

A Prophet's Love

BY PRESIDENT DIETER F. UCHTDORF
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

Some years ago, President Thomas S. Monson came to a regional conference in Hamburg, Germany, and it was my honor to accompany him.

President Monson asked about Brother Michael Panitsch, a former stake president who had been one of the stalwart pioneers of the Church in Germany. I told him that Brother Panitsch was seriously ill, that he was bedridden and unable to attend our meetings.

President Monson asked if we could pay him a visit.

I knew that shortly before his trip to Hamburg, President Monson had undergone foot surgery and that he could not walk without pain. I explained that Brother Panitsch lived on the fifth floor of a building with no elevators. We would have

to climb the stairs to see him.

But President Monson insisted. And so we went.

I remember how difficult it was for President Monson to climb those stairs. He could take only a few at a time before needing to stop and rest. He never uttered a word of complaint, and he would not turn back. Because the building had high ceilings, the stairs seemed to go on forever, but President Monson cheerfully persevered until we arrived at the apartment of Brother Panitsch on the fifth floor.

Once there, we had a wonderful visit. President Monson thanked him for his life of dedicated service and

cheered him with a smile. Before we left, he gave him a wonderful priesthood blessing.

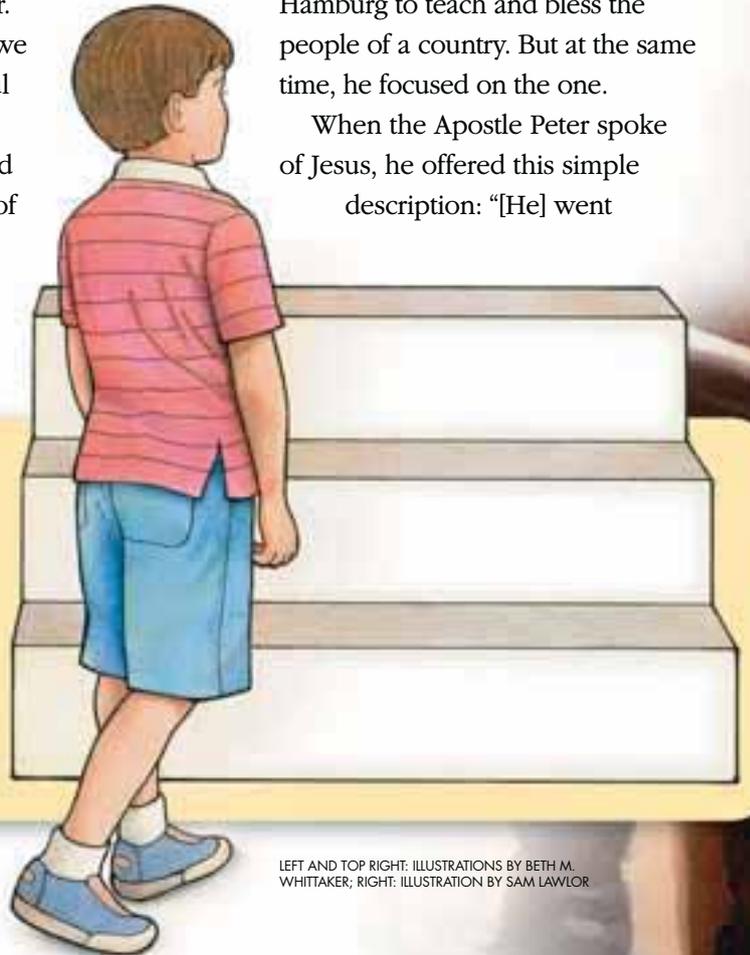
President Monson could have chosen to rest between our long meetings. He could have asked to see some of the beautiful sights of Hamburg. I have often thought of how remarkable it was that of all the sights in that city, the one he wanted to see more than any other was a feeble and ailing member of the Church.

President Monson came to Hamburg to teach and bless the people of a country. But at the same time, he focused on the one.

When the Apostle Peter spoke of Jesus, he offered this simple description: “[He] went

CLIMBING THE STAIRS

President Monson had to walk up a lot of stairs to help Brother Panitsch. Think of three different things you can do to help someone, especially at home. Draw a picture or write on each stair step to help you remember your ideas.



LEFT AND TOP RIGHT: ILLUSTRATIONS BY BETH M. WHITTAKER; RIGHT: ILLUSTRATION BY SAM LAWLOR

ER SPRICHT DEUTSCH (“HE SPEAKS GERMAN”)



President Uchtdorf is the first person from Germany to serve in the First Presidency. When he was a child, he spoke German. Now when he speaks in general conference, he speaks English. Look at the sentences at right from a talk President Uchtdorf gave in general conference in April 2008. See if you can translate the German words into your own language.

about doing good” (Acts 10:38).
The same can be said of the
man we sustain as the prophet
of God. ●

*From an April 2008 general
conference address.*

“I rejoice to have the great privilege of calling myself a member of
¹*die Kirche Jesu Christi der Heiligen der Letzten Tage.*” _____

“I pray that God will grant me ²*Kraft* _____ and an
understanding ³*Herz* _____ to
magnify this sacred  and an
calling.” 

“I feel so privileged to work closely with ⁴*Präsident* _____
Monson. . . . He is the ⁵*Prophet Gottes.*” _____

ANSWERS

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
2. strength, 3. heart, 4. President, 5. prophet of God.

