



Three Bridges

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

Many years ago I read a book titled *The Way to the Western Sea* by David S. Lavender. It provides a fascinating account of the journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as they led their expedition across the North American continent to discover an overland route to the Pacific Ocean.

Their trek was a nightmare of back-breaking toil, deep gorges which had to be crossed, and extensive travel by foot, carrying with them their supply-laden boats to find the next stream on which to make their way.

As I read of their experiences, I mused, “If only there were modern bridges to span

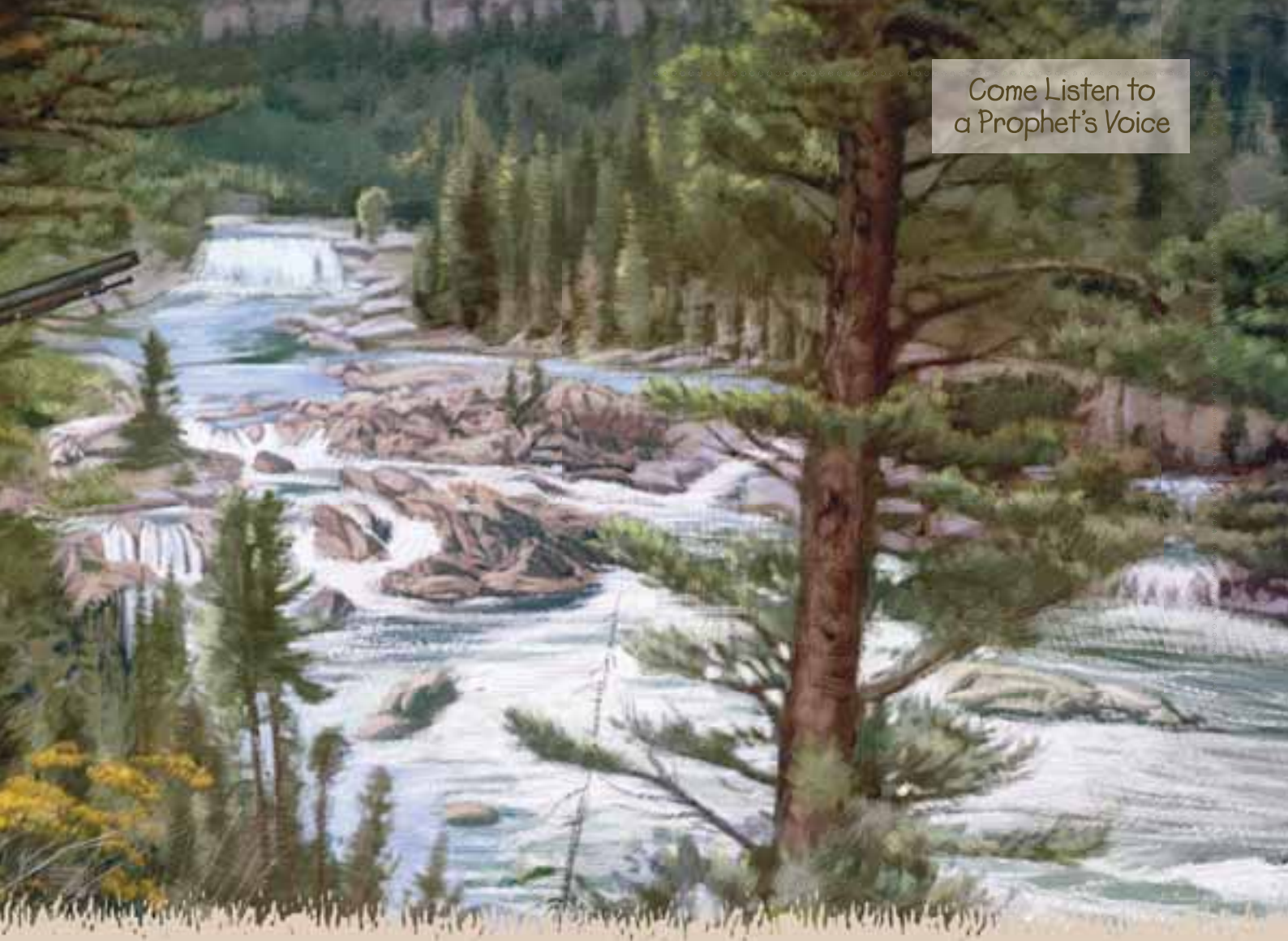


President Monson teaches us about the bridges we need to cross.

the gorges or the raging waters.” There came to my mind thoughts of magnificent bridges of our time which accomplish this task with ease: beautiful Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco fame; sturdy Sydney, Australia, Harbour Bridge; and others in many lands.

In reality, we are all travelers—even explorers of mortality. We do not have the benefit of previous personal experience. We must pass over steep cliffs and turbulent waters in our own journey here on earth.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was the supreme builder of bridges for you, for me, for all humankind. He has built the bridges



over which we must cross if we are to reach our heavenly home.

Jesus provided the Bridge of Obedience. He was an unflinching example of personal obedience as He kept the commandments of His Father.

The second bridge provided by the Master for us to cross is the Bridge of Service. We look to the Savior as our example of service. Although He came to earth as the Son of God, He humbly served those around Him. He blessed the sick; He caused the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear. He even raised the dead to life.

Finally, the Lord provided us the Bridge of Prayer. He directed, “Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you, and great shall be your blessing” (D&C 19:38).

Jesus, the Bridge Builder, spanned that vast chasm

we call death. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22). He did for us what we could not do for ourselves; hence, humankind can cross the bridges He built—into life eternal. ●

From an October 2003 general conference address.

Things to Think About

1. What is one commandment Jesus showed us how to keep? How can you obey that commandment?
2. Think of one person that you can serve. What is one thing you could do to help that person?
3. What do you think the Lord meant when He told us to “pray always”? How can you pray in your heart even when you aren’t saying a prayer out loud?
4. Jesus Christ gave His life so we can all live again forever. How does knowing this help you feel closer to Him and to Heavenly Father?