

Copenhagen, Denmark (evacuation point)

# MISSIONARY to the RESCUE

Padborg, Denmark (Danish border station)

Neumünster, Germany—rescued 2 missionaries

Osnabrück, Germany—rescued 7 missionaries

## Elder Seibold's Route

Emmerich, Germany (Dutch border station)

Cologne, Germany—rescued 8 missionaries

Frankfurt, Germany (mission headquarters)

By Alisa McBride

(Based on a true story)

*Listen, listen. The Holy Ghost will whisper. Listen, listen to the still small voice (Children's Songbook, 106–7).*

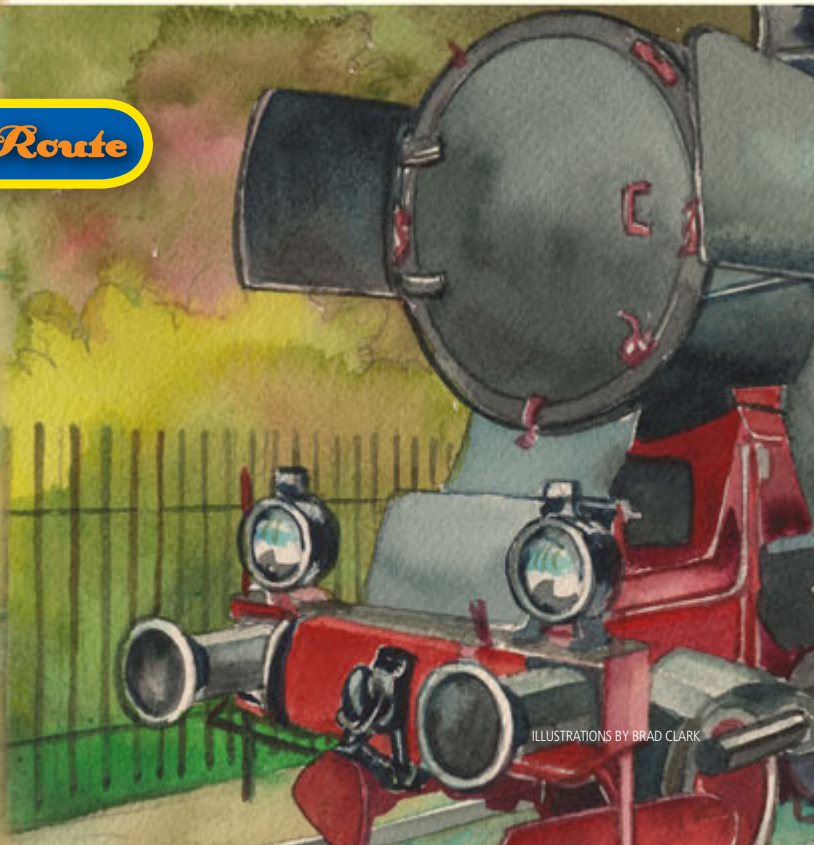
**E**lder Norman Seibold leaned forward in his seat. He was anxious to hear what his mission president would say at the emergency meeting in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1939, German soldiers were marching in the streets and it looked like war would break out at any moment. Elder Seibold knew that the First Presidency had ordered all missionaries to evacuate from Germany and Czechoslovakia. His mission president, President Wood, had told the missionaries to go to the Netherlands.

But now President Wood said there was a big problem. The Netherlands had just closed its border to people leaving Germany, and the missionaries needed to evacuate to Denmark instead. But since the telephone lines were clogged with emergency calls, President Wood couldn't contact the missionaries throughout Germany to tell them about the change in plans.

Even if the mission president could contact the missionaries, there was another problem. The military would not allow anyone fleeing Germany to travel with more than 10 marks

EUROPE



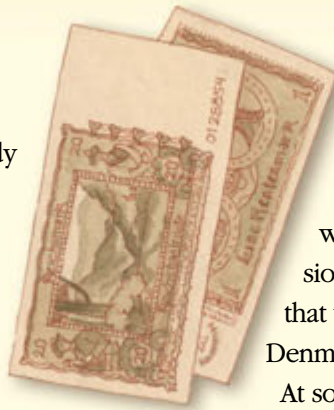
(about \$2). The missionaries had already bought train tickets for the Netherlands and had spent most of their money to be obedient to the law. Now they wouldn't have enough money to buy new train tickets for Denmark. They were stranded!

"Thirty-one missionaries are stranded between here and the border of the Netherlands with no way of contacting me," President Wood said. "Someone needs to find them and bring them safely to Denmark."

Elder Seibold volunteered.

President Wood gave the brave elder 500 *marks* and train tickets to Copenhagen, Denmark. His special assignment was to ride the railway lines between Frankfurt and the border of the Netherlands, searching for the stranded missionaries. The direction of the Spirit would be his only guide.

After four hours on the train, Elder Seibold reached Cologne, Germany. He felt impressed to get off the train there. The busy station was filled with thousands of people anxious to flee Germany. How could he find any missionaries in such an enormous crowd?

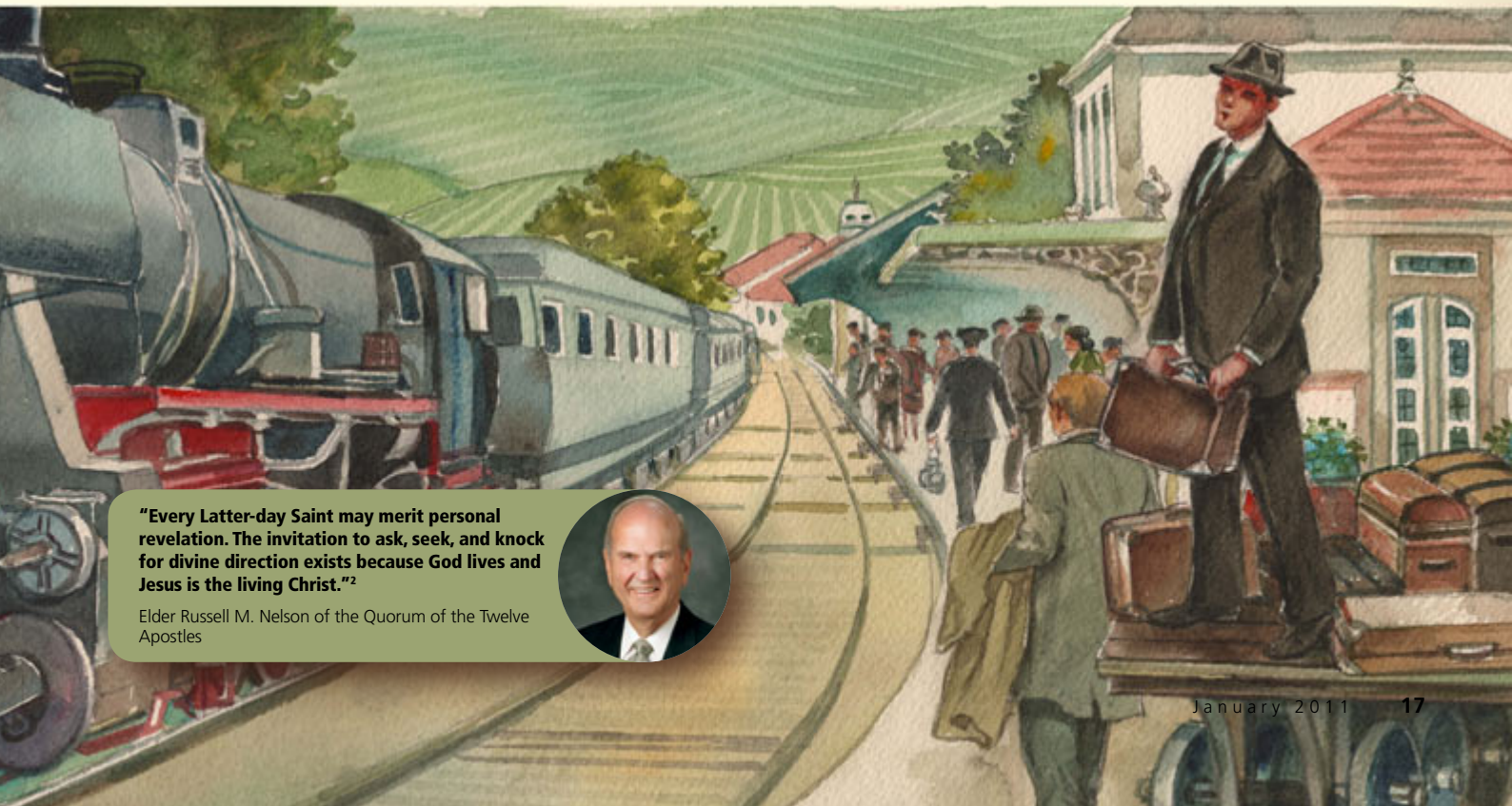


Elder Seibold climbed onto a baggage cart and whistled the hymn "Do What Is Right," which was a well-known signal to gather missionaries. Eight missionaries in the station heard that whistle, and Elder Seibold sent them safely to Denmark.

At some stops, Elder Seibold stayed on the train. At others, he was prompted by the Spirit to get off and whistle for stranded elders. At every station, Elder Seibold risked that the military would find him and put him in jail for travelling with so much money.

At a station in one small village, Elder Seibold didn't think he would find any missionaries. But the Spirit told him to get off the train and walk into town. He went inside a restaurant and found two elders who had just spent their last pennies on lemonade. Elder Seibold knew he had been guided there, just as surely as if someone had taken him by the hand.

Eventually Elder Seibold rescued 17 missionaries. The other 14 had reached the Netherlands before the border was closed, but Elder Seibold continued searching until he received a spiritual confirmation that his assignment was complete. Because Elder Seibold obeyed the promptings of the Spirit, all 31 missionaries were safe. ♦



**"Every Latter-day Saint may merit personal revelation. The invitation to ask, seek, and knock for divine direction exists because God lives and Jesus is the living Christ."<sup>22</sup>**

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

