## August 2010 1

Friend to Friend

## **A Special Feeling of Peace**

## **By Sister Barbara Thompson** Second Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency

## *I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it* (JS—H 1:25).

When I was eight years old, our family went on a vacation to the state of New York. I learned that many important events in Church history took place there.

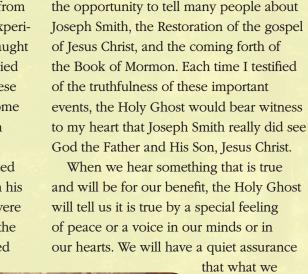
My parents had taught us about Joseph Smith and his prayer to seek wisdom from God. They taught us about Joseph's experience in the Sacred Grove. They also taught us about the gold plates that were buried in the Hill Cumorah. We had heard these stories many times before in family home evening, in Primary, and in our church meetings.

When we got to New York, we visited the site where Joseph Smith lived with his parents and brothers and sisters. We were reminded that the Smith family loved the Bible and often read from it and prayed

together. Then we went down the lane to the grove of trees where Joseph went to ask Heavenly Father which church was His true church.

As our family walked into the Sacred Grove, my heart began to pound. There was a peaceful, wonderful feeling there. I felt something very

THE SACRED GROVE, BY WELDEN ANDERSEN; THE DESIRES OF MY HEART, BY WALTER RANE, COURTESY CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM



the Holy Ghost.

special as I thought about Joseph Smith

our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus

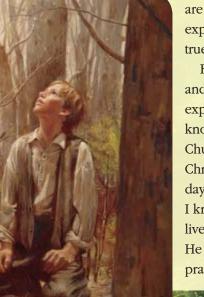
and his prayer for wisdom. He actually saw

Christ. I knew it was true. My parents later

explained that the special feeling I felt was

Since that time, my testimony of the truthfulness of this event has grown much

stronger. As a missionary in Germany, I had



that what we are hearing or experiencing is true.

From these and many other experiences, I know that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints is true. I know God lives, and I know He answers our prayers. ◆