

Ensign



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Young Women in Ghana: Nova, Vera, Georgina, Karen, and Rebecca, by Richard Hull

“We are daughters of our Heavenly Father, who loves us, and we love Him. . . . We strive to live the Young Women values, which are: faith, divine nature, individual worth, knowledge, choice and accountability, good works, integrity, and virtue” (Young Women Theme).

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DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

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We also welcome other submissions that show the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in your life. You can find this and other calls for articles online at <http://ensign.lds.org>.

Ensign Magazine Writers' Guidelines are posted on the same page under "Resources."

Send submissions to ensign@ldschurch.org or *Ensign* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple Street, Room 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA. Include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, ward (or branch), and stake (or district). Because of the volume of submissions we receive, we cannot acknowledge receipt. Authors whose work is selected for publication will be notified. If you would like your manuscript, photos, art, or other material returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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USING THIS ISSUE

Access the power of the word. The scriptures have meaning and power in our lives today. (See pp. 14–24.) Can you think of a time when a scripture has spoken powerfully to you? What patterns did you follow then—and how can those practices help you access the power of the scriptures to find direction now?

Live gospel standards. Pages 25–33 focus on modesty and other standards of gospel living. When was the last time you reviewed the “For the Strength of Youth” pamphlet? Consider rereading it in your next family home evening. (If you don’t have a copy of the pamphlet, you can access it at www.lds.org. Go to Gospel Library > Support Materials > Youth.)

Improve your employment-searching skills. “Way Beyond the Help-Wanted Ads” (p. 58) tells success stories of people who turned to Employment Resource Services for help in finding work and improving their skills. For additional tools and information about finding employment, visit employment.lds.org.



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- *A biography of Elder Neil L. Andersen.*
- *Coming to know Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.*
- *Managing postpartum depression.*



Sugar Beets and the Worth of a Soul

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

Many years ago, Bishop Marvin O. Ashton (1883–1946), who served as a counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, gave an illustration I'd like to share with you. Picture with me, if you will, a farmer driving a large open-bed truck filled with sugar beets en route to the sugar refinery. As the farmer drives along a bumpy dirt road, some of the sugar beets bounce from the truck and are strewn along the roadside. When he realizes he has lost some of the beets, he instructs his helpers, "There's just as much sugar in those which have slipped off. Let's go back and get them!"

In my application of this illustration, the sugar beets represent the members of this Church for whom we who are called as leaders have responsibility; and those that have fallen out of the truck represent men and women, youth and children who, for whatever reason, have fallen from the path of activity. Paraphrasing the farmer's comments concerning the sugar beets, I say of these souls, precious to our Father and our Master: "There's just as much value in those who have slipped off. Let's go back and get them!"

Right now, today, some of them are caught in the current of popular opinion.

Others are torn by the tide of turbulent times. Yet others are drawn down and drowned in the whirlpool of sin.

This need not be. We have the doctrines of truth. We have the programs. We have the people. We have the power. Our mission is more than meetings. Our service is to save souls.

Our Service: Save Souls

The Lord emphasized the worth of each man or woman, youth or child when He declared:

"The worth of souls is great in the sight of God. . . .

"And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

"And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" (D&C 18:10, 15–16).

Remember that you are entitled to our Father's blessings in this work. He did not call you to your privileged post to walk



The sugar beets represent the members of this Church for whom we who are called as leaders have responsibility. I say of these souls: "There's just as much value in those who have slipped off. Let's go back and get them!"

Richard said that the turning point in his life was when his bishop found him hiding in a grease pit and helped him to return to activity.

alone, without guidance, trusting to luck. On the contrary, He knows your skill, He realizes your devotion, and He will convert your supposed inadequacies to recognized strengths. He has promised: "I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up" (D&C 84:88).

Primary leaders, do you know the children you are serving? Young Women leaders, do you know your young women? Aaronic Priesthood leaders, do you know the young men? Relief Society and Melchizedek Priesthood leaders, do you know the women and men over whom you have been called to preside? Do you understand their problems and their perplexities, their yearnings, ambitions, and hopes? Do you know how far they have traveled, the troubles they have experienced, the burdens they have carried, the sorrows they have borne?

I encourage you to reach out to those you serve and to love them. When you really love those you serve, they will not find themselves in that dreaded "Never, Never Land"—*never* the object of concern, *never* the recipient of needed aid. It may not be your privilege to open gates of cities or doors of palaces, but true happiness and lasting joy will come to you and to each one you serve as you take a hand and reach a heart.

Lessons Engraved on the Heart

Should you become discouraged in your efforts, remember that sometimes the Lord's timetable does not coincide with ours. When I was a bishop many years ago, one of the leaders of the young women, Jessie Cox, came to me and said, "Bishop, I am a failure!" When I asked why she felt this way, she said, "I haven't been able to get any of my Mutual girls married in the temple, as a good teacher would have. I've tried my very best, but my best apparently wasn't good enough."

I tried to console Jessie by telling her that I, as her bishop, knew that she had done all she could. And as I followed those girls through the years, I found that each one was eventually sealed in the temple. If the lesson is engraved on the heart, it is not lost.

I have learned as I have watched faithful servants like Jessie Cox that each leader can be a true shepherd, serving under the direction of our great and Good Shepherd, privileged to lead and cherish and care for those who know and love His voice (see John 10:2-4).

Seeking the Wandering Sheep

May I share an additional experience I had as a bishop. I noted one Sunday morning that Richard, one of our priests who seldom attended, was again missing from priesthood meeting. I left the quorum in the care of the adviser and visited Richard's home. His mother said he was working at a local garage servicing automobiles. I drove to the garage in search of Richard and looked everywhere but could not find him. Suddenly, I had the inspiration to gaze down into the old-fashioned grease pit situated at the side of





the building. From the darkness I could see two shining eyes. I heard Richard say, “You found me, Bishop! I’ll come up.” As Richard and I visited, I told him how much we missed him and needed him. I elicited a commitment from him to attend his meetings.

His activity improved dramatically. He and his family eventually moved away, but two years later I received an invitation to speak in Richard’s ward before he left on a mission. In his remarks that day, Richard said that the turning point in his life was when his bishop found him hiding in a grease pit and helped him to return to activity.

My dear brothers and sisters, ours is the responsibility, even the solemn duty, to reach out to all of those whose lives we have been called to touch. Our duty is to guide them to the celestial kingdom of God. May we ever remember that the mantle of leadership is not the cloak of comfort but rather the robe of responsibility. May we reach out to rescue those who need our help and our love.

As we succeed, as we bring a woman or man, a girl or boy back into activity, we will be answering a wife’s or sister’s or mother’s fervent prayer, helping fulfill a husband’s or brother’s or father’s greatest desire. We will be honoring a loving Father’s direction and following an obedient Son’s example (see John 12:26; D&C 59:5). And our

names will forever be honored by those whom we reach.

With all my heart I pray that our Heavenly Father will ever guide us as we strive to serve and to save His children. ■

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. For a family with small children, read the section “Seeking the Wandering Sheep.” Ask the children to describe what Richard might have looked like when he was in the grease pit. Then have them describe how Richard would look as a missionary. Ask the family, “Why do you think it was important for the bishop to look for Richard?” Conclude by reading Doctrine and Covenants 18:10, 15–16.

2. As you begin the lesson, drop a few coins on the floor. Ask, “Would it be important for me to pick up the coins? Why?” As you pick them up, explain that people have infinitely more value than the coins. Tell the sugar beet story. Ask how we can help “take a hand and reach a heart” to bring people back into Church activity.

Am I of Worth?

By Emily Thevenin

Growing up, I always enjoyed being involved in activities. I played sports, participated in clubs, worked hard in school, and attended seminary and church activities. My participation and success in these activities played a major role in how I viewed myself. As a missionary in Ireland, I continued to evaluate myself according to my efforts and relative success. I was blessed with the strength to work hard and complete my mission. Upon returning home, I went back to school and enveloped myself in activities.

Shortly thereafter I began to feel very ill. After seeing many doctors and undergoing expensive tests and painful surgeries, I learned I had a chronic physical illness. Despite my attempts to go on living a busy and active life, the illness caught up with me.

That was more than five years ago. I now experience constant pain and fatigue, and I have forgotten what it feels like to be healthy. Medications reduce my pain, but they also leave me unable to do much of anything; some days I am not even able to get out of bed. There are times when I feel I have lost a significant part of my identity. How can I be of worth if I can't even get out of bed?

As a youth I learned about individual worth. Now I'm really being tested as to the source of my worth. Is it based on my accomplishments, or is it based on the truth that I am a child of God? When faced with feelings of inadequacy, I seek guidance through conversing with my Heavenly Father as well as reading and pondering the scriptures.

I have often asked the Lord if I am still important. After much prayer and scripture study I have learned that Heavenly Father's closeness helps me understand more

fully who I really am. I have learned, and continue to learn each day, that my worth does not depend on my abilities but is founded in the fact that I am His child.

I continue to have days when I am discouraged, and I turn to the story of Job to give me comfort and direction. Despite unimaginable difficulties and being judged and misunderstood by friends, he continued to praise God (see Job 16; 19:14). While overwhelmed with grief, Job proclaimed, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15).

I find comfort in knowing that Job experienced difficulties despite his faithfulness. The story of Job teaches me that my illness is not a punishment from God, and that serving as a missionary and living right does not entitle me to a life free of pain and difficulty. The health problems I have do not make me less valuable to my Heavenly Father. In life we are often rewarded for our accomplishments, our work, our talents, and our abilities. I now find comfort in knowing that the Lord will bless me for my righteous desires despite my current physical weakness.

I lean on the Lord for support and guidance in my illness all the time. It is inspiring to feel the impressions of the Holy Ghost and know that Heavenly Father is teaching me. Through the gift of the Holy Ghost, He gives me peace, love, and assurance. I know by these specific impressions that I am of worth. Even if some days all I am able to do is lie in bed and pray that the pain lessens, it is comforting to know that He cares.

As a result of my trials, I am learning a powerful truth—I am a child of God. Now, instead of feeling empty and alone, I am filled with His love. ■

*I knew where
I was going
with my
education,
career, and
future family.
How could
I deal with
a chronic
illness?*



“If Thou Endure It Well”



BY ELDER FRANCISCO J. VIÑAS
Of the Seventy

As we endure our trials and afflictions with diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith, we can learn to have joy through—and despite—our suffering.

A painting depicting a hospital scene. In the foreground, a woman lies on a gurney, appearing to be in a state of unconsciousness or death. She is wearing a blue hospital gown. Several medical professionals in white coats and blue scrubs are gathered around her, some looking down at her with concern. In the background, a man in a brown suit and tie stands with his hands clasped, looking on. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting an indoor setting like a hospital hallway or operating room. The style is expressive and somewhat somber.

One of the greatest blessings my family and I have enjoyed was opening the Argentina Salta Mission. My wife, Cristina, and I arrived on January 1, 1988, with our three children, who were then 13 years, 8 years, and 9 months old. At the time we were expecting our fourth child.

A few weeks after arriving, and before we had even settled fully into the city where we

would spend the next few years, my wife began to hemorrhage. In the middle of the night, we had to hurry off in search of a hospital.

During that long night the words of the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith while he was in Liberty Jail came to my mind:

“My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment;

“And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes” (D&C 121:7–8).

Further, the Lord said, “And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good” (D&C 122:7).

I had read and pondered those verses many times, and I had used them to provide counsel and comfort to family members and Church members affected by adversity, but at that moment those words were for me. It was then that I came to clearly understand that the Lord’s promises about the briefness of adversity, the exaltation that would come, and the experience we would gain all hinge on a key phrase: “if thou endure it well.”

How can we endure well the suffering that can come from adversity? During the hours that my wife lay in the hospital, and at other times when adversity has knocked at our door, our family has learned three basic principles that help us endure and overcome. They are found in a revelation given to Joseph Smith: “All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith” (D&C 103:36).

Diligence

Adversity can come to us even if we are diligently serving the Lord. We know, however, that He is “merciful and gracious unto those who fear [Him], and delight[s] to honor those who serve [Him] in righteousness and in truth unto the end” (D&C 76:5).

That night we put our trust in the Lord. We were in

Argentina to do His will, and we would accept whatever He decided. We learned that trials are easier to endure when we diligently serve the Lord.

Faithfulness

When we strive to keep the commandments, our faith serves as an anchor that gives us power to move forward and strength to battle adversity. When the doctor tending Cristina told me there was nothing he could do to stop her from hemorrhaging, I asked him if I could enter her room and give her a priesthood blessing. A few minutes after the blessing, the hemorrhaging stopped, and her condition began to improve.

The Lord gave us the following warning, which I understood better than ever at that moment: “Be diligent in keeping all my commandments, lest judgments come upon you, and your faith fail you, and your enemies triumph over you” (D&C 136:42).

Prayers of Faith

*When sore trials came upon you,
Did you think to pray?
When your soul was full of sorrow,
Balm of Gilead did you borrow
At the gates of day?¹*

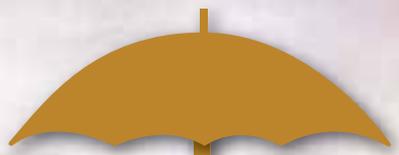
Prayers of faith give us the strength necessary to get through our afflictions. I remember the powerful prayer of Alma that gave him and those with him “strength, that they should suffer no manner of afflictions, save it were swallowed up in the joy of Christ. Now this was according to the prayer of Alma; and this because he prayed in faith” (Alma 31:38).

I am grateful that Sister Viñas made a complete recovery. The years that followed were ones of incredible joy for our family as we worked with faithful and loyal missionaries in sharing the gospel in Argentina. Similar to the missionary experiences of Ammon and his brothers (see Alma 28:8), our journeyings, sufferings, sorrows, and afflictions in the Argentina Salta Mission led us to incomprehensible joy.

We came to know that as we endure our trials and afflictions with diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith, we can learn to have joy through—and despite—our suffering. ■

NOTE

1. “Did You Think to Pray?” *Hymns*, no 140.



Fortifying Our Family

BY MARSHA JOHNSON

As our oldest child approached high school age, our concern for our children increased when we considered the prevalence of peer pressure and social groups pushing agendas inconsistent with Church standards. I often thought about this, wondering how we could help our children better understand Church doctrines, particularly those concerning the family.

One day I realized that the answers we sought could be found in “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.”¹ I knew that if our children understood the proclamation, they could confidently defend the Lord’s definition of the family.

At family home evening, I presented a proposal to memorize the proclamation as a family. After some grumbling, everyone agreed.

Every Monday evening we had a lesson about a paragraph or sentence of the proclamation, followed by a memorization activity. Each morning during family scripture study we would recite all that we had memorized to that point.

It took almost a year, but we memorized the entire family proclamation together. Although this might not be possible for every family, it has proven a blessing for ours. True to our concerns, our children have been exposed to activities, debates, and friends that do not support the Lord’s view of the family. I am so grateful to know that they have the words of the Lord’s chosen servants when needed.

In addition to teaching my children, this process taught me some important lessons about developing faith in Christ as a family.

1. We’re Here for Each Other

At times one or more of us stumbled over the words we were trying to memorize. The rest of us were able to carry on the recitation until everyone was back on track.

In our individual faith-developing experiences, at times we may need to carry or be carried by our family, and that’s how it should be. As we experience trials of faith and even everyday life challenges, we have a built-in support network to rely on for strength.

2. Use It or Lose It

When we finished memorizing, we did not know what to do next. So we did nothing. After a couple of months we tried to recite the proclamation. Though we got through, it was painful: our memories were shaky. To regain and retain what we had learned, we decided to start reciting it each Sunday evening. This is a lot like our faith: we need to be actively involved in keeping our faith alive, or it will weaken from lack of use.

3. Hard Work Passes, but the Good Remains

As I reflected on the year it took to memorize the family proclamation, I could only remember a few of the memorization activities we did, despite all the time and effort we put into our study. The same was true for the rest of the family. Living the gospel requires a lot of hard work. In the end we may not remember all the specifics, but we still have the blessings we gain along the way.

4. Effort Brings Blessings

Our initial purpose for learning the proclamation as a family was to prepare our children with the knowledge they would need to respond appropriately when others challenged them on gospel principles. Although we were particularly concerned about challenges to the traditional views of the family, such as same-gender attraction, our study has blessed us in many ways, some of which were



THE FAMILY A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWENTY APOSTLES
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

3K The open membership and the Council of the Family signify the Church's plan to help all families become stronger and more united in faith and love. This family is a blessing to the Church and to the world.

As a result, the Church is committed to help all families become stronger and more united in faith and love. This family is a blessing to the Church and to the world.

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unexpected. Most important of all, we have become closer and stronger as a family through this process.

5. Tenderness Over Temper

In 40-plus weeks of family home evenings, we experienced the full gamut of patience and frustration, joy and anger. We always learned lessons better and felt a greater sense of love when we were gentle and tender rather than impatient and grumpy. In the April 2007 general conference, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland spoke about how we ought to use our tongues for good. He said, “We must be so careful in speaking to a child. What we say or don’t say, how we say it and when is so very, very important in shaping a child’s view of himself or herself. But it is even more important in shaping that child’s faith in us and their faith in God.

Be constructive in your comments to a child—always.”²

The world is not likely to teach our children about God’s plan for families or to have faith in Jesus Christ. Nor can we expect the few hours of instruction received at church on Sundays to provide us with deep, abiding faith. Instruction must happen at home to be truly embedded in our hearts.

As the end of Joshua’s life was approaching, he called all Israel together to remind them of the great things the Lord had done for them. Joshua’s well-known invitation was to “choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15). We, like Joshua, can call our families together to teach them the Lord’s words and say, as Joshua did, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). ■

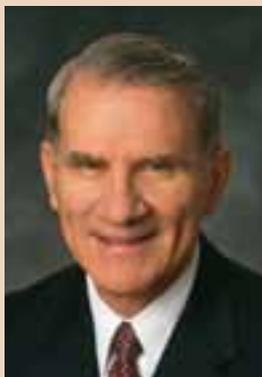
NOTES

1. See *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
2. Jeffrey R. Holland, “The Tongue of Angels,” *Ensign*, Apr. 2007, 16–18.

Scripture Stories as Patterns for Our Lives

BY ELDER JAY E. JENSEN

Of the Presidency of the Seventy



I have been led to a significant scripture study pattern that can help us better understand the scriptures.

As young parents reading the scriptures with our children, my wife and I struggled to make these holy words come alive and have meaning to them.

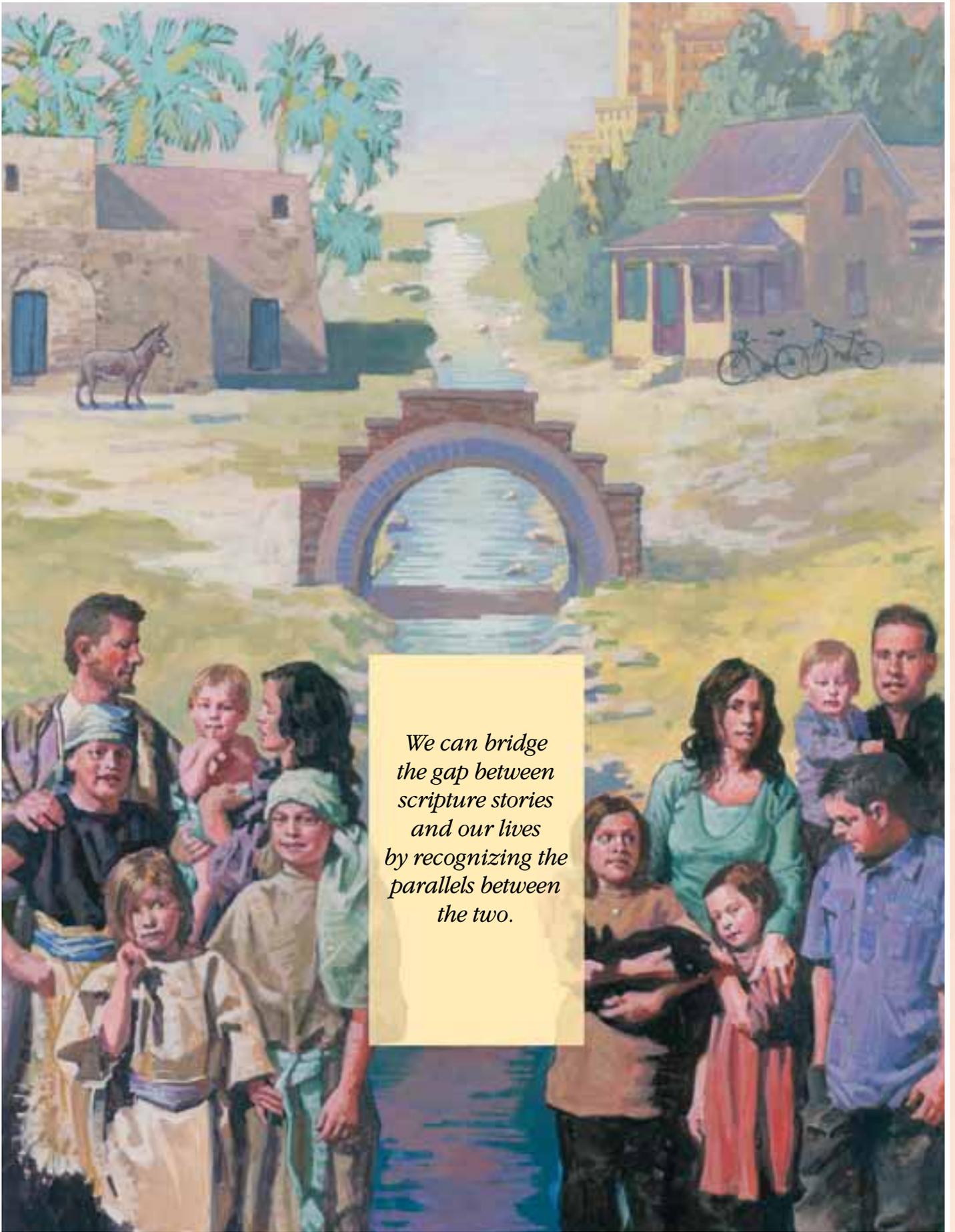
Sometimes we had successful experiences, and other times we did not. One morning one of our children said, “Dad, this is boring! I don’t understand what we’re reading.” Perhaps you have had similar experiences. Fortunately, since then I have been led to a significant scripture study pattern that has helped us individually and as a family to better understand the scriptures.

Bridging the Gap

I learned this pattern when I was in my second year of teaching in the seminary program of the Church. We were informed that Leland Andersen, a master teacher and a professional in-service trainer in the

seminary and institute program, would be visiting our classes that day. We knew that we had only to invite him to say a few things to the students and he would take a good portion of the class time. Such was the case when he came into my Old Testament class that morning. He took a piece of chalk in hand and began with the story of David and Goliath. Within seconds he had the class’s full attention, but more important, I knew I was watching a master teacher at work as he taught the class and me a pattern to make the scriptures relevant using a concept I call “bridging the gap.”

Imagine a bridge. One side of the bridge is anchored in the past and is made up of three parts: (1) they—the prophets and people of the past, (2) there—the place where these people lived, and (3) then—the time period when they lived.



*We can bridge
the gap between
scripture stories
and our lives
by recognizing the
parallels between
the two.*

The other side of the bridge is anchored in the present and is made up of three parallel parts: (1) I—who live in the present, (2) here—the place where I live, and (3) now—the time period I live in.

The goal is to build a bridge from *they-there-then* to *I-here-now*, identifying common parallels between their day and ours.

Here’s how Brother Andersen did it as he told the story

of David and Goliath. First, he took us to 1 Samuel 17 and pointed out the setting of the conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines. He reminded us of the challenge to find someone in Israel to fight Goliath. Full of faith, young David volunteered. In that narrative, Brother Andersen identified a pattern consisting of four phrases from that chapter that parallel our day. They created a bridge from the past to the present (see table 1).



TABLE 1. PROVING GOD’S ARMOR IN HIS CAUSE (SEE 1 SAMUEL 17)

Verses	Phrases from the Scriptures	Parallels to Our Day
37	“He will deliver me.”	The Lord will deliver us today.
39	“I have not proved them [the armor].”	What armor have I proved, or tested?
45	“I come to thee in the name of the Lord.”	As covenant people, we come and go in the name of the Lord.
46	“All the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”	Our purpose is to help others know there is a God in Israel.



What the Savior experienced as He started His ministry has become for me a true pattern for spiritual growth, a pattern that is found in many other scripture stories, including the experiences of Lehi and Joseph Smith.

Identifying Story Parallels

We can follow the same pattern in our teaching. Identifying story parallels is a spiritual matter. As you read and study the scriptures, pray often. Pray before you begin studying and, of course, following a study session. Pause at times as you study, and express gratitude for what you are learning. Ask for additional light and truth. When you are reading stories from the scriptures, pray to find parallels that will link the past to the present. Most of those that I have found came through praying, studying, searching, pondering, and listening to the Spirit.

Brother Andersen developed each of four parallels from the account of David and Goliath by emphasizing the key phrases, and then he illustrated them with examples from today. Watching a master teacher develop these four points opened a door to scripture study for me—that of searching for a pattern of parallels in stories.

The following elements are normally present in scripture stories and can easily be transferred with relevance to our day:

1. A story line is followed.
2. The story line has a beginning and an ending.
3. Phrases or sentences from the story are principles that illustrate eternal truths.
4. These phrases or sentences depict truths applicable both in the past and in our day.

A Story Parallel from the New Testament

One of the most useful illustrations of a story line came to me as I helped write a New Testament lesson for seminary teachers. When the Savior started His ministry,

He fasted 40 days and 40 nights and went into the wilderness to commune with God (see Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 4:1–11). What He experienced has become for me a true pattern for spiritual growth:

- He sensed His sacred responsibility and sought communion with God.
- Revelation and enlightenment came to Him.
- He was severely tested.
- Passing the test, He proceeded with increased light and truth.¹

This pattern is found in many other scripture stories. For example, Lehi sought help (see 1 Nephi 1:5); help came (see 1 Nephi 1:6); he was severely tested (see 1 Nephi 1:19–20); and he proceeded with increased light and truth (see 1 Nephi 2:1).

The Prophet Joseph Smith experienced a similar pattern:

- He sought communion (Which church is true?).
- An answer came after he read James 1:5 and prayed.
- He was severely tested.
- He passed the test and proceeded with increased light and truth.

While I have had many experiences in my life that follow this pattern, my call as a member of the Seventy is illustrative. The call came the first week of June 1992, and my first assignment was to serve as a member of the Central America Area Presidency beginning on August 1. During my vacation time in July, I immersed myself in the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon, and spent hours studying, praying, and pondering to help me prepare and overcome my feelings of inadequacy.

Based on Matthew 4:1–11 and the Joseph Smith Translation of Matthew 4:1–11, the parallels shown in table 2 came to me.

The Joseph Smith Translation of Matthew 4:11 differs substantively from Matthew 4:11; however, the truth taught in the latter—“angels came and ministered unto him”—is a true principle.

You, too, may examine your own life and reflect on times when you have gone through this pattern of spiritual growth.

A Story Parallel from the Book of Mormon

While I was serving as a bishop, a ward member who had committed a serious transgression came to me seeking

counsel and direction. His standing in the Church was in jeopardy, and his confession to me, a judge in Israel, would help him in the repentance process. A story parallel from Alma 36 helped this ward member begin to repent (see table 3).

Note that after Alma was forgiven, he did not remember his pains, nor was he harrowed up by his sins. However, he did remember his sins (see v. 16). But when he remembered them, he was not troubled by them. The Lord grants us a memory of sins to help prevent them from happening again, but He does take away the pain and hurt.

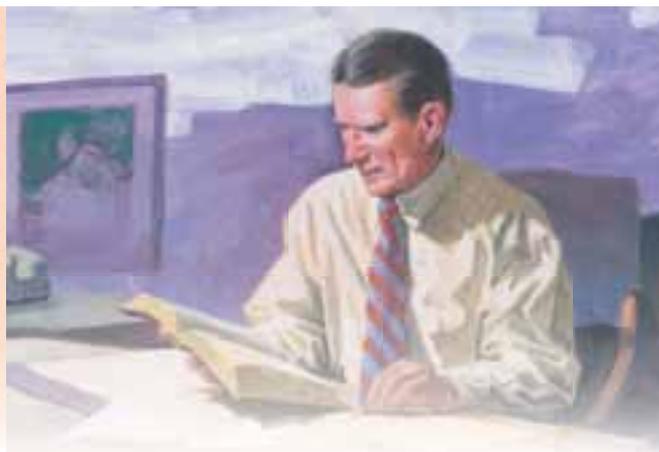


TABLE 2. A PATTERN FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH (SEE MATTHEW 4)

Verses	Phrases from the Scriptures	Parallels to Our Day
1	The Savior sensed His sacred responsibility and sought to commune with God.	I sensed my sacred responsibility and sought to commune with God.
1	He communed with God.	Enlightenment came as I studied, fasted, pondered, and prayed.
3–10	He was tempted and challenged.	I was challenged with feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness.
11	Angels ministered to Him.	The Holy Ghost comforted, taught, enlightened, and strengthened me to go forward with divine assistance.

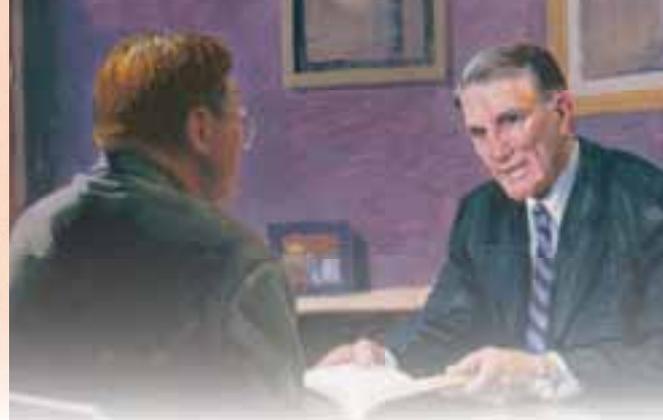


TABLE 3. REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS (SEE ALMA 36)

Verses	Phrases from the Scriptures	Parallels to Our Day
6	Alma went about seeking to destroy the Church.	This member went about sinning.
6–11	God sent His angel to stop Alma.	He was caught in his sin.
11–16	Alma was struck with fear; he was racked with torment.	He was tormented, afraid, remorseful, and penitent.
17	Alma remembered to have heard his father prophesy of the Atonement.	He remembered that his father and mother had taught him about the Atonement in family home evening.
18	Alma prayed for mercy.	He prayed for forgiveness.
19	Alma could remember his pains no more.	He felt no more pains for his sins.
21–23	Alma received joy, light, and strength.	He received joy, light, and strength.
24	Alma labored without ceasing to save souls.	He labored to save souls.
27	Alma was supported in his trials.	He was supported in his trials.

For Our Profit and Learning

Story parallels begin with stories in the scriptures or from the events surrounding them. As you read and study these stories, you will see a word, a phrase, or a principle that seems as applicable today as it was in the past. As you continue your prayerful study, other principles will become apparent. As you put the principles together, you will begin to bridge the gap between the prophets and

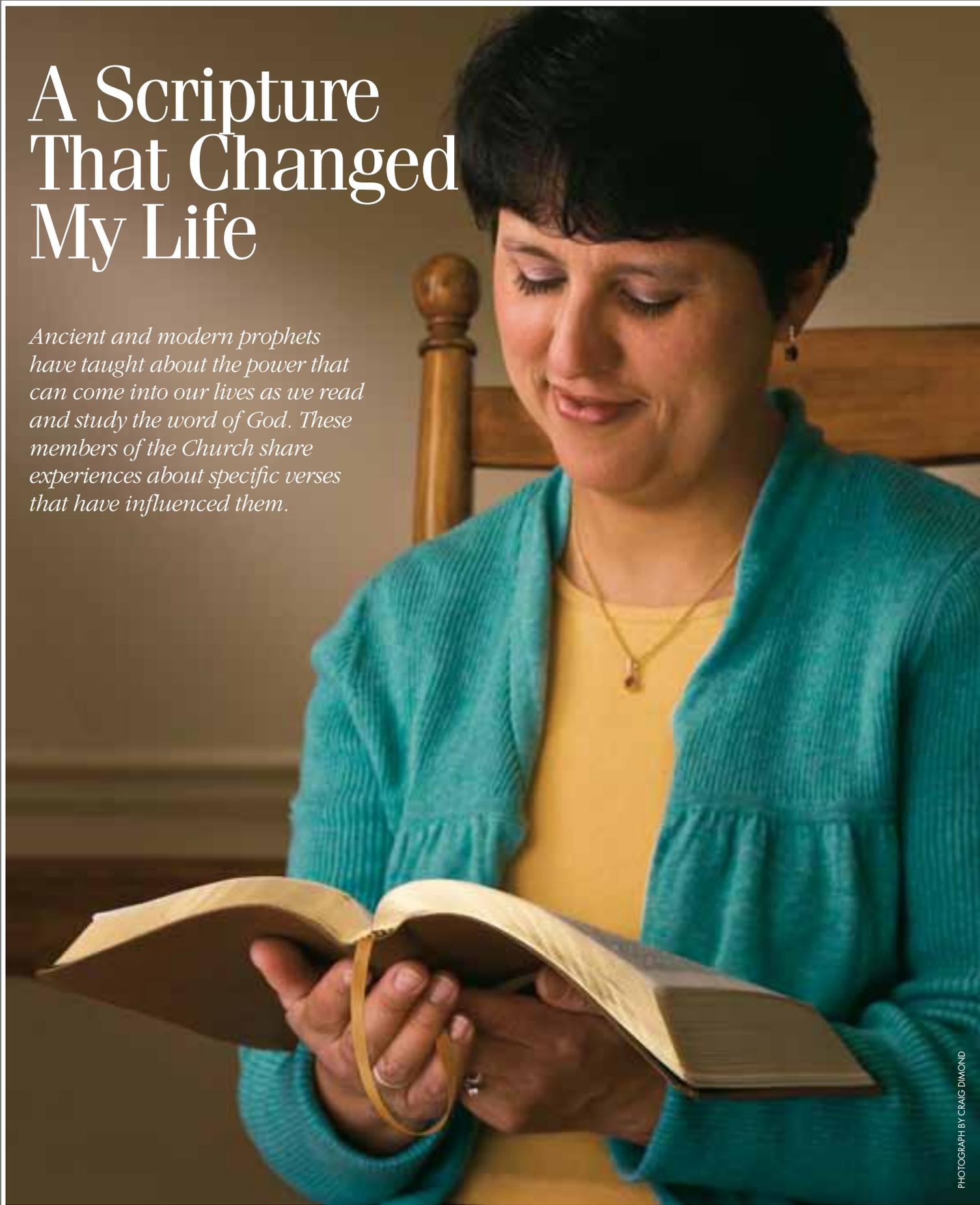
people who lived in the past—*they-there-then*—and us in our day—*I-here-now*. Perhaps this is what Nephi meant when he said that he “did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning” (1 Nephi 19:23). Furthermore, by so doing we are treasuring up the Lord’s words (see Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:37). ■

NOTE

1. See *Life and Teachings of Jesus* (Church Educational System manual, 1974), 41.

A Scripture That Changed My Life

Ancient and modern prophets have taught about the power that can come into our lives as we read and study the word of God. These members of the Church share experiences about specific verses that have influenced them.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG DIMOND

Preparation for “Great and Mighty Things”

Five years ago I was an active member of another church. I had been reading the Bible frequently, and I was growing in my knowledge and testimony of the Savior.

Several times while I was reading the Bible, Jeremiah 33:3 came to my attention. It says: “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Shortly after this I met the missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. To my surprise, they expressed a sincere testimony of the Savior and also introduced me to the Book of Mormon. I had not known that the Book of Mormon was “Another Testament of Jesus Christ” and a record of God’s dealings with a remnant of His people. Rather, many of my uninformed friends and I had questioned whether Mormons were Christian. But when I read the Book of



THE POWER OF THE WORD

“Success in righteousness, the power to avoid deception and

resist temptation, guidance in our daily lives, healing of the soul—these are but a few of the promises the Lord has given to those who will come to His word. Does the Lord promise and not fulfill? Surely if He tells us that these things will come to us if we lay hold upon His word, then the blessings can be ours. And if we do not, then the blessings may be lost. However diligent we may be in other areas, certain blessings are to be found only in the scriptures, only in coming to the word of the Lord and holding fast to it as we make our way through the mists of darkness to the tree of life.”

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), “The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 79.

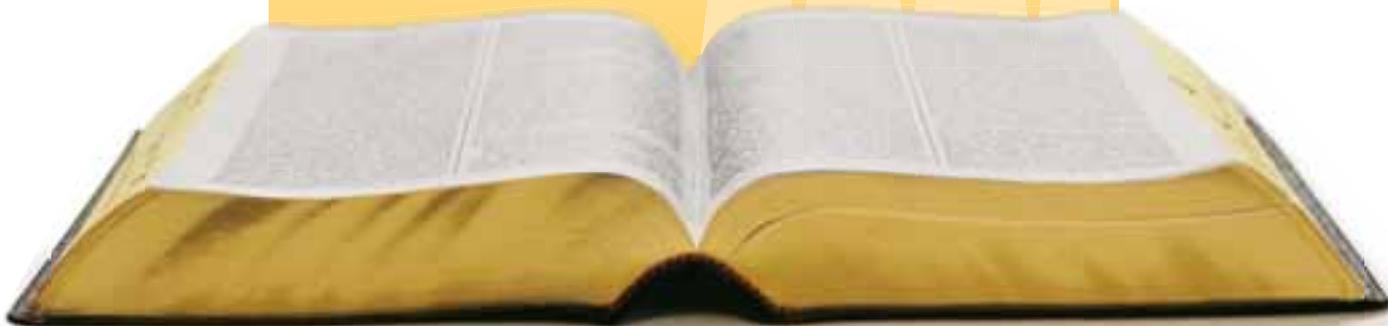
Mormon and teachings of the Church, I recognized the clear, true doctrine of Christ as I understood it according to the Bible. I continued to meet with the missionaries and asked a lot of questions, despite opposition from friends.

During this time Jeremiah 33:3 again came to my attention a number of times—especially when I prayed for confirmation of the validity of the missionaries’ message. I came to realize that the missionaries were not only fellow Christians, but they were also the key to the “great and mighty things” God wanted to show me—including the message that the Lord Jesus Christ has restored His Church in our dispensation through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

I joined the Church on May 14, 2005, opening new doors to my potential. My testimony has increased as I have gained knowledge of the restored gospel. I have also received blessings from the Lord through His Church.

Brad Godshall, Pennsylvania

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.



I Will Go and Do

At the end of December 1995 I discovered that I was pregnant. My husband and I were not prepared for this news and wondered how we would provide for this child as well as for the rest of our young family. Our budget was already stretched beyond its limits. I felt unqualified to handle this challenge. I realized I needed Heavenly Father's guiding hand in my life and more strength than I could generate on my own.

In the past my scripture study could have been described as sporadic. But as we were coming upon a new year with new opportunities for change and growth, I decided to rededicate myself to daily scripture study so I could have the Lord's power and influence in my life.

On January 3, 1996, I was reading the third chapter of 1 Nephi. I came upon verse 7. I knew that verse by heart. I had memorized it in seminary. I had sung about it countless times as a Primary teacher during singing time. So I skimmed it quickly before moving on to verse 8. Then a thought interrupted my reading: "Go back and read verse 7." I did.

It said, "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath

commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." No sooner had I completed reading this verse when another thought came to my mind: "This applies to children too."

It then struck me: to multiply and replenish the earth was a commandment! I read the verse again with this specific commandment in mind. The revelation came that somehow Heavenly Father was going to help us accomplish feeding, clothing, educating, and providing for another child. I shared this newly discovered revelation with my husband. My faith that Heavenly Father's hand was guiding—and would continue to guide—my life, was bolstered. I didn't know *how* He was going to do it, but I knew that He *would*, and I could put my trust in that.

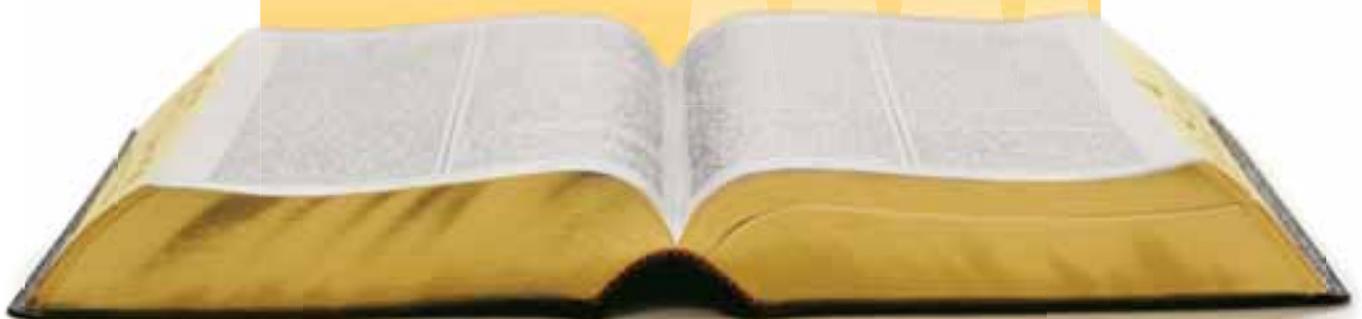
After several years and the birth of another child, I can say that Heavenly Father has held up His part of the covenant. He has been there to help us provide for, care for, and educate our children. I know that He will always be there to help us accomplish what He commands us to do.

Sheri L. Wilson, Utah



ILLUSTRATION BY CLARK KELLEY PRICE

1 Nephi 3:7 And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.



A Source of Strength

As a person suffering from a chronic illness, I often struggled to stay positive when I felt I could do much more if I were fit and healthy. Then I came across 2 Corinthians 12:9–10, and it literally changed my life.

The verses read, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

I felt that the Lord knew of my frustrations and that

through this verse, He was speaking directly to me. From that point, rather than being held back by a debilitating disease, I was able to accept that through my illness, I can learn to be much closer to Heavenly Father. Living life at a pace that is slower than what most people experience allows me more time to pray, study, and meditate. As I rely on those aspects of the gospel, I draw nearer to the Source of strength and hope.

My situation has also helped me to be more aware of and sensitive to others’ suffering. This helps me “glory in my infirmities” rather than dwell negatively on them. This attitude adjustment, which came from studying the scriptures, has truly been life-changing.

Name Withheld

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.... Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Real Peace

Life can be full of anxiety. For me, anxiety came from family health concerns, the instability of employment in the industry in which I worked, and losing a daughter to childbirth complications. I sorely needed peace in my life, so I turned to the scriptures.

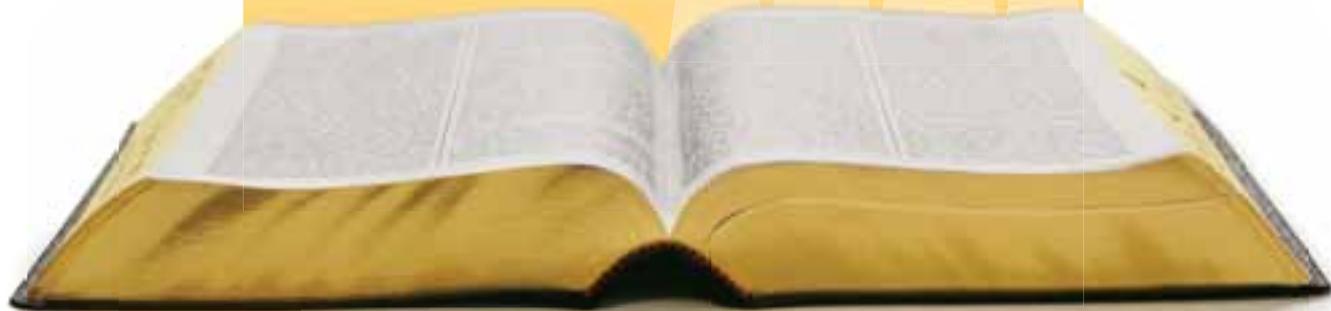
Many scriptures speak of peace, but a verse I have found particularly helpful is Doctrine and Covenants 59:23: “But learn that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and

eternal life in the world to come.”

I have learned that doing “the works of righteousness” does not mean holding the right position or having a lot of money. It is living by the Spirit. Doing so has led me to a simpler life. I now work in a different, less-stressful industry and am enjoying the basics of life, like gardening and spending time with my grandchildren. I am grateful to have learned that in catching my breath and following the promptings of the Holy Ghost, I can find true peace.

Joseph Brierley, Utah

D&C 59:23 But learn that he who doeth the works of righteousness shall receive his reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come.



Appreciation for the Savior

I set a goal at the beginning of 2007 to read the entire New Testament and write answers to the questions in the New Testament Member Study Guide in my scripture journal each week. It was a meaningful experience for me throughout the year and helped me to learn more from the New Testament.

That year was difficult for me. I started the year pregnant, but I had a miscarriage in early January. After months of trying, I became pregnant again, only to have another miscarriage. As the week of Christmas approached, I fought feelings of frustration and depression.

That same week I began to read the book of Revelation. It had always seemed mysterious and difficult to understand, and I felt intimidated. One morning I read chapter 7. As I read verse 17, the Spirit touched me, and I began to cry. It reads, “For the Lamb which is in the midst of the

throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

I felt a warm, comforting feeling and received a witness that no matter what I am called to suffer in this life, the Atonement of Jesus Christ will make it right. No matter how difficult my circumstances, “God shall wipe away all tears from [my] eyes.”

This scripture changed my outlook and gave me hope.

I felt a new appreciation for the Savior Jesus Christ and a new joy in celebrating His birth.

This experience also helped me to see the value of regular scripture study. When we open the scriptures and our hearts, we find what we need for our individual situations. When we study the scriptures, we give the Holy Ghost an opportunity to testify of truth and bring us closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

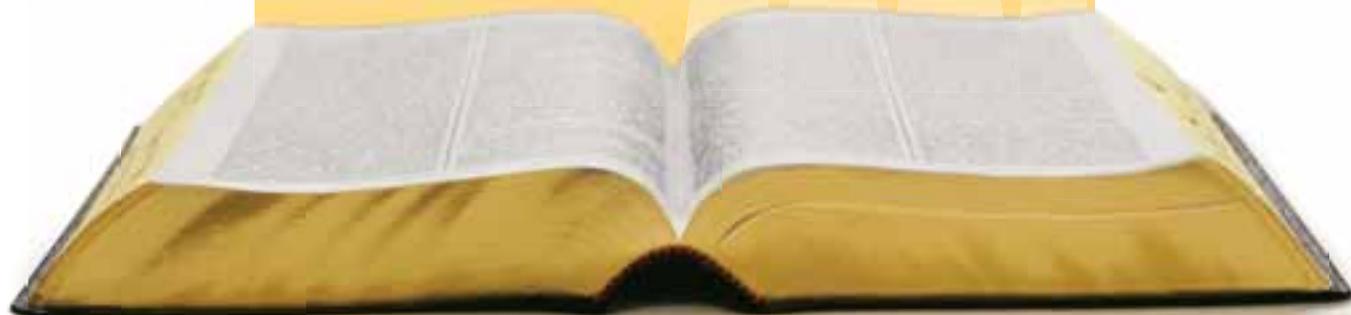
Olivia Dahl Cobián, Nevada ■



HELPS FOR HOME EVENING

Read and discuss the stories from the article. Have each family member write down a favorite scripture. Read these scriptures and guess which person wrote it down. Invite each person to share why their scripture is meaningful to them and how they have found “power in the word.” Conclude by reading the quote by President Ezra Taft Benson.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.



STANDARDS: ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Adults in one stake in England are discovering for themselves the blessings that come from paying closer attention to For the Strength of Youth.

BY DEBBIE TWIGGER

Sarah Edwards, Emily Bowles, and Eleanor McKee love shopping, and when they hit the clothes shops in Northampton, England, these young Latter-day Saint women take both cash and a certain booklet. That same booklet guides their parents when buying clothes or looking for a film to view.

In the Northampton England Stake, adults as well as teens are taking *For the Strength of Youth* to heart. It has helped parents evaluate the films and TV programs they watch and the activities they participate in. It has helped others to live the Sabbath more fully and enjoyably with their families. In fact, the adults of the stake have begun to call it “For the Strength of *You*” because it applies equally to them.

President Clive Joliffe, who was released as the stake president last year, says, “We discussed and prayed about helping families progress in the gospel and helping to prepare our children for missions and temple marriage, and we were inspired to use the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet. We wanted the whole family to understand the standards that would bring happiness and joy to all members of the family.”

Youth in the stake have noticed—and appreciate—the





Sarah Edwards, Eleanor McKee, and Emily Bowles have found *For the Strength of Youth* to be a handy guide when they shop for clothes.

difference this emphasis has made in their own families. “It’s really important to uphold standards, and as youth we look up to adults, so *For the Strength of Youth* reminds them of the standards we should all live,” says Eleanor McKee, 19. “It’s good for all of us to be reminded of what is expected of us and to make sure there are no double standards.”

Seventeen-year-old Daniel Kitsell, of the Huntingdon Ward, adds, “I like *For the Strength of Youth* because it is not just for the youth, but I know my parents are hearing it too, and it helps them keep the standards.”

One family that has felt the effects of following this counsel is that of Bishop Richard Auger of the Banbury Ward; his wife, Gill; and their two daughters, Hannah and Charlotte, both recently married in the London England Temple. Bishop Auger, an inspector with Thames Valley Police, is very aware of the world’s poor standards and their effects on youth and their behavior. “Gill and I used *For the Strength of Youth* to learn about parenting so we could be consistent and based on the scriptures,” he says. “Throughout the girls’ teenage years, we used it as a ready guide and in many different ways. When the girls wanted to shop for their own clothes, it was a worry to us, so we sent them out with the *For the Strength of Youth* pamphlet so they could refer to it when making choices.”

Hannah, 21, says, “We kept the booklet in our purses as it states clearly what is and what isn’t appropriate.” The sisters learned they could make some clothing more modest

with a little sewing or by adding accessories. Charlotte, 19, adds, “Hannah and I never felt that our parents made decisions for us. We knew that our parents followed the prophet and the Savior, and so by following our parents, we would always be living the teachings of the Savior too.”

A number of adults say that in addition to providing standards of modesty and wise media choices, the booklet benefits them by helping them pay attention to prophetic counsel on Sabbath observance. Sue Preece, Relief Society president in the Kettering Ward, sees *For the Strength of Youth* as a “tool for us to use as we strive for perfection. We don’t stop needing those guidelines when we reach 18. They prompt me into evaluating how I am doing, and there have been some changes made in my life that can only bring me closer to my Father in Heaven. For example, the Sabbath has become a real oasis to me, just by my making a minor change in the way that I observe this day.”

Sister A. J. Hough, also of the Kettering Ward, tells of how emphasis on *For the Strength of Youth* has helped her



The Auger family—Charlotte, Gill, Richard, and Hannah—have long recognized that it’s important for parents and children to be on the same page where standards are concerned.



When Josh Reynolds faced a choice about Sunday sports participation, his parents' good examples and teaching helped him make the right decision.

be a better parent: "Having three teenagers, I wanted to ensure that I, too, was living the standards completely. I was keen to find ways I could 'raise the bar' and set a good example. I decided on the section on 'Sabbath Day Observance' and have set myself new goals to improve the example I am personally. I hope I can be a better influence to those I love the most—my family. We now use the booklet during family home evening. And whether we're being creative with our family activities or planning ahead to fully observe the Sabbath, we use these standards to guide us."

Those kinds of examples are not lost on the youth of the stake. Like many young men, 16-year-old priest Josh Reynolds, from the

Kettering Ward, loves football and found initial success as a youngster. But conflict arose when he wanted to play alongside some of his friends on a local team whose matches were held on Sundays. "My mum and dad explained why and how as members of the Church we need to keep the Sabbath day holy. I accepted this and after a while did not feel upset. I am extremely grateful to my parents for setting a good example to me and teaching me to keep the Sabbath day holy."

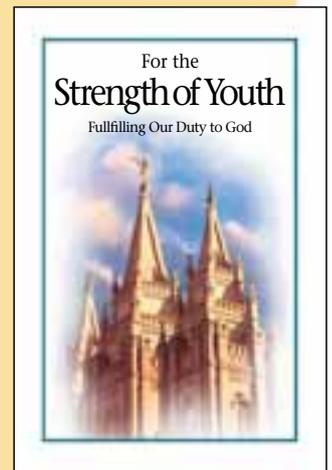
A parent of five children, Heather Slattery, of the Kettering Ward, says, "Sometimes as parents and adults we think of these standards as youth values and forget that we are just as susceptible to temptation as the young people are. *For the Strength of Youth* is a constant reminder that we need to hold on to the iron rod alongside our youth and work together, strengthening and supporting

each other as children of our Heavenly Father."

There is no doubt the members of the Northampton stake feel stronger as individuals and families by following the guidelines in *For the Strength of Youth*. President Joliffe sums up his feelings: "The pamphlet is inspired and is simply put so each of us can see clearly what Heavenly Father expects from His children. I have tried to live by the standards so that my children would be encouraged to follow my example. I have a strong testimony that we are blessed to have clear counsel on how we should live in order to qualify for all the Father has for us." ■

IDEAS FOR USING FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH

- Regularly read and discuss subjects from the booklet in family home evening.
- With the approval of your bishop or branch president, make the booklet a lesson topic for first-Sunday lessons in Relief Society and priesthood quorum meetings.
- Encourage family members to keep a copy with them to help them make correct choices.
- Base youth activities on the guidelines.
- Use the guidelines as a theme for a single adult activity.
- Refer to the guidelines when buying clothes, choosing a film, or planning activities.
- Have regular ward and stake youth firesides based on subjects from the booklet.



Modesty: A Timeless Principle for All

BY SILVIA H. ALLRED

First Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency



The way we dress demonstrates our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the challenges members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints face today is obeying principles of modesty in an increasingly immodest world. Difficult though it may be, we can show our discipleship to the Savior Jesus Christ by obeying the Church's standards of modesty. Modesty encompasses dress, language, thought, and personal conduct, but here I would like to focus on dress.

Originally, the main purpose of clothing was to cover our bodies and protect them from the elements. Those purposes continue, although clothing now serves more complex purposes too. Today it can be an expression of many things such as wealth, social status, individuality, or belonging. But clothing also reflects our attitudes and values. For Latter-day Saints, the way we dress demonstrates our understanding of and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In a world that constantly tries to undermine our sense of who we are and what we can become, observing the principle of modesty can improve our confidence. By living and teaching this principle, we can help instill that same confidence in the next generation.

What Is Modesty?

The pamphlet *For the Strength of Youth* offers basic guidelines for modesty. This booklet is valuable for both youth and adults: "Immodest clothing includes short shorts and skirts, tight clothing, shirts that do not cover the stomach, and other revealing attire. . . . Women should wear clothing that covers the shoulder and avoid clothing that is low-cut in the front or the back or revealing in any other manner. . . . Men should also maintain modesty in their appearance. All should avoid extremes in clothing, appearance, and hairstyle. Always be neat and clean and avoid being sloppy or inappropriately casual in dress, grooming, and manners. Ask yourself, 'Would I feel comfortable with my appearance if I were in the Lord's presence?'"¹

Seek the guidance of the Spirit as you choose modest apparel. Additionally, as you consider the principles associated with modesty, you might also benefit from asking yourself specific questions like these:

- Am I exposing too much of my body when I sit down, bend over, reach up, or climb stairs?

DON'T BE A DUMMY



A MANNEQUIN WEARS WHATEVER THE WORLD IS SELLING. YOUR STANDARDS ARE HIGHER THAN THAT.

- Do I call attention to myself by wearing clothing that is revealing or provocative?
- Do I need to adjust, tuck, or rearrange my temple garments in order to wear a particular item?

Why Modesty?

When we better understand the doctrine behind the principles of modesty, we realize that modesty is the virtue that guides and moderates action.

The doctrine behind modesty begins with our knowledge that we are children of God, created in His image (see Moses 2:27). Our bodies are sacred gifts from Heavenly Father and have specific purposes that He has planned. As grateful recipients, we acknowledge this gift by treating our bodies as He has asked us to (see D&C 88:33). We learn to train, control, and bridle our bodies and their physical uses to become like Heavenly Father.

ARE YOUR STANDARDS SHRINKING?



IF IT'S TOO TIGHT, TOO SHORT, OR TOO REVEALING, IT DOESN'T FIT CHURCH STANDARDS. DON'T STRETCH YOUR STANDARDS TO FIT THE WORLD'S. (SEE FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH, 14-16.)

From the beginning, the Lord has asked His children to cover their bodies. After Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened and they became aware that they were naked. Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with simple aprons made of fig leaves. But the aprons were not enough, so the Lord made them more modest coats of skins. (See Genesis 3:7, 21.)

God had a higher standard then, just as He does now. His standards are not those of the world. As He says in Isaiah 55:8-9:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A Timeless Principle

Because modesty is one of the Lord’s “higher ways” and not a passing social trend, it has been taught throughout the ages. Consider these other scriptural examples about clothing and what they teach us about modesty.

Modesty shows humility. The Book of Mormon prophet Jacob denounced pride and love of riches. He admonished his people to prevent their prideful hearts from destroying their souls. One of the ways they had showed their excessive pride was in their manner of dress. Jacob told them, “Because some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts, and wear stiff necks and high heads because of the costliness of your apparel, and persecute your brethren because ye suppose that ye are better than they” (Jacob 2:13).

The idea of being humble in how we dress is further reflected in Doctrine and Covenants 42:40: “Thou shalt not be proud in thy heart; let all thy garments be plain.” Does this mean that we cannot dress stylishly? No, we should dress appropriately for the occasion, but we should not consume ourselves with brand names or with always having the latest fashion. It is better to use financial resources for more lasting and meaningful purposes.

The way we dress for worship shows our reverence for the Lord. The Lord asked Moses to prepare sacred clothing that would be worthy of use in His holy house (see Exodus 28:2). It is clear from this commandment that the Lord felt everyday clothing was inappropriate for such a

purpose. Do we, like Moses, reflect our feelings of love for Heavenly Father by dressing appropriately for worship?

As these examples show, “prophets of God have always counseled His children to dress modestly.”² In our own time we have been reminded that “the way you dress is a reflection of what you are on the inside. Your dress and grooming send messages about you to others and influence the way you and others act. When you are well groomed and modestly dressed, you invite the companionship of the Spirit and can exercise a good influence on those around you.”³



STANDARDS

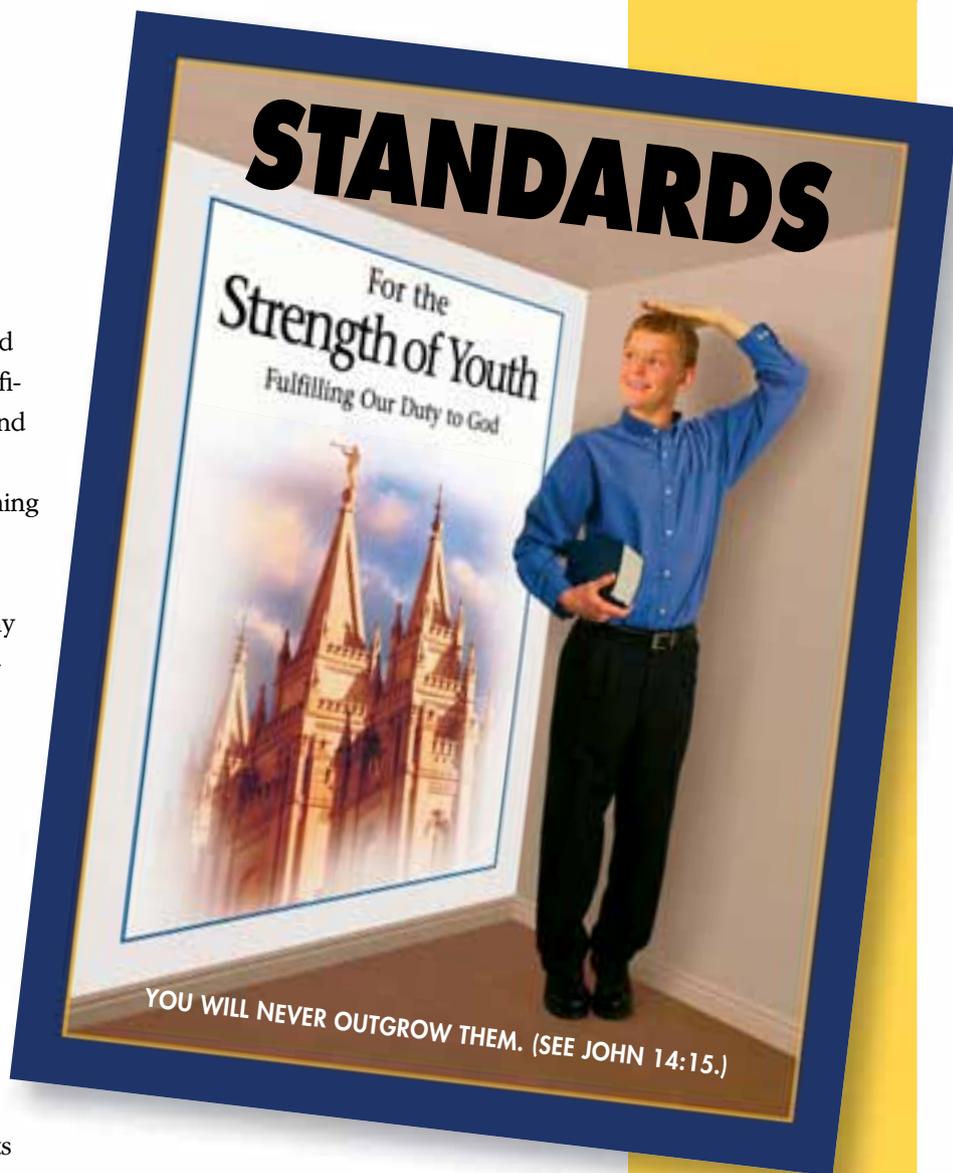
Blessings Associated with Modesty

One of the foremost blessings associated with modesty is an increased sense of confidence. One sister shares the story of a friend who learned—and was blessed by—the principle of modesty in the course of learning about the gospel:

“Several summers ago, a colleague attended church with me. She arrived at my home beforehand dressed in what is traditional for our warm climate: a sleeveless sundress. I appreciated her sense of occasion in wearing a dress to church, and off we went. Other ward members welcomed her to our congregation, and she returned several times in the ensuing weeks. She even began attending home, family, and personal enrichment meetings and bringing her several children to Primary and youth activities. During those midweek activities on those hot summer days, she usually wore a sleeveless blouse and shorts that reached mid-thigh. She was not vulgarly dressed, but it was apparent that she did not yet understand Latter-day Saint standards.

“After several weeks, I asked her if she would be interested in learning more about the Church from the missionaries. She told me that she was shy and that she was uncomfortable talking to people she didn’t know. She wanted simply to continue to participate in our ward’s worship and activities and assured me that if she had any questions, she would ask me or some of the other people in the ward with whom she was already acquainted.

“It was interesting to me that as she continued to come to church and Church activities, she began wearing longer skirts, longer shorts, and shirts that had sleeves. Initially



I thought it had to do with the oncoming autumn weather, but I soon realized that she was simply taking note of how her Latter-day Saint associates dressed.

“I don’t know that her change in apparel was solely responsible for the increase in confidence I started to notice in her, but I think it was part of it. As she continued to learn gospel principles, such as her divine heritage as a daughter of God, her sense of self-worth seemed to escalate. Her confidence increased as she began to better understand the reasons behind some of the things we do. And as her confidence increased, she was eager to learn more about the gospel—including taking the missionary discussions, something that had previously made her nervous.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

DRESS APPROPRIATELY. DON'T LET A BAD CHOICE TRIP YOU UP. (SEE FOR THE STRENGTH OF YOUTH, 14–16.)

“Her dress was just one aspect of her coming to know and understand gospel principles and standards, but as she found she was able to adjust that area of her life, she saw that she could make more significant changes too. Eventually, these changes led to her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ and her joining the Church. Later, she was endowed in the temple, and her wardrobe required no change because she had already been practicing the principles of modesty.”⁴

As modesty becomes the virtue that regulates and moderates action in our lives,

ASPIRE TO SOMETHING HIGHER

THE LORD INVITES YOU TO PREPARE YOURSELF TO ENTER HIS HOUSE. IT HOLDS GREAT PEACE AND WONDERFUL BLESSINGS. (SEE D&C 88:119.)

we too will find an increased sense of self-worth. Recall the promises of Doctrine and Covenants 121:45–46:

“Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.

“The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth.”

May we all endeavor to qualify for these blessings. ■

NOTES

1. *For the Strength of Youth* (pamphlet, 2001), 15–16.
2. *For the Strength of Youth*, 14.
3. *For the Strength of Youth*, 14–15.
4. Personal correspondence.

TEACHING MODESTY TO OUR CHILDREN

By Silvia H. Allred

The Family: A Proclamation to the World” declares that “parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, to observe the commandments of God, and to be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.”¹ The Lord has commanded us to teach our children important truths, and teaching modesty and virtue is one of our most vital responsibilities. So how do we do this?

We need to teach through word and example. As President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, taught: “It has been said, ‘Teaching by example is *one* way to teach.’ I would say, ‘Teaching by example is the *best* way to teach.’”² We can set a family standard by always dressing ourselves modestly, appropriately, and tastefully. If we are endowed, we should always wear our temple garments and treat them with respect and reverence. When we as parents and leaders are consistent with what we *teach* and what we *do*, we avoid the confusion we may otherwise cause.

We need to teach from *For the Strength of Youth*. The principles taught in this booklet leave room for personal revelation and freedom of choice.

Family home evening lessons and personal interviews provide formal opportunities to teach children about modesty. Informal teaching is just as important and can be very effective. It might happen unexpectedly during meals, on the way to school, during a walk, or on a shopping trip. Take advantage of these opportunities, and do not shy away from giving straight

answers. If you do shy away, your children might go to other sources for information—some of which may not be in harmony with gospel standards.

Some of the important concepts we should highlight in our teaching include the following:

- You are a child of God.
- Your body is a temple. It is a gift from God.
- Modesty in dress, thought, attitude, and behavior invites the companionship of the Holy Ghost and reflects your personal commitment to the gospel.
- The way you dress and behave sends messages to others about your attitudes and how you feel about yourself.
- You can be attractive without being immodest.
- Part of Heavenly Father’s plan is the attraction that occurs between males and females. These biological inclinations must be controlled.

As parents, we need to speak frankly about these natural tendencies but also about the importance and value of self-discipline that Heavenly Father requires us to learn as we overcome the “natural man” (see Mosiah 3:19). In this case,

that refers to dressing and acting in a modest manner.

Girls might not recognize that the physical display they create when they dress immodestly affects boys more than it does them. Help children, especially daughters, understand that attracting someone of the opposite sex solely by physical means does not create a lasting relationship.

Our instilling and developing a strong sense of self-worth in our children can provide their best defense against immodesty. In addition to helping them understand their divine heritage, we can encourage confidence based on talents, academics, sports, and positive personal qualities.

NOTES

1. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
2. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “See the End from the Beginning,” *Ensign*, May 2006, 45.

MORE ON MODESTY

To learn more about modest dress and grooming, visit the **Gospel Library** at www.lds.org. Look at the **Modesty** entry in the **Gospel Topics** list. You’ll find scriptures, magazine articles, and other helpful information on this topic.



Daddy, Do Not

BY BRENT A. BARLOW

The blessings of turning the hearts of the children to the fathers will come as we become familiar with the faith and trials, joys and sorrows of our ancestors.

James Nathaniel Barlow was born on May 8, 1841, in Nauvoo, Illinois, to Israel and Elizabeth Haven Barlow. He died a few hours after his birth and was buried in a small cemetery in a field in Nauvoo. The memory of his short life might have been lost or confined to simply a name, date, and place if his father, Israel, had not written a letter to his wife, Elizabeth, on September 12, 1853.

Israel's letter was in response to his wife's request for him to stop in Nauvoo as he traveled from their home in Salt Lake City to his mission in England. Elizabeth wanted Israel to locate their little son's grave and rebury James in the main cemetery east of Nauvoo. Israel agreed.

Searching for the Grave

On Wednesday, August 31, 1853, Israel spent the day looking for the place where little James Nathaniel was buried but could not find it. "The flowers that were around his grave were all destroyed but the morning glories were spread some two rods [33 feet, or 10 meters] or more around his grave," Israel wrote of his search. "They made a very beautiful appearance on the weeds and potatoes that were growing there; however, they did not aid me in finding the grave."¹

The next day Israel sought the help of George Holman, the man who cared for the area. They dug around and found the little graves of James and his cousin Mary side by



Leave Me Here

side. The coffins were broken and the remains were in disarray. For a moment, as Israel gazed upon the scene, he gave up on the idea of removing the remains to the new cemetery.

“Something spoke, seemingly twice: Move it, move it,” Israel’s letter continued.

“It seemed quite an undertaking as my time was mostly spent. . . . I therefore turned away and concluded that I would leave them there until the future. . . .

“I had not gone over more than one rod when I heard a voice. Shall I say it was not audible, but so distinct to my mind that I could [hear] it say, ‘Daddy, do not leave me here.’ I turned about again and walked to the grave and . . . concluded that I would remove my little boy at any rate. I felt a peculiar calm and peace of mind which



BECOMING ACQUAINTED

“It remains the responsibility of each individual to know his kindred dead. . . . Even if the [temple] work is done, then it is still each person’s responsibility to study and become acquainted with his ancestors.”

President Joseph Fielding Smith quoted in *Hearts Turned to the Fathers: A History of the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1894–1994* (1995), 184.

before I did not feel. . . . But this much I will say—that I never was more conscientious of any duty done in my life.”²

Reburying James and Mary

On Friday, September 2, Israel and Mr. Holman took the bodies to the Nauvoo Burying Ground. “There I interred my little boy the second time with Mary, his cousin,” wrote Israel. “There remains now a rude stone to tell where they are with the letters cut on in a rude and imperfect manner: ‘J. N. Barlow.’ . . . After setting the stones at the head and foot of the graves, the time of my departure had come.

Could I go away? No! There was something that caused my feelings to linger there and bound me fast. . . . I felt a desire to dedicate myself and all that I might call mine into the hands



of the Lord that I might be counted worthy to come forth with [my son] in the morning of the First Resurrection. . . . The last thread of affection I bore till it was broken with tears on his grave. I then closed the ceremony.”³

When we go beyond finding just the names, dates, and places of our ancestors, we can truly enjoy the blessings of turning our hearts to our fathers and, as with Israel Barlow, to our children (see Malachi 4:6). Just as this letter gave insight into the lives of Israel and Elizabeth Barlow, as well as into the lives of others who lived during that time period, stories, letters, and heirlooms can help us come to know our ancestors. We are, after all, not simply clerks recording their passing. We are their family. ■

NOTES

1. Ora H. Barlow, *The Israel Barlow Story and Mormon Mores* (1968), 306; spelling and punctuation modernized.
2. Ora H. Barlow, 306–7.
3. Ora H. Barlow, 307–8.

HOW TO GO BEYOND NAMES, DATES, AND PLACES

1. Visit with relatives. They may have stories, letters, photographs, or heirlooms you could copy.

2. Go to familysearch.org. Click on the heading “Library” and a drop down-menu will appear. Click on “Library Catalog.” Here you can search the holdings of the family history library in Salt Lake City. A place search may reveal county histories, which often have biographies of residents. A surname search may locate a printed family history with stories and photographs of your ancestors. Copies of these records on microfilm can be ordered at local family history centers.

3. Search online. Many family history sites, such as www.rootsweb.ancestry.com, have message boards where you can inquire about specific ancestors.

4. Write your own accurate account of an ancestor’s life by finding what details you can and then by weaving together any local, national, or international history with the names, dates, and places of their life.

WALKING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Could our broken-down car be an answer to prayer?

BY SERENA KUGATH

When the Church celebrated the sesquicentennial of the pioneer trek across the plains, my family “adopted” pioneer ancestors, read accounts of their bravery and sacrifices, and participated in a four-day reenactment of the trek. With our daughters, ages seven, five, and three, we walked a hard and dusty road to Casper, Wyoming, dressed in period clothing, learning quickly to love our fellow travelers. But all too soon it was over.



When I saw my oldest daughter carrying her tired little sister, I tried to stop her. She told me that some of the pioneer children carried their siblings every day.

started seeing blessings. Realizing I could not always ask friends to taxi me around, I quickly found a bike trailer at a garage sale and resumed grocery shopping and other errands. Transporting groceries in a bike trailer forced me to be selective in my purchases. No more frivolous extras—I began using our stored powdered milk and making bread at home.

Before long I became an expert at substituting anything I was missing because biking to the store for only one item was not

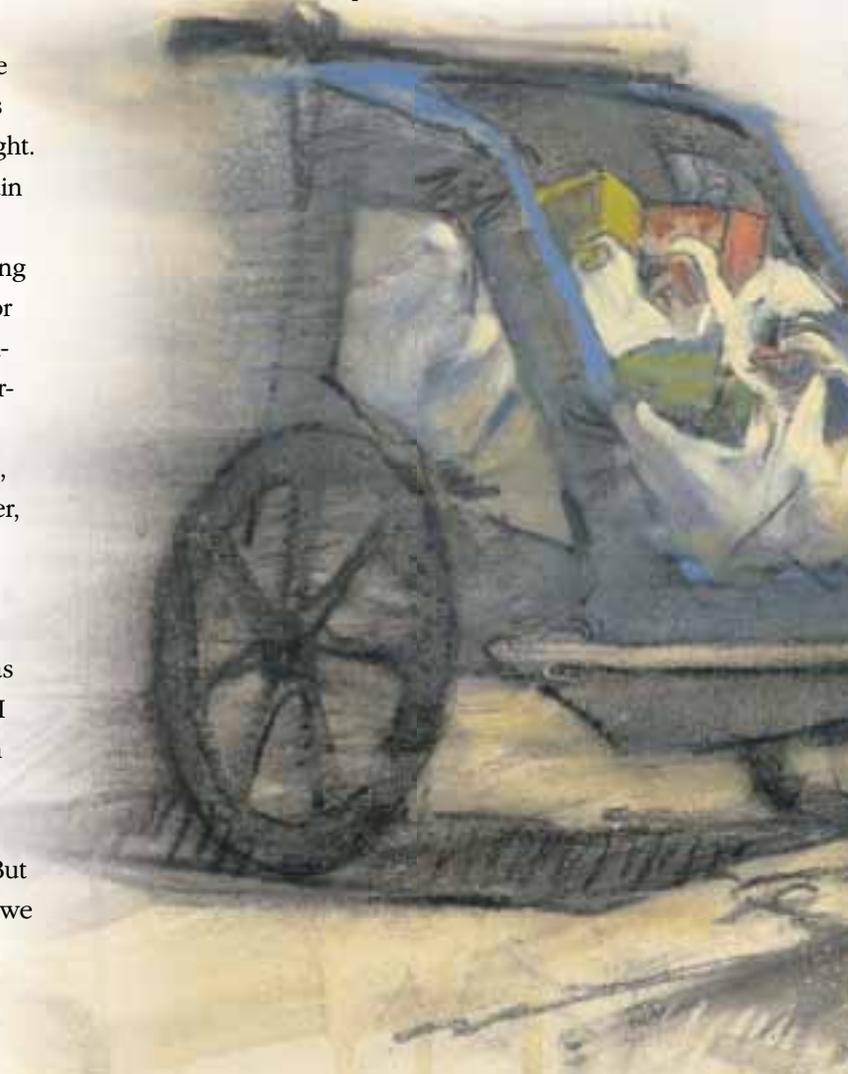
Driving home in our comfortable, air-conditioned vehicle, I thought about the life we were going back to. Reflecting on our frantic daily schedule, coupled with the convenience of easy transportation and fast food, I wanted to emulate the pioneers' frugal, close, hardy lifestyle. "How can I make this experience last?" I asked in prayer. "We personally have no pioneer heritage. Wilt Thou give us a pioneer experience this year as we try to teach our children about the dedicated and devout early settlers of the Church?" The car was dark, the stars bright, and the kids quiet as we quickly and easily covered the miles that night.

A few weeks later, that prayer forgotten, we were again on the road, happily anticipating a holiday weekend. Twenty minutes out of town, we began to smell a burning odor. My husband, Steven, and I looked at each other for one long moment, and then the car lost power. The temperature gauge had malfunctioned, and the car had overheated so badly that many parts melted and the engine cracked. We could not add a car payment to our budget, and we had little savings. With no car during the summer, we would just have to walk.

I couldn't get over the feeling that we were being punished. Our small town had no bus system, and we had three young children and another on the way. But as I prayed that night, I felt the sweetest impression that if I would allow it, this experience would bless us and even answer my earlier prayer. With this witness I awoke the next day excited to face our challenge.

For the first couple of weeks we were all very tired. But as our bodies grew hardier and our attitudes improved, we

worth it! Fast food was no longer fast when walking everywhere, and we found ourselves at home in the evenings more than before, playing games and reading books aloud together. As we walked places together we had time to talk, listen, laugh, and sing. One of the sweetest moments was seeing my oldest daughter, Jessica, carry her tired little sister. When I tried to stop her, she told me that some of



the pioneer children had carried their siblings every day.

It was certainly hard at times. Living in a college town, I would often see young students driving new vehicles, and I would have to stifle my grumbles as I pedaled from place to place. At the beginning of October the weather began growing colder. One evening I dressed the girls in their Sunday best and curled their hair for a special event at my husband's work. On the way there, a cold rain began to fall. The faster we walked, the faster it fell. The wind picked up, and I struggled to push the stroller up the slick grass. Muddy and stumbling, I was ready to cry when I remembered the pioneers scaling Rocky Ridge. I laughed aloud—my life was not in danger, and I had a warm, dry building a hundred yards away.

A few weeks later snow began to fall, and I once again turned to the Lord. It was no longer safe to bike

around town, and for the first time I was not sure how much longer I could keep it up. "Lord," I prayed, "I think we've learned the lesson of the pioneers. We don't have enough saved for a new car, but wilt Thou help us?"

The next day my father-in-law called. He had seen some good used vehicles in the paper, and within 48 hours of my prayer, we sat in a white van. Not until our daughter said it looked like a covered wagon did I realize that we had been without a car for almost 111 days—the same number of days it took the first wagon train to go from Winter Quarters to the Salt Lake Valley.¹ ■

NOTE

1. See Gordon B. Hinckley, *Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley* (1997), 450.

R *Realizing I could not always ask friends to taxi me around, I quickly found a bike trailer at a garage sale and resumed grocery shopping and other errands.*





PIONEERS IN GHANA

1. Stand Alone—For Something, Adjoa, by Angela Nelson

"It is good to be a member when we are at home or among people," says Adjoa Amoa-Ampah, who is studying to become a doctor. "But a true Latter-day Saint woman can still call herself a member when she is alone. The Church is sometimes misunderstood, so it is important for me to be an example of the truth."

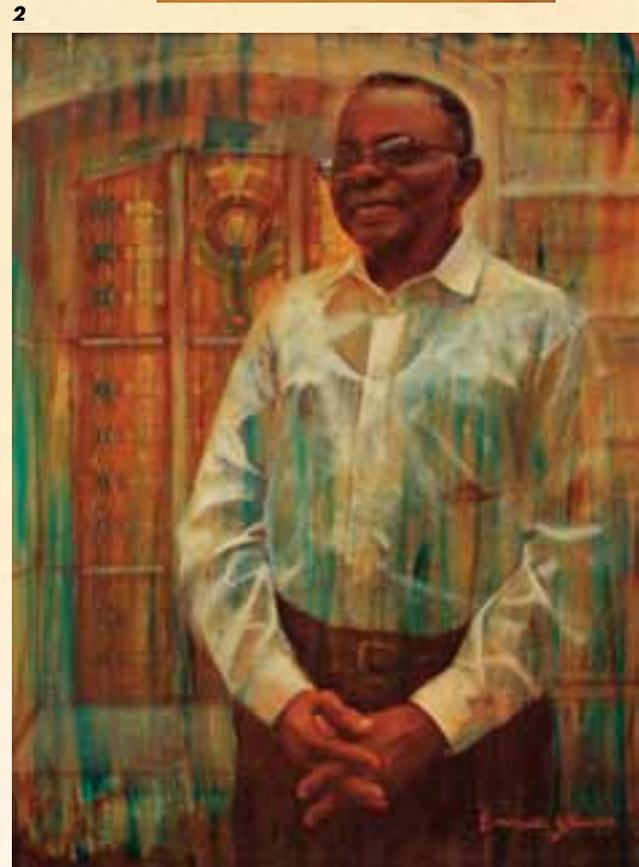
2. Joseph William Billy Johnson: Holiness to the Lord, by Emmalee Glauser Powell

"Gratitude and love emanated from him," the artist wrote of Brother Johnson of Cape Coast. "He taught the gospel for 14 years, and over a thousand people were ready for baptism when the missionaries arrived in 1978. He is a man who consecrates his life and soul to God. He inspired me to strive to make the Christlike attributes of love and charity a part of my being."

3. Bitner Johnson: Grandson of the Patriarch, by Jesse Bushnell

Named after President Gordon Bitner Hinckley, Bitner Johnson is the son of Brigham Johnson and the grandson of Joseph William Billy Johnson.

When GayLynn Ribeira, an art student at Brigham Young University, heard the amazing stories of the pioneer Saints in Ghana, she knew she wanted to create their portraits for her bachelor of fine arts illustration project. In the fall of 2005, she began to pursue a way to do this. The result was a grant allowing her and three other art students—Jesse Bushnell, Emmalee Glauser Powell, and Angela Nelson—to spend May and June of 2006 in Ghana. BYU faculty member Richard Hull oversaw the project. The five gathered stories and images of not only pioneer Saints but newer members also. The wealth of information found its way onto canvas in the months following the trip and onto the walls of the B. F. Larsen Gallery at BYU in October 2007. Following is some of that artwork.





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4. Busua Morning, by GayLynn Ribeira

5. Bring Up Your Children in Light and Truth, by GayLynn Ribeira

Bishop Kofi Sosu and his wife, Linda, of Kumasi strengthen their family through regular family prayer, scripture study, and family home evening.

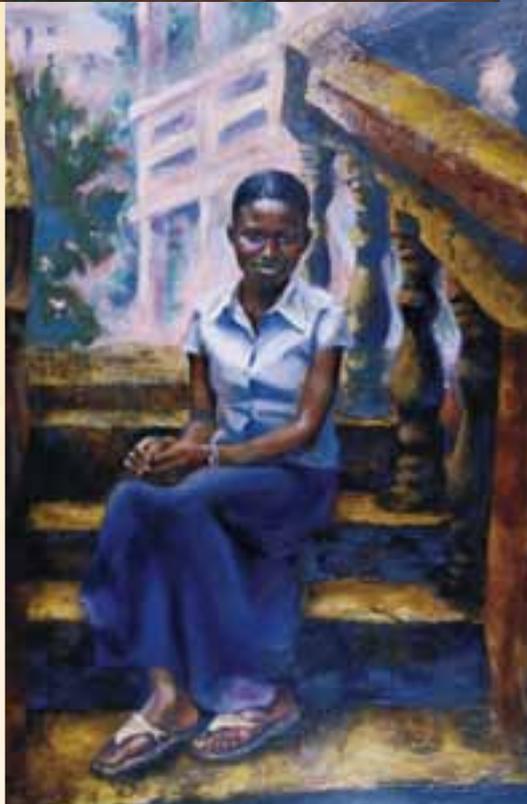
6. Dr. Emmanuel Kissi—"He Raised the Woman Up," by Jesse Bushnell

In 1983 a poverty-stricken woman with a severely malnourished child came to Latter-day Saint doctor Emmanuel Kissi for help. Dr. Kissi had food items sent to him by the Church to treat those with malnutrition. At no charge, he gave her rice, corn, beans, and cooking oil. The woman fell down in gratitude before the doctor. Dr. Kissi raised the woman up by the hand and said, "This food has been sent to you from God. You must give all your thanks to Him."

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7. Sisters in Zion, Emma Boateng, by Angela Nelson

"It was like we found a long lost sister," artist Angela Nelson wrote of returned missionary Emma Boateng. "She was our guide in Kumasi and still had that missionary glow about her. Emma was studying journalism, attending institute, had concerns and hopes about dating, and was trying to keep the gospel the center of her life. She was going through the same experiences as we were as young single adults."



8. Bishop Kofi Sosu and His Father: Forgiveness of Father and Son, by Emmalee Glauser Powell

After his mission, Kofi wanted to return home, but his father had disowned him. He felt impressed to go anyway. When he arrived, his father saw him and said, "Stop." So he stopped.

"Who are you?" asked his father.

"I am your son."

"My son?"

"Yes, your son, Kofi." At this he saw tears running down his father's face. His father stood up and embraced him.

"Oh, my son, my son. I am so sorry. I know you did the right thing. I have accepted you as my son."

9. William and Charlotte Acquah: One Heart and One Mind, by Emmalee Glauser Powell

William and Charlotte (members of 30 years) have grown in the gospel together through many years of hardship and joy. Through it all, they are becoming one with God and with each other. They hold hands to show their love for one another—something William learned from the couple missionaries who taught him to pray and to know that he is a child of God.

10. Baptism Beach, by Jesse Bushnell

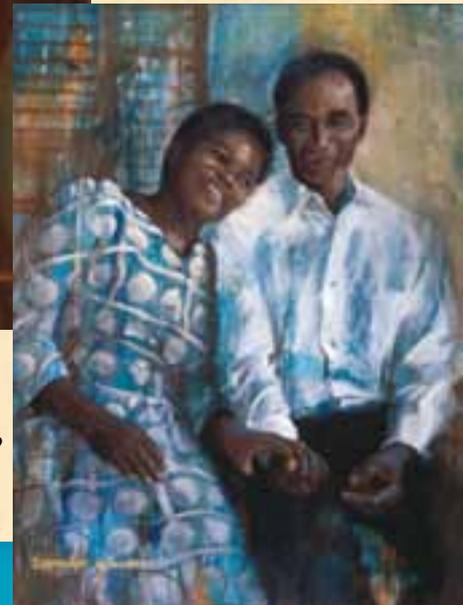
This peaceful beach has been the site of hundreds of Ghanaian baptisms.

11. Theodora Acquah: Third-Generation Daughter, by Jesse Bushnell

Theodora is a third-generation Latter-day Saint in Cape Coast, thanks to the faith of her grandmother who joined the Church and taught her children and grandchildren the gospel. As a new Latter-day Saint, Theodora's grandmother took it upon herself to sweep the meetinghouse, fetch buckets of water to scrub the floor, and make sure things were clean before church.



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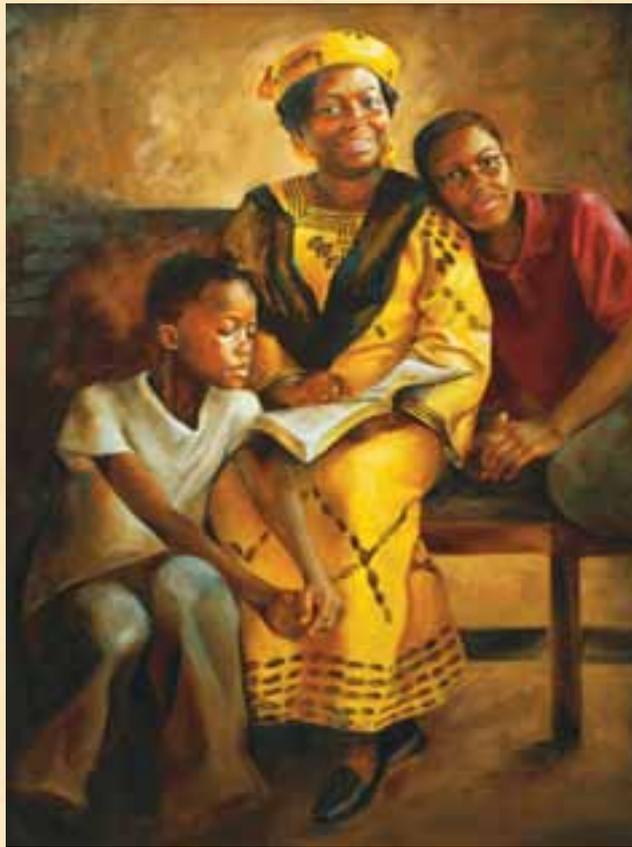
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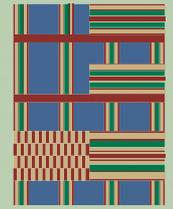
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12. How Firm a Foundation, Kaku Family, by Angela Nelson

“When Brother and Sister Kaku invited us into their home in Cape Coast, I felt like I was walking into my own home in Utah,” wrote artist Angela Nelson. “My favorite part was after the commotion of dinner, all the children gathered around their parents with scriptures open. I will never forget being with this family and watching the children look to their parents for guidance and their parents turning to the scriptures for answers.”

13. Hannah, by Richard Hull

Of this portrait of Hannah Bafuh, a Latter-day Saint in Kumasi, the artist said, “I tried to capture her brilliant, animated personality.”

14. Preparing Dinner, Emma Boateng, by Angela Nelson

“It was like watching a dance; they were in perfect sync with each other;” wrote Angela Nelson, describing how the Boateng family made the food staple, fufu, from the cassava root. “One would raise the pole high and bring it down with a loud thud while the other would quickly gather the cassava in a ball just in time for the other to pound it again. There is also a rhythm in their daily life, a diligence in keeping the commandments. Time here is measured in relationships, in helping friends and family, not in objects obtained. I see a steady resolve to be consistent—especially in their testimonies.”



BY MELISSA MERRILL
Church Magazines

I had been reluctant to get involved in my new home and ward, but that Sunday morning I realized I couldn't put living on hold.

The summer before my final semester of college, I found myself in an unfamiliar city. I had landed an internship that would give me valuable experience in my field, and I was grateful for and excited about the opportunities that lay ahead.

I found an apartment, moved in, and settled in for a grand adventure. However, I soon discovered that the job was more demanding than I had anticipated, and I felt a deep sense of inadequacy. The city was much larger than any I had lived in for some time, and I frequently got lost. I had only one roommate. She was nice, but we had opposite schedules. We seldom saw each other for more than 10 minutes a day a couple of times a week.

I felt overwhelmed—really overwhelmed. This confusing, lonely situation wasn't quite the grand adventure I had imagined. I comforted myself by saying over and over, "This is only temporary." I knew that in a mere 15 weeks, I'd return to my familiar college campus, my longtime roommates, and a comfortable routine.

In the meantime, I prayed for strength to "just get through" those months. I also attended a young single adult ward. I dutifully went to the full block of Sunday meetings and most ward activities, but I didn't get too comfortable; after all, this was only temporary.

Toward the end of that first month, I accepted a calling to serve as the home, family, and personal enrichment leader and was invited to attend a training meeting. I considered skipping it. I had served in other Relief Society callings before and knew what my responsibilities would be. Besides, how many enrichment activities could we even hold in the short time I'd be in the area?

In the end I decided to go. At the meeting our Relief Society president, Laura, welcomed everyone and then shared a brief thought about the early Saints and the incredible work they accomplished even though they had spent much of their lives in transition. She talked about the temples they built, the cities they created, the commandments they followed, and the families they raised—all despite leading lives filled with displacement.

Then she said, "Many of you are here for only a short season. I know some of you are completing internships, and a few of you are here for only a few more weeks before you leave on a mission or get married.

"No matter how long you're here, I hope we can find the



"Getting Through It"

work that our Heavenly Father has for us to do and, like our pioneer forebears, do it with purpose and enthusiasm."

What a wake-up call! Here I was, just trying to "get through" my life. What might the result have been had the early Saints had my attitude as they crossed oceans and went from New York to Ohio to Missouri to Illinois to Utah, and from Salt Lake City to the different areas they were called to settle? What if Joseph Smith had put off translating scripture until he had a more convenient, permanent situation? What if the Saints had waited until their routines were comfortable, until some future event before they started building their temples, their families—their lives?

Up to that point, my attitude had been a poor one, but that Sunday-morning meeting gave me a new perspective. I realized there were things I could do better, even if my circumstances weren't exactly what I had envisioned.

Over the next 12 weeks my heart—and my life—changed. I tried harder to reach out to my neighbors, many of whom, like me, were in the ward for only a short time. I sincerely tried to magnify my calling. I did my visiting teaching with love, not out of a sense of obligation. Not only did I learn a great deal from my companion, but I also learned that one of the women we visited was an editor—exactly what I wanted to be. She gave me some great advice about seeking work in that field.

I was blessed in other ways too. Several of the enrichment meetings we planned required preparation that took me all over my new city, so out of necessity I learned my way around. The intense atmosphere at work didn't change, but at least I had friends with whom I could relax when I got home. Those friends filled the void I initially felt that summer and have blessed my life since.

As fall semester approached, I felt almost sad to return to school. Putting down mental, emotional, and spiritual roots had made my summer experience rich and full.

I soon discovered that the nomadic, temporary life is more common than I had thought, particularly for young adults. Over the next year I finished school, completed another internship, and then started my first job. I lived in three different apartments, had 12 different roommates, and attended four different wards. But it wasn't a crisis because I had learned how to make the most of any situation, even temporary ones. In each place I've lived since, I've been blessed by what I learned that summer.

I am grateful for early Latter-day Saints who didn't disregard or downplay their opportunities because their situations were only temporary. And I'm grateful to a kind Heavenly Father who, through an inspired Relief Society president and friend, reminded me that every season of life has possibilities for growth and opportunity in doing His work. ■



The

Joseph Smith

Papers: The Manuscript Revelation Books

The manuscript revelation books contain many of the earliest known copies of the revelations received by Joseph Smith and provide insights into the revelatory process.

BY ELDER MARLIN K. JENSEN

Of the Seventy
Church Historian and Recorder

In the 1970s Latter-day Saint scholars began to recognize the benefits of collecting and making available to the public documents related to the Prophet Joseph Smith's life and works. The Joseph Smith Papers Project is the culmination of this decades-long effort. Project scholars intend to collect all journals, diaries, correspondence, discourses, revelations, written histories, notices, and legal papers—everything of a written nature that Joseph Smith generated or directed to be created.

When finished, *The Joseph Smith Papers* will consist of about 30 volumes containing more than 2,000 documents. The volumes will be divided into six series based on areas of emphasis: documents, history,

journals, administrative papers, legal and business affairs, and revelations and translations. By providing transcriptions (typed versions) of all original documents, *The Joseph Smith Papers* will provide scholars and other interested persons with readable texts while also reducing the need to handle and potentially damage fragile historical documents. Each transcription undergoes a three-step process that meets scholarly standards designed to ensure accurately transcribed texts.

The study of these historical sources, particularly in their earliest forms, provides students of Joseph Smith with an enriched understanding of the Prophet's life and the development of the restored Church. *The Joseph Smith Papers* will also make detailed historical research easier. Documents housed in a variety of locations—including collections held by the Church, universities, historical societies, and private owners—will be published and available in many locations and eventually on the Internet. Because this comprehensive project will offer a deep pool of primary sources, including many that scholars would not otherwise have been able to locate, *The Joseph Smith Papers* will lift the standards and accuracy of future scholarship dealing with Joseph Smith and early Church history.



The study of these historical sources provides students of Joseph Smith with an enriched understanding of the Prophet's life and the development of the restored Church.

One of the Prophet's priorities after the organization of the Church in 1830 was the recording and preservation of his revelations.

Below: Revelation Book 1. Above right: Revelation Book 2. Below right: First edition of A Book of Commandments.

The Revelations and Translations Series

The volumes in the series titled “Revelations and Translations” will reproduce the earliest manuscripts of Joseph Smith’s written revelations and translations, together with the official editions of these documents as they were published during his lifetime. These publications include the first edition of the Book of Mormon (1830); the first publication of a collection of Joseph Smith’s revelations, called A Book of Commandments (1833); and the first edition of the Doctrine and Covenants (1835).

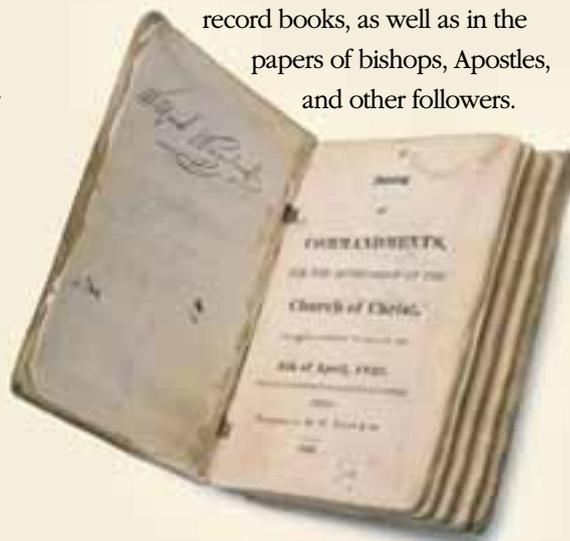
One of the Prophet’s priorities after the organization of the Church in 1830 was the recording and preservation of his revelations. Although more comprehensive record keeping did not emerge until 1832, Joseph Smith and John Whitmer began in the summer of 1830 to assemble the revelations the Prophet had received to that point. By at least March of 1831, John Whitmer began copying this early collection of revelation manuscripts into what he titled the “Book of Commandments and Revelations.” This manuscript book, which *Papers* editors have designated as Revelation Book 1, contains items that were copied from around March 1831 to the middle of 1835.

Commissioned during a November 1831 Church conference in Ohio to publish the collected revelations, John Whitmer and Oliver Cowdery carried the “Book of Commandments and Revelations” to Missouri where they, along with W. W. Phelps, set about publishing A Book of Commandments (see D&C 67). By early 1832, with the first book of revelation manuscripts in Missouri,



Joseph and his scribes procured another book in which to copy revelations. Known as the “Kirtland Revelation Book,” this second book has been labeled as Revelation Book 2 by the *Papers* editors. It was created from late February or early March 1832 to the end of 1834. The first volume in the Revelations and Translations Series features these two books of revelation manuscripts.

Through careful study, Joseph Smith Papers Project scholars have determined that the “Book of Commandments and Revelations” served as the principal source for the 1833 publication of A Book of Commandments and that both the “Book of Commandments and Revelations” and the “Kirtland Revelation Book” became the basis for the first edition of the Doctrine and Covenants in 1835. These manuscript books were no longer used after publication of the Doctrine and Covenants but were safely stored with other Church records. Later revelations were recorded in Joseph Smith’s journals and record books, as well as in the papers of bishops, Apostles, and other followers.



Following the publication of the Doctrine and Covenants in 1835, these two manuscript books were largely ignored because the published volumes were available. However, scholars in recent years have gained a strong interest in examining early manuscripts of Joseph Smith's revelations. Revelation Book 2 had not been readily accessible until the Church published images of the original manuscripts as part of its 2002 *Selected Collections from the Archives* DVD collection.¹ Also, only in recent years have scholars begun to assess the value of Revelation Book 1, which had been in the possession of the First Presidency.

Revelation Book 1 contains the earliest known copies of many revelations and, in some cases, the only surviving early manuscript copies. It was the source for the revelations published in the first issue of the Church periodical *The Evening and the Morning Star*. Four leaves that had been removed from the book at some point are currently owned by the Community of Christ Library-Archives in Independence, Missouri, and are being reproduced with permission in *The Joseph Smith Papers*.

Revelation Book 1 is a near comprehensive collection of early revelations, containing 64 of the 65 items published in 1833 in *A Book of Commandments*² as well as 95 of the 103 sections published in 1835 in the Doctrine and Covenants. Only 10 items from the manuscript book do not appear in either *A Book of Commandments* or the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants.



Joseph seemed to regard the manuscript revelations as his best efforts to capture the voice of the Lord.

Preparing the Manuscript Revelation Books for Publication during Joseph Smith's Time

One of Joseph Smith's tasks in reviewing the manuscripts prior to their publication was to "correct those errors or mistakes which he may discover by the Holy Spirit."³ Joseph knew from experience that the human process of writing down revelations, copying them into manuscript books, and then passing them through various hands in preparation for publication inevitably introduced unintentional errors. Sometimes changes were required to clarify wording. Occasionally, later revelations would supersede or update previously received revelations, necessitating the editing of documents to alter previous versions. Various other changes were also made from time to time. Most of these, such as dividing the text into verses or clarifying meaning, did not involve substantive corrections.

Joseph seemed to regard the manuscript revelations as his best efforts to capture the voice of the Lord condescending to communicate in what Joseph called the "crooked, broken, scattered, and imperfect language" of men.⁴ The revealed preface to the published revelations also seems to express this principle: "I am God and have spoken it; these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their weakness, after the manner of their language" (D&C 1:24).

Joseph and his associates were appointed by the actions of Church conferences to prepare the revelations for publication by correcting

the texts. Recent analysis of both manuscript revelation books reveals how and when many of the changes were made. For example, some changes were made before selected items were published in Missouri, while others were made in Ohio before the 1835 publication of the Doctrine and Covenants.

One common example involves changes made by Sidney Rigdon. He often changed the language in the revelations from the biblical “thee,” “thy,” and “thine” to the modern “you,” “your,” and “yours.” Many of these changes

were later reversed. He also corrected grammar and changed some of the language to clarify and modify words and meaning.

In a few cases, more substantive changes were made as revelations were updated for the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants. For example, section 20 was originally received in 1830, before much of the leadership structure of the Church as we know it today was revealed to Joseph Smith. By 1835 Joseph had organized many offices and quorums by revelation. To include this newly revealed ecclesiastical order, several text changes and additions were incorporated into section 20. Our current verses 65–67 on ordaining men to priesthood offices, for



Joseph Smith

instance, had been revealed after the 1833 publication and were subsequently added to the 1835 publication.

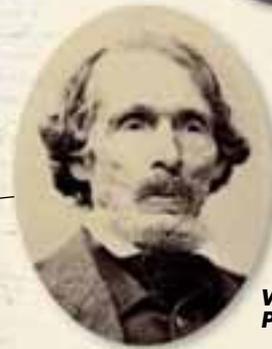
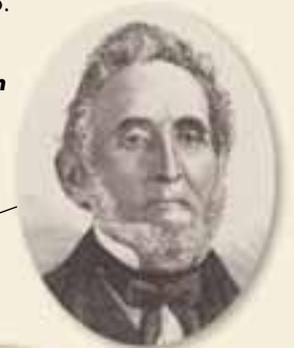
Joseph Smith reviewed many of his associates’ editorial changes and made slight alterations in his own hand before *A Book of Commandments* was published in 1833. He made additional changes, including adding surnames to individuals mentioned in the revelations, just before the Doctrine and Covenants was published in 1835.



John Whitmer



Sidney Rigdon



William W. Phelps

Sometime around 1834–35 in Kirtland, Ohio, Revelation Book 2 was used for the preparation of the 1835 Doctrine and Covenants, and all but eight items in the manuscript book were published in that 1835 volume. In contrast, just three of the revelations copied into the book were published in *A Book of Commandments* in 1833. Two of the manuscript book’s revelations were first published in the 1844 Doctrine and Covenants.

Subsequent editing changes through the

1981 edition of the Doctrine and Covenants involved occasional word changes, but the major substantive changes occurred under the Prophet Joseph's guidance for the 1835 edition.

New Information

In editing these manuscript books, *Papers* editors have uncovered new information. For example, scholars interested in the chronology of Joseph Smith's life have long relied upon the generic month-only dating of many early revelations. Revelation Book 1 provides the specific dates for many of these revelations. In addition, John Whitmer's brief historical introductions to many of the revelations also provide historical context for scholars.

Through careful analysis, editors have been able to identify the handwriting of most of the editing marks on the manuscript pages. When the Revelations and Translations Series is published, images of documents will be included with transcriptions on facing pages. Thus, readers will be able to see the original handwriting, editing marks, and even the texture of the documents but will not need to be experts in deciphering handwriting. The changes made in the original documents will be color coded in the transcriptions so readers can identify the handwriting of the individuals who wrote on each page.

Another interesting development from work on the Revelations and Translations Series has been the identification of a previously unpublished revelation on securing a copyright for the Book of Mormon in Canada. David Whitmer, after he left the Church, recalled that the revelation promised success in selling the copyright, but upon return of the men charged with the duty, Joseph Smith and others were disappointed by what seemed like failure. Historians have relied upon statements of David Whitmer, Hiram Page, and William McLellin for decades but have not had the actual text of the revelation. Revelation Book 1 will provide it.

Although we still do not know the whole story, particularly Joseph Smith's own view of the situation, we do know that calling the divine communication a "failed

revelation" is not warranted. The Lord's directive clearly conditions the successful sale of the copyright on the worthiness of those seeking to make the sale as well as on the spiritual receptivity of the potential purchasers.⁵

The Prophet's New Understanding

The editing and updating of revelation texts in the early years of the Church demonstrate the process of continuing revelation to Joseph Smith. The revelation manuscripts reveal how men grappled in trying to make certain that the ideas and doctrines Joseph received were transcribed and printed accurately—a process that for the publication of any work risks the introduction of error. In some instances, when a new revelation changed or updated what had previously been received, the Prophet edited the earlier written revelation to reflect the new understanding. Thus, as his doctrinal knowledge clarified and expanded, so did the recorded revelations. They were characterized by the changing nature of his understanding of the sacred subject matter. The Prophet did not believe that revelations, once recorded, could not be changed by further revelation.

The preservation and publication of these manuscript revelation books provide a significant resource for students of Church history. This project will lead to a greater understanding of how our printed revelations were organized and published, as well as greater insight into the mind and intent of Joseph Smith. A study of these books of revelations will increase not only our knowledge but also our testimony in recognizing the Lord's plan of continuing revelation that provides for the ever-changing needs of the growing Church. ■

The author acknowledges the assistance of Robin S. Jensen, of the Joseph Smith Papers Project, and Joshua J. Perkey, of Church magazines, in the preparation of this article.

NOTES

1. Richard E. Turley Jr., ed., *Selected Collections from the Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (DVD, 2002).
2. The single revelation published in A Book of Commandments but not found in Revelation Book 1 is Revelation, May 1829–B, in A Book of Commandments 11 (see D&C 12).
3. Minute Book 2 (also called "Far West Record"), Nov. 8, 1831.
4. Joseph Smith to William W. Phelps, Nov. 27, 1832, in *Personal Writings of Joseph Smith*, comp. Dean C. Jessee, rev. ed. (2002), 287.
5. See Revelation Book 1, 30–31.

A Longing for Peace

NAME WITHHELD

Could the Atonement really heal a heart broken by abuse and take away the bitterness I had felt for so long?

What role has the Atonement played in all of this?" The question came as I sat waiting for my husband in the foyer of the stake offices. I was visiting with the second counselor in the stake presidency, and I shared with him some of the events that had taken place in my life. I grew up in an abusive atmosphere. Pornography was a common vice among the men in our home, and its effects were far-reaching. My father was involved in homosexual activities. He was also physically and emotionally abusive, particularly to my mother, while my brother was sexually abusive to my sisters and me. I lived in constant fear and turmoil during my childhood years. Although the situation changed dramatically with my parents' divorce when I was 12 years old, I spent the bulk of my teenage years trying to deal with a haunting sense of worthlessness.

After leaving home and getting married, I found that my close relationships were being affected by the abuse I had suffered as a child. I sought help from many sources, but healing was slow in coming.

My sharing the experiences that I had gone through in my quest for peace prompted the second counselor's question about the Atonement. But just as he posed it,

we were interrupted, and our conversation was over. My husband and I returned home, but I couldn't get the discussion out of my mind. The question was one that I had spent much time pondering. What role *had* the Atonement played in my life?

Feelings of Inadequacy

For many years I didn't even want to discuss the Atonement. I was confused, bitter, and angry. I did not feel worthy to approach Heavenly Father about my feelings, and I suffered from a deep sense of inadequacy. I couldn't imagine that Heavenly Father or the Savior would want to have anything to do with me.

Besides that, in my mind the abuse had somehow become my fault, and I didn't know how to get rid of the guilt that was so prevalent in my life. My anger was not directed toward the Lord so much as it was toward the situation in which I found myself: through a series of events that I did not choose, I felt I had become unworthy of feeling close to Him.

Fortunately, I had enough experience with the Spirit that I knew the gospel was true and I couldn't deny my testimony. Although I had many questions resulting from



I spent the bulk of my teenage years trying to deal with a haunting sense of worthlessness. I couldn't imagine that Heavenly Father or the Savior would want anything to do with me.

the things I had gone through, I never felt inclined to abandon the Church. Looking back, I know Heavenly Father sent some amazing people to be a part of my life, to help guide me on the difficult road I had to travel. I had a compassionate Beehive adviser, a wonderful seminary teacher, an institute director who took the time to answer many questions, a therapist who was willing to listen to my ranting and raving and then walk me step-by-step through the healing process, and a mother who never wavered in her testimony. Most important, I was blessed with an incredible husband who has supported me through some difficult times and helped me to heal from some very deep wounds. But the healing came only after some additional challenges.

Seeking Help

After years of struggling with my self-worth, I realized I needed help. I sought out a therapist who was also a member of the Church. In our first session together, he pulled out the scriptures, and I got a lesson on forgiveness. I left that session fuming! I didn't want to hear about forgiveness—I wanted a way to bring peace back into my life! After a year of meeting with him, I quit going. I wasn't making any progress, and I was tired of feeling guilty for not being able to forgive my father and my brother.

My husband and I had two children by that time. During that period, we were struggling with issues in our marriage directly related to the abuse I had experienced at the hands of my brother. I was suffering from severe

I had been an active member of the Church all of my life—graduating from seminary, participating in institute, serving in a variety of callings, and raising my family to live by gospel standards—but I had never really understood the healing power of the Atonement.



depression, and our oldest child was experiencing significant medical problems. Life had become sheer drudgery, and I couldn't see that it was ever going to get any better. I felt as if I were living in a black hole.

It took several years before my husband finally convinced me to go back to a counselor. The woman I worked with the second time took a more subtle approach to the counseling process. She was wonderful, but I still didn't make a lot of progress because of my bitterness and anger, and I simply was not willing to talk about the Atonement. It was only when I went to a conference at Brigham Young University and attended a workshop about healing from abuse that I



CONTROL THE CHANGE FOR GOOD IN YOUR LIFE

“The wicked choice of others cannot completely destroy your agency unless you permit it. Their acts may cause pain, anguish, even physical harm, but they cannot destroy your eternal possibilities in this brief but crucial life on earth. You must understand that you are free to determine to overcome the harmful results of abuse. Your attitude can control the change for good in your life. It allows you to have the help the Lord intends you to receive. No one can take away your ultimate opportunities when you understand and live eternal law. The laws of your Heavenly Father and the Atonement of the Lord have made it possible that you will not be robbed of the opportunities which come to the children of God.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Healing the Tragic Scars of Abuse,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 31–32.

began to have a new understanding of what the Atonement really was.

Until then, my understanding of the Atonement was limited to repentance and forgiveness. I had been an active member of the Church all of my life—graduating from seminary, participating in institute, serving in a variety of callings, and raising my family to live by gospel standards—but I had never really understood the *healing* power of the Atonement. I had no idea how personal and penetrating it could be, no idea that it could heal my broken heart and take away the pain and hurt and anger and bitterness that I had been feeling for so many years.

Oh, how I wish I had understood that



It wasn't until I could give my pain and anguish to the Lord and let go of the wounds that had been festering within me that I could also begin to forgive my father and my brother. Then the real healing could start to take place.

principle sooner! It wasn't until I could give my pain and anguish to the Lord and let go of the wounds that had been festering within me that I could also begin to forgive my father and my brother. Then the real healing could start to take place.

Turning to the Savior

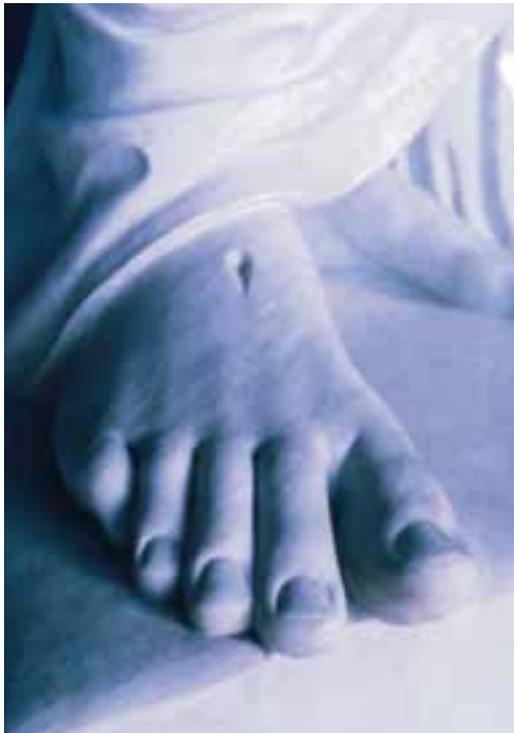
It took some time to work through the issues that I was dealing with, but I began to feel peace in my life. Through my understanding of the Atonement, I was able to move past the crippling image I had created of myself and develop relationships with my family.

It was at this point that I had the previously mentioned discussion with the counselor in the stake presidency. It left me wondering if I had taken full advantage of the Atonement. For many years I had blamed my youthful mistakes on the fact that I had been abused. There were some unresolved sins in my life that I knew I needed to repent of in order to be completely healed. Moreover, I felt that my own repentance process was hinging on whether or not I could finally and completely forgive my father and my brother.

After some intense prayer and scripture study, I came to understand what I had to do to be healed from the wounds that had been inflicted on me. I spent several weeks

ABOVE LEFT, DETAIL FROM CHRISTUS STATUE BY ALBERT BERTEL THORVAADSEN, PHOTOGRAPH BY ALDO BERECHI; ABOVE RIGHT, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY J. SCOTT KNUDSEN, PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG DIMOND; PAINTING, NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE, BE DONE, BY HARRY ANDERSON

The atoning sacrifice of our Savior allows me to lay my burdens at His feet and be free from the effects of others' sins.



tracking down people from my past that I had wronged in some way and trying to make restitution as best I could. It was not easy, but I knew that I was moving in the right direction in correcting things in my life. Once I was able to own *my* sins and quit blaming them on those who had hurt me, I was able to really let them go, to turn them over to the Lord and fully repent. Once again, I was amazed at the power of the Atonement to heal my soul and give me the strength to come unto the Savior.

The Reach of the Atonement

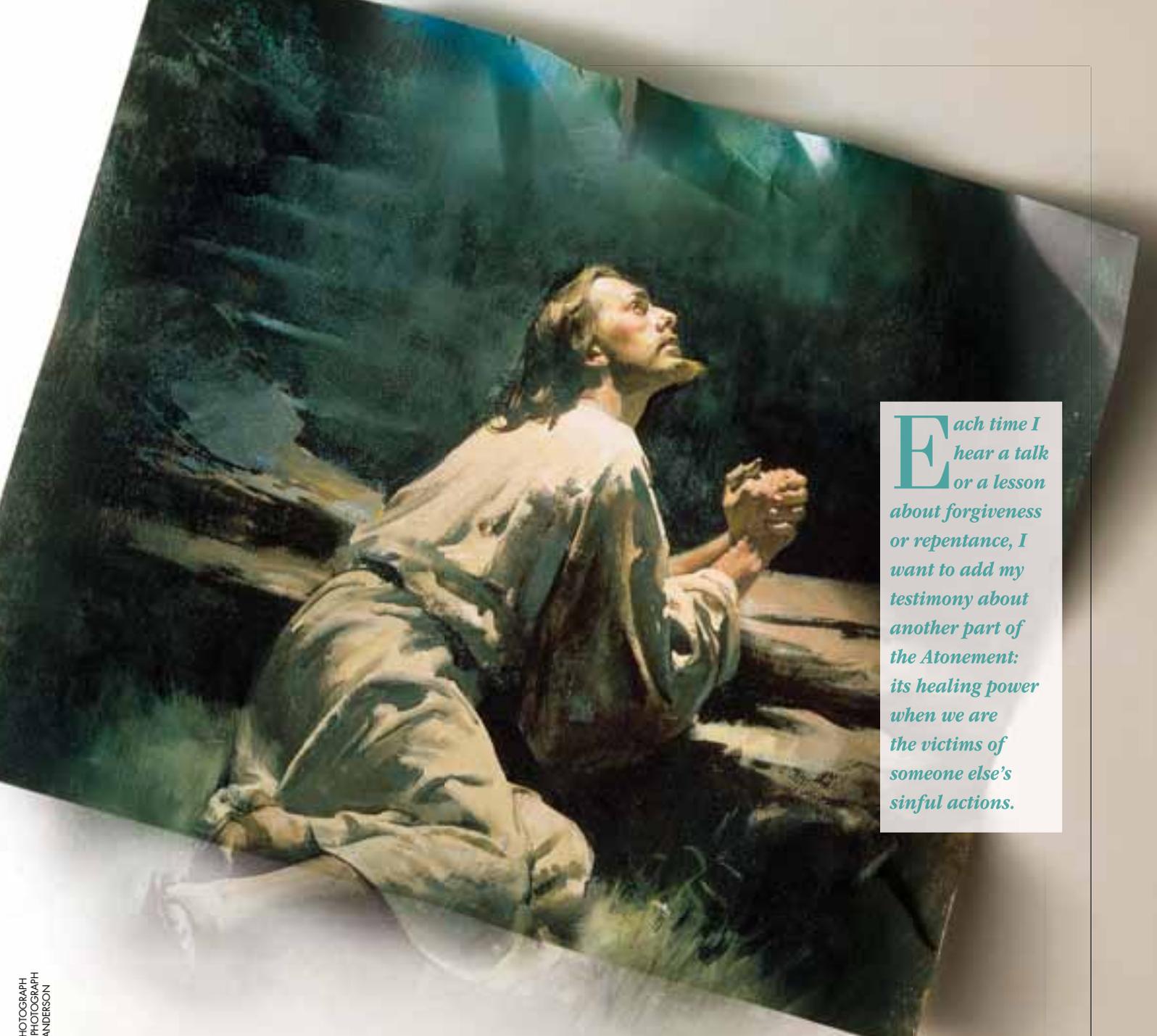
Possibly the most amazing thing about this process has been watching the Lord

work in my life. He has consistently placed me in situations that have led me to stretch myself and grow closer to Him. After talking to my stake priesthood leader and hearing his counsel, after visiting with my bishop and confessing my own sins, after contacting people I had not seen in 20 years and begging forgiveness from them, how could I not forgive those who had hurt me? The process of repenting reminded me that the power of the Atonement is not just for me but also for those who have committed sins against me. It is for the abused and the abuser alike.

No one heals from this type of abuse overnight. In fact, getting to the point in my life where I felt I could forgive those who had sinned against me took more than 20 years—20 years of *actively* trying to understand why these things had taken place and how I could get past them. It has been a long process to learn how to “come unto Christ,” but through that process, I have finally been able to allow Him to become, quite literally, my Savior and His grace was sufficient for me (see Moroni 10:30, 32).

I still have days when I struggle and wonder why I have had to deal with these things in my life. Even though I never would have chosen these experiences, I am grateful for my understanding of the Atonement and for the healing I have felt.

I know there are many people who are in the same situation that I was in for so many years. They are longing for something that will bring them peace but have no idea where to turn. The answer is simple and is talked about often in the Church, but for some reason, it never seemed to apply to my situation. Now, each time I hear a talk or a lesson about forgiveness or repentance, I want to add my



Each time I hear a talk or a lesson about forgiveness or repentance, I want to add my testimony about another part of the Atonement: its healing power when we are the victims of someone else's sinful actions.

testimony about another part of the Atonement: its healing power when we are the victims of someone else's sinful actions. It is something very close to my heart.

I have thought often about the question the member of the stake presidency posed to me: "What role has the Atonement played in all of this?" As I have learned to apply the Atonement on a daily basis through prayer, scripture study, and increased temple attendance, I have found that I can be at peace with the things in my life over which I have no control. The atoning sacrifice of our Savior allows me to lay my burdens at His feet and be free from the effects of others' sins. It has also made it possible

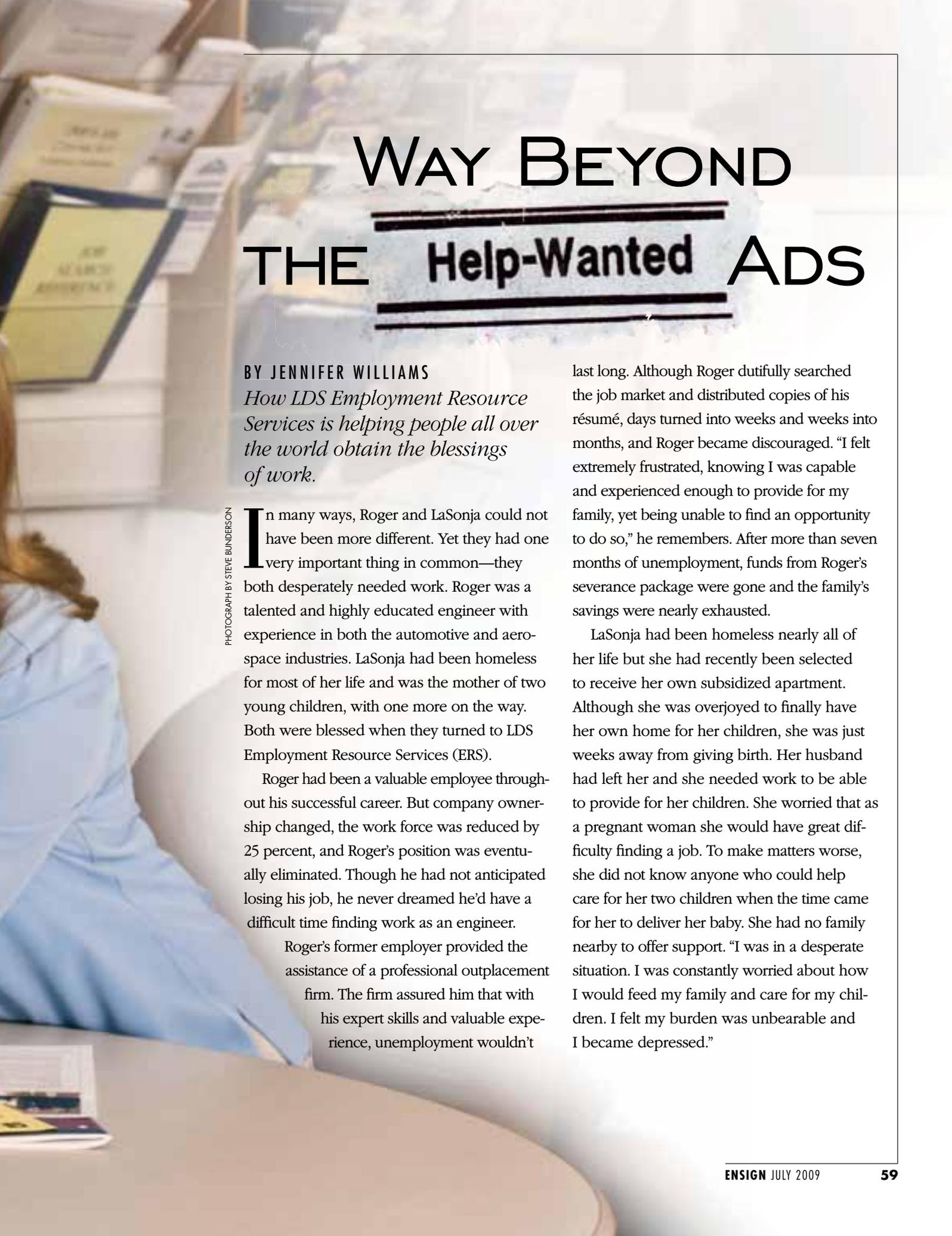
for me to experience true joy and happiness.

I love the Savior and am so grateful for His life and His Atonement. It is amazing to me that He was not only willing but also able to take on all of our imperfections (see Alma 7:11–13). I can't even begin to comprehend the suffering that He went through for each one of us. It is my testimony of Him that gives me hope each day and makes my life worth living. ■

LDS Family Services offers counseling and other resources to people who have been affected by abuse in any way. If you feel some of your actions toward family members have been questionable, help is also available for you. For more information, contact the LDS Family Services office in your area or visit www.ldsfamilyservices.org.

ABOVE LEFT, DETAIL FROM CHRISTUS STATUE BY ALBERT THORVANDSEN, PHOTOGRAPH BY ALDO BERECHI; ABOVE RIGHT, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY J. SCOTT KNUDSEN, PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG DIMOND; PAINTING, NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE, BE DONE, BY HARRY ANDERSON





WAY BEYOND THE **Help-Wanted** ADS

BY JENNIFER WILLIAMS

How LDS Employment Resource Services is helping people all over the world obtain the blessings of work.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE BUNDERSON

In many ways, Roger and LaSonja could not have been more different. Yet they had one very important thing in common—they both desperately needed work. Roger was a talented and highly educated engineer with experience in both the automotive and aerospace industries. LaSonja had been homeless for most of her life and was the mother of two young children, with one more on the way. Both were blessed when they turned to LDS Employment Resource Services (ERS).

Roger had been a valuable employee throughout his successful career. But company ownership changed, the work force was reduced by 25 percent, and Roger's position was eventually eliminated. Though he had not anticipated losing his job, he never dreamed he'd have a difficult time finding work as an engineer.

Roger's former employer provided the assistance of a professional outplacement firm. The firm assured him that with his expert skills and valuable experience, unemployment wouldn't

last long. Although Roger dutifully searched the job market and distributed copies of his résumé, days turned into weeks and weeks into months, and Roger became discouraged. "I felt extremely frustrated, knowing I was capable and experienced enough to provide for my family, yet being unable to find an opportunity to do so," he remembers. After more than seven months of unemployment, funds from Roger's severance package were gone and the family's savings were nearly exhausted.

LaSonja had been homeless nearly all of her life but she had recently been selected to receive her own subsidized apartment. Although she was overjoyed to finally have her own home for her children, she was just weeks away from giving birth. Her husband had left her and she needed work to be able to provide for her children. She worried that as a pregnant woman she would have great difficulty finding a job. To make matters worse, she did not know anyone who could help care for her two children when the time came for her to deliver her baby. She had no family nearby to offer support. "I was in a desperate situation. I was constantly worried about how I would feed my family and care for my children. I felt my burden was unbearable and I became depressed."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN; PHOTOGRAPH OF BOOKLET BY STEVE BUNDERSON

The Doctrine of Work

Work is a fundamental principle of the gospel. Adam was told, “By the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread” (Moses 4:25), a commandment that was given for Adam’s benefit. President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) confirmed, “Work is a spiritual necessity as well as an economic necessity.”¹

Though working to provide for ourselves and our families is necessary, from time to time it can be difficult to obtain adequate employment. No matter where you live, the job market is becoming more competitive and more fluid. President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) observed, “You are moving into the most competitive age the world has ever known. All around you there is competition.”² In a world of increasing competition and economic uncertainty, we all need to be prepared for the possibility of unemployment or the need to make career adjustments.

The Church has established LDS Employment Resource Services to assist ward leaders in fulfilling their responsibility to care for members with employment needs. They also assist individual members as they seek to prepare for and obtain employment. In approximately 300 employment centers operating worldwide, services are available to assist those who are unemployed, underemployed, or planning to further develop their careers. It was through these centers that both Roger and LaSonja found the solutions to their employment problems.

Professional Placement Program

The professional placement program is designed to help professionals, managers, and executives find or upgrade employment. The program includes a career workshop, regular networking group meetings, and one-on-one coaching. Resources are also available for professionals, employers, and recruiters. Facilities and equipment are also made available for job searching.

After learning of Roger’s struggle, his ward employment adviser encouraged him to participate in the professional placement program at the Detroit Michigan LDS Employment Resource Center. A woman in attendance at the next weekly networking meeting was looking for employees to work in her manufacturing company. She was impressed by Roger’s valuable skills and experience. A job interview followed shortly thereafter and a job description was written specifically to fit Roger’s skills.

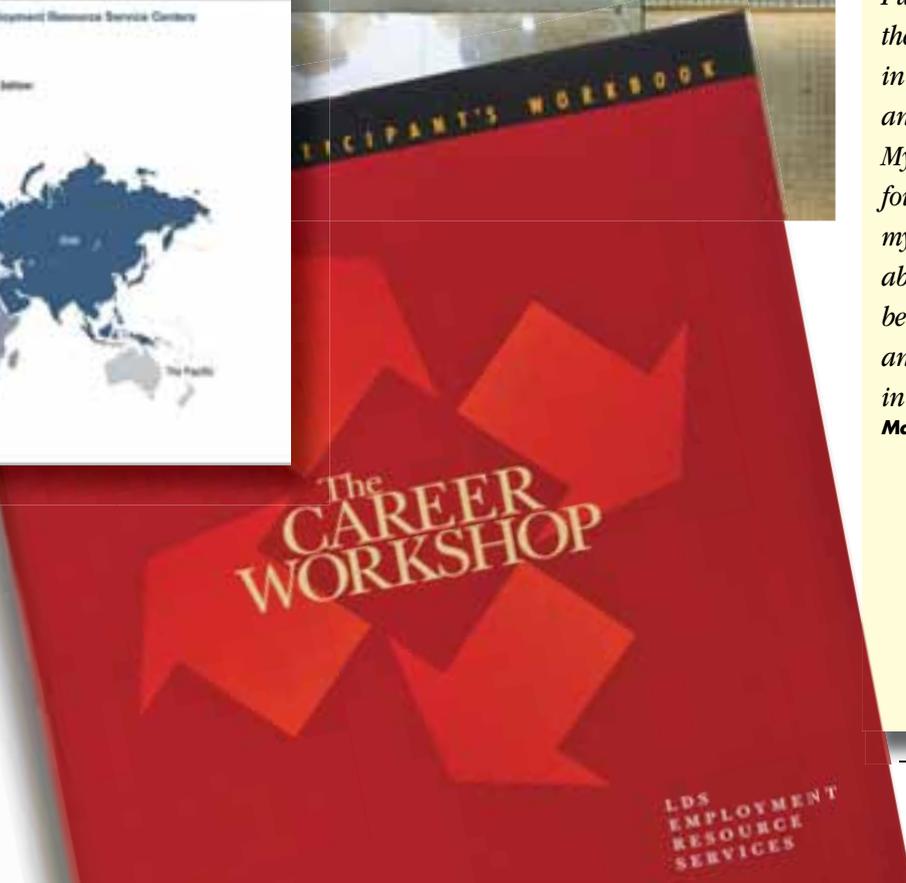
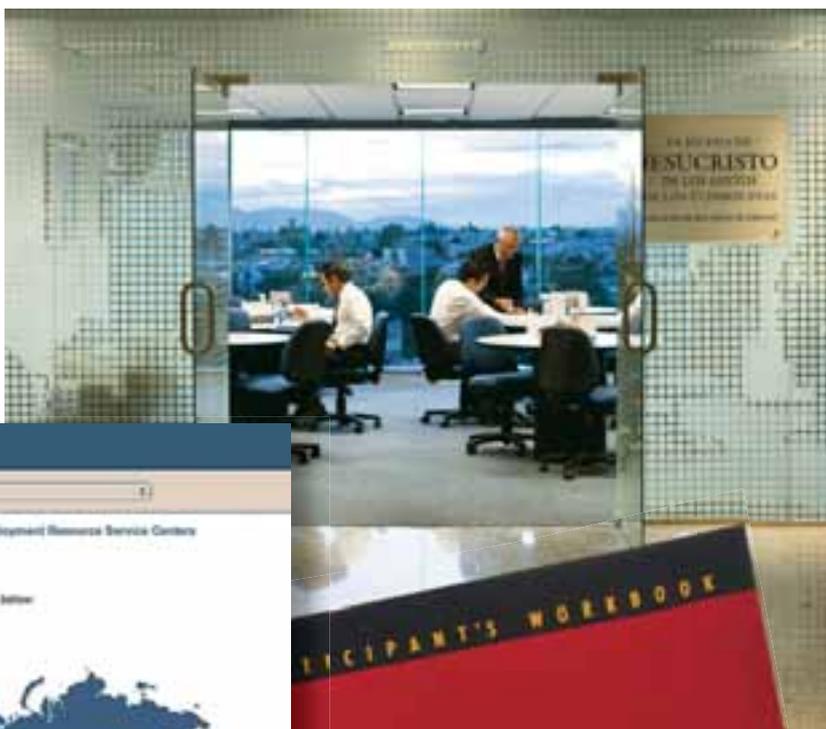
Career Workshop

The Career Workshop helps develop the skills needed to achieve career objectives. The workshop takes about 12 hours to complete and is taught in four units. During the workshop participants are taught to search hidden job markets and to network during their job searches. They craft short, powerful

Left: Employment resource centers are an excellent place for job seekers to do valuable networking.

Right, top and center: In more than 300 centers worldwide, including these in Mexico, Latter-day Saints learn job-search skills that go far beyond mere searches of newspaper and online job listings.

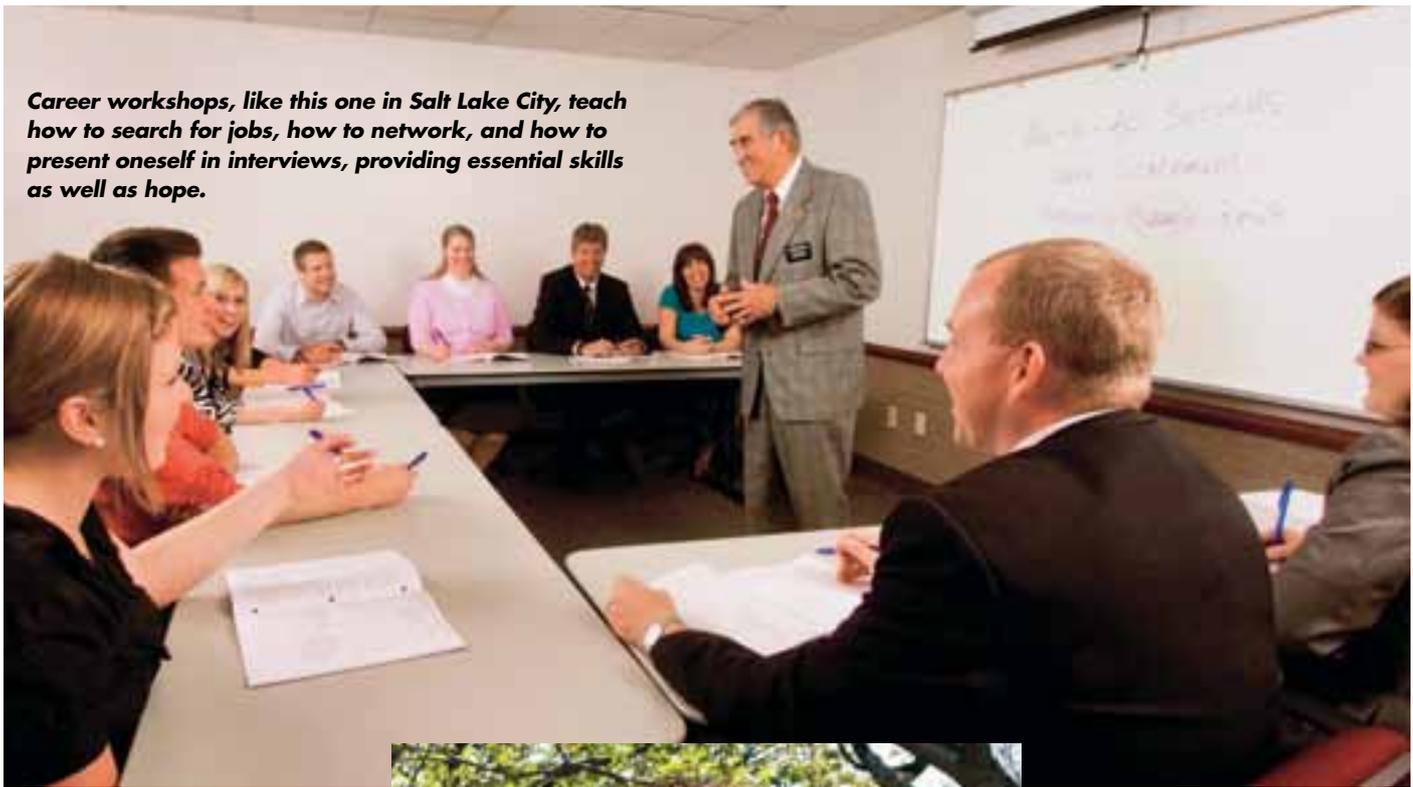
Below: To find LDS Employment Resource Centers visit providentliving.org and click on “Find Jobs and Other Opportunities” and then select “Find an Employment Resource Center.” Career workshops taught at these centers help those members wanting to change or begin careers.



“It was difficult to support a family and attend college on my previous income. I was able to enroll in the Perpetual Education Fund to help fund my studies but was later dismissed from my job. It turned out to be a real blessing. I visited the employment center the next day and an employment adviser helped me create a plan of action. The Career Workshop taught me how to make contacts and network effectively. The very week after I finished The Career Workshop courses, I secured an interview with an international company. With the help of my Heavenly Father and the techniques I learned in the workshops, I was able to respond to the employer’s questions in a satisfactory manner and was offered the job. My new salary is now four times greater than my previous salary. I am able to provide a much better life for my family and serve more faithfully in my church callings.”

Marcos Elias Lima, Brazil

Career workshops, like this one in Salt Lake City, teach how to search for jobs, how to network, and how to present oneself in interviews, providing essential skills as well as hope.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY WEIDEN C. ANDERSEN; PHOTOGRAPH OF FLYERS AND WORKSHOP BY STEVE BUNDESON; PHOTOGRAPH OF LASONJA LYMAN AND PAMELA CAINE PROVIDED BY PAMELA CAINE

statements that relay talents, skills, and experience with confidence. Participants also learn about résumé writing, interviewing techniques, career planning, and even salary and benefit negotiation.

LaSonja's life changed for the better when she participated in the Career Workshop offered at The Chicago Illinois LDS Employment Resource Center. Her journey there began with two eight-year-old girls. When LaSonja's daughter Tatiana attended school in their new neighborhood for the first time, she told her teacher that her mom would need help babysitting while she was at the hospital with their new baby. Emily, a Church-member classmate, asked her mother, Pam, if they could help. It wasn't long before Pam and LaSonja became close friends and LaSonja learned about the Church's Employment Resource Services.

In The Career Workshop, LaSonja received career coaching from employment advisers Elder and Sister Lewis, who helped her identify her talents, interests, employment needs, and career goals. Together they



Above: LaSonja Lyman (left) was greatly blessed when her friend Pam Caine pointed her toward LDS Employment Resource Services.

completed a strategic job search, created multiple résumés tailored to highlight LaSonja's various skills, and prepared her for job interviews. "I had always worked in order to pay the bills, but LDS employment services taught me to search for employment opportunities that used my talents and interests. When I later got

a job that I enjoyed, I found I was happier, more confident, and a better mother at home with my children," she recalls. It only took LaSonja a matter of days to secure a job in a medical office that brought her great satisfaction in addition to providing for her family. "I am so thankful to Pam for being a wonderful friend," LaSonja says. "Because of her kindness in my time of need, I was introduced to LDS Employment Resource Services. Her kindness has changed my



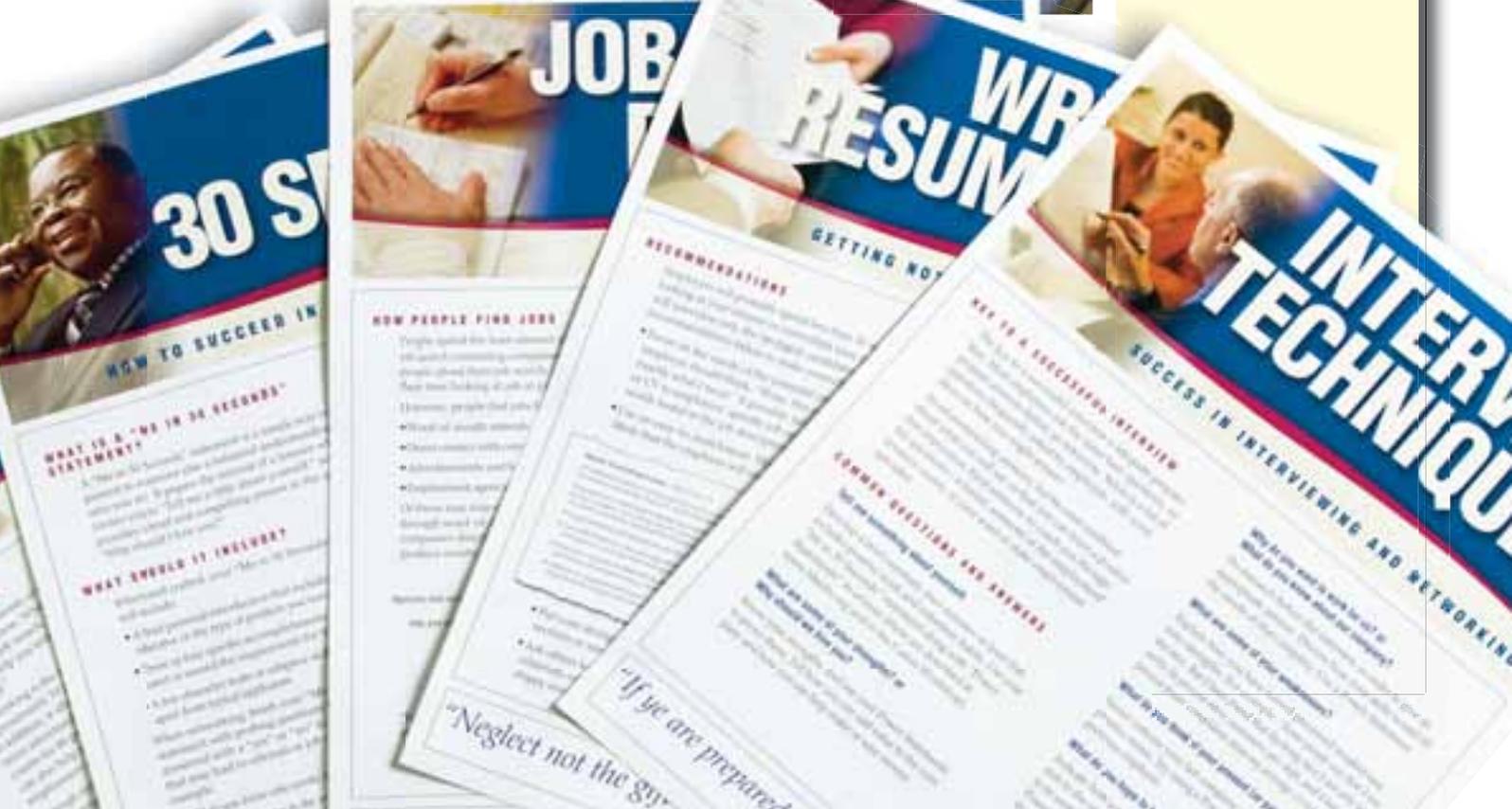
Right, top and center: At centers like this one in Mexico, members can:

- Consult current lists of available job openings.
- Use available equipment like computers and fax machines for such tasks as researching and applying for jobs online, sending application forms, and printing résumés.

Below: Resource materials like these are available not only at the LDS Employment Resource Centers but also at ldsjobs.org or providentliving.org.



"Thank you for letting me attend The Career Workshop. I learned many things which helped me secure a good job. Before the workshop I only received a few job offers for which I was overqualified, offering very little salary. I took The Career Workshop courses and my confidence grew. I was able to secure an interview for a wonderful job. The one who interviewed me was so impressed. I was offered a generous salary with opportunities for promotions in the future. This program is inspired. I pray that many will make use of this opportunity and reach greater heights."
Jaya Prakash Jala, India





PHOTOGRAPHS BY WEIDEN C. ANDERSEN; PHOTOGRAPH OF BOOKLET BY STEVE BUNDERSON

Above: Participants receive coaching suited to their individual needs.

Self-Employment

The Self-Employment Workshop is a series of courses designed to help individuals formulate ideas and transform those ideas into successful businesses both large and small. The courses can even help those with established businesses to enhance their business by developing a business plan. The workshop is divided into four courses: business ideas, market analysis, market strategies, and financial analysis. And the principles can be applied anywhere.

In Nairobi, Kenya, one couple had long struggled to find stable employment. The challenge to provide the necessities of life for their children was wearing on them both. There seemed to be nowhere to turn, as most of their friends and families found themselves in the same predicament.

A recent convert to the Church, the husband learned about the free employment services available at the LDS employment center in Nairobi while he was at Church one Sunday. He visited the center the following Monday. After attending several career and small-business workshops over the next few weeks, he felt confident he could be successful as an entrepreneur marketing his wife's cooking. With the assistance of an employment specialist, they completed a detailed business plan and went to work.

In her small kitchen, the wife prepared delicious samosas and mandazis, local dishes which they sold outside a nearby office building for the morning meal. Their baskets were soon emptied and the morning's earnings were used to purchase ingredients for the noonday meal.

Before long, their business flourished and became so popular they were able to obtain a contract to provide meals for employees at a large office building. They were slowly able to save enough to purchase a refrigerator, food-warming table, and other equipment to improve their business. The couple now find great satisfaction in being able to provide for their family. With the increased profits and demands, they have since been able to hire others to help them, creating employment opportunities for others in their ward.

It Works

In 2007, LDS Employment Resource Centers provided services to help more than 225,000 people through career training, education, improved employment, and self-employment training. But more than improved employment, LDS Employment Resource Services has helped to restore hope, peace, and confidence to individuals and families in over 50 countries. "For some, a new job brings



restore hope, peace, and confidence to individuals and families in over 50 countries. "For some, a new job brings increased self-confidence and direction that has a far-reaching impact on an entire family. We are truly involved in changing people's lives," says Gloria Purcell, manager of the Orlando Florida LDS Employment Resource Center.

To learn about volunteer opportunities at an employment resource center, contact or visit the center nearest you. To serve in an employment resource center as a full- or part-time Church-service missionary, speak to your bishop or branch president. ■



Top: Volunteer couples at LDS Employment Resource Centers make a significant contribution to the well-being of others.

Above: New resource materials are available for those hoping to start or improve their own small business. Contact your local employment center for more information.

"I took the self-employment and small business workshops which helped me to improve my business. I learned about micro-credit and small loan opportunities and was able to buy equipment that helped me add another line of products to my business. Now I am able to better manage my expenditures, earnings, and production. I have also learned how to better price my products. Because of these workshops my business is beginning to grow and progress anew. My life isn't the same. I feel important, successful, and my family also feels more confident."

Miriam Estela de Santis Agazzani, Argentina

"I am happy to find that I am still employable despite my age, marital status, and large gap in employment history. The Career Workshop taught me how to handle interviewers' questions about my background disadvantages. I just passed a whole day of interview screening and I'm hired! I was even able to negotiate Sundays off."

Arlene Daclan Regalado Dosdos, Philippines

TV ACTIVITIES

It's so easy to let the television be the babysitter. When I became pregnant with my second child, I didn't have the energy to keep up with my toddler. But I worried that excessive viewing time might affect his overall development. So I developed a plan that can work for children of all ages.

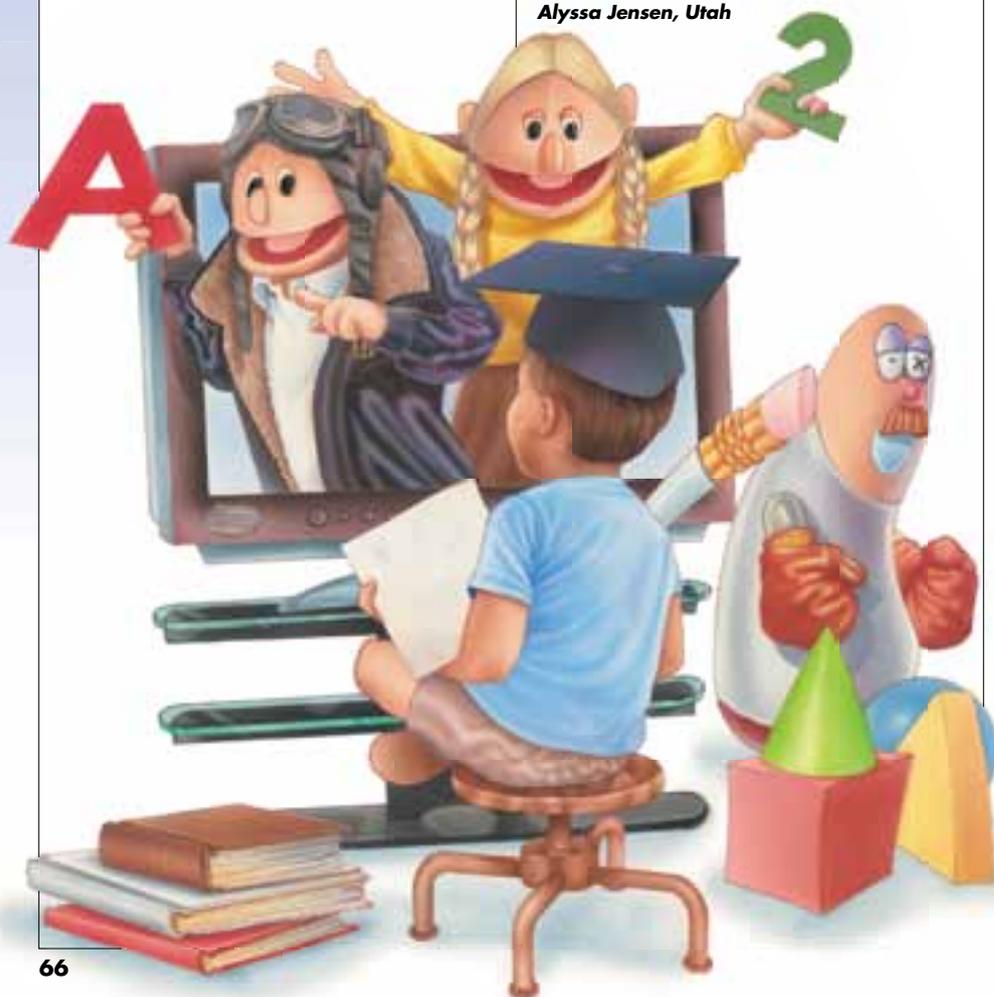
First I started to *actively* watch television programs with my son. I noted which things genuinely interested him and which things simply kept his attention. I then made a list of activities we could do that centered on his interests. He loved shapes, letters,

numbers, and colors, so we started going on "shape searches," "letter hunts," and so forth. To enhance our interest activities, I made a few sensible purchases and checked out items from the public library.

I also made a list of shows that benefited my son; that way I could limit his overall TV time to worthwhile programs.

As for parents, it's ever important to be a good example. I try to spend what little free time I have productively, enjoying physical activities, reading, or learning a new skill. If my children watch anything, I'd rather have them watch Mom.

Alyssa Jensen, Utah



DEALING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

Living with a chronic illness can take a toll on the one suffering and on those who help to care for that person, including the spouse or other family member. As someone who has suffered from a chronic illness for many years, I would like to share some insights that have helped me to manage.

Listen to your body. Be aware of changes in how you are feeling. Keep records of how you respond to a change in activity or medication. Be sure to take your medicine as directed by the doctor, and consult with him or her if adjustments are needed. Pay attention to your diet (including vitamin intake), and get enough rest and exercise (when possible).

Find support. Don't be afraid to ask for help from family or friends. Seek priesthood blessings when needed. You might also benefit from attending a support group. See if there's one in your community or through a hospital. If none is available locally, you may find support through an online chat group. Carefully select groups with monitored discussions or enforced rules that govern constructive content. Of course, you'll want to avoid sharing any information that might identify you and where you live.



As Easy as 1-2-3

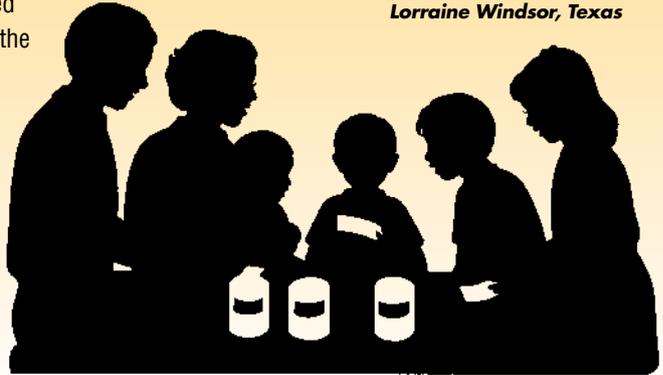
When my children were younger, I made a list of their favorite Primary songs, as well as new ones I wanted to teach them. I cut the list into strips and placed the strips in a container. I filled another container with titles of stories from the scriptures such as “Nephi Breaks His Bow”

or “Joseph Smith Prays in the Sacred Grove.” I also included family stories like “Daddy’s First Day on His Mission.” Finally I filled a third container with a variety of children’s game ideas: “Duck, Duck, Goose” and “Mother, May I?” Then on Monday nights after opening prayer, our children

took turns drawing paper slips from the containers. We would sing the songs, read or tell the stories, and play the games that were listed on the slip.

We had a well-established pattern for holding consistent family home evenings. Having our three containers on hand made preparation hassle free.

Lorraine Windsor, Texas



Build your spiritual strength. Read the scriptures, pray regularly, serve others, and attend the temple when you are able. If you prayerfully consider your situation, you’ll find that everyone has opportunities to serve—even from a bed. Focus on what you still have and what you can do.

Research the most current information about your illness. Knowledge is power. Becoming your own expert will help you to better communicate with your physician. Accredited publications and reliable Internet sources, such as material posted from a university, can help you to stay educated about your particular situation.

Overcome guilt. Some individuals might believe they did something wrong to cause the illness. These thoughts come from the adversary. Consider the source, and try to focus instead on what the Savior would have you think and do.

Name Withheld

OUR FAMILY PICTURE BOOK

Scrapbooks shouldn’t just sit on a shelf collecting dust. You can use them to stay connected with extended family or learn about your ancestors.

Since the albums are going to be handled a lot, I recommend using a convenient size, such as 6 inches by 8 inches. They should have clear, archival page protectors that are easy to

insert and remove as needed. I begin with a table of contents, followed by a pedigree chart that starts with my parents and goes back two generations. Next is a page that explains the meanings and origins of our family names. Then I designate a page for each paternal and maternal great-grandparent, ending with current family members, and I update the pages when new photos are available. I also tuck in a few blank pages for future spouses and children, knowing that I can always insert more as needed.

Each person’s page contains a photo, vital statistics, favorite scripture, and favorite dessert. Before each married child’s picture, I place a pedigree chart of the child’s immediate family. I also share the meanings of maiden names or husbands’ last names.

I enjoy scrapbooking and

preserving our family’s heritage. It’s a great way for my children to remember family members who live far away. Though this project may seem daunting at first, you can do it a page or two at a time. Then use it and share it, but don’t shelve it.

Kelly Toth, New Hampshire

Do you have ideas for Random Sampler? We invite you to send short (less than 500-word) articles on any of these topics related to practical gospel living:

- Teaching ideas for home or church, especially for family home evening
- Personal or family financial management tips
- General health and physical fitness tips
- Home production and storage ideas
- Gospel-related holiday traditions that build testimony.

Please see the “Do You Have a Story to Tell?” box on p. 2 for submission instructions.

QUALIFY FOR AND PARTAKE OF TEMPLE WORSHIP



Teach these scriptures and quotations or, if needed, another principle that will bless the sisters you visit. Bear testimony of the doctrine. Invite those you visit to share what they have felt and learned.

How Can I Prepare for Temple Worship?

Silvia H. Allred, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency: “The temple is the house of the Lord. He directs the conditions under which it may be used, the ordinances that should be administered, and the standards that qualify us to enter. . . . Personal worthiness is an essential requirement to enjoy the blessings of the temple. We prepare by obeying the commandments and seeking to do God’s will” (“Holy Temples, Sacred Covenants,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 113).

Elder David B. Haight (1906–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “We who would attend the temple must be living in a manner which helps us be worthy to enter and fully partake. . . . We examine our worthiness to enter the temple in . . . interviews with priesthood leaders. Our signature, with theirs, on our temple recommend testifies of our worthiness to enter the temple”

(“Come to the House of the Lord,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 15).

What Are the Blessings of Qualifying for and Partaking of Temple Worship?

D&C 110:7: “I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house.”

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95): “Let us hasten to the temple as frequently as time and means and personal circumstances allow. Let us go not only for our kindred dead, but let us also go for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety which is provided within those hallowed and consecrated walls. The temple is a place of beauty, it is a place of revelation, it is a place of peace” (“The Great Symbol of Our Membership,” *Tambuli*, Nov. 1994, 6; *Ensign*, Oct. 1994, 5).

D&C 38:32: “I will give unto you my law; and there you shall be endowed with power from on high” (see also D&C 95:8).

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “The temple endowment blessings are as essential for each of us as was our baptism. For this reason we are to prepare ourselves that we may be clean to enter into the temple of God. Temple work is an opportunity to perform our personal endowments and covenants

for the living and also perform these same ordinances for the redemption for the dead. It is for this reason we are instructed in the scriptures to build temples and prepare our lives to be worthy to partake of the sacred temple ordinances and covenants. . . .



“The primary purpose of the temple is to provide the ordinances necessary for our exaltation in the celestial kingdom. Temple ordinances guide us to our Savior and give us the blessings that come to us through the Atonement of Jesus Christ” (“Temple Blessings,” in *Brigham Young University 2005–2006 Speeches* [2006], 1, 4).

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008): “Every man or woman who goes to the temple in a spirit of sincerity and faith leaves the house of the Lord a better man or woman. There is need for constant improvement in all of our lives. There is need occasionally to leave the noise and the tumult of the world and step within the walls of a sacred house of God, there to feel His spirit in an environment of holiness and peace” (“Of Missions, Temples, and Stewardship,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 53). ■

CHARITY FILLED OUR HEARTS

By Fiona Maile

My daughters, ages 8 and 10, seemed to be growing farther and farther apart. As their mother, I ached inside to see the bickering between them and the mean looks they often directed at each other.

During this time I was praying earnestly to the Lord to help me with my own weaknesses. I prayed that He would help me learn what I needed to learn about charity, and I was led to some beautiful passages of scripture.

One night things came to a head with my daughters. I lost my temper and, after ranting and raving at them, stormed outside to cool down and think. After a few minutes, the Spirit began to soften my heart, prompting me to go inside and apologize to my eldest daughter, who had caught the worst of my temper.

As I entered her bedroom, I saw my 10-year-old daughter kneeling beside her bed, weeping. She looked up at me with tears in her eyes and said, "I don't know what to do." She told me she wanted to pray and read her scriptures so she

would feel better, but she couldn't because she felt so bad.

When she told me how sorry she felt for her part in our quarrel and then said I was not to blame, oh, what shame I felt. We talked a while and then turned to the scriptures, where I read to her about charity, "the pure love of Christ" (Moroni 7:47), and shared some of the things I had learned. At that point her younger sister looked in the room, and we invited her to join us. I then explained, in words an eight-year-old could

understand, what we had read about charity.

After I had finished, both girls turned to me with big eyes and expressed a desire to be filled with this great love spoken of in the

We embraced and expressed our love for each other. At that moment I saw an eternal sisterhood and friendship begin to bloom between my daughters.

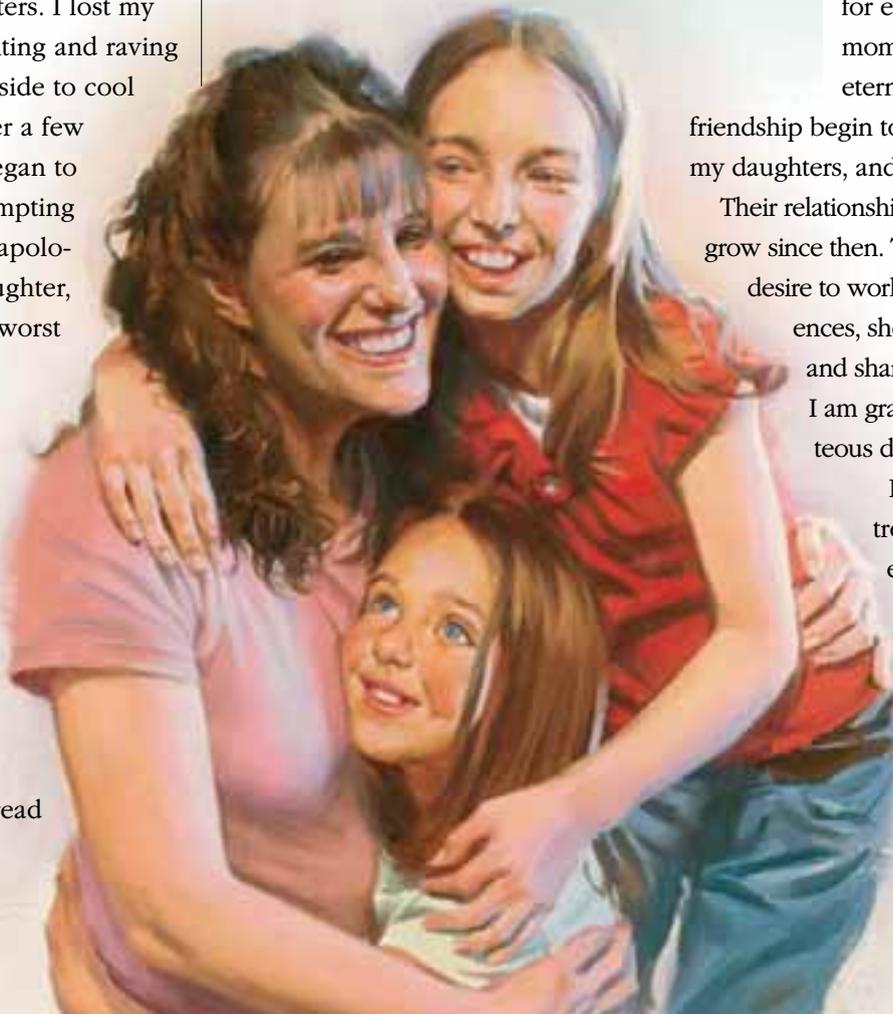
scriptures. We then knelt and, as Mormon counseled, humbly asked the Father to fill us with this love (see Moroni 7:48).

Touched by the Spirit, we could not help but weep. We rose from our knees, embraced, and expressed our love for each other. At that moment I saw an eternal sisterhood and

friendship begin to bloom between my daughters, and I was comforted.

Their relationship has continued to grow since then. They have a greater desire to work out their differences, show more patience, and share their belongings. I am grateful for their righteous desires and efforts.

I will always treasure that experience, and I pray that there will be more like it as we continue to strengthen the bonds of charity and love in our home. ■



OUR LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN

By Roseli de Oliveira Ribeiro

After we were baptized in 1992, my family did everything together, including attending Sunday meetings, Church conferences, and other activities. But time passed, things changed, and I eventually found myself alone at church—the rest of my family having become less active. Thereafter, whenever I heard someone in church teach about eternal families, my heart ached and a profound sadness overcame me.

In 1995 I decided to receive my patriarchal blessing to learn more of what the Lord expected of me and to receive strength. My blessing contained the following promise: through fasting, prayer, and family home evening, I would have my family “in the gospel.” I constantly prayed and fasted for my family, but I didn’t follow the counsel to hold family home evening.

I eventually left my home in São

Paulo, Brazil, to serve a mission. While serving, I saw many broken homes, but as I studied my patriarchal blessing, I found the solution for those homes: family home evening. Through teaching people about family home evening, I saw families strengthened, couples reconciled, and siblings united. In short, I saw homes transformed into little pieces of heaven.

“If this can happen to families in my mission,” I wondered, “why not to my own family?”

After my mission I was determined to hold family home evening with my family. At first, all participated grudgingly, and I had trouble finishing my lessons as planned. But I knew the Lord wouldn’t counsel me to do something that wouldn’t be a blessing, so I didn’t give up. Eventually, the promise in my patriarchal blessing was fulfilled.

If I didn’t hold family home evening, I heard about it. Family members all participated with opinions, ideas, and counsel, and they listened attentively to the message. Even though we were older then, when game time came, we had a party!

As a result, members of my family once again began obeying commandments they had ignored, and they became more active in the Church.

I can truly say that my home was transformed into a little bit of heaven, thanks to an inspired program that should be a tradition in every home: family home evening. ■

If families I taught on my mission could be strengthened by family home evening, why not my own family?

WAS I LIVING THE GOSPEL FULLY?

ByCarolynn R. Spencer

My scripture study would have to wait. All three of our sons had awakened—and much earlier than usual. The youngest, Caden, then 18 months old, was screaming in his crib. I went into his room and saw instantly that he was sick.

Thus began a Monday of one challenge after another. At one point, shortly after I had changed Caden's clothes and tried to feed him, he flung a large jar onto the floor, spilling applesauce everywhere and sending shattered glass across the kitchen. As I was cleaning up the mess, I thought about all the things I wasn't getting done: family history, service, home storage, missionary work.

"How in the world can I do everything I know I should be doing when I am barely managing the basic tasks of my day?" I wondered. By early evening I was exhausted, but I set aside discouraging thoughts during dinner, family home evening, and the boys' bath and bedtime routine.

Finally, with the children in bed, I sat down to do what I had not had time for earlier. I picked up the May 2006 *Ensign*, which was open to a talk by President Henry B. Eyring titled "As a Child." My eyes fell on a

As I read, I wondered, "How can I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and help people spiritually and temporally when I can scarcely take care of my own family?"

passage I had previously marked: "To keep the blessing of [changed natures] in our hearts will require determination, effort, and faith. King Benjamin taught at least some of what that will require. He said that to retain a remission of our sins from day to day we must feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and help people spiritually and temporally" (*Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2006, 17).

Immediately, I again felt that I wasn't living the gospel fully. I wondered, "How can I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and help people spiritually and temporally when I can scarcely take care of my own family?"

That's when I experienced an overwhelming feeling of divine

approval. It was so clear, precise, and tangible that I knew I had to write it down so I wouldn't forget. I could see my day replay in my mind—full of feeding the hungry, doing laundry to clothe the naked (I changed Caden's outfit multiple times), gently caring for our sick baby, helping our five-year-old prepare a family home evening lesson on missionary work, and then discussing the power of example with my family—in other words, helping people spiritually and temporally.

The impression flowed with such an overpowering feeling of peace that I knew the Lord was telling me He had accepted my offering. In caring for my family, I was fulfilling the admonitions of King Benjamin and President Eyring. ■



TAKE ME TO THE TEMPLE

By Alejandro Robles V.

One Saturday morning while I was serving in the Lima Peru Temple, a group of about 20 children from one of the Lima stakes came for a visit. After warmly shaking the hand of each child, the temple president spoke to them about the sacred work of the temple. He especially emphasized the continuation of family relationships and the meaning of the phrase “Families are forever.”

The children were reverent and listened carefully. One of these visitors was a little girl named Rosita, who was five years old. That night she stayed up late until her father returned from work, waiting for him on the edge of her bed.

When he arrived, he was surprised to see his daughter still awake. Rosita jumped off the bed and ran to him. He picked her up, and she put her arms around his neck and kissed him.

“And how is my little Rosa?” he asked.

“I am well, Papi.”

“Were you a good girl today?”

“Yes, Papi.”

“Was there something you wanted me to do for you?”

She nodded her head.

“What is it? What do you want, sweetheart?”

“Papi,” she said, pausing briefly, “when are you going to take me to the temple?”

Her father paused a few seconds before answering.

“I’m going to take you, Rosa. It’s just that I’m working hard right now, and I’m really busy. But I promise I will take you.”

“Thank you, Papi,” said Rosita, hugging and kissing her father again.

“Now go to bed and try to sleep.”

Many months later, Rosita’s family gathered in one of the sealing rooms of the temple. Moments of great rejoicing followed the sealing ceremony. Rosita’s father, with

great love and tenderness, embraced each of his children, ending with the youngest—Rosita.

“Some months ago this little girl made a trip to the temple with the Primary children from our stake,” Rosita’s father told the sealer who had performed the ceremony. “That night she waited for me to get home from work and asked me when I was going to take her to the temple. I knew she didn’t just want to see the outside of the temple, so I have had to put my life in order and get rid of my bad habits. It has taken a lot of effort, but I have finally succeeded. Today is the most beautiful day I have ever experienced because today my family has been united for all eternity.” ■



Papi,” Rosita asked her father, “when are you going to take me to the temple?”

COULD TITHING EASE MY WORRIES?

By Nancy Kay Smith

While my older children were at school and the little ones napped, I spread the household bills across the kitchen table. I began this dreaded monthly task by praying for wisdom and ability to stretch our meager income. The tithing check, as always, would be the first one written.

When I joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a young wife and mother, I had committed to pay tithing. I had never wavered from that promise. I was deeply distressed, however, by inadequate funds to cover yet another month of utility, mortgage, and insurance bills.

Now I was a single mother of six young children. I frequently felt overwhelmed by the constant workload, financial worries, and endless decisions involved in my efforts to be both mother and father with no extended family to give me relief or support.

As I sat at the table pleading with the Lord for His help and mercy, the Holy Ghost opened to my view a beautiful and comforting manifestation of the Savior's love. I was able to see the money owed for household expenses with a new perspective as the sacred priorities of life were brought to my remembrance. I knew that our

Heavenly Father wanted me to have the blessings promised to those who faithfully paid tithes and offerings. I also knew that tithing should be a joyful act of love, devoid of fear and worry.

When I spread the household bills across the kitchen table, I was deeply distressed by inadequate funds to cover yet another month of utility, mortgage, and insurance bills.

As the Spirit of the Lord filled me, I found myself bearing testimony of convictions I had long held firm and sacred. My voice broke the silence of the kitchen as I declared that I would rather lose the water source to my house than lose the living water offered by the Savior. I would rather have no food on our table than be without the Bread of Life. I would prefer to endure the darkness and discomfort of no electricity than to forfeit the Light of Christ in my life. I would rather abide with my children in a tent than relinquish my privilege of entering the house of the Lord.

The burden of worry immediately lifted. My love for the Lord overcame the weakness generated by my fears.

Our Heavenly Father is our deliverer, our benefactor, and our protector. He truly does supply all our needs. His promises are sure and unfailing. He commands us to pay tithing on our increase so that He may shower down blessings from heaven—including peace of mind, freedom from worldly and material worry, and confidence in His holy name.

From that day forward I have counted it a joy to pay my tithing, without reservation or fear, to Him and for Him who first loved me. ■



Stakes Receive Training on Welfare and Self-Reliance

A new DVD and booklet are being shipped to stake and district presidents around the world to train local priesthood and Relief Society leaders on how to apply Church welfare principles to today's challenges.

The DVD, titled *Basic Principles of Welfare and Self-Reliance*, is accompanied by a transcription of the DVD and a new booklet, *Providing in the Lord's Way: Summary of a Leader's Guide to Welfare*.

Bishop H. David Burton, Presiding Bishop, says, "The training will help stake and ward leaders be better prepared to teach and encourage Church members to live principles of provident living and self-reliance."

The DVD

The DVD features four speakers: President Thomas S. Monson; Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; Bishop Burton; and Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president. Each speaker focuses on different aspects of welfare: how the welfare program is the Lord's program; the gospel vision of welfare as faith in action; bishops' and branch presidents' welfare responsibilities; and Relief Society presidents' welfare responsibilities.

President Monson shares the scriptural account from 1 Kings 17 of the widow from Zarephath, who met the

prophet Elijah during a famine. The widow was preparing to make a final meal for herself and her son before they died. Elijah asked the widow for food and promised that if she shared with him, her family would have food until the famine ended. She shared her food

with Elijah and saw the fulfillment of his promise.

"This is the faith that has ever motivated and inspired the welfare plan of the Lord," President Monson says. "To all within the sound of my voice I declare that the welfare plan of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is inspired of Almighty God."

Elder Hales defines self-reliance and provident

living. "Self-reliance is taking responsibility for our own spiritual and temporal welfare and for those whom Heavenly Father has entrusted to our care," he says.

Provident living means "joyfully living within our means and preparing for the ups and downs of life so that we can be ready for the rainy-day emergencies when they come into our lives," Elder Hales says.

"How, then, do we obtain Heavenly Father's help so that we have enough for our own



A welfare training DVD and related materials are being shipped to stakes and districts around the world.

needs and also enough to serve others?" he asks. "One of the fundamental principles of welfare is the payment of tithes and offerings."

Bishop Burton lists five basic and time-tested welfare principles for priesthood leaders. First, seek out the poor; second, promote personal responsibility; third, sustain life, not lifestyle; fourth, provide commodities before cash; and fifth, provide work and service opportunities.

Sister Beck says as she has studied the histories of the Relief Society general presidents, she has been reminded that the organization has accomplished its work in times of growth and prosperity and in times of war, famine, epidemic, and depression. She says a painting in her office of a pioneer midwife reminds her that one sister with one skill can be a blessing to many.

The Relief Society president fulfills an important part of providing aid, Sister Beck says—helping the bishop assess the needs of members. Because this is "a divine work and because a Relief Society president has a divine call, she is entitled to divine help," Sister Beck adds.

Additional Materials

The eight-page booklet included with the DVD, *Providing in the Lord's Way: Summary of a Leader's Guide to Welfare*, summarizes a 34-page manual that the Church has used to teach the principles of welfare and self-reliance in the past. The

manual is called *Providing in the Lord's Way: A Leader's Guide to Welfare* and is still available to leaders as an in-depth guide on welfare management.

The DVD, transcription, and *Providing in the Lord's Way* booklet do not replace the manual, but are a summary of and a supplement to it.

The Church released the English version of the DVD, transcription, and booklet in February 2009. Translations in Cantonese, Cebuano, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, Tahitian, and Tongan are being sent as the translation process is completed. Many have already been distributed.

The Training

The First Presidency has requested that when stake and district presidents receive the training packet, they go over the information with stake or district and ward or branch leaders. A letter included with the packet suggests an agenda for a training meeting that includes watching the 52-minute DVD or reading the transcription and counseling together on how to apply the principles taught.

"Although many members face challenges as a result of today's difficult economic times, the new training helps reassure ward and stake leaders that there are ways to address all welfare needs," Bishop Burton said. "This training reinforces proven principles

that the Lord Himself has established."

As leaders apply what they have learned, they will receive the inspiration and blessings of the Lord to move forward the sacred work of providing in the Lord's way, Bishop Burton added.

After reviewing the materials, W. Wynn John, president of the Wilmington Delaware Stake in Delaware, USA, said the training information was "extremely timely," as a rising number of members in his stake have lost their jobs. He said the materials would be

helpful in teaching members self-reliance.

"It's going to help us provide guidance and encourage people to take more responsibility for their personal welfare," President John said.

Craig Ruesch, president of the Rose Park Stake in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, said, "I appreciated the attention to the responsibilities of key people—bishops, Relief Society presidents, and other priesthood leaders—helping everyone realize they have a part to play in helping others." ■

Working to Fulfill Spiritual Needs

By Lisa Barton

Patti Stanley searched for a job for a month and a half. She had been out of the job market for a couple of years and felt overwhelmed looking for employment. She had stayed at home raising her children, but because of her family's economic situation, she and her husband, who was self-employed, decided she needed to work to help support their family.

Throughout the world, the economic downturn has left many in need of jobs and many with financial stress.

Dale Willis, president of the Mesa Arizona Alta Mesa Stake, said he is concerned not only for the members' temporal needs but also for their spiritual needs. He said if the members in his stake cannot provide adequately for their families, it can negatively

affect their ability to serve in the Lord's kingdom. If they cannot serve, he said, they miss out on essential opportunities for spiritual growth.

Organizing a Job Fair

In the Mesa, Arizona, USA, area, President Willis said, the unemployment rate has risen in the past few years among Church members.

Concerned about the trend, leaders of several stakes in Mesa began organizing free careers fairs to help address unemployment in the area. The fairs bring together members of the community who are searching for jobs and employers who need to fill job vacancies.

The Mesa stakes, in cooperation with the Mesa Employment Center, have held the annual Career Expo since 2006. The one-day event



Job seekers in Mesa, Arizona, USA, meet with potential employers at a career expo sponsored by stakes in Mesa.

has grown to attract from 500 to 800 people and dozens of companies.

The organizing committee invites companies in a variety of fields to the expo. They also send out invitations to Church members and the community.

As part of the expo, the committee plans workshops to teach ward and community members how to improve their résumés and their interviewing skills as well as the importance of having a positive attitude when pursuing a job.

In preparation for the career fair, bishops invite members to take classes at the employment center regardless of their background or current employment status.

Bringing People Together

Sister Stanley attended the expo in 2008, which was held at a Church institute of religion building. The people who came to the expo

attended workshops in classrooms. They also walked through aisles of booths in the gym, where they met with potential employers and distributed their résumés.

Sister Stanley talked to employers and gave them copies of her résumé and letters of recommendation. There were many types of businesses at the expo, she said, but it was not until she visited the last booth that she found a position that matched her interests and experience. She talked with the employer, and he took her résumé. The following week he called her and offered her the position.

"I don't believe in coincidence; I don't believe in sheer luck," Sister Stanley said. Without the career expo and the Lord's help, she said, she would not have found this company.

Finding Better Employment

The Mesa area career fairs don't help just those who are

unemployed. They also provide an opportunity for employed people to consider other career options.

The bishop in Caroline Kirkham's ward in the Mesa area recommended she attend the employment center classes even though she already had a job. The company she worked for did not offer the medical benefits she wanted, and she was concerned about retirement.

While at the employment center, she updated and improved her résumé. She also learned about the career expo and decided to attend.

Before she went to the expo, Sister Kirkham researched each of the companies that would be participating. When she got there, she targeted the companies that interested her. She met with several company representatives, gave them her résumé, and scheduled follow-up appointments. Eventually

she met with a national business publication. That meeting led to a series of interviews and a new job. It was in a similar field as her previous job but had better benefits. She said her new job also brought her peace of mind because it would help her be better prepared for retirement.

"We all have something to offer," Sister Kirkham said. "Work on the assumption that your Heavenly Father loves you, He knows your situation, and at some point in time, something different will happen. Don't be afraid to ask for help from God and from others in your ward."

Defining Success

Organizers feel that the career expos have been a wonderful success on many levels, not just helping people find employment.

Scott Farmer, a manager of Employment Resources in Mesa, said, regarding visitors' experiences at the career expo: "You see faith rebuilt. The ward will help take care of people, but when they go out and prove to themselves that they are of value, it lifts their souls and helps them see that things are not hopeless."

Paul Sanders, who helped develop the multi-stake career fair while serving as a welfare employment specialist, said, "There was no question that the Lord's hand was in its creation." ■

Traveling Open House Teaches Preparedness in UK and Ireland

Church members in the United Kingdom and Ireland are learning how to prepare for and get through difficult times—and helping their neighbors along the way—with a traveling exhibit titled “Weathering the Storms of Life.”

The professionally designed exhibit fills a cultural hall with more than a dozen tradeshow-style kiosks and displays on topics related to personal and family preparedness, from preparing for and surviving natural disasters to handling economic hard times through avoiding debt and building financial reserves. Displays highlight educational resources and employment services as well as

the Church’s humanitarian efforts.

Each time the exhibit moves, local organizations are invited to participate in the event, including blood banks, the Red Cross, fire services, and others.

The Church created the exhibit’s components to apply to people in all parts of the UK but invited stakes to complement the exhibit with local touches, such as rooms set aside for discussions and counseling on getting out of debt, food storage, fire and flood prevention, home security, and more.

Each day the exhibit was in Chorley, Lancashire, UK, near the Preston England Temple, one stake prepared food from food storage

ingredients and shared samples with the visitors. Donald Hull, one of the full-time Public Affairs missionaries who along with his wife, Annette, takes the exhibit from location to location, recalled their wonderful breads. He said the samples generated a lot of interest. People stayed at the food storage display and talked to the cook for a long time.

While the exhibit was on display at the Ilford Ward, Romford England Stake meetinghouse in Ilford, England, Bishop Kim Theed and his wife, Vanessa, stood outside of the meetinghouse to talk to passersby. It was a chilly January evening, and people stopped to accept a free cup of hot chocolate from them. As the people took the hot chocolate, the Theeds told them about the free exhibit inside the building that would help them to be better prepared for emergencies.

As visitors entered the meetinghouse cultural hall, they saw people playing games, interacting with the Church’s Provident Living Web site, listening to speakers from various emergency response units, making laminated emergency number cards, and looking through examples of practical 72-hour kits.

The timeliness of the exhibit was perfect, Bishop Theed said, because many people have been concerned about the global economy. He said that

many times when people think of weathering the storms of life they only think about physical storms, but this exhibit focused on weathering all types of storms, including financial ones.

The exhibit, which was commissioned in 2008 before the current global economic crisis, began a 34-stake tour in January 2009 and is scheduled into 2010.

Malcolm Adcock, assistant director of Public Affairs for the Church in the UK, said the exhibit was “timely and inspired for all Church members, who are not immune from the financial and social pressures of the economic downturn.”

Local stake and ward members invite their friends and neighbors to the four-day event. Church leaders invite dignitaries and other community leaders, who have all commented favorably on the exhibit.

“Though the content of the exhibit is non-proselytizing in tone, there are general references to the principle of tithes and offerings and a few quotes from Church leaders, and our nonmember neighbors like it,” said Brother Adcock. “We’ve learned that people who are not members of the Church share many of our values and support us in many of our preparedness efforts.”

“This is a high quality event presenting a message that could not be more vital



Robert Dryden, president of the Leeds England Stake (left), converses with Stephen Worley, a member of the Leeds stake public affairs council, at the “Weathering the Storms of Life” exhibition while in Leeds, England.

for Church members and like-minded citizens in our communities,” said Elder Stephen Kerr, Area Seventy

in the Europe Area.

The “Weathering the Storms of Life” exhibit is the second such effort in

the UK in recent years. It follows on the heels of a similarly successful traveling exhibit, “FamilySearch

on the Road,” which took place in 2007 and 2008 and emphasized the Church’s family history efforts. ■

DISASTER RESPONSE

Members Provide Flood Relief in Brazil

Members in the Teresina Brazil Stake and the Itacoatiara Brazil District assisted in relief efforts after two months of unusually heavy rains triggered the worst flooding seen in decades in Brazil.

The flooding killed at least 40 people and displaced more than 800,000. No Church members or missionaries

were killed, though eight member families were affected by the flooding.

From the deep Amazon to the normally arid environs of the Atlantic coast, roads, highways, and communities across 10 states were swamped by the flooding.

Brazil’s government worked with local governments to deliver food, cleaning materials, and other supplies to the affected areas and offered

shelter and assisted with reconstruction.

California Blaze Displaces Members

Favorable weather allowed firefighters to gain the upper hand on a 9,000-acre (3,640 ha) wildfire in Southern California that displaced 50,000 people, including an estimated 70 percent of members in the Santa Barbara Ward.

Eight households in

the El Camino Ward, the Goleta Valley Ward, and the Los Olivos Branch were also evacuated.

Most who fled the week-long blaze had returned by mid-May. More than 80 structures were destroyed or damaged by the flames, including one home of Church members.

Officials believe the use of a power tool to clear vegetation may be related to the fire. ■

New Mission Presidents Begin Service Worldwide

The majority of the following new mission presidents and their wives began serving on or around July 1, 2009, as assigned by the First Presidency. The missions and their respective new presidents are:

Mission New President

Argentina Bahía Blanca	Jorge Esteban Detlefsen
Argentina Neuquén	Darwin Franz Peterson
Australia Adelaide	Craig Kidd Poulton
Australia Sydney South	Jeffrey Ted Simmons
Belgium Brussels/Netherlands	Scott McDonald Brubaker
Brazil Belém	José Claudio Furtado Campos
Brazil Belo Horizonte	Adilson de Paula Parrella
Brazil Cuiabá	Cleto Pinheiro De Oliveira
Brazil Porto Alegre North	Edison Pavan
Brazil Porto Alegre South	Curtis Floyd Swenson
Brazil Salvador South	Helton Carlos Pimenta Vecchi
Brazil São Paulo East	Joaquim Jorge Oliveira Moreira
Bulgaria Sofia	Gerald Roth
California Oakland	David Gary Wade

California San Fernando

Jerald Lynn Martin

California Santa Rosa

Jonathon Wayne Bunker

Cambodia Phnom Penh

Scott Brunson Smedley

Canada Calgary

Alan Lee Archibald

Canada Halifax

Craig Winger Simpson

Chile Santiago East

Larry Roberts Laycock

Chile Viña del Mar

Richard William Gillespie

China Hong Kong

Simon Yue-Sang Chan

Colombia Bogota North

Joseph Grant Hacking

Colombia Bogota South

Justo Pausides Casablanca

Costa Rica San José

Sam Minó Gálvez Orellana

Democratic Republic of Congo Kinshasa

Michael Steven Headlee

Dominican Republic Santiago

Miguel Alfredo Lee Bruno

Changes Made to Missions

Along with changes to mission presidents in more than 100 missions, the Church has made changes that will affect six missions in Brazil and two in Pennsylvania, USA.

The new Brazil Teresina Mission was organized from portions of the Brazil Belém and Brazil Fortaleza Missions.

The Brazil Belo Horizonte and Brazil Belo

Horizonte East Missions were consolidated into a single Brazil Belo Horizonte Mission.

The headquarters of the Brazil Rio de Janeiro North Mission was moved to Vitoria, and the mission was renamed the Brazil Vitoria Mission.

In the United States, the Pennsylvania Harrisburg Mission was consolidated into the Pennsylvania Pittsburgh Mission. ■

England Birmingham John Charles Ogden

England London Renn Matthew Patch

England London South Lyle Eric Shamo

Georgia Atlanta Steven Homer Satterfield

Germany Berlin Jay Douglas Pimentel

Greece Athens Christopher Charles

Haiti Port-au-Prince

Hardwarson Kerving Joseph

Honduras Comayagüela

Manuel Antonio Flores Batres

Hungary Budapest Gary Scott Baughman

Idaho Pocatello Scott W Colton

Illinois Chicago North Sherman Leroy Doll
India New Delhi William King Jackson
Jamaica Kingston Rick Graff
Japan Fukuoka Sherman Kay Margetts
Japan Tokyo William Steve Albrecht
Korea Seoul Yong Hwan Lee
Madagascar Antananarivo
 Sean Edmund Russell Donnelly
Marshall Islands Majuro
 Bradley Jay Smith
Maryland Baltimore Alma Brent Belliston
Massachusetts Boston
 William Thornley Evans
Mexico Cuernavaca Alin Spannaus
Mexico Guadalajara Lazaro Saucedo Sosa
Mexico Guadalajara South
 John Douglas Jespersen
Mexico Hermosillo Sergio Velez Chavez
Mexico Mexico City South
 Aaron Chavez Carpio

Mexico Monterrey West
 Brent Wayne Romney
Mexico Tampico Stanton Lynn Call
Montana Billings Larry Higbee Gardner
Mozambique Maputo
 Loren Blake Spendlove
Nebraska Omaha Milan Foster Kunz
New York New York North
 Richard Fred Smith
New York New York South
 William Henrick Nelson
North Carolina Raleigh Dirk A. Cotterell
Norway Oslo Armand Duane Johansen
Ohio Cleveland Darwin Dean Sorensen
Oklahoma Tulsa Richard Edgar Merkle
Papua New Guinea Port Moresby
 Meliula Meafou Fata
Paraguay Asunción Mark James Callan
Peru Lima Central Stephen Hunter Tyler
Peru Lima South Roger Christensen Manning

Peru Piura John Jensen Chipman
Philippines Bacolod George Javier Tobias
Philippines Baguio Thomas Henry Jensen
Philippines Laoag Allistair Bruce Odgers
Portugal Lisbon Moroni Bing Torgan
Portugal Porto Charles Wesley Walton
Russia Moscow West
 Kenneth Musser Woolley
Russia Novosibirsk Jon Charles Trejo
Russia Rostov-na-Donu
 Vladimir Aleksandrovich Nechiporov
Russia Vladivostok Michael Stephen Pratt
Russia Yekaterinburg
 Bruce Howard Allcott
Scotland Edinburgh Gary King Griffiths
Singapore Terrence Andrew Clark
South Dakota Rapid City Jay Glen Layton
Spain Barcelona Clark Bryant Hinckley
Spain Bilbao Richard Reed Clegg
Spain Madrid James Stanford Watkins

Switzerland Geneva Kent Hyrum Murdock
Taiwan Taipei Terence Elial Grimley
Texas Houston South Gregory Mark Saylin
Thailand Bangkok Michael Sherrod Smith
Ukraine Dnepropetrovsk
 Dale Edwin Nielsen
Uruguay Montevideo
 Ernesto Antonio Da Silva Bornholdt
Utah Ogden Richard Brent Olson
Utah Provo Neil Edward Pitts
Venezuela Barcelona
 Edgar Lopez Delgado
Venezuela Maracaibo
 Sergio Luis Krasnoselsky
Washington DC South
 George Mark Albright
Washington Spokane
 Stanley Mark Palmer
West Indies Claude Remy Garniette
Zimbabwe Harare Edward Dube

PEOPLE

Choir Announces Associate Music Director

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir named Ryan T. Murphy as associate music director on March 27, 2009. Brother Murphy will help Mack J. Wilberg, music director, with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square rehearsals, concerts, tours, and the weekly *Music and the Spoken Word* broadcasts. He will also conduct the Temple Square Chorale concerts.

Among other previous positions, Brother Murphy has conducted two choirs at the New England Conservatory of Music. He spent four years as the choral director at Walnut Hill School for the Arts in the Boston area and two years as the music director of Tuacahn Theatre in St. George, Utah, USA.

Brother Murphy graduated



Ryan T. Murphy was named associate music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in March.

from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in piano and organ performance and pedagogy. He received his master's degree from BYU in choral conducting. He received his doctorate in choral conducting from Boston University in May 2009. ■

Members' Dreams Realized With YouTube Concert

Two Church members competed against more than 3,000 talented musicians and won the opportunity to appear in the world's first online-auditioned orchestra at New York's Carnegie Hall in April 2009.

YouTube, a popular online video sharing Web site, sent out a call for musicians of all

ages, levels of expertise, and locations to compete online for a spot in their Concert Symphony.

Violinists Benjamin Chan, from New York, and Jacqueline Metz Morant, from Texas, submitted their auditions online and made it past voting from a panel of professional musicians



Jacqueline Morant (left) and Ben Chan (not pictured), members of the Church, were selected as part of the YouTube Concert Symphony, which played in Carnegie Hall.

WORLD BRIEFS

and voters from the online YouTube community.

Sister Morant obtained a degree in violin performance from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Brother Chan graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in music performance.

Both Brother Chan and Sister Morant described the

three days in New York as a “whirlwind,” with eight hours of rehearsals each day. But the results were rewarding. Morant was made concertmaster, leading the first violin section and playing a solo during part of the three-hour concert.

The symphony orchestra’s performance may be found at YouTube.com/symphony. ■

Nine-Year-Old Enthusiastic about FamilySearch Indexing

Nine-year-old Ruth Rodriguez of Chaco, Argentina, has been full of energy since she was born, according to her mother, Viviana. With that energy she has participated in dance, karate, gymnastics, swimming, and guitar.

She has also been a volunteer indexer for the FamilySearch indexing initiative since the age of 8, when her mother was called as the family history center director.

“She cried when she found out that you had to be 12 years old to register to use the new FamilySearch program,” Sister Rodriguez said.

“Every once in a while she still tries to register, just in case.”

When she found out children under 12 could register for FamilySearch indexing with the permission of a parent, she signed up. She has since helped index Mexican census records and 1869 census records from Argentina.

Ruth helps patrons register for the new FamilySearch or FamilySearch indexing programs. She teaches others how to fill out their family trees and family group sheets. She even helps patrons set up microfilm in the microfilm readers. ■



Ruth Rodriguez of Argentina became a volunteer indexer for FamilySearch at age 8.

Church Launches Radio Channel Online

Mormon Channel, a new official Church radio station, now streams 24 hours a day at radio.lds.org and is available via HDRadio in Bonneville radio markets. Other distribution options are being explored.

Programming includes new content as well as content from the Church archives and partner organizations such as Bonneville International and Deseret Book. All Church-owned content will be downloadable after broadcast. An online schedule will appear up to two weeks in advance. See radio.lds.org for additional information.

FamilySearch Indexing Adds Three Languages

The FamilySearch Indexing application at FamilySearchIndexing.org is now available in three additional languages—Italian, Portuguese, and Russian. The application was already available in English, French, German, and Spanish.

In 2008, FamilySearch indexing volunteers from all around the world indexed more than 115 million names. Volunteers are always in demand, especially those who read a language other than English. Anyone of any age can register to volunteer by visiting [FamilySearch Indexing.org](http://FamilySearchIndexing.org).



Oquirrh Mountain Temple Dates Announced

The public open house for the Oquirrh Mountain Utah Temple that began June 1, 2009, will run through August 1. Reservations for the free open house can be made online at LDS.org/reservations.

The temple will be dedicated in nine sessions over three days from August 21 to 23, 2009. The Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. dedications will be broadcast to all stake centers in Utah. Local priesthood leaders will distribute tickets for the dedication. ■



Crossing the Sandridge, by Jeremy Winborg

When newly married Robert and Annie Brighton Thornley traveled from their home in northern Utah in 1859 to pick up supplies, one of their oxen gave out in an area called the Sandridge. They continued on for 20 miles (32 km) with Robert sharing the yoke with the healthy ox. When they arrived at Maughan's Fort, the only food available was sugar beets, which the Thornleys then lived on during the winter.



**Felicia Opare: Woman of Faith and Sacrifice,
by Emmalee Glauser Powell**

Felicia Opare of Ghana, Africa, was baptized during the early 1970s. As a hobby, she sews little bags and often gives them away. “God has given me this talent,” she says. “What kind of a person would I be if I did not share it?” For the paintings and stories of other Latter-day Saints in Ghana, see “Pioneers in Ghana,” p. 40.

