

# The Prayers of Our Hearts

*Accounts from two Latter-day Saints show how heartfelt prayer can strengthen our faith and help us feel God's love.*

## A Valuable Lesson in Faith

By Lee Allen

The Primary “Family Day” had been a wonderful success and was made even better when our son Ben, a recently returned missionary, came home from the university just for the occasion. We played softball, cricket, hide-and-seek, and Frisbee, and enjoyed the swings and playground equipment. We were one of the last families to leave.

As we began packing up all our things, Ben discovered his keys had fallen from his pocket. A frantic search ensued. During the activities of the day, he had been running around with his siblings and other children over many acres of the park; finding his keys seemed an absolutely hopeless task.

The older children raced towards the playground equipment to search. I followed, hand-in-hand with our five-year-old son, Mitchell. I suggested to him that we should

have a prayer and ask Heavenly Father to help us find Ben's keys. So in the middle of a playing field, Mitchell and I had a quiet prayer together telling Heavenly Father how much Ben needed to find his keys and how difficult the task would be without His help. After the prayer I asked Mitchell whether he thought Heavenly Father would answer our prayers. He replied confidently, “Oh, yeah!”

As I looked across the vast fields we had covered during the day, common sense told me it wasn't going to happen. I secretly feared for the faith of this five-year-old child. But time has never dimmed the significance of what happened next. We literally took one pace and there the keys were. I was overwhelmed with emotion. My young son had taught me a valuable lesson that day about faith in Heavenly Father, who I know answers our prayers. ■

*The author lives in Queensland, Australia.*





## His Love through Her Prayer

By Susan Morris

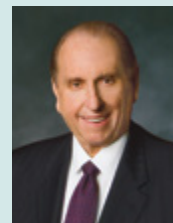
**M**y Relief Society president asked if she might begin our visiting teaching interview with prayer. I expected her to ask for the presence of the Spirit as we discussed the needs of the sisters I visited. This she did, but then she proceeded to pray earnestly and specifically for me in the challenges I was facing—some of which she knew, others that she didn't.

I cannot express the comfort and joy that filled my soul as I heard her pray for me. Outside my own family, I had never before heard someone pray for me in this way. I truly felt that my Relief Society president was inspired to convey the love and blessings of the Lord to me.

After I collected myself, we discussed the sisters for whom I had responsibility, and my leader compassionately encouraged me in my efforts to support one particular sister who was also experiencing difficulties.

I left this far-from-ordinary interview with a renewed hope for my own situation and a heightened sense of the importance of caring for others. While my family has always prayed for those we know are in need, now I do it more frequently and specifically in my individual prayers as well. I know from personal experience that “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man [or woman] availeth much” (James 5:16). ■

*The author lives in Utah, USA.*



### THE PASSPORT TO PEACE

“Prayer is the provider of spiritual strength; it is the passport to peace. . . . Miracles are wrought through prayer.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Be Your Best Self,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 68.