intentions and renewed determination, I would reach each evening with the usual sense of despair at my dismal failure to curb my temper and improve my behavior toward my young family. I was physically and emotionally exhausted, and I felt completely unequal to the calling of motherhood.

One Sunday morning as I arrived late to Relief Society, our music director announced that we would be singing hymn number 216, "We Are Sowing." Having grown up as a member of the Church, I was familiar with this hymn and had always associated it with missionary work and sharing the gospel.

We had barely reached the end of the second line when the words took on a new meaning for me and my emotions prevented me from continuing to sing. At that time my son certainly felt like the "dry, unyielding plain" the hymn described, and my relationship with my eldest daughter was rapidly becoming a "lonely mountain glen."



### HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

Most *Ensign* articles can be used for family home evening discussions, personal reflection, or teaching the gospel in a variety of settings.

Begin family home evening with a hymn family members know by heart. Choose one story from the article to read together. Discuss how the hymns inspired the person in the story, and ask family members to share a time when the hymns strengthened them. Testify that having the hymns in our minds and hearts can help us through our trials.

all [my] weakness, leave [me] not to sow alone!" My life is still filled with many of the same challenges, but this simple hymn gave me the courage to lean on the Lord as He helps me change my attitudes and behavior so I can be the mother I want to be. I now have this wonderful hymn posted in my kitchen beside pictures of my children, and when I read the words, I feel my commitment to motherhood renewed. ■

*Anne Collinson, England*

I thought about what seeds I was sowing in the "rich, brown furrows" of my children's hearts, and I realized that through my words and actions I would sow in them either spiritual weakness or spiritual strength.

As the hymn progressed, the Holy Spirit continued His quiet tutoring within my heart. I learned that I needed to stop thoughtlessly sowing my words. I needed to temper my tongue and sow my actions with "tears and love and prayer." I needed to sow for my children a childhood of the praise, acceptance, and love that would fill them with the "fruit of life eternal."

Since that day my prayer has become, "Thou who knowest



## Become an Instrument in the Hands of God



*Prayerfully select and read from this message the scriptures and teachings that meet the needs of the sisters you visit. Share your experiences and testimony. Invite those you teach to do the same.*

### What Does It Mean to Be an Instrument in the Hands of God?

**Alma 26:3:** “This is the blessing which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made instruments in the hands of God to bring about this great work.”

**Bonnie D. Parkin, Relief Society general president:** “What does it mean to be an instrument in everyday terms? I think it means to nurture others. Joseph Smith called it acting ‘according to those sympathies’ in our hearts. . . . There are countless ways to be instruments in God’s hands. For example, be the kind of visiting teacher you’ve always wanted; ask a young single adult about what she likes to do rather than why she’s not married; share instead of accumulate; carefully choose your dress, speech, and choice of entertainment; smile at your husband or child who knows they’ve caused frustration and heartache; put your

arm around a young woman; teach in nursery with a happy heart; show by your attitude that you are finding joy in the journey” (“Sweet Moments,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 107, 109).

**Kathleen H. Hughes, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency:** “The Lord has touched my spirit time and again, and more often than not, His touch has reached me through the hand of a friend. . . . Perhaps [we] would feel more of His love if [we] looked for His hand in the actions of those who care for [us]. . . . God knows the needs of His children, and He often works through us, prompting us to help one another. When we act on such promptings, we tread on holy ground, for we are allowed the opportunity to serve as an agent of God in answering a prayer” (“What Greater Goodness Can We Know: Christlike Friends,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2005, 74–76).

### What Can I Do as an Instrument in the Hands of God?

**President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency:**

“You can be powerful instruments in the hands of God to help bring about

this great work. . . . You can do something for another person that no one else ever born can do. . . . Blessings and a comforting peace will come to you if you can love God ‘with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself’ [Luke 10:27]. . . . If you have done your best, which you usually do, your humble offering, whatever it may be, will be acceptable and pleasing to the Lord” (“Instruments in the Hands of God,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 115–16).

**President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “There is no end to the good we can do, to the influence we can have with others. Let us not dwell on the critical or the negative. Let us pray for strength; let us pray for capacity and desire to assist others. Let us radiate the light of the gospel at all times and all places, that the Spirit of the Redeemer may radiate from us. In the words of the Lord to Joshua . . . , ‘be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God [will be] with thee whithersoever thou goest’ (Joshua 1:9)” (“The Need for Greater Kindness,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2006, 61). ■



# To Be Edified and Rejoice Together



**BY A. ROGER MERRILL**  
Sunday School General President

Please consider the following questions and scriptural answers:

*What destroyed the Gadianton robbers?*

“And it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gadianton; and they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them, insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from among the Lamanites” (Helaman 6:37).

*What can protect us from temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary?*

“Whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they

would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction” (1 Nephi 15:24).

*What influences our minds more powerfully than threats of death or war?*

“And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more

**W**e access the power of the word of God in overcoming our challenges by learning how to receive and teach by the Spirit.





powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword, or anything else, which had happened to them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God” (Alma 31:5).

*What will cause us to rejoice together?*

“Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together” (D&C 50:22).

Interestingly, the answer to all of these questions is the same: it is the power of the word of God. This is what will enable us to protect our children and to overcome the great challenges of the last days—in our personal lives, in our families, and in the world.

So how do we obtain the blessings that are available to us through the power of the word of God? Certainly personal study is

fundamental. But great power also comes to us as we learn to teach and receive the word by the Spirit. This is how we “are edified and rejoice together.”

**Receiving by the Spirit**

While much focus is appropriately placed on the role of the teacher in a gospel setting, we need to look carefully also at our own role as learners.

One Sunday a few years ago, when I was serving as an Area Seventy, the local mission president and I traveled together to conduct meetings with several different groups. As we approached the final meeting, we were both tired. We had already driven more than 300 miles (480 km) and had spoken several times. We began the meeting and started down the same list we had covered in the other meetings.





**W**e cannot  
treat  
gospel  
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and expect to receive  
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word in our lives.

But as we spoke, something wonderful happened. The Spirit intensified, and the teaching and learning moved to a new level that continued through the entire meeting. We later remarked to each other, “That was wonderful. That was the best meeting of the day!”

What made the difference? It wasn’t anything we did. We hadn’t suddenly become more brilliant or eloquent or spiritual. In fact, if anything, we were somewhat worn by the activities of the day. The topics we covered were the same topics covered in the other meetings.

As we talked about it, we came to realize that the people who attended that last meeting were more humble and spiritually prepared. As a result, they were more open

and hungry for the word, and the Lord was able to use us more effectively as a conduit to bless their lives. The success of that meeting was much more about them than about us.

Since then, I have found numerous examples of this principle in action. Nowhere is it more dramatically taught than in the mortal ministry of the Lord Himself. In the book of Matthew, we read that when the Savior “was come into his own country . . . he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief” (Matthew 13:54, 58). We can almost hear Moroni in the background declaring, “I would exhort you that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, *according to the faith of the children of men*, the same today and tomorrow, and forever” (Moroni 10:7; emphasis added).

Now I would ask you to think about the implications of this principle in terms of your own ability to have great spiritual experiences as you attend a class or a sacrament meeting on Sunday. What is your role in creating the environment in which the Spirit can teach you the things you need to know? If you find a Church class or a sacrament meeting boring, does that say more about the teacher—or about you?

Consider the response of President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) when someone once asked him, “What do you do if you find yourself caught in a boring sacrament meeting?” President Kimball thought a moment, then replied, “I don’t know; I’ve never been in one.”<sup>1</sup> With his long years of Church experience, President Kimball had undoubtedly been to many meetings where people had read their talks, spoken in a monotone, or given travelogues instead of teaching doctrine. But most likely, President



Kimball was teaching that he did not go to sacrament meeting to be entertained; he went to worship the Lord, renew his covenants, and be taught from on high. If he attended with an open heart, a desire to be “nourished by the good word of God” (Moroni 6:4), and a prayer—rather than judgment—for the speakers, the Spirit would teach him what he needed to do to be a more effective and faithful disciple. President Kimball was teaching the principle of learning by the Spirit.

In the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord teaches us about both teaching and learning by the Spirit:

“Verily I say unto you, he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth by the Comforter, in the Spirit of truth, doth he preach it by the Spirit of truth or some other way?

“And if it be by some other way it is not of God.

“And again, he that receiveth the word of truth, doth he receive it by the Spirit of truth or some other way?

“If it be some other way it is not of God.

“Therefore, why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth?

“Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together” (D&C 50:17–22).

Notice He says that if we teach or receive in any way other than by the Spirit, it is not of God. Only the Spirit knows our every thought, our every feeling, our every need. Only He can communicate specifically and individually to each of us what we need to know, based on God’s perfect wisdom.

As learners, we should not expect to be constantly entertained, emotionally stimulated, or spoon-fed; we

should actively, prayerfully prepare for and seek specific inspiration from the Spirit to help us face the unique challenges in our own lives. Whether a class instructor is a 20-year veteran institute teacher or a new convert plumber who has never taught a class before should make little difference in the quality of our learning. Peter was a fisherman; Joseph Smith had no more than a third-grade education. But the Spirit spoke powerfully through them to those who had “ears to hear” (Matthew 11:15).

### Seeking and Asking

So how do we go about receiving by the Spirit? I would suggest two ideas: accept responsibility for our learning and ask faithful questions.

The first idea comes from Alma: “If ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words” (Alma 32:27).

We cannot treat gospel learning casually and expect to receive the power of the word in our lives. We must “awake and arouse [our] faculties.” We must “experiment upon [His] words.” We must exercise faith. We must desire to believe. We must “let this desire work in [us]” and “give place for a portion of [His] words.” Notice that Alma is not describing a show-up-on-Sunday-and-expect-a-teacher-to-entertain-you attitude. He is teaching us that we must accept the responsibility for our own learning and reach out in faith if we expect to receive the power of the word in our lives.

The second idea comes from James—from the sacred words that inspired Joseph Smith to go into the Sacred Grove:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” (James 1:5–6).



**President Kimball was asked, “What do you do if you find yourself caught in a boring sacrament meeting?” He replied, “I don’t know; I’ve never been in one.”**

The Lord constantly instructs us to *ask, seek, and knock* with the divine promise that we will *receive, find,* and have doors of revelation *opened unto* us. Asking faithful questions is the pattern established by the Lord for us to invite the guidance of the Spirit in our lives. Consider some of the many questions Joseph had on his mind when he read the words of James:

“In the midst of this war of words and tumult of opinions, I often said to myself: What is to be done? Who of all these parties are right; or, are they all wrong together? If any one of them be right, which is it, and how shall I know it?” (Joseph Smith—History 1:10).

The words of James came with “power to [Joseph’s] heart” (Joseph Smith—History 1:12) *because* he had questions in his mind.

So what kinds of questions might we appropriately ask? Suppose you are to attend a Sunday School lesson on these verses from James. As you prepare for the class—or even think about these verses during the class—you might ponder questions such as the following:

- Who was James? What questions or circumstances elicited this particular passage?
- What is wisdom?
- What does it mean to “ask in faith”?
- Is it possible to ask about things I don’t understand and still ask, “nothing wavering”? What does it mean to “waver”? When and why do I waver? What choices can I make to ensure that I don’t waver?
- In what circumstances have I felt “driven” and “tossed”? What insight can I gain from those times to help me ask in faith?
- What doctrines or principles are taught in these verses? Where else in the scriptures are these principles taught?
- How do these principles tie into the life and mission of the Savior? How can they help me draw closer to Him?
- How can these principles help me or my loved ones deal with our specific challenges and opportunities?

As we do our part to ask inspired questions and earnestly seek guidance in our lives, we invite the Spirit to teach us through the power of the word.

### Teaching by the Spirit

The Lord has said that as well as receiving by the Spirit, we are also to teach by the Spirit. What does that mean?

Perhaps you have seen (or even been) someone walking down the hall to teach a class, glancing at the manual, and saying, “Oh well, I haven’t had time to prepare; I’ll just have to teach by the Spirit.” Or perhaps you have seen (or been) someone who has spent weeks preparing a lesson, complete with elaborate handouts, multiple visual aids, and a word-for-word written script from which he or she plans to “teach by the Spirit.”

I suggest that neither of these approaches is what the Lord intends.

The standard for teaching throughout the Church has been set forth in the scriptures and reinforced in the *Preach My Gospel* manual. We are instructed to “seek first to obtain [the Lord’s] word” (D&C 11:21)—in other words, to thoroughly prepare by studying, asking and seeking answers to faithful questions, and creating teaching outlines. We are then instructed to be completely open to the guidance of the Spirit in the actual teaching moment concerning what we should say and do.

In a recent worldwide leadership training broadcast, President Gordon B. Hinckley quoted the following verse from the Doctrine and Covenants:

“Neither take ye thought beforehand what ye shall say; but treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man” (D&C 84:85).

He then observed, “This is the counsel of the Lord. It cannot be set aside with impunity.”<sup>2</sup>

We need to “treasure up in [our] minds continually the words of life”—that is, to read, study, inquire of the Lord, and prepare—and to trust the Spirit to give us “in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man.” This is true whether we are teaching a class or giving a talk in sacrament meeting or stake conference. But there is one





principal difference: a teacher would rarely give a sermon in a classroom, and a speaker would not lead a discussion in sacrament meeting or in the Sunday session of stake or district conference.

In the classroom, teaching by the Spirit is essentially creating the environment in which the Spirit can dwell and asking inspired questions so that we can “teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom” (D&C 88:77).

As Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said concerning classroom instruction: “Never, and I mean never, give a lecture where there is no student participation. A ‘talking head’ is the weakest form of class instruction. . . . Assure that there is abundant participation because that use of agency by a student authorizes the Holy Ghost to instruct. It also helps the student retain your message. As students verbalize truths, they are confirmed in their souls

and strengthen their personal testimonies.”<sup>3</sup>

Teaching in the home should likewise be by the Spirit. Although we have some regular structured teaching times, such as family scripture study and family home evening, most teaching takes place in unanticipated teaching moments and by example. Here too the principle applies: parents should “treasure up . . . continually the words of life” so they are prepared and open to the Spirit in teaching moments.

As we follow the Lord’s plan for us to teach and to receive by the Spirit, we truly “are edified and rejoice together”—in our individual families and also as the greater family of God. ■

#### NOTES

1. From a Church Educational System meeting, June 30, 1989; quoted in Gene R. Cook, *Teaching by the Spirit* (2000), 140.
2. “Missionary Service,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Jan. 11, 2003, 20.
3. “To Understand and Live Truth,” Church Educational System satellite broadcast, Feb. 4, 2005.

**P**arents should “treasure up . . . continually the words of life” so they are prepared and open to the Spirit in teaching moments.

## *A Robbery, a Book, and a Testimony*

By Mailin Espinoza Mira

I live in Chile and have been a member of the Church since I was eight. I have always known that I was in the true Church, and I felt I had a testimony of the Book of Mormon, but it was a borrowed testimony. Although I wanted to, I had never read the Book of Mormon all the way through. I had never read further than 1 Nephi.

On the night of July 4, 2002, my friend and I attended our Book of Mormon institute class. We stayed after class talking until we noticed that it had gotten late. We began walking home around 10:15, and when we got to the place where we were to split up, we stopped and continued to talk.

Two men passed by and asked us what time it was, but we were so involved in our conversation that we barely heard them. Suddenly they came back. One of them threw his arms around me, putting a knife to my neck. Then he let me go and threatened my friend. The other man asked us for money, and when we said we didn't have any, they were furious. They demanded our jackets and backpacks.


I had wanted this jacket for a long

time and had finally been able to buy it a month before. And I loved my backpack, which my older brother had given me. My friend had homework assignments in her backpack that she needed to turn in. I was really scared—almost frozen in place. It was the first time I had ever been robbed.

Without hesitation we gave them our things. But suddenly I said, “Wait! Please let me take out my Book of Mormon! It’s the only thing of value I have.” The thief gave me a strange look and let me take it out. Then they fled.

I hugged the book and didn’t care about anything else. I felt peace because I had rescued this precious book from two criminals.

That night I decided to show greater appreciation for this treasure of mine and for all the sacrifices made by the people who had brought it to light. I started to read it, and I began to feel an indescribable peace and a spectacular joy. All of a sudden it was worth so much more to me. I finished it two months later, and I finally gained a testimony of the book for myself.



**W**e gave the robbers our belongings. But then I remembered the Book of Mormon inside my backpack and asked if I could remove it.



I still don't know where I got the courage to ask for my book back, but I'll never be sorry that I did. I don't harbor any ill feelings toward the men because through that experience I gained the testimony I desired.

That testimony helped motivate me to serve a mission. I am now home from serving in Argentina, where I was able to tell people about the Book of Mormon and share with them how marvelous this work truly is. ■

## The Suit

By Lori Ries

It was just before Christmas, and I knew I had things others could use. Room by room I went through the house, finding items we could donate to Deseret Industries. When it was finally time to go through our bedroom, my husband and I headed for our closet. We looked through our clothing.

"I don't have anything this time," I told him. "Do you?"

David put a number of shirts in a pile and found some shoes he no longer wore.

"What about this suit?" he asked. I had helped him pick it out years ago for a job interview. It still looked brand new.

"Honey, what do you think? It doesn't fit anymore."

"But it's still like new," I said.

"I really feel this suit needs to go,"

**W**ith the missionaries at my door, a sudden knowledge came to me, and I knew what to do with the suit.

David said. He took it from the closet.

As much as I liked the suit on him, he did have another, and after he tried this one on, I could see that it barely fit him now. I carefully laid it across the donation pile, but I didn't feel right. Something was nagging at me. The suit didn't belong there, and I knew it.

David went to his ties. He was ruthless in his weeding. He pulled out several and laid them with the suit, but that didn't feel right to me either.

The suit in the pile interrupted my sleep. I wondered what was wrong with me to worry so much about a suit that didn't fit and a bunch of old ties.

The following morning I looked at the pile of clothes. Again so strongly came the feeling that the suit didn't belong. I took it off the

pile and laid it on the bed along with some ties. After putting everything else into bags, I again looked at the suit. "Whom is it for?" I didn't know.

I knelt beside the bed and prayed. I went to my desk and tried to think. My husband and I were the young adult leaders in the ward, so we knew who the next missionary was. It would be a while before he left. He also had a steady job, so getting a new suit wouldn't be a problem. I called my bishop but got the answering machine.

Then there was a knock at the door. Opening the door, I was startled.

"Hi, Sister Ries," the missionaries serving in our ward smiled.

A chill of sudden knowledge ran through me. "I don't believe this" was all I could say. "Please stay here. I'll be right back."



Excitedly, I raced up the stairs while the elders laughed at my strange greeting. Such joy filled me as I brought down the suit.

“It’s a size 40 jacket,” I said, “and the pants are 33–32.” I looked at one elder, hoping.

The missionary’s face lit up. “I’m a size 40 and a 33–30 in slacks.” His face softened. “My parents and I had been praying that I’d find a

suit to finish out my mission. I’ve got a little time left, and I’ve nearly worn this one clear through.”

The faithful elder accepted Heavenly Father’s gift of the suit and ties gratefully, and after I closed my door, I again went to my bedroom to kneel and thank Heavenly Father for the love He has for His children. He always listens to prayers. ■

of the universities where he had obtained his degrees, both academic and ecclesiastical. The speaker began his talk by briefly summarizing the history of Christianity from the time of Jesus Christ and His Apostles until the year 1830, when the world first began to hear of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, organized in America.

The speaker was not too severe in his appraisal of our faith. It was obvious he had read many of our books because he frequently quoted verses from the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants. He also read extensively from the Prophet Joseph Smith’s account of the First Vision. It appeared he intended to lead his listeners to the conclusion that if Mormonism were indeed a sect, as he believed, it was not one of the more dangerous ones.

I took notes of all the things I thought to be in error, such as when he said that Mormons were not Christians and that Joseph Smith had copied the Book of Mormon from an old American novel. The lecture was quite detailed and ended after more than 90 minutes, at which time the hall erupted into resounding applause.

When the applause was over and the discussion began, the first person to get to his feet was Brother Quirce, who introduced himself as a member of the Church. He explained how Joseph Smith had obtained the golden plates and what his

## “Dad, I’m Proud of You!”

By Marcelino Fernández-Rebollos Suárez

Because my wife and I knew of no schools in Madrid, Spain, that were run by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and because we wanted our children to receive a religious education, we registered them in a school sponsored by another religion. Because our children were the only members of our Church attending this school, we hoped they wouldn’t become targets of religious discrimination.

One day in October 1999, our son Pablo, 16 at the time, brought us an invitation from school to attend a lecture and discussion titled “Religious Sects: Mormonism.” The lecture was to be given by a prestigious authority known for having devoted a good part of his life to the study of religions, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in particular.

Fearing that an inaccurate impression of our beliefs might be given, I got in touch with our stake president and informed him of the meeting. He took note of the date and place and asked me to speak with the Church’s Public Affairs Department to see if a representative could attend and answer any questions that might arise.

When the date arrived, my wife, my son, and I went to the school. The hall where the lecture was held seated 500. Once we had taken our seats, our eyes sought any other Church members who might be in the large crowd that was filling the room. Soon we discovered Brother Quirce of Public Affairs. He gave us a friendly wave from the other side of the room.

The meeting started, and the director of instruction introduced the speaker, heaping praise upon him and giving a detailed accounting



contribution had been as the Prophet of the Restoration.

As I listened to Brother Quirce, I suddenly felt the need to get up also and clarify certain concepts so that everyone present might know the truth about our doctrine and our beliefs.

When I told my family I wanted to speak, Pablo was frightened and said, “No, Dad, please. Don’t say anything, because everybody here knows me, and I could have problems with my teachers.” I thought it cowardly for me to let Brother

**F**ollowing the lecture, I felt the Spirit direct me to stand up and clarify what had been said about our beliefs.

Quirce be the only one to speak, but I didn’t want my son to

have problems, so for the moment I remained silent. As time passed, however, I could feel the increasing insistence of the Spirit.

I again told my family what I was feeling, and my son continued to express his opposition to my getting up. Finally, no longer able to resist the influence of the Spirit, I slowly got up and made my way around the rear of the auditorium to join Brother Quirce. A murmur of surprise arose from the crowd: “It’s another Mormon.”

As Brother Quirce concluded his remarks, I put my hand in my pocket to draw out the notes I had taken, but to my surprise my pockets were empty. I had left the notes at my seat. At just that moment it was my turn to take the floor.

I didn’t know where to begin. Everything I had intended to say disappeared from my mind. I began by saying that I had been a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for 26 years and that I knew it is the only true Church on the earth, that Jesus Christ had restored it through the Prophet Joseph Smith, that Jesus is the Son of God—our Savior and Redeemer.

I don’t remember how long I talked or all the words I said. I just remember that the silence was overwhelming and that I could feel the gaze of 500 pairs of eyes upon me. When I was finished, I thanked those present for giving me an opportunity to express my beliefs and turned and left the hall. I was at peace, but my legs were shaking.

When the meeting was over and I was able to rejoin my family, my son came up to me and said, “Dad, you did the right thing. You bore a beautiful testimony, and you spoke

with power and authority. Dad, I’m proud of you!”

Pablo knew he might have problems at school because of what I had done, but it was more important to him to know his father has a testimony he is willing to stand up for. ■



## Soup and Swap

Several years ago our ward leaders realized that some of our members needed household goods while others had excess items. We needed a way to share with everyone, so we decided to have an annual “Soup and Swap” activity. After the Christmas holidays, when

people are likely making room for new things, we have a ward exchange. Prior to the activity, ward members sort their good, donatable items and place them in front of their homes. A description of large furniture or appliances is noted so their availability can be announced at the activity. Then the youth and their leaders collect what they can and take it to the meeting-house. In half of the

cultural hall, we arrange the items on tables labeled with categories such as clothing, shoes, linens, kitchenware, sporting goods, toys, and crafts, to name a few.

In the other half of the hall, we set up tables and chairs to enjoy a potluck soup dinner. After a nice meal we open the divider doors in the cultural hall, and everyone gets to do some free “shopping,” choosing whatever they can use. After the activity we donate any remaining items to a local thrift store.

We happily use our “Soup and Swap” items, even clothing that we know someone in the ward may recognize as a former possession. And it’s fair game to return items the following year if we no longer need them and they’re still in good condition. Through this activity we care for our own and provide for needs in the community while teaching our families about self-reliance and service.

*Debbie Parker, Utah*

## Chatting with Your Children

It didn’t take me long to learn that vague questions elicit vague answers from my children. So instead of asking the standard question, “How was your day at school?” and hearing the usual







**A Quiz for Couples**

What is your favorite gospel topic or scripture story? “Your favorite hymn?” My husband and I tuned in to one another during family night to find out. Some of the answers to these and additional questions were very touching as we discovered more about our spiritual feelings and experiences. Since we have an infant, we enjoyed this activity just as

a couple, but it could be easily adapted for an entire family. We simply wrote questions, such as the following, on slips of paper that we placed in a bowl. Then we took turns answering them and in many cases elaborated on why something was so meaningful to us.

**Sample Questions**

- Why do you like to attend the temple?
- How did

you feel when you baptized someone on your mission?

- Describe a time when your prayers were answered.

- What do you remember most about the day we were sealed in the temple?
- Talk about a time when you felt discouraged but were then comforted by the Spirit.
- When have you felt prompted by the Spirit to do or not do something?

*Brooke Bergin, Utah*



answer, “Good,” I started to ask more specific questions. The result? My children were actually eager to talk about things they had experienced or seen. These visits became a regular habit after school or following activities when I couldn’t be with them. To start some great conversations with your children, try asking questions such as the following, which show you really care and want to know how and what they’re doing:

- What was something good that happened today?
- Did anything bad happen?
- What did you learn?
- Did you see or hear anything that you have questions or concerns about?

*Stacey Taylor, Illinois*

## Our Family Service Calendar

Our family loves to serve those in our community who sometimes go unnoticed. At the beginning of the year, I create a simple calendar of fun service projects, one for each month. We have left cookies for our garbage men, delivered goodies to our local firefighters, and visited a children’s shelter and hospital. One year in July we made flags and cards that said, “Thank you for keeping us free!” We then gave them to various

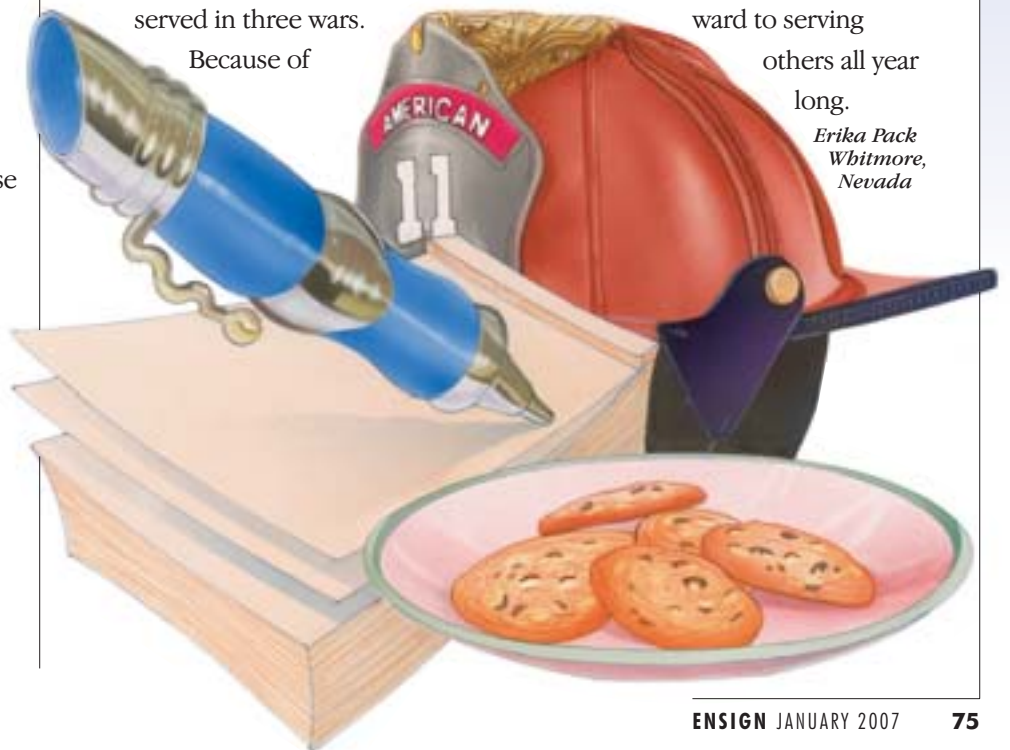
veterans, one of whom became emotional as he shared how he had served in three wars.

Because of

these and other touching experiences, my children look forward to serving

others all year long.

*Erika Pack Whitmore, Nevada*



LEFT AND BOTTOM RIGHT: ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE FLORES; ABOVE RIGHT: ILLUSTRATION BY BETH WHITTAKER



**President Gordon B. Hinckley, shown above with his counselors in the First Presidency at the dedication of the Mount Timpanogos Utah Temple and below at his 95th birthday celebration, became the oldest President of the Church in November.**

## President Gordon B. Hinckley Becomes Oldest Church President

**I**n November 2006 President Gordon B. Hinckley became the oldest President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

President Hinckley was born June 23, 1910, in Salt Lake City, Utah. On November 3, 2006, President Hinckley was 96 years and 133 days old, surpassing President David O. McKay, who died at 96 years and 132 days on January 18, 1970.

During the October 2006 general conference of the Church, President Hinckley said: "If I last a few months longer, I will have served to

an older age than any previous President. I do not say this to be boastful but rather grateful. . . . The Lord has permitted me to live; I do not know for how long. But whatever the time, I shall continue to give my best to the task at hand" ("The Faith to Move Mountains," *Ensign*, Nov. 2006, 82).

President Hinckley was set apart as the 15th President of the Church on Sunday, March 12, 1995. On January 20, President Hinckley will pass President Spencer W. Kimball as the fifth longest-serving President of the Church, having served for 11 years, 10

months, and 8 days.

Brigham Young had the longest tenure as President, with 29 years, followed by President Heber J. Grant with 27 years. President McKay was prophet for 19 years and President Joseph F. Smith for 17 years.

Prior to his call as President of the Church, President Hinckley had served 14 years as a counselor in the First Presidency and for 20 years prior to that as

a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. President Hinckley was named to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles on October 5, 1961.

His Church service has been extensive. He was called as a member of the Sunday School general board in 1937, two years after returning home from missionary service in Great Britain. For 20 years he directed all Church public communications. In 1951 he was named executive secretary of the General Missionary Committee, managing the entire missionary program of the Church for seven years. He was president of the East Millcreek Stake in Salt Lake City at the time of his calling on April 6, 1958, as a General Authority in the capacity of an Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. ■





## Welfare Department Produces Tools for Wise Financial Management

President Gordon B. Hinckley and other Church leaders have frequently offered counsel concerning self-reliance, debt, and wise finance management, and the Church's Welfare Department has produced tools designed to help Church members follow that counsel.

"So many of our people are heavily in debt for things that are not entirely necessary," President Hinckley said in October 2001. "I urge you as members of this Church to get free of debt where possible and to have a little laid aside against a rainy day" (*Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 72).

A five-lesson course titled "Peace in Your Hearts" on [ProvidentLiving.org](http://ProvidentLiving.org) and a redesigned *One for the Money: Guide to Family Finance* pamphlet are now available to help members understand debt and manage their finances.

The online lessons last about 10 minutes each and provide instruction in the following areas: an overview on managing finances, paying tithes and offerings, living within your means, getting out of debt, and planning for the future. Find the lessons at [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org).

"Church members are not immune from financial pressures," says Dennis Lifferth, managing director of the Welfare Services Department. "From the earliest days of the Church, we have been



**A five-lesson online course and an updated pamphlet are now available to help families with wise financial management.**

counseled to be self-reliant and live within our means. These lessons provide encouragement and instruction to all who seek a stronger financial foundation."

Statistics on debt in the United States show that 1.6 million households—1 in 73—filed for bankruptcy in 2003. The average household debt, not including mortgage debt, is \$14,500, and a typical American family pays \$1,200 each year in credit card interest. Sixty percent of credit cards are not paid off monthly.

The lessons, rooted in prophetic counsel, provide budgeting tools, a debt-elimination calendar, audio clips with counsel, testimonials from people who have applied financial principles,

and references to additional resources.

In one lesson testimonial, a member told of her success after applying a financial management plan: "I was amazed as month after month temporal blessings became available from unexpected sources. I still have a ways to go, but following these gospel principles has made all the difference in my finances and in my life."

In addition to the lessons, an electronic version of the redesigned *One for the Money* pamphlet will be available on [ProvidentLiving.org](http://ProvidentLiving.org).

The content of the pamphlet is from a talk by Elder Marvin J. Ashton given in April 1975. It was last

published as a pamphlet in 1992. The new pamphlet is designed to make the message of Elder Ashton's talk more accessible to the reader. The design amplifies 12 timeless principles outlined by Elder Ashton:

1. Pay an honest tithing.
2. Learn to manage money before it manages you.
3. Learn self-discipline and self-restraint in money matters.
4. Use a budget.
5. Teach family members early the importance of working and earning.
6. Teach children to make money decisions in keeping with their capacities to comprehend.
7. Teach each family member to contribute to the total family welfare.

8. Make education a continuing process.

9. Work toward home ownership.

10. Appropriately involve yourself in an insurance program.

11. Understand the influence of external forces on family finances and investments.

12. Appropriately involve yourself in a food storage and emergency preparedness program.

The Church plans to make the pamphlet available not only in English but also in nine additional languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

The redesigned pamphlet will be available free through distribution centers or online at [www.ldscatalog.com](http://www.ldscatalog.com). ■



**Dancers perform a Salvadoran folk number during the Latino celebration “Treasures of the Americas.”**

## Cultural Treasures Celebrated in Salt Lake

Two pivotal anniversaries were the foundation for the Church’s annual Latino cultural celebration held at the Conference Center on Saturday, October 21, 2006.

For Mexican members of the Church, 2006 marked the 125th anniversary of the organization of the Church in their homeland. The developing LDS history in Mexico is a success story. Today more than one million members live in Mexico and enjoy the blessings of a dozen temples.

The lives of Spanish-speaking people everywhere have also been blessed by the translation of the Book of Mormon into their own language 120 years earlier.

Thousands filled the Conference Center for the celebration, applauding and singing along with the hundreds of dancers and choir members who performed on

an ornate Mesoamerican-themed stage.

The festive cultural program, entitled “Treasures of the Americas,” featured folk dances and songs from a variety of cultures and lands, including Hawaii, Samoa, Peru, Brazil, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Native American cultures of the United States. Each performance was enhanced by native costumes rich in color and design and was accompanied by live folk music. A diverse chorus filled the Conference Center choir seats. Additional music and dances were performed in the Conference Center lobbies prior to the main program.

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles called it an excellent program. “What a wonderful way to get together this evening as brothers and

sisters and friends and neighbors,” he said.

Elder Ballard also emphasized the value of each person who attended the event, which included many who

are not Church members. “We want every one of you . . . to know how much our Heavenly Father loves each and every one of you,” he said. ■

## Maxwell Institute Formed, Will House BYU Studies

In 2006 Brigham Young University formed the new Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship at BYU, which will now oversee the scholarly journal *BYU Studies*.

In 1959 *BYU Studies* began publishing a quarterly journal containing the work of a community of LDS scholars from a range of disciplines. *BYU Studies* has published hundreds of articles that bring Latter-day Saint perspectives to academic subjects using scholarly insights to elucidate gospel topics.

“We live in dynamic times,” states current editor in chief John Welch on the *BYU Studies* Web site. “The gospel gives needed orientation as the world faces a steady stream of new challenges. . . . *BYU Studies* hopes to fill a helpful and supporting role in these eternal purposes.”

The Neal A. Maxwell Institute, established by the BYU Board of Trustees, aims to organize, produce, and disseminate scholarship on ancient scripture and religious history and promote the study, illumination, preservation, and accessibility of religious texts and ancient scriptural sources. The Maxwell Institute also aims to

build bridges to other cultures and peoples by contributing to scholarship in many disciplines and establishing contacts with scholars at universities and centers of learning worldwide.

In March 2006 the institute’s name was changed from the Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts (ISPART) to the Neal A. Maxwell Institute.

“By renaming ISPART, BYU honors the memory and life’s work of Elder Maxwell,” said Elder Cecil O. Samuelson of the Seventy, BYU president, in a news release. “This change firmly sets the future direction of the institute, which is to promote profound scholarship supporting the restored gospel of Jesus Christ—something Elder Maxwell cared about deeply.”

Andrew Skinner, former dean of religious education at BYU, heads the Maxwell Institute, which includes the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS), the Middle Eastern Texts Initiative (METI), and the Center for Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts (CPART).

FARMS was founded in 1979 and is currently directed by S. Kent Brown. For more



than 25 years, FARMS has been conducting research and publishing books and periodicals to further scholarship, make friends for BYU

and the Church, provide educational tools and resources, and defend the faith. METI is led by Daniel C. Peterson, and CPART by Kristian Heal. ■

## Young Women Web Site Redesigned

The entire Young Women Web site has been updated. In addition to new and easier navigation and shortcut links, the site includes many new materials, such as youth leadership training resources, help with Mutual planning, an interactive guide to help young women with Personal Progress, and much more.

Sister Elaine S. Dalton, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency, said Internet tools such as this new Web site benefit each individual young woman.

“We must never forget that

the individual young woman is what this is all about,” Sister Dalton said. “It is not about programs but individual people. The Internet site puts tools at our fingertips to use to bless and teach and touch individual young women. As a presidency we are desirous that this tool will assist parents and leaders in their callings to increase faith and testimony of the Savior Jesus Christ and to strengthen families.”

Sue Groesbeck, Young Women general board member, said the Young Women general presidency has worked on this project for

three years. The new content will benefit those called to serve young women.

“New sidebar topics and shortcuts were added in an effort to provide a home for every aspect of the Young Women program,” Sister Groesbeck said. “Our hope is that a Young Women leader can come to the site with any question and get some kind of help.”

New topics include Camp; Preparing Youth to Lead; Resources, Videos, and Music; Retaining Young Women in Activity; and Role of Young Women Leaders.

Sister Groesbeck said the Internet helps reach all Young Women leaders across the globe.

“We can’t get to them all, but many of them can get to

the Internet,” she said. “We are confident that if leaders will spend some time exploring the site, it will answer important questions about how the program can bless lives. As they stay within the guidelines, they can then receive personal revelation on how to customize the Young Women program to meet the needs of their young women.”

Leaders will also benefit from additional helps added to the site, such as ways to improve Sunday lessons, planning youth conferences, and ideas for teaching and using the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet. The Young Women Web site may be found in the “Serving in the Church” section of LDS.org. ■

## Spanish LDS Scriptures Available Online

By Kate McNeil, Church Magazines

More than 3.9 million Spanish-speaking members of the Church can now study the LDS triple combination on the Internet in their native tongue. The Spanish version of the LDS Scriptures Internet Edition was released by the Church in September 2006, at <http://scriptures.lds.org/es>.

Ronald Schwendiman, manager of Internet Coordination, says the Spanish version has footnotes, study helps, maps, photographs, and the ability to mark scriptures.

“The ability to access scriptures online helps in preparing

for lessons and in personal scripture study,” Brother Schwendiman said.

Since the release of the English LDS Scriptures Internet Edition in 2001, millions of members have benefited from its accessibility and convenience. Brother Schwendiman said the Internet scriptures receive more than 4.5 million visits in a month, from about 350,000 visitors.

The English Internet edition saw increased traffic during the end of 2005, after President Gordon B. Hinckley challenged members to read the Book of Mormon by the end of the year.



The updated Young Women Web site makes navigation easier and offers new resources for leaders.



**The Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and Guide to the Scriptures are now available online in Spanish.**

Kai Andersen, product manager, said the implementation of languages on the Internet required “mature technologies.” He said the 18-month project involved preparing a faster interface to handle new

languages and new Web site visitors. Extensive proof-reading also ensured the accuracy of the text.

Brother Schwendiman said the Internet edition of the Spanish Book of Mormon, Doctrine and

Covenants, Pearl of Great Price, and Guide to the Scriptures is just one step in providing all members with a positive Web site experience.

“Our focus was getting the Spanish scriptures up while preparing other Web site content, such as the Gospel Library, for translation,” he said. “We want more content for international members. We want them to have the entire Web site experience.”

The Church Curriculum Department is currently working on Internet editions of the scriptures in German, Italian, French, and Portuguese. More languages are in the planning stage. ■

parent for nearly two years. It is the most difficult trial I have been asked to endure in my short lifetime. There are so many questions and worries, prayers and tears.

Frankly, I’m surprised anyone survives. This article was a light for me in a very dark place—so many ideas to try to implement and advice to make future events easier for me and my three beautiful children. Thank you, thank you for remembering those of us with less-than-whole families.

Name Withheld

#### Heartfelt Thanks

Please accept our gratitude for the October *Ensign*. I have nearly worn out the pages. A close friend at work is a convert; she and I have wept together as she has gone through change as the gospel of Jesus Christ has enveloped her. I called her when she got her *Ensign* in the mail, and we wept again. I will order many copies of this issue and use them.

Kathy Wheeler, Nevada

#### Great Timing, Great Blessing

My TV broke last night, and my October *Ensign* arrived today—what great timing, and what a great blessing. I am a long-time member (since 1977), but we had a sister baptized two weeks ago. In addition to enjoying the articles for myself, I find I am reading them through her eyes too. Well done—a truly inspired and remarkable compilation of articles.

Susan Arkley, England

## Missionary Preparation by Mail

The March 2007 *New Era* focuses on missionary preparation. A similar issue in 2000 was so well received it went into extra printings. Now it’s time to update and give another group of future missionaries and their parents a useful new tool for mission preparation.

Included in the March *New Era* are messages from President Gordon B. Hinckley, President Thomas

S. Monson, and other General Authorities; glimpses into life in the MTC and in the mission field; helps in preparing for the temple; and an overview of the mission call process.

If you are a parent or leader of prospective missionaries, you may find it helpful to be familiar with the contents of this special issue and may want to ensure that each young person has a copy.

In the United States and Canada, subscriptions or individual copies of the *New Era* can be ordered by phone at 1-800-537-5971 or online at [www.ldscatalog.com](http://www.ldscatalog.com). Those living outside of the U.S. and Canada should contact their local Church magazines representative or a member of their bishopric or branch presidency for information on how to subscribe. ■

## Comment

### The Importance of Healthy Diets

In the October *Ensign* article “New Members, New Traditions,” under “We live the Word of Wisdom,” I felt that something could have been included about healthy

eating. Eating whole grains, fruits, and vegetables is a big part of the Word of Wisdom. I feel that many members think they are living the Word of Wisdom by not smoking and drinking, but there is a lot more to it. We should eat to live, not live to eat.

Sandra Longley Thomas, North Carolina

### Light in a Dark Place

Thank you for including the article “For the Divorced Single Parent” in the September *Ensign*. My divorce is not yet final, but I have been living as a single





**Spring Hill, Daviess County, Missouri: Named by the Lord, Adam-ondi-Ahman, by Garth Robinson Oborn**

*“Spring Hill is named by the Lord Adam-ondi-Ahman, because, said he, it is the place where Adam shall come to visit his people, or the Ancient of Days shall sit, as spoken of by Daniel the prophet” (D&C 116:1).*



**O**ne of the multitude said to Christ,  
“Master, I have brought unto thee  
my son, which hath a dumb spirit; . . .

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe,  
all things are possible to him that believeth.

“And straightway the father of the child  
cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe;  
help thou mine unbelief. . . .

“[Then] Jesus . . . rebuked the foul spirit”  
(Mark 9:17, 23–25).

“The works that I do in my Father’s name,  
they bear witness of me” (John 10:25), Jesus taught.

See “Christ’s Ministry and Miracles,” p. 40.