



Making Home an MTC

By Jenny Condie

When President Thomas S. Monson (1927–2018) announced the lowering of the age for full-time missionary service during the October 2012 general conference, I knew it was inspired. But as the mother of a 17-year-old boy, I was also apprehensive, I have to admit. My son seemed so young and unprepared for the mission field. And now he and his three younger brothers would possibly be leaving sooner than we had planned.

As I witnessed the flood of excited young men and women receiving their mission calls and entering the missionary training center following President Monson’s announcement, I thought to myself, “They are so young! How can they be ready?” The answer came to me through the words of an inspired local Church leader: “The home is really an MTC now.”

With these words in mind, my husband and I purchased a copy of *Preach My Gospel* for each of the seven members of our family. We used them as study guides during our regular family scripture study. With our assistance, even

our five-year-old daughter could participate.

We are continually on the lookout for other gospel learning opportunities for our children. We regularly invite missionaries to our home to teach investigators and to visit and dine with our family. Our older sons have taken opportunities to work with them.

We also try to help our children understand the basics of missionary life: obedience, using time wisely, learning to communicate well with others, and so on. We’ve even had role-plays in which our children have received a “mission call” and participated in companionship study and performed service projects.

Our two oldest sons have now completed full-time missions. Words cannot describe the joy and excitement this has brought to our whole family. I believe that as we prayerfully look for ways to make our homes like missionary training centers, we will be inspired and blessed with ideas and opportunities to teach our children. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

For more information, visit lds.org/callings/missionary.

With a little planning, mission preparation can be part of our every day.

MAKING YOUR HOME AN MTC

Whether you and your children are preparing to serve as full-time missionaries or lifelong member missionaries, these ideas can get you thinking about how to make missionary preparation a part of daily life:

- Watch the video “I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go” ([lds.org/go/whereE918](https://www.lds.org/go/whereE918)) and discuss how sharing the gospel can be part of everyday life.
- Make family scripture study a daily priority.
- Have family and companionship prayers before leaving the house for the day and before going to bed. Pray for missionary opportunities.
- Have your children practice teaching the lessons in chapter 3 of *Preach My Gospel* (2004) in a family home evening or other setting.
- At dinner, discuss opportunities you saw during the day to be an example or share what you believe.
- Help your children begin using a study journal and recording impressions and ideas that come to them from their personal gospel study (see *Preach My Gospel*, x).
- If you served a mission, consider placing keepsakes from your service where your children can see them. Share meaningful experiences from your mission with them.
- Teach your children how to clean, wash clothes, and make simple meals. Invite them to wash their own clothes and help with dinner regularly.
- Use the principles in the missionary guide *Safeguards for Using Technology* ([lds.org/go/safeguardsE918](https://www.lds.org/go/safeguardsE918)) to discuss technology use in your home.
- Use the new standardized missionary interview questions ([lds.org/go/questionsE918](https://www.lds.org/go/questionsE918)) as family home evening topics.



THE GREATEST MISSIONARY WORK

“The greatest missionary work we will ever do will be in our homes. Our homes, quorums, and classes are part of the mission field. Our children and grandchildren are our most important investigators.”

Elder Robert D. Hales (1932–2017) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Our Duty to God: The Mission of Parents and Leaders to the Rising Generation,” *Ensign*, May 2010, 97.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For children: David Dickson, “Family MTC,” *Friend*, Oct. 2013, 26–27.

For teens: C. Scott Grow, “My MTC: Missionary Training Commitment,” *New Era*, Mar. 2008, 40–42.

For parents:

M. Russell Ballard, “Creating a Gospel-Sharing Home,” *Ensign*, May 2006, 84–87.

