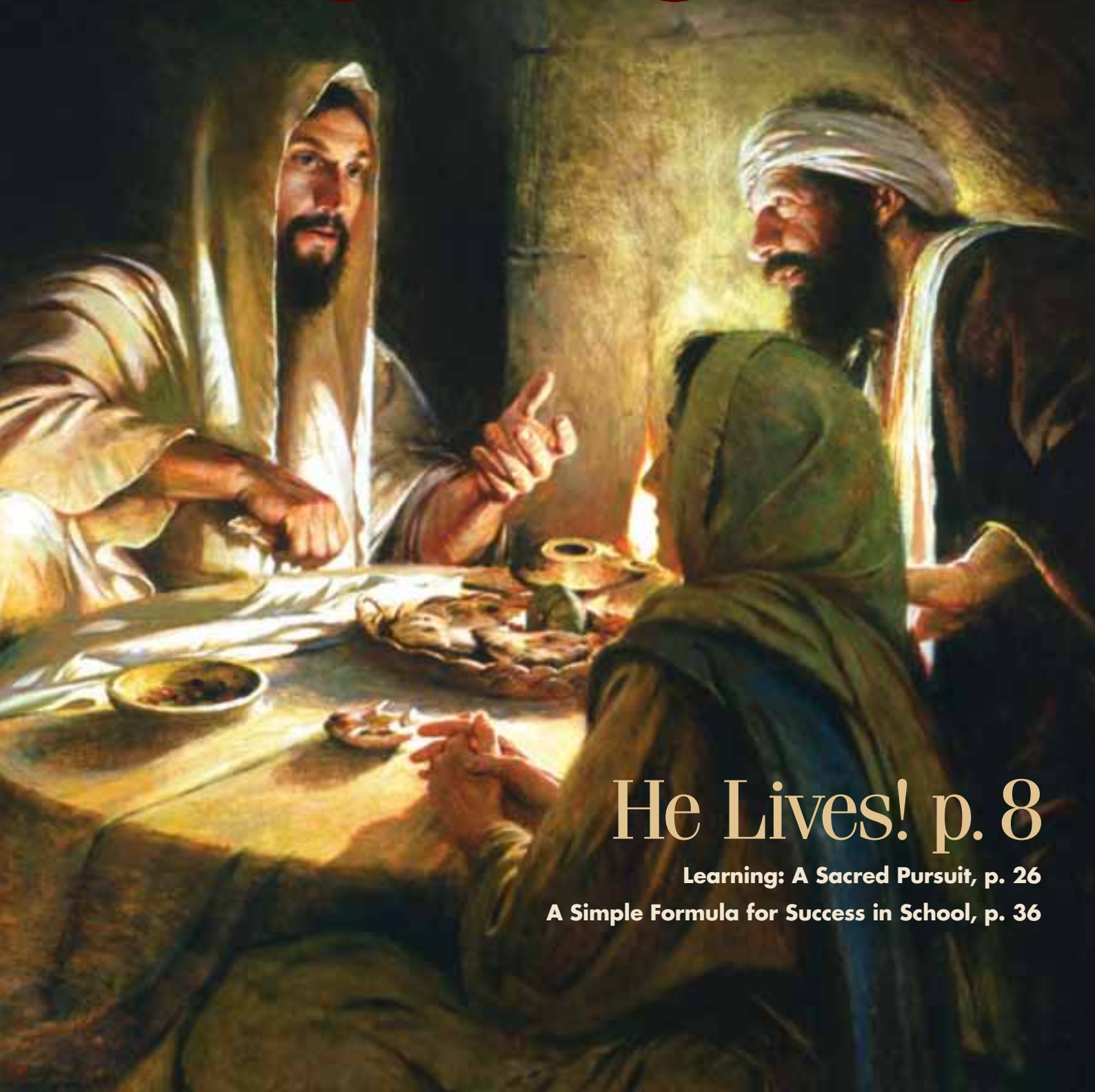


# Liahona



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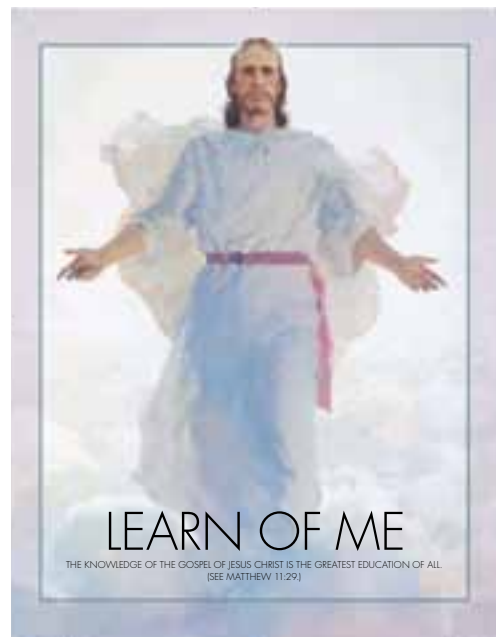
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# children

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THE FRIEND COVER  
Illustration by Jim  
Madsen.



See if you can find  
the Cebuano CTR  
ring hidden in this  
issue. Choose the  
right page!

## comment

### Spiritual Reading

The *Liahona* is a great blessing,  
and I get a lot of enjoyment from  
reading it. Sometimes I make a gift of  
the *Liahona* so that other people can  
have a spiritual experience reading  
it. I really liked the talk by President  
Thomas S. Monson in the April 2008  
children's pages called "Three Bridges."  
All the things he tells us are vital for  
us to feel spiritual peace and to live a  
life in accordance with the command-  
ments of the Lord. The *Liahona* is  
marvelous, spiritual reading.  
*Eleanor Grimaldi, Dominican Republic*

### Help to Improve

I am grateful for the *Liahona* in my  
life. My family and I use the *Liahona* in  
lessons for family home evening and  
to help investigators learn more about  
the Church. Mainly, the *Liahona* helps  
me to improve. Through the articles  
I feel an immense desire to do better,  
and I make goals with respect to the  
teachings given in the articles. I love  
the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and  
the opportunity it gives us to improve  
each day.

*Graziele Luiza Ramos de Freitas, Brazil*



# Teaching True Doctrine

BY PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING  
First Counselor in the First Presidency

There has been a war between light and darkness, between good and evil, since before the world was created. The battle still rages, and the casualties seem to be increasing. All of us have family members we love who are being buffeted by the forces of the destroyer, who would make all of God's children miserable. For many of us, there have been sleepless nights. We have tried to add every force for good we can to the powers swirling around the people who are at risk. We have loved them. We have set the best example we could. We have pled in prayer for them. A wise prophet long ago gave us counsel about another force which we may at times underestimate and thus use too little.

Alma was the leader of a people faced with destruction by ferocious enemies. In the face of that danger, he could not do everything, so he had to choose. He could have built fortifications or trained armies or created armaments. But his only hope of victory was to get God's help, and for that he knew the people must repent. And so he chose to try one spiritual thing first: "And now, as the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people than the sword,

or anything else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God" (Alma 31:5).

## Opening Minds and Hearts

The word of God is the doctrine taught by Jesus Christ and by His prophets. Alma knew that words of doctrine have great power. They can open the minds of people to see spiritual things not visible to the natural eye. And they can open hearts to feelings of the love of God and a love for truth. The Savior drew on both of those sources of power, to open our eyes and open hearts, in the 18th section of the Doctrine and Covenants as He taught His doctrine to those whom He wanted to serve Him as missionaries. As you listen, think of that young man in your family now wavering in preparing himself for a mission. Here is how the Master taught two of His servants and how you might teach His doctrine to the young man you love:

"And now, Oliver Cowdery, I speak unto you, and also unto David Whitmer, by the way of commandment; for, behold, I command all men everywhere to repent, and I speak unto you, even as unto Paul mine apostle, for you are called even with that same calling with which he was called.

"Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God" (D&C 18:9–10).



*In the face of great danger, Alma chose to try one spiritual thing first to strengthen his people: "As the preaching of the word had a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just— . . . therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God."*

He begins by saying how much He trusts them. Then He draws their hearts to Him by saying how much His Father and He love every soul. He next goes to the foundation of His doctrine. He describes how much we have cause to love Him:

“For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him.

“And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance.

“And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth!” (D&C 18:11–13).

Having given the doctrine of His mission to open their hearts, He gives them His command: “Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people” (D&C 18:14).

Finally, He opens their eyes to see beyond the veil. He takes them and us to a future existence, described in the great plan of salvation, where we may yet be. He tells us of wonderful associations, worth giving our all to enjoy:

“And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

“And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!” (D&C 18:15–16).

In those few passages, He teaches doctrine to open our hearts to His love. And He teaches doctrine to open our eyes to see spiritual realities, invisible to any mind not illuminated by the Spirit of Truth.

### **How We Must Teach**

The need to open eyes and hearts tells us how we must teach doctrine. Doctrine gains its power as the Holy Ghost confirms that it is true. We prepare those we teach, as best we can, to receive the quiet promptings of the still, small voice. That takes at least some faith in Jesus Christ. It takes at least some humility, some willingness to surrender to the Savior’s will for us. The person you would help may have little of either, but you can urge that he or she desire

to believe. More than that, you can take confidence from another of the powers of doctrine. Truth can prepare its own way. Simply hearing the words of doctrine can plant the seed of faith in the heart. And even a tiny seed of faith in Jesus Christ invites the Spirit.

We have more control over our own preparation. We feast on the word of God in the scriptures and study the words of the living prophets. We fast and pray to invite the Spirit for ourselves and the person we would teach.

Because we need the Holy Ghost, we must be cautious and careful not to go beyond teaching true doctrine. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Truth. His confirmation is invited by our avoiding speculation or personal interpretation. That can be hard to do. You love the person you are trying to influence. He or she may have ignored the doctrine previously heard. It is tempting to try something new or sensational. But we invite the Holy Ghost as our companion when we are careful to teach only true doctrine.

One of the surest ways to avoid even getting near false doctrine is to choose to be simple in our teaching. Safety is gained by that simplicity, and little is lost. We know that because the Savior has told us to teach the most important doctrine to little children. Listen to His command: “And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents” (D&C 68:25).

We can teach even a child to understand the doctrine of Jesus Christ. It is therefore possible, with God’s help, to teach the saving doctrine simply.

### **Begin Early**

We have the greatest opportunity with the young. The best time to teach is early, while children are still immune to the temptations of their mortal enemy and long before the words of truth may be harder for them to hear in the noise of their personal struggles.

A wise parent would never miss a chance to gather children together to learn of the doctrine of Jesus Christ.



Such moments are so rare in comparison with the efforts of the enemy. For every hour the power of doctrine is introduced into a child's life, there may be hundreds of hours of messages and images denying or ignoring the saving truths.

The question should not be whether we are too tired to prepare to teach doctrine or whether it would be better to draw a child closer by just having fun or whether the child is beginning to think that we preach too much. The question must be, "With so little time and so few opportunities, what words of doctrine from me will fortify them against the attacks on their faith which are sure to come?" The words you speak today may be the ones they remember. And today will soon be gone.

The years pass, we teach the doctrine the best we can, and yet some still do not respond. There is sorrow in that. But there is hope in the scriptural record of families. Think of Alma the Younger and Enos. In their moments of crisis, they remembered the words of their fathers, words of the doctrine of

Jesus Christ (see Enos 1:1–4; Alma 36:16–19). It saved them. Your teaching of that sacred doctrine will be remembered.

#### **The Lasting Effects of Teaching**

Two doubts may creep into your mind. You may wonder if you know the doctrine well enough to teach it. And if you have already tried to teach it, you may wonder why you can't see much of good effect.

In my own family there is a story of a young woman who had the courage to start to teach doctrine when she was only a new convert with little education. The fact that the effects of her teaching haven't ended gives me patience to wait for the fruits of my own efforts.

Mary Bommeli was my great-grandmother. I never met her. Her granddaughter heard her tell her story and wrote it down.

Mary was born in 1830. The missionaries taught her family in Switzerland when she was 24. She was still living at home, weaving and selling cloth to help support her family on their small farm. When the family heard

***The best time to teach is early, while children are still immune to the temptations of their mortal enemy and long before the words of truth may be harder for them to hear in the noise of their personal struggles.***

***I***t was against the law then to teach the doctrine of the Church in Berlin. But Mary could not keep the good news to herself.

the doctrine of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, they knew it was true. They were baptized. Mary's brothers were called on missions, going without purse or scrip. The rest of the family sold their possessions to go to America to gather with the Saints.

There was not enough money for all to go. Mary volunteered to stay behind because she felt she could earn enough from her weaving to support herself and save for her passage. She found her way to Berlin and to the home of a woman who hired her to weave cloth for the family's clothing. She lived in a servant's room and set up her loom in the living area of the home.

It was against the law then to teach the doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Berlin. But Mary could not keep the good news to herself. The woman of the house and her friends would gather

around the loom to hear the Swiss girl teach. She talked about the appearance of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ to Joseph Smith, of the visitation of angels, and of the Book of Mormon. When she came to the accounts of Alma, she taught the doctrine of the Resurrection.

That caused some problems with her weaving. In those days many children died very young. The women around the loom had lost children in death, some of them several children. When Mary taught the truth that little children were heirs of the celestial kingdom and that those women might again be with them and with the Savior and our Heavenly Father, tears rolled down the faces of the women. Mary cried too. All those tears falling got the cloth wet that Mary had woven.

Mary's teaching created a more serious problem. Even though Mary begged the women not to talk about what she told them, they did.





## IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

**A**fter prayerfully studying this message, share it using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. Following are some examples:

1. Read the first paragraph of the article. Explain how an open heart and mind can help people move from the dark to the light. Tell the story of President Eyring's great-grandmother Mary Bommeli. Discuss how she helped people discover the light. Invite family members to express ways they might help teach others true doctrine.

2. Bring an object or visual aid that can help you briefly teach a doctrine that is meaningful to you (for example, bring a mustard seed to talk about faith or a piece of bread to discuss the Bread of Life). Explain how this doctrine has influenced your life. Invite family members to share doctrines that are meaningful to them.

3. Help the family understand the principles of teaching from the section "How We Must Teach." Invite them to apply those principles in a future family home evening.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINA SMITH

They shared the joyous doctrine with their friends. So one night there was a knock at the door. It was the police. They took Mary off to jail. On the way she asked the policeman for the name of the judge she was to appear before the next morning. She asked if he had a family. She asked if he was a good father and a good husband. The policeman smiled as he described the judge as a man of the world.

At the jail Mary asked for a pencil and some paper. She wrote a letter to the judge. She wrote about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as described in the Book of Mormon, about the spirit world, and about how long the judge would have to think and to consider his life before facing the final judgment. She wrote that she knew he had much to repent of which would break his family's heart and bring him great sorrow. She wrote through the night. In the morning she asked the policeman to take her letter to the judge. He did.

Later the policeman was summoned by the judge to his office. The letter Mary had written was irrefutable evidence that she was teaching the gospel and so breaking the law. Nevertheless, it wasn't long until the policeman came back to Mary's cell. He told her that all charges were dismissed

and that she was free to go. Her teaching the doctrine of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ had opened eyes and hearts enough to get her cast into jail. And her declaring the doctrine of repentance to the judge got her cast out of jail.<sup>1</sup>

### Shaping Your Descendants

The teaching of Mary Bommeli touched more than those women around the loom and the judge. My father, her grandson, talked to me during the nights as he approached death. He spoke of joyous reunions that were coming soon in the spirit world. I could almost see the bright sunlight and the smiles in that place of paradise as he talked about it with such assurance.

At one point I asked him if he had some repenting to do. He smiled. He chuckled softly as he said, "No, Hal, I've been repenting as I went along." The doctrine of paradise that Mary Bommeli taught those women was real to her grandson. And even the doctrine Mary taught the judge had shaped my father's life for good. That will not be the end of Mary Bommeli's teaching. The record of her words will send true doctrine to generations of her family yet unborn. Because she believed that even a new convert knew enough doctrine to teach it, the minds and hearts of her descendants will be opened, and they will be strengthened in the battle.

Your descendants will teach doctrine to each other because you taught it. Doctrine can more than open minds to spiritual things and hearts to the love of God. When that doctrine brings joy and peace, it also has the power to open mouths. Like those women in Berlin, your descendants will not be able to keep the good news to themselves.

I am grateful to live in a time when we and our families have the fulness of the gospel restored. I am grateful for the Savior's mission of love for us and for the words of life which He has given us. I pray that we may share those words with those we love. I testify that God our Father lives and loves all His children. Jesus Christ is His Only Begotten Son in the flesh and our Savior. I know that He is risen, and I know that we can be washed clean through obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ. ■

#### NOTE

1. See Theresa Snow Hill, *Life and Times of Henry Eyring and Mary Bommeli* (1997), 15–22.

# He Is Risen



**Above: He Is Risen, by Del Parson**

*The chief priests and scribes “shall deliver [Christ] to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to scourge him: and the third day he shall rise again” (Matthew 20:19).*

**Right: He Is Not Here, by Walter Rane**

*“He is not here: for he is risen” (Matthew 28:6).*



**Above: As It Began to Dawn, by Elspeth Young**

*“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre” (Matthew 28:1).*



**Above: Easter Morning, by William F. Whitaker Jr.**

*“Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master” (John 20:16).*



**Below: The Three Marys at the Tomb, by William-Adolphe Bouguereau**

*“They saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted” (Mark 16:5).*



**Above: The Garden Tomb, by Linda Curley Christensen**

*“The angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door” (Matthew 28:2).*



**Right: The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulchre, by Dan Burr**

*“Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple. . . .*

*“So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre” (John 20:3-4).*



**Above: The Doubtful Thomas, by Carl Heinrich Bloch**

*Christ said to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger; and behold my hands; . . . and be not faithless, but believing" (John 20:27).*

**Right: The Resurrected Christ in Galilee, by Gary Smith**

*"And Jesus came and spake unto [the eleven disciples], saying, . . .  
"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:18-19).*



**Above: Feed My Sheep, by Kamille Corry**

*"Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep" (John 21:16).*



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**Below: Christ on the Road to Emmaus, by Greg Olsen**

*"But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them" (Luke 24:29).*



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**Right: The Ascension of Jesus, by Harry Anderson**

*"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:51).*

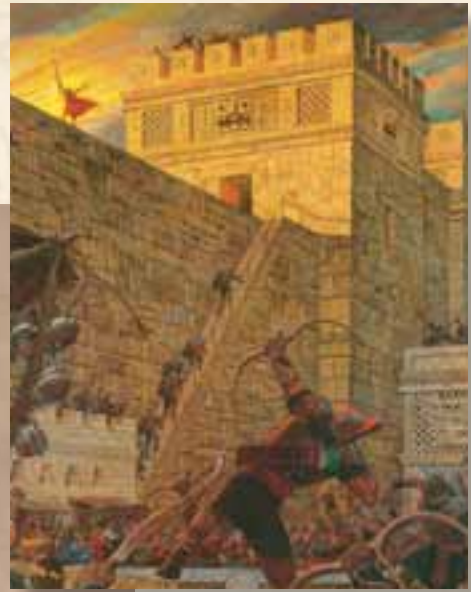


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**Below: Christ Appearing in the Western Hemisphere, by Arnold Friberg**

*“And it came to pass, as they understood they cast their eyes up again towards heaven; and behold, they saw [Christ] descending out of heaven” (3 Nephi 11:8).*

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**Above: Samuel the Lamanite Prophesies, by Arnold Friberg**

*Those Nephites who did not believe “cast stones at him upon the wall, and also many shot arrows at him” (Helaman 16:2).*

**Right: Christ in the Land Bountiful, by Simon Dewey**

*“The multitude went forth, . . . and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands . . . and did bear record, that it was [Christ]” (3 Nephi 11:15).*

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**Left: Bring Forth the Record, by Robert T. Barrett**

*"Yea, Lord, Samuel [the Lamanite] did prophesy according to thy words, and they were all fulfilled. And Jesus said unto them: How be it that ye have not written this thing?" (3 Nephi 23:10–11).*

**Below: Christ and the Book of Mormon Children, by Del Parson**

*"[Christ] wept, and the multitude bare record of it, and he took their little children, one by one, and blessed them" (3 Nephi 17:21).*

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**Left: Christ Praying with the Nephites, by Ted Heninger**

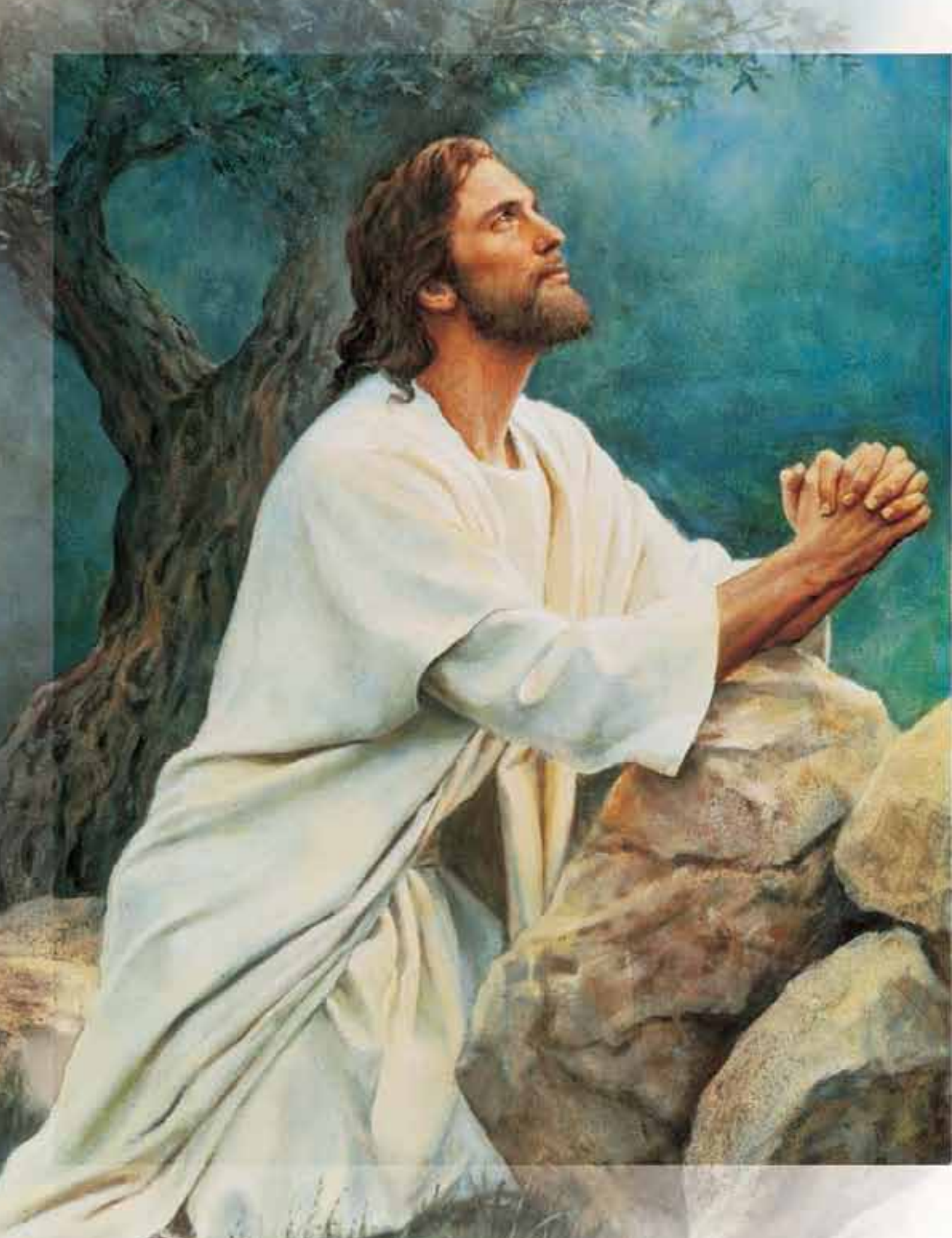
*"And no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard [Christ] pray for us unto the Father" (3 Nephi 17:17).*

**Below: Jesus Christ Visits the Americas, by John Scott**

*"And [the Nephites] did fall down at the feet of Jesus, and did worship him" (3 Nephi 11:17).*

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# What Does the Atonement Mean to You?

BY ELDER CECIL O. SAMUELSON JR.  
Of the Seventy

**T**he Prophet Joseph Smith taught, “The fundamental principles of our religion are the testimony of the Apostles and Prophets, concerning Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven; and all other things which pertain to our religion are only appendages to it.”<sup>1</sup>

These fundamental principles are grounded in the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The word *Atonement* “describes the setting ‘at one’ of those who have been estranged, and denotes the reconciliation of man to God. Sin is the cause of the estrangement, and therefore the purpose of atonement is to correct or overcome the consequences of sin.”<sup>2</sup> I believe it is also possible to become estranged from God for many reasons other than overt sin.

The risks of our becoming distant from our Father in Heaven and the Savior are significant and constantly around us. Happily, the Atonement was meant for all of these situations as well. That is why Jacob, the brother of Nephi, described the Atonement as “infinite” (2 Nephi 9:7), meaning without limitations or externally imposed constraints. That is why the Atonement is so remarkable and so necessary. Little wonder, then, that we

not only need to appreciate this incomparable gift but also to understand it clearly.

Jesus Christ was the only one capable of performing the magnificent Atonement because He was the only perfect man and the Only Begotten Son of God the Father. He received His commission for this essential work from His Father before the world was established. His perfect mortal life devoid of sin, the shedding of His blood, His suffering in the garden and upon the cross, His voluntary death, and the Resurrection of His body from the tomb made possible a full Atonement for people of every generation and time.

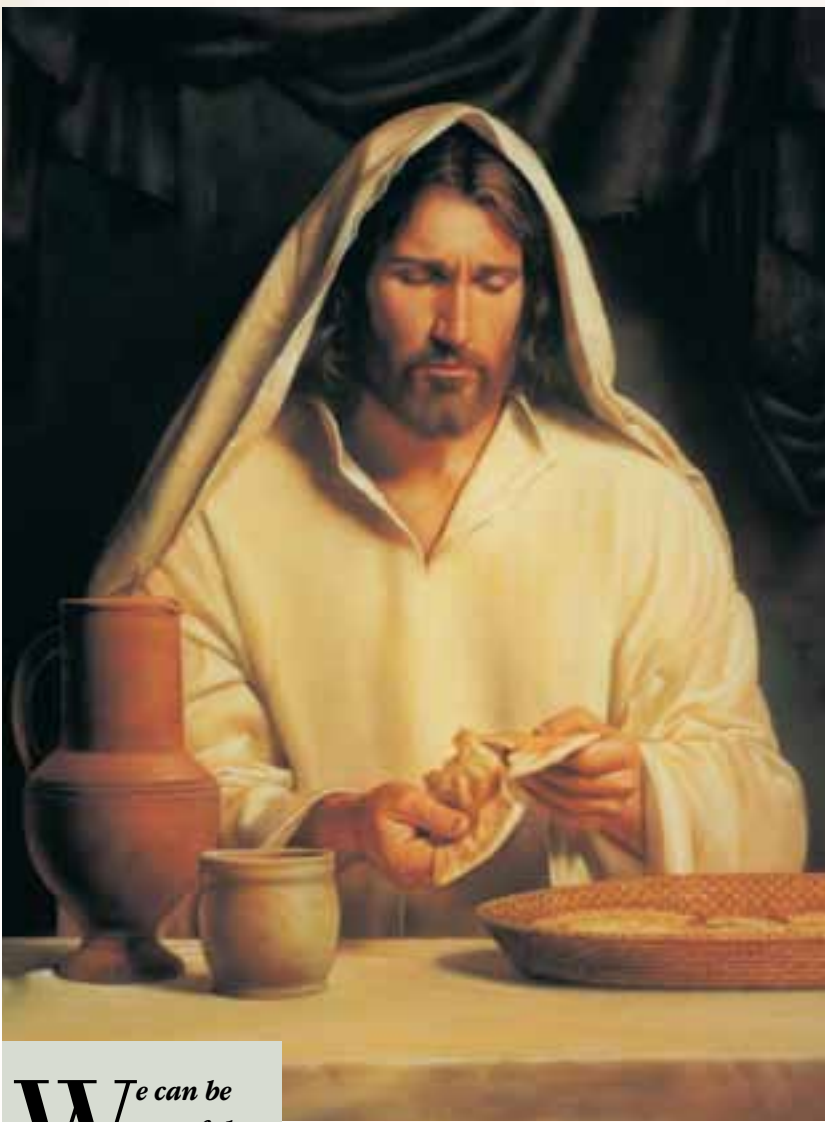
The Atonement makes the Resurrection a reality for everyone. However, with respect to our individual transgressions and sins, conditional aspects of the Atonement require our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our repentance, and our compliance with the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

## **Immortality and Eternal Life**

Perhaps the most oft-quoted verse in our meetings and writings is this wonderful clarifying and summarizing verse from the book of Moses: “For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39).



*The Atonement is intensely personal and uniquely crafted for our own individual circumstances and situations.*



**W**e can be grateful that the Savior, understanding us better than we understand ourselves, instituted the sacrament that we might regularly renew our covenants by partaking of the sacred emblems.

Because of the Resurrection, all of us will have immortality. Because of the Atonement, those who have sufficient faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to take upon themselves His name, who repent and live in accordance with His gospel, who keep covenants with Him and His Father, and who participate in the saving ordinances made available in sacred ways and places will experience and enjoy eternal life.

I cannot recall ever encountering a person who professed strong faith in Jesus Christ and who was very worried about the Resurrection. Yes, all of us may have questions about the details, but we understand that the fundamental promise is all-inclusive and sure.

Because eternal life is conditional and requires our effort and compliance, most of us struggle from time to time, perhaps

regularly—even constantly—with questions related to living the way we know we should. As Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has asked, “[Do] we mistakenly believe we must make the journey from good to better and become a saint all by ourselves through sheer grit, willpower, and discipline”?<sup>3</sup>

If our salvation were only a matter of our own effort, we would be in serious trouble because we are all imperfect and unable to comply fully in every way all of the time. How, then, do we achieve the help and assistance we require? Nephi clarified the dilemma of the relationship between grace and works when he testified, “For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do” (2 Nephi 25:23).

The Bible Dictionary reminds us that *grace* means a divine mechanism or device that brings strength or help through the mercy and love of Jesus Christ made available by His Atonement.<sup>4</sup> Thus, it is through the grace of Christ that we are resurrected, and it is His grace, love, and Atonement that help us accomplish the good works and make the necessary progress that otherwise would be impossible if we were left solely to our own capacities and resources.

### **Happiness through the Atonement**

Among the many things I admire about Nephi was his attitude. His life was not easy, particularly when compared with the comfort most of us take for granted today. Nephi and his family lived for years in the wilderness before arriving in the promised land. They suffered periods of hunger, thirst, and danger. Nephi had to deal with serious family problems exacerbated by Laman and Lemuel,

finally separating himself, with his followers, from those who sided with Laman and Lemuel.

In the face of all these privations and difficulties, Nephi was able to say, “It came to pass that we lived after the manner of happiness” (2 Nephi 5:27).

He understood that there is a pattern for living that results in happiness, independent of the difficulties, challenges, and disappointments that come into all of our lives. He was able to focus on the big picture of God’s plan for him and his people and was thus able to avoid being brought down by his frustrations or by the accurate observation that life is not fair. It isn’t fair, but he and his people were happy nevertheless. They understood that an Atonement would take place, and they had confidence that it would include them.

Nephi asked himself important questions that we might ask ourselves as we consider the place of Christ’s Atonement in our own lives:

“O then, if I have seen so great things, if the Lord in his condescension unto the children of men hath visited men in so much mercy, why should my heart weep and my soul linger in the valley of sorrow, and my flesh waste away, and my strength slacken, because of mine afflictions?

“And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? Why am I angry because of mine enemy?” (2 Nephi 4:26–27).

After his lament he answered his own questions, knowing the approach to his problems that he must take: “Awake, my soul! No longer droop in sin. Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul. . . . O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever” (2 Nephi 4:28, 34).

Does this mean that Nephi no longer had problems? Does it mean that he fully understood all that was happening to him? Remember the answer he gave to an angel several years before when he was asked an important question related to the Atonement of Christ, which was to occur in the future:

“I know that [God] loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things” (1 Nephi 11:17).

We also can’t and won’t know the meaning of all things, but we can and must know that the Lord loves His children and that we can be the beneficiaries of a full measure of Christ’s grace and Atonement in our lives and in our struggles. Likewise, we know and must remember the foolishness and danger of giving the evil one place in our hearts.

Even when we fully understand and commit to excluding evil and the evil one from our hearts and from our lives, we fall short because too often we are “natural” men and women (see Mosiah 3:19). Thus, we must be grateful for and be practitioners of the principle of repentance. While we often speak of our repentance as an event, which it sometimes is, for most of us it is a constant, lifelong process.

Of course, there are sins of both omission and commission for which we can immediately begin the repentance process. There are particular kinds of iniquity and mistakes that we can forsake now and never revisit. We can, for example, be full-tithe payers for the rest of our days, even if that has not always been the case. But other dimensions of our lives require our continual improvement and constant attention, such as our spirituality, charity, sensitivity to others, consideration for family members, concern for neighbors, understanding of the scriptures, temple participation, and the quality of our personal prayers.

We can be grateful that the Savior, understanding us better than we understand ourselves, instituted the sacrament that we might regularly renew our covenants by partaking of the sacred emblems with the commitment to take upon ourselves His holy name, to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments. As we follow the pattern that allows us to “live after the manner of happiness,” our repentance and our performance assume a higher quality, and our ability to understand and appreciate the Atonement increases.

### **Repentance and Obedience**

In the weeks prior to the organization of the Church in 1830, the Prophet Joseph Smith received a remarkable



**I**f we feel to honor and love the Savior in return, we must never forget that He did what He did for us that we might not suffer to the same degree what justice alone would require of us.

revelation that adds to our understanding of the Atonement because it was the Savior Himself who was speaking and teaching. He described Himself as “the Redeemer of the world” (D&C 19:1), acknowledged that He was following the will of the Father, and said, “I command you to repent, and keep the commandments which you have received” (D&C 19:13).

This simple pattern of repentance and obedience really is the basis for “living after the manner of happiness.” We know this is what we need to do, though sometimes we may forget why. The Lord reminds us why in the following words from the same revelation:

“For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent;

“But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I;

“Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both

body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—

“Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men” (D&C 19:16–19).

What a remarkable lesson. I am sure that none of us can imagine the significance and intensity of the Lord’s pain as He accomplished the great Atonement. I doubt that Joseph Smith at that time had a complete sense of the suffering of the Savior, though the Prophet gained greater appreciation and understanding from his own trials and torture in later years. Think of the corrective instruction given by Jesus Himself as He counseled and comforted Joseph in the dark hours of his Liberty Jail incarceration. The Lord then simply said: “The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?” (D&C 122:8).

This question to Joseph is also a question to each of us in our personal and unique struggles and challenges. None of us should ever doubt the correct answer.

That Jesus experienced what He experienced, not because He couldn't avoid it but because He loves us, is sobering indeed. Jesus also loves and honors His Father with a depth and loyalty that we can only imagine. If we feel to honor and love the Savior in return, we must never forget that He did what He did for us that we might not suffer to the same degree what justice alone would require of us.

Scourging, privations, abuse, nails, and inconceivable stress and suffering all led to His experiencing excruciating agony that could not be tolerated by anyone without His powers and without His determination to stay the course and endure all that could be meted out.

### The Comprehensiveness of the Atonement

As we consider the comprehensiveness of the Atonement and the Redeemer's willingness to suffer for all of our sins, we should gratefully acknowledge that the atoning sacrifice also covers so much more! Consider these words of Alma to the faithful people of Gideon almost a century before the Atonement was actualized:

"And [Jesus] shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

"And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.

"Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony which is in me" (Alma 7:11–13).

Think of a full and comprehensive remedy for our pains, afflictions, temptations, sicknesses, sins, disappointments, and transgressions. Can you imagine any alternative

to Jesus's Atonement? Then add to that the incomparable Resurrection, and we begin to understand just enough to sing, "I stand all amazed at the love Jesus offers me."<sup>5</sup>

What does the Atonement mean to you and to me? It means everything. As Jacob explained, we can "be reconciled unto [the Father] through the atonement of Christ, his Only Begotten Son" (Jacob 4:11). This means that we can repent, come into full harmony and complete acceptance with Him, and avoid the mistakes or misunderstandings that "denieth the mercies of Christ, and setteth at naught the atonement of him and the power of his redemption" (Moroni 8:20).

We avoid dishonoring and disrespecting the Savior's Atonement by heeding the counsel of Helaman, which is as pertinent today as it was in the years immediately preceding the Lord's earthly advent: "O remember, remember, my sons . . . that there is no other way nor means whereby man can be saved, only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, who shall come; yea, remember that he cometh to redeem the world" (Helaman 5:9).

His Atonement does indeed cover the world and all people from the beginning to the end. Let us not forget, however, that in its comprehensiveness and completeness it is also intensely personal and uniquely crafted to fit perfectly and address perfectly each of our own individual circumstances. The Father and the Son know each of us better than we know ourselves and have prepared an Atonement for us that is fully congruent with our needs, challenges, and possibilities.

Thanks be to God for the gift of His Son, and thanks be to the Savior for His Atonement. It is true and is in effect and will lead us where we need and want to be. ■

*From an address given at Brigham Young University Women's Conference on May 5, 2006.*

### NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study, 2007), 49.
2. Bible Dictionary, "Atonement," 617; see also Guide to the Scriptures, "Atone, Atonement," 22.
3. David A. Bednar, "In the Strength of the Lord," in *Brigham Young University 2001–2002 Speeches* (2002), 123.
4. See Bible Dictionary, "Grace," 697; see also Guide to the Scriptures, "Grace," 103.
5. "I Stand All Amazed," *Hymns*, no. 193.

# The Voice of the Good Shepherd

BY SHERRY CARTWRIGHT ZIPPERIAN

As a Montana rancher for most of my 70 years, I treasure the parable of the good shepherd, found in John 10:1–18, for I have lived it. The following experiences were particularly powerful in bringing this parable to life.

In biblical times each shepherd vocally summoned his personal flock from the many herds pooled together into a nighttime sheepfold (see vv. 3–4). Likewise, whenever I move my sheep, I simply call, and they follow.

Years ago my spry 96-year-old neighbor, Alice, who also raised sheep, became ill during lambing season, so I offered to do her night lambing. When I entered her lambing shed my first night “on duty,” Alice’s nearly 100 ewes were peacefully bedded down for the night. Yet when I appeared, they immediately sensed a stranger in their midst. Terrified, they instantly sought safety by huddling together in a far corner (see v. 5).

This continued for several nights. No matter how quietly I entered, the sheep panicked and fled. I spoke soothingly to the newborn lambs and ewes as I tended them. By the fifth night they no longer stirred as I worked among them. They had come to recognize my voice and trust me.

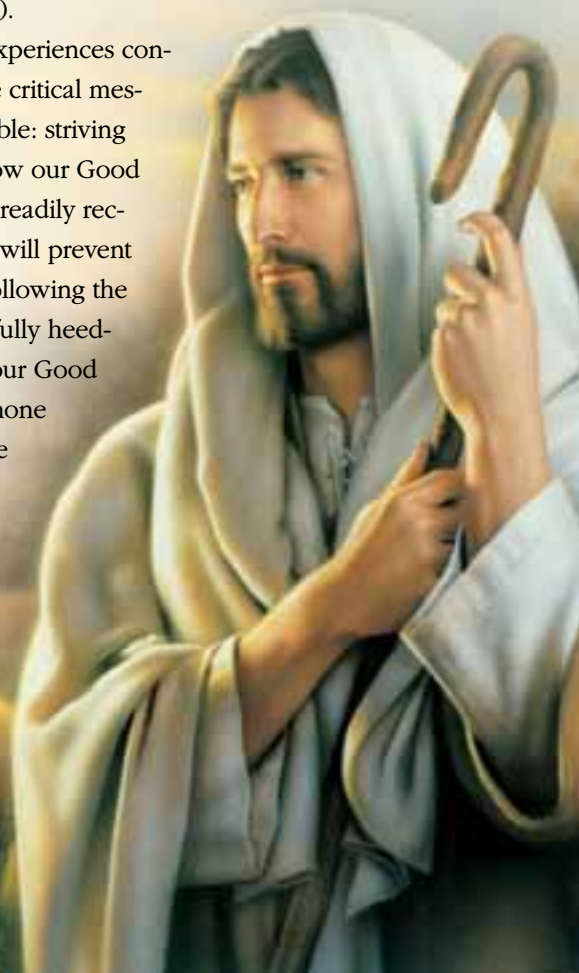
Sometime later I told Alice I would feed her dozen or so bum lambs their bottles. (A bum lamb is one whose mother has died or cannot produce enough milk.) Imitating Alice, I called to her lambs, “Come, BaBa! Come, BaBa!” I expected the lambs to hungrily stampede me as they did her. But not a single lamb even glanced up. Alice then stepped out her kitchen door and called. Hearing *her* voice, they eagerly rushed toward her, clamoring for their milk.

Intrigued, Alice and I conducted an experiment. Standing in my corral, Alice mimicked *my* call: “Here,

lamby, lamby! Here, lamby, lamby!” and received no response whatsoever. But when I called with the exact same words, my sheep quickly surrounded me. Even though the *words* we used to summon the sheep were identical, our unfamiliar *voices* went unheeded. The sheep loyally heard only their true shepherd (see v. 4).

John 10 distinguishes a *shepherd* from a *shepherd*. A shepherd, whose sheep are his own, has loving concern for their safety. In contrast, a *shepherd* is merely the “hireling” and “careth not” (v. 13). The parable also teaches that while the hireling flees and deserts his sheep (see v. 12), the shepherd willingly lays down his life for his sheep (see v. 11). This is certainly true of our Good Shepherd—our Savior, Jesus Christ—who lovingly gave His life for us (see vv. 15, 17–18).

To me these experiences confirmed one of the critical messages of the parable: striving to personally know our Good Shepherd and to readily recognize His voice will prevent our mistakenly following the hireling. By faithfully heeding the voice of our Good Shepherd—and none other—we will be guided to eternal safety. ■





DETAIL FROM THE SECOND COMING BY GRANT ROMNEY CLAWSON

# LEARN OF ME

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREATEST EDUCATION OF ALL.  
(SEE MATTHEW 11:29.)

# “My parents aren’t active in the Church. How do I stay strong without their support?”

This is a difficult situation because parents are usually the ones we look to for guidance and direction. But there are things you can do to stay strong, and doing these things will help you be a good example to your parents.

To invite inspiration into your life, continue to pray and study the scriptures. Heavenly Father hears your prayers and will answer them.

Turn to other relatives or Church members for the example and support that you may need. For example, ask your home teachers or bishop or branch president for a priesthood blessing if there are no worthy priesthood holders in your home.

You can strengthen your siblings and parents by the example of your faith. You may be able to have family home evening, family prayer, or family scripture study with your siblings. Your parents may even want to join you.

Most importantly, continue to love your parents. Do not judge them. Rather, be kind and patient. They still need your love and support, just as you need theirs.

## Pray for Your Parents



Invite your parents to have family prayers. Invite them to Church activities. Organize home evenings. Pray for them a lot, and strive to be a good example. That way you will strengthen your family and your own testimony, you will feel better, and the Lord will help you to stay strong in the Church. Do it with faith and dedication, and He will answer your prayers.

**Sonia B., 20, Yucatán, Mexico**

## Don't Give Up

My dad is not a member, and my mom and sisters aren't active. It hurts having them disregard my beliefs. But my faith has grown as I attend seminary, church, and Mutual and as I pray and read the scriptures. The best advice I can give is to not give up.

**Amanda B., 16, Nevada, USA**

## Ways to Stay Active

I know an amazing girl who is extremely strong in the Church even though her parents are less-active. She is an inspiration to the other girls as she has already earned her Young Women medallion. She says that the support of the other young women, going to church regularly, and really communicating with her Father in Heaven are all great ways to help her stay active.

**Chelsea C., 17, Oklahoma, USA**



### A Safe Haven



I rely on prayer and scripture study to strengthen my testimony, and I found a safe haven by participating in Scouting and the Young Men program as well as fulfilling my callings. Following the counsel of the prophets and selecting good friends help as well. Remember to always set a great example for your family by showing them sincere love, concern, and respect. If you do your part, the Lord will do His.

**Elder Whigham, 21, California San Francisco Mission**

### Courage from Their Examples

My mother is less-active, and my other relatives are not members. What I do is trust in my leaders and my friends; they are always helping me. They have been very important in my life since they have contributed to my way of life and my goal of going on a mission. They give me a lot of courage through their examples. You need to appreciate the friendship of those people who help to build you up as a member and spend more time with them, for surely you will always have something more to learn.

**Ivana S., 20, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

### Express Love to Your Parents

Continue to speak to your parents, and try to get their support. Express your love and appreciation to them, and tell them how important it is to

you to go to church. Ask your leaders for transportation, and see if your bishop would try to speak to your parents. Pray and ask Heavenly Father for His support, and pray that your parents will begin to see that staying active is important to you. You can also become stronger by reading the Book of Mormon daily and keeping the commandments.

**Craig L., 16, Missouri, USA**

### Two Support Systems

I see this situation a lot in my mission, and the kids who face this are courageous. How do they do it? By developing a support system within the Church through friends and leaders and by developing a support system with the Lord through prayer, daily scripture reading, and Church attendance. You can make it by doing these things!

**Elder Jones, 21, Tahiti Papeete Mission**

## NEXT QUESTION

**“How can I have clean thoughts when so many people dress immodestly?”**

**Send your answer by May 15, 2009, to: Liahona, Questions & Answers 5/09 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA Or e-mail: [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org)**

**The following information and permission must be included in your e-mail or letter:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
FULL NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTH DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
WARD (OR BRANCH)

\_\_\_\_\_  
STAKE (OR DISTRICT)

**I grant permission to print response and photo:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE (IF YOU ARE UNDER 18)



### YOU CAN STRENGTHEN YOUR FAMILY

“For the Strength of Youth reminds us that ‘being part of a family is a great blessing. . . . Not all families are the same, but each is important in Heavenly Father’s plan’ ([pamphlet, 2001], 10).

“All families need strengthening, from the ideal to the most troubled. That strengthening can come from you. In fact, in some families you may be the only source of spiritual strength. The Lord is depending on you to bring the blessings of the gospel to your family.

“It is important to establish patterns of righteousness in your own life, which will enable you to set a good example for your family, whatever form your family may take.”

**Mary N. Cook, first counselor in the Young Women general presidency, “Strengthen Home and Family,” Liahona and Ensign, Nov. 2007, 11.**

# James 1:5–6

*The Apostle James taught us the key to receiving wisdom from God.*

## Ask of God

Reading this verse led Joseph Smith to pray in the Sacred Grove, where he experienced the First Vision (see Joseph Smith—History 1:11–17). Can you think of examples from your family or your own experience in which a person seeking knowledge received an answer to a prayer? Write about it in your journal.

## Liberally

*Liberally*—freely, generously, bountifully.

## Upbraideth

*Upbraideth*—criticizes, scolds, reproaches. In other words, God will answer you and will never be upset with you for sincerely praying to Him for an answer to a question.



## Giveth to All Men

“It is the privilege of the children of God to come to God and get revelation. . . . God is not a respecter of persons; we all have the same privilege.”

**The Prophet Joseph Smith, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study, 2007), 132.**

5 <sup>5</sup> If any of you lack <sup>5</sup> wisdom, let him ask of God, that <sup>5</sup> giveth to all men liberally, and <sup>5</sup> upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him <sup>6</sup> ask in <sup>6</sup> faith, nothing <sup>6</sup> wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.



## Ask in Faith

“The Prophet [Joseph Smith] said that after reading this verse he knew for a certainty he must either put the Lord to the test and ask Him or perhaps choose to remain in darkness forever. . . . He had read the scripture, he had understood the scripture, he had trusted in God his Eternal Father; and now he knelt and prayed, knowing that God would give him the enlightenment which he so earnestly sought. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught us the principle of faith—*by example*.”

**President Thomas S. Monson, “The Prophet Joseph Smith: Teacher by Example,” *Tambuli*, June 1994, 5; *Ensign*, June 1994, 4.**

## It Shall Be Given

Heavenly Father hears and answers your prayers. His answers come in His own time and in various ways—for example, in the circumstances of your life, through the kind acts of others, or through the still, small voice of the Holy Ghost. Here are some ways you can prepare to receive guidance through the Spirit (from “Revelation,” *True to the Faith* [2004], 141–43):

- Pray for guidance.
- Be reverent.
- Be humble.
- Keep the commandments.
- Partake of the sacrament worthily.
- Study the scriptures every day.
- Take time to ponder.
- When seeking specific guidance, study the matter out in your mind.
- Patiently seek God’s will.

# Search the Scriptures Diligently



*Teach the scriptures and quotations that will help the sisters you visit understand these principles. Invite those you visit to share what they have felt and learned.*

*principles. Invite those you visit to share what they have felt and learned.*

## Why Search the Scriptures?

**President Howard W. Hunter**

**(1907–95):** “I commend to you the revelations of God as the standard by which we must live our lives and by which we must measure every decision and every deed. Accordingly, when you have worries and challenges, face them by turning to the scriptures and the prophets” (“Fear Not, Little Flock,” in *1988–89 Devotional and Fireside Speeches* [1989], 112).

**President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994):** “Success in righteousness, the power to avoid deception and resist temptation, guidance in our daily lives, healing of the soul—these are but a few of the promises the Lord has given to those who will come to His word. . . . Certain blessings are to be found only in the scriptures, only in coming to the word of the Lord and holding fast to it. . . .

“ . . . Recommit yourselves to a study of the scriptures. Immerse yourselves in them daily so you will have the power of the Spirit to attend you in your callings. Read them in your families and

teach your children to love and treasure them” (“The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 82).

**President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985):** “As you become more and more familiar with the truths of the



scriptures, you will be more and more effective in keeping the second great commandment, to love your neighbor as yourself. Become scholars of the scriptures—not to put others down, but to lift them up! After all, who has any greater need to ‘treasure up’ the truths of the gospel (on which they may call in their moments of need) than do women and mothers who do so much nurturing and teaching?” (“The Role of Righteous Women,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 102).

## How Can I Treasure the Scriptures?

**2 Nephi 4:15:** “For my soul delighteth in the scriptures, and my heart pondereth them, and writeth

them for the learning and the profit of my children.”

**Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president:** “One good way to start studying the scriptures is to ‘liken’ them to ourselves (see 1 Nephi 19:23). Some people start by choosing a subject in the Topical Guide that they need to know more about. Or they start at the beginning of a book of scripture and look for specific teachings. . . .

“Whichever way a person starts studying the scriptures, the key to unlocking important knowledge is to keep studying. I never tire of discovering the rich treasures of truth in the scriptures because they teach with ‘plainness, even as plain as word can be’ (2 Nephi 32:7). The scriptures testify of Christ (see John 5:39). They tell us all things we should do (see 2 Nephi 32:3). They ‘make [us] wise unto salvation’ (2 Timothy 3:15).

“Through my scripture reading and the prayers that accompany my study, I have gained knowledge which brings me peace and helps me keep my energies focused on eternal priorities. Because I started reading the scriptures daily, I have learned about my Heavenly Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and what I need to do to be like Them” (“My Soul Delighteth in the Scriptures,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2004, 108–9).

**President Thomas S. Monson:** “The holy scriptures adorn our bookshelves. Make certain they provide nourishment to our minds and guidance for our lives” (“The Mighty Strength of the Relief Society,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 95). ■

# LEARNING AND LATTER-DAY SAINTS



*The acquisition of knowledge is a lifelong, sacred activity, pleasing to our Father in Heaven and favored by His servants.*

BY ELDER DALLIN H. OAKS  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles  
AND KRISTEN M. OAKS

He who invades the domain of knowledge must approach it as Moses came to the burning bush; he stands on holy ground; he would acquire things sacred,” said President J. Reuben Clark Jr. (1871–1961), a member of the First Presidency, speaking at the inauguration of a new president of Brigham Young University. “We must come to this quest of truth—in all regions of human knowledge whatsoever, not only in reverence, but with a spirit of worship.”<sup>1</sup>

As Latter-day Saints we believe in education, and we have a philosophy about how and why we should pursue it. Our religious faith teaches us that we should seek learning by the Spirit and that we have a stewardship to use our knowledge for the benefit of mankind.

## **Our Quest for Truth**

“[Our] religion . . . prompts [us] to search diligently after knowledge,” taught President Brigham Young (1801–77). “There is no other people in existence more eager to see, hear, learn and understand truth.”<sup>2</sup>

Our quest for truth should be as broad as our life’s activities and as deep as our circumstances permit. A learned Latter-day Saint should seek to understand the important religious, physical, social, and political problems of the day. The more knowledge we have of heavenly laws and earthly things, the greater influence we can exert for



good on those around us and the safer we will be from scurrilous and evil influences that may confuse and destroy us.

In our quest for truth, we need to seek the help of our loving Heavenly Father. His Spirit can direct and intensify our efforts to learn and magnify our ability to assimilate truth. This learning with the Spirit is not confined to classrooms or preparation for school examinations. It applies to everything we do in life and every place we do it—at home, at work, and at church.

As we seek to receive and apply the guidance of the Spirit in a world driven by the trends and issues of the day, we are confronted by an avalanche of often erroneous and trivial information served up by modern technology. We risk becoming what one observer called “pancake people”—spread wide and thin as we connect with that vast network of information accessed by the mere touch of a button.”<sup>3</sup>

We are also bombarded by popular talk show hosts, television psychologists, fashion magazines, and media commentators, whose skewed values and questionable practices can drive our opinions and influence our behavior. For example, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) said, “There has never been a time in the world when the role of [women and men] has been more confused.”<sup>4</sup>



In this circumstance, confusion, discouragement, or self-doubt may begin to erode our faith and turn us away from the Savior and from building His kingdom on earth. If we focus our decisions on trends and worldly directions, we will be “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14).

Not influenced by popular opinion, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches principles. The difference is profound. Trends, fashion, and pop ideology are fleeting and ephemeral. Principles serve as anchors of security,



direction, and truth. If we fix our ideals and direction on doctrine and principles, such as faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and following the prophet, we will have a totally reliable, unchanging guide for our life’s decisions.<sup>5</sup>

We need not fear. President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, taught: “The Lord knows both what He will need you to do and what you will need to

know. He is kind and He is all-knowing. So you can with confidence expect that He has prepared opportunities for you to learn in preparation for the service you will give. You will not recognize those opportunities perfectly. . . . But when you put the spiritual things first in your life, you will be blessed to feel directed toward certain learning, and you will be motivated to work harder.”<sup>6</sup>

### Personal Worthiness

Our efforts to learn must be combined with personal worthiness for us to receive the guidance of the Holy Ghost. We must avoid sexual impurity, pornography, and

addictions as well as negative feelings against others or ourselves. Sin drives out the Spirit of the Lord, and when that happens, the special illumination of the Spirit is gone and the lamp of learning flickers.

In modern revelation we have a promise that if our eye be single to the glory of God, which includes personal worthiness, our “whole [body] shall be filled with light, and there shall be no darkness in [us]; and that body which is filled with light comprehendeth all things” (D&C 88:67).

We can verify this eternal principle by immediate personal experience. Recall a time when you were resentful, contentious, or quarrelsome. Could you study effectively? Did you receive any enlightenment during that period?

Sin and anger darken the mind. They produce a condition opposite to the light and truth that characterize intelligence, which is the glory of God (see D&C 93:36). Repentance, which can cleanse us from sin through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, is therefore an essential step along the path of learning for all who seek light and truth through the teaching power of the Holy Ghost.

We are imperfect beings, but each of us can strive to be more worthy of the companionship of the Spirit, which will magnify our personal discernment and prepare us to better defend the truth, to withstand social pressures, and to make positive contributions.

### Education

In our educational choices we should prepare to support ourselves and those who may become dependent upon us. It is necessary that we have marketable skills. Education is mandatory to personal security and well-being.

Our Heavenly Father expects us to use our agency and inspiration to examine ourselves and our abilities and decide the educational course we should follow. This is especially important for young people who have finished high school and missionary service and now face decisions about further schooling and employment. Since the choices facing men and women can be quite different,

we begin by drawing on our contrasting experiences, believing them to be typical of many Latter-day Saints.

*Elder Oaks:* Like those of most young men, my formal educational pursuits were intense, continuous, and motivated by the need to qualify myself to support a family. College was followed by graduate school. This was financed by part-time work and borrowing to be repaid from the increased earning capacity acquired from the education. Along the way I married, and we began to have children. The support of a wife and the responsibility of a growing family enhanced my performance in school and gave me powerful motivation to graduate and go forward with my life's work. With the conclusion of my formal education, I devoted some of my newfound discretionary time to continuing education in my profession and to additional reading in long-desired areas of Church history and general education.



*Sister Oaks:* Women's educational paths and experiences are often very different from men's.

I grew up in a time when women seemed to have only two options to support themselves—teaching and nursing. My “problem” was that I never considered either one of them. Supporting myself financially was something I did not consider possible or necessary. I loved to learn, and I knew how to work; in fact, I loved to work. I had many summer jobs, and I did well in school. When I awoke to the fact that I needed to support myself fully, I was afraid, almost paralyzed, by the unforeseen challenges that seemed to loom ahead for me. I had no real job skills. My studies in liberal arts had fed my soul, but now I needed to feed my pocketbook.

I attended graduate school to learn skills to support myself. I loved every minute of learning and encountered not only new ideas but discovered my own capabilities. Where I had felt shy and somewhat vulnerable, I now felt capable and competent to face life on my own.

#### **Crossroads**

We know that nothing is more perplexing than not knowing what to do with your future, but nothing is more personally rewarding than discovering your own abilities. Read your patriarchal blessing, consider your natural aptitudes and talents, and go forward. Take the first step, and doors will open. For example, when Sister Oaks set out in English literature, she never dreamed it would take her to a publishing house in Boston. When Elder Oaks studied accounting, he never supposed it would take him



**L**earning with the Spirit is not confined to classrooms or preparation for school examinations. It applies to everything we do in life and every place we do it—at home, at work, and at church.



**A**n education is not limited to formal study. Lifelong learning can increase our ability to appreciate and relish the workings and beauty of the world around us.

to legal education, to Brigham Young University, and then to the Utah Supreme Court. With the Lord, “all things work together for [our] good” (Romans 8:28), and the education we receive comes in incremental steps as our lives unfold before us.

We must choose our learning with care because learning has an eternal shelf life, and whatever useful knowledge or wisdom

or “principle of intelligence” we acquire in this life “will rise with us in the resurrection” (D&C 130:18).

It is disturbing that so many, especially women, have self-doubts and question their ability to succeed. Addressing female students studying math, science, and engineering in March 2005, BYU president Elder Cecil O. Samuelson Jr. of the Seventy said: “One of your professors has commented to me . . . that some of you have less confidence in your abilities and prospects than do your male peers, even when the evidence may suggest that this is not justified. You do need to recognize your talents, skills, aptitudes, and strengths and not be confused about the gifts that God has given you.”<sup>7</sup>

Women especially may receive negative feedback when they aspire to professional occupations. A young sister entering her late 20s and faced with supporting herself wrote for advice. She confided that she had

approached an ecclesiastical authority about studying law and he had discouraged her. We do not know her abilities or her limitations; the counsel she received may have been based on them or on inspiration peculiar to her circumstances. But her determination could be felt through the pages of her letter, and it was clear that she should be advised to reach the full level of her potential.

President Thomas S. Monson, as part of his message during the general Relief Society meeting held on September 29, 2007, told women: “Do not pray for tasks equal to your abilities, but pray for abilities equal to your tasks. Then the performance of your tasks will be no miracle, but you will be the miracle.”<sup>8</sup>

We caution that with the need to finish school and establish financial security, men or women might be tempted to assign marriage a low priority. It is eternally shortsighted to pursue a professional course that makes one unavailable for marriage, an eternal value, because it does not fit into professional timing, a worldly value.

A friend accompanied her daughter to look at graduate schools in the eastern United States. Her highly motivated and





talented daughter knew that by attending the number-one school of her choice, she would incur enormous debts for her education. Often the best education is worth paying for, but in this case, her daughter prayed and felt that while a high level of debt might not prevent her from marrying, it might eventually prevent her from stopping work so she could stay home with her children. Be wise. Each of us is different. If you seek His counsel, the Lord will let you know what is best for you.

### Hunger to Learn

Elder Jay E. Jensen of the Presidency of the Seventy has taught that we always need “to keep a learning, growing edge.”<sup>9</sup> That edge must be honed by a desire to learn, directed by eternal priorities.

Beyond increasing our occupational qualifications, we should desire to learn how to become more emotionally fulfilled, more skilled in our personal relationships, and better parents and citizens. There are few things more fulfilling and fun than learning something new. Great happiness, satisfaction, and financial rewards come from this. An education is not limited to formal study. Lifelong learning can increase our ability to appreciate and relish the workings and beauty of the world around us. This kind of learning goes well beyond books and a selective use of new technology, such as the Internet. It includes artistic endeavors. It also includes experiences with people and places: conversations with friends, visits to museums and concerts, and opportunities for service. We should expand ourselves and enjoy the journey.

We may have to struggle to achieve our goals, but our struggles may yield as much growth as our learning. The strengths we develop in overcoming challenges will be with us in the eternities to come. We should not envy those whose financial or intellectual resources make it easy. The stuff of growth was never made of ease, and persons who have it easy will need to experience their growth with other sacrifices or forego the advancement that is the purpose of life.

Most important, we have the obligation to continue our spiritual education by studying the scriptures and Church literature and by attending church and the temple. Feasting on the words of life will enrich us, increase our ability to teach those we love, and prepare us for eternal life.

The ultimate goal of an education is to make us better parents and servants in the kingdom. In the long run it is the growth, knowledge, and wisdom we achieve that



enlarges our souls and prepares us for eternity, not the marks on college transcripts. The things of the Spirit are the things that are eternal, and our family relationships, sealed by the power of the priesthood, are the ultimate fruits of the Spirit. Education is a gift from God; it is a cornerstone of our religion when we use it to benefit others. ■

### NOTES

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2. “Remarks by President Brigham Young,” *Deseret News*, Mar. 14, 1860, 11.
3. Richard Foreman, quoted in Nicholas Carr, “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” *Atlantic Monthly*, July/Aug. 2008, 63.
4. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball* (Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study, 2006), 222.
5. The substance of this paragraph and several other paragraphs later in the article is taken from Kristen M. Oaks, *A Single Voice* (2008).
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# Walking the Extra Mile

BY PAUL VANDENBERGHE  
Church Magazines

**W**hen Stein Arthur Andersen was about 15 years old, he wasn't active in the Church. Neither was his family. They had moved several times to different areas of Norway. This time they were living in Stavanger. It's the fourth-largest city in the country and is located on the southwest coast. Stein had been to church in Stavanger a few times and had met some of the other Latter-day Saint youth in the area. One young man in particular left Stein with a pretty strong impression—his name was Tor Lasse Bjerga.

It was during one of those infrequent visits to church that Stein met Tor Lasse. "He was a couple of years older than I was, and he really impressed me," says Stein. "I felt a good spirit when I was around him, and I thought he was a cool guy." Had Stein not been impressed with Tor Lasse, he may not have been willing to listen to him when Tor Lasse made the trip out to Stein's home with a special invitation.

That invitation came in the mid-1970s, when the seminary program was introduced to Norway, and Tor Lasse had been called as the first seminary teacher. Since he was only 18 years old at the time, Tor Lasse was a little nervous taking on such a big responsibility. "I prayed about it quite a bit," he remembers. One thing he knew for sure was

that he wanted to reach out to the youth in his area who were less-active. Tor Lasse says, "I could feel right away that I should go visit Stein Arthur."

"I was probably one of the names on a list," says Stein. But to Tor Lasse, Stein was much more than just a name on a list. Tor Lasse remembers being impressed with Stein's intelligence and his quiet and determined character. So Tor Lasse decided to make a personal visit to invite Stein to take part in the new seminary program.

Tor Lasse telephoned ahead and talked with Stein's parents to make sure he would be home for the visit. To get to Stein's home, Tor Lasse had to take a bus ride of about 35 minutes to get to a ferry. Then he took a 45-minute ferry ride. Finally, he had to walk another 30 minutes. "I think about this all the time," says Stein.

"What Tor Lasse did was really going the extra mile."

Both men still remember well the spirit they felt during that meeting nearly 35 years ago. As they sat in the dining room, Stein's mind was going over all the things he was involved with. "I was very occupied with football and Scouting and playing my trumpet, and I was doing all kinds of things. I was very busy."

"Tor Lasse turned to me as he talked about seminary, and he said, 'Stein Arthur, would you sign up for the seminary program and start studying the scriptures with us?' I was sitting by the fireplace, and I said yes. By all logical thinking, I should have turned him down because I didn't have time. But I said yes. And that started the whole thing."

*Sometimes  
putting forth  
a little effort  
produces great  
things.*

The “whole thing” included getting up every morning to study the scriptures and his seminary lessons on his own at home. Then the small group of four or five students would meet together each week. “Gradually I started to feel the Spirit those early mornings, reading by myself, and I got up every morning,” Stein says. “After a while I felt like the day wouldn’t be what it could be if I didn’t study in the morning. And I started to gain a testimony without even knowing that I was.”

Stein explains that “after a while I understood what those feelings were. I felt good about what I was learning, and I felt the Spirit. I felt that this was right. And I knew that this was something I wanted to build my life on.”

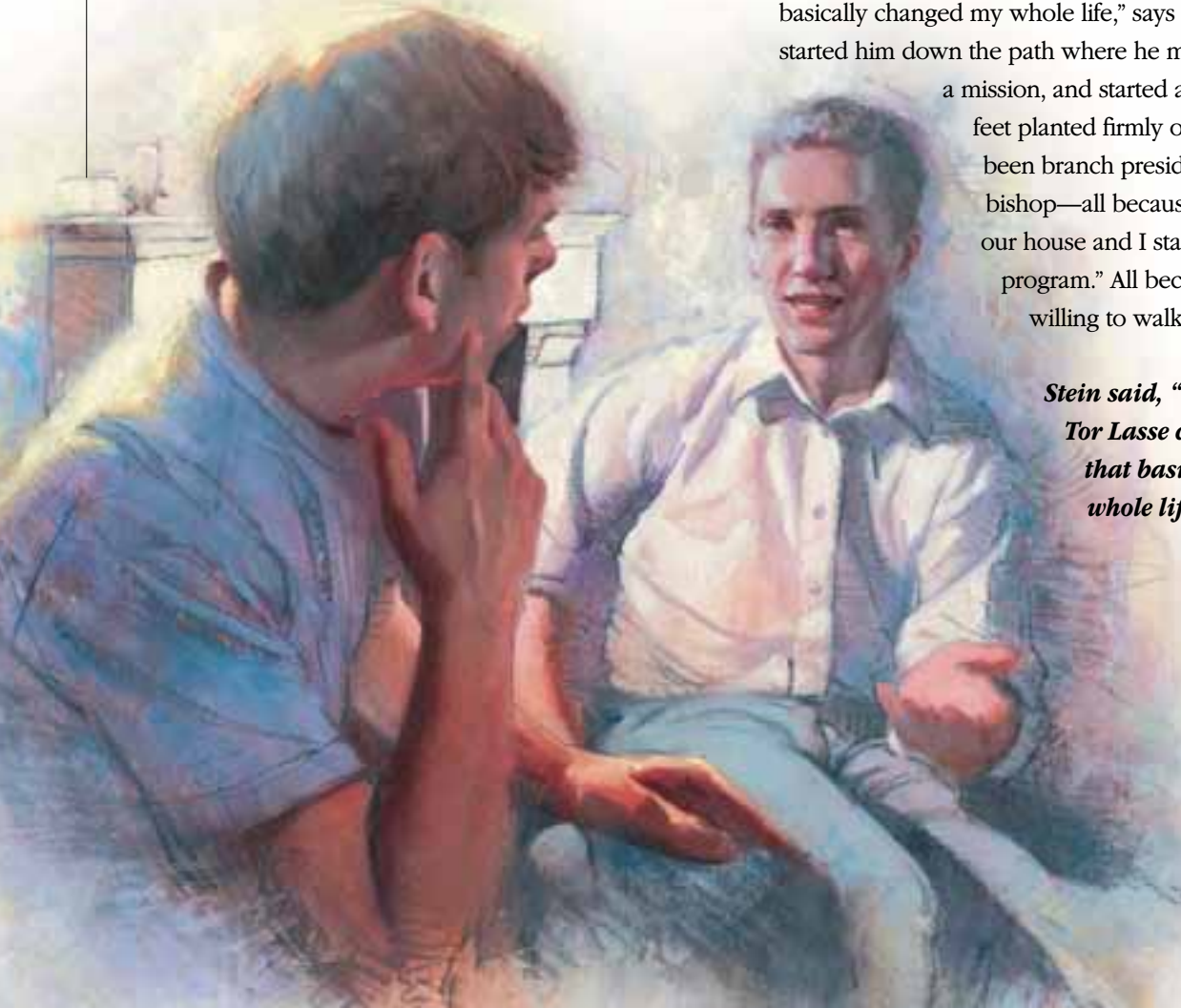
But why did Stein say yes when he had felt so busy? “I think the Holy Ghost’s influence worked on me,” he says. “I must have been prepared somehow. So when Tor Lasse came in faith, he came the extra mile, and I was ready to receive his invitation. That’s the way the Lord works.”

About a year or so later, Tor Lasse decided to go on a mission and was called to serve in Norway. During that time Stein continued to strengthen his own testimony of the gospel. “When Tor came back from his mission, that really started me thinking about a mission too,” says Stein. “I came to the conclusion that I should go because I wanted to serve the Lord, and I thought if I didn’t go, I might regret it for the rest of my life.”

Stein remembers that after talking with his priesthood leaders about going on a mission, he felt as if his feet were hardly touching the ground as he walked home. Before he left on his mission (also to Norway), Stein met his future wife, Hilde, at a youth conference in Oslo. They wrote to each other during his mission, and after he returned home, they were married. Now they have four children: two sons, who have both married in the temple, and two younger daughters, who are still at home and are active in seminary.

“That night when Tor Lasse came to our house—that basically changed my whole life,” says Stein. That visit started him down the path where he met his wife, served a mission, and started a family, all with his feet planted firmly on gospel soil. “I have been branch president, district president, bishop—all because Tor Lasse came to our house and I started the seminary program.” All because Tor Lasse was willing to walk the extra mile. ■

***Stein said, “That night when Tor Lasse came to our house—that basically changed my whole life.”***





*Ida Andersen (right) with her sister, Ane, and her parents, Hilde and Stein.*

## I RAISED MY HAND

**W**hat would you do if your teacher at school started teaching things about the Church that weren't true? Stein Andersen's youngest daughter, Ida, was faced with this very situation. Ida's teacher had mentioned the Mormons on several occasions, teaching that they practiced polygamy. Since Ida didn't know what to say at the time, she didn't do anything. But when her teacher started to give incorrect information about the Church again, Ida knew she had to do something.

"I raised my hand and told her that what she was saying was wrong," says Ida. "I said that I was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. My teacher persisted, saying that

in Utah the Mormons did have several wives. I explained to her that there were some groups in the U.S. who practiced polygamy but that these groups were not part of the Church.

"The next day this teacher stopped me in the hall and said that she was very impressed with what I had said. She apologized for saying things that were wrong about the Church. She said that she didn't really know much about the Church but wanted to know more and she was sure there were many of the students in my class who would also like to know more. That's when she asked me to make a presentation about the Church for my class.

"Four days later I gave a presentation to my class. I was very nervous. I had never talked a lot about the Church in school, except to my closest friends. Most of the people in my class knew I was a member

of the Church, but that was about all they knew. I thought and prayed a lot about what I should say. I even had my father give me a blessing to help me.

"My teacher let the class know I would be talking about the Church. When I stood up, everyone was quiet. I started off, and all my classmates were taking notes. I talked for about 30 minutes. I told about the Church today, about the Restoration, the plan of salvation, missionaries, and Church standards. Then my classmates asked a lot of questions. Before this I had always been nervous when people asked me questions about the Church because I didn't always know if I knew the correct answers. But this time I was not nervous, and I had no problem answering the questions.

"My classmates were very surprised. Everyone said they were proud of me for standing up for what I believe in."



# Not Burning the

*When it came time to graduate from college, I found that gospel principles had blessed my secular—as well as my spiritual—life.*

BY CINTHYA VERÓNICA SALAZAR MÁRQUEZ

**E**ven when I was a young woman, most of my callings in the Church involved teaching Primary children, and this influenced my decision to pursue a degree in elementary education. But the choice of a major wasn't the only way Church teachings affected my education. That became very clear as I prepared to graduate.

The last project I had to complete was a final paper that I would defend in an oral exam before three judges. The judges were some of the teachers who had taught my classes.

My paper carefully finished, I spent part of the evening before the oral exam with my boyfriend's family. When I left to go home, his mother said she hoped everything would go well and quoted, "If ye are prepared ye shall not fear" (D&C 38:30).

The next day came. Dozens of memories passed through my mind. I remembered how I decided to leave the city where I grew up to further my education; I remembered all the sacrifices my family had made to finance it. I could not

# Midnight Oil

disappoint them. My final exam had to be a success.

My classmates were also waiting to take their exams. All of us were concerned about the questions the judges might pose, but I felt secure because I had prayed for help and because I knew that God knew the effort I had made to organize, research, and write my paper.

My turn came. After explaining my paper to the panel, I began to answer questions. After asking several on the topic I had covered, one of the judges queried, “How much work did you put into this paper?”

“A great deal,” I replied. “I gave it everything I had because I wanted it to be innovative.”

“Burned the midnight oil?”

“No, I don’t usually stay up late doing schoolwork,” I said. “I organize my day so I can get my work done.”

The faces of the judges clearly showed surprise. The same judge remarked, “I find it strange that you should admit you haven’t stayed up late. We know your classmates have, for many a night.”

One of the other judges said, “Let me tell you about this student. She has time for everything. I can say so because I know her. She has time for her studies, her friends, her family, and she even attends church.”

“Really?” the other judge was again surprised. “What church do you attend?”

“I’m a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

“Oh, yes, I know what church that is,” one said.

“And we are taught to go to bed early so we can be invigorated the next day.”

I felt calm and safe talking about the gospel, even though I was surprised to be asked about religion during a professional exam.

“Your paper was written with great feeling. It is excellent. I suppose this is also due to the habits instilled in you by your church.”

“Yes,” I said. “I was taught at church how to teach children, and it has really helped with my degree.”

“You took to it like a fish to water,” one of the judges joked. “We hope you won’t stop going to church, because you owe much to the values you have gained there.”

Soon I was excused from the room so the judges could come to a decision. Two minutes later they called me back in.

“It wasn’t hard for us to reach an agreement. In view of your exemplary conduct, your excellent grades, and the paper you defended today, our verdict is unanimous in favor of graduation, with honorable mention. Congratulations!”

When I told my family, they wept for joy.

I testify that when Heavenly Father commanded us to “retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and minds may be invigorated” (D&C 88:124), He did so with an eye to blessing us. I am grateful to Him for allowing the gospel to bring us happiness in all the areas of our lives. ■



# Kindling the Light of Hope

*For thousands of Latter-day Saints in Brazil, the Perpetual Education Fund is a life-changing blessing.*

BY MICHAEL R. MORRIS  
Church Magazines

When Dilson Maciel de Castro Jr. lost his job in São Paulo, he and his wife moved to Recife, a major port city in northeast Brazil, so they could live with his parents. Despite Dilson's experience in the telecommunications industry, the only work he could find in Recife was a series of odd jobs.

"Things were very difficult for us at the time," recalls Dilson. Their challenges went from bad to worse when the couple lost everything they owned in a flood.

At that low point, Dilson, who had served in the Brazil São Paulo South Mission, met with Elder Gutenberg Amorim, an Area Seventy and institute of religion director, to talk about career and educational options. As Dilson discussed his interests, he received a spiritual prompting that he should study medicine. Thanks to the Church's then-recently implemented Perpetual Education Fund (PEF), in 2003 Dilson turned that prompting into a profession following an 18-month course in nursing.

"Without the fund, it would have been impossible for me to take the courses I needed," says Dilson, who works for a public hospital in Recife. Likewise, his wife, Alexandra, would not have been able to get a loan to pay for the education she needed to become a schoolteacher.

"Six years ago we were unemployed," Dilson says. "The PEF was essential to all we've been able to accomplish. It has changed our lives."

## **An Answer from the Lord**

When members of the Church in Brazil describe the Perpetual Education Fund, they can't help but use superlatives: *miraculoso*, *inspirado*, *maravilhoso*. That's because the fund is accomplishing what President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) predicted it would: "It will become a blessing to all whose lives it touches—to the young men and women, to their future families, to the Church that will be blessed with their strong local leadership," and it will lift "thousands out of the slough of poverty and into the sunlight of knowledge and prosperity."<sup>1</sup>

When President Hinckley announced the program, Church leaders like Paulo R. Grahl, area director of seminaries and institutes of religion in Brazil, were wrestling with concerns about the education and employment of Brazilian Latter-day Saints—especially of young returned missionaries.

"But we didn't have an answer until the Lord revealed to President Hinckley that we should establish this wonderful fund," Brother Grahl says. "Before, many of our young people would return from their missions without being able to pursue an education and profession. Now they know that when they return, the fund is there if they need it. It's a great blessing and benefit for the youth. It offers hope."

Approximately 10,000 Latter-day Saints in Brazil currently rely on PEF loans to expand their education and, in



*With help from the Perpetual Education Fund, Dilson Maciel de Castro Jr. turned a spiritual prompting into a profession, becoming a nurse in Recife, Brazil. Below: A view of Recife from the colonial city of Olinda.*





**From top: Storefronts in Largo da Ordem, historical center of Curitiba. The Perpetual Education Fund was key to the educational and professional advancement of Ricardo Aurélio da Silva Fiusa; Mauricio A. Araújo, shown conducting a business meeting with fellow Latter-day Saints Renato A. Romero (left) and João B. Moreira (center); and Sílvia O. H. Parra, pictured with Adan Tallmann, area secretary of seminaries and institutes of religion.**



turn, their job prospects. Brazil has a strong economy, and opportunity abounds for the educated—especially when education is coupled with the qualities young people develop in the mission field.

### **Opening Doors**

Elder Pedro Penha, Area Seventy and director of the Recife North Institute of Religion, says returned missionaries have the qualifications that employers want. “Doors open quickly to employment opportunities because of their experience, study habits, appearance, and clean conduct,” he says. “They advance quickly, and their conduct attracts people to the Church.”

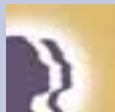
After finishing his service in the Brazil São Paulo North Mission in 2002, Ricardo Aurélio da Silva Fiusa used a PEF loan to earn a four-year degree in business administration.

“The fund has helped me grow up, prepare for work and marriage, and serve better in the Church,” says Ricardo. Like many PEF recipients, he was offered employment before he even finished his degree. “The fund has been a blessing in my life. I’m grateful to make monthly payments on my loan so that other people can use the fund as well.”

On his mission Ricardo learned to talk to people, study hard, and obey—qualities that have made him a good student and employee.

“A lot of my professors said there was something different about me that they couldn’t explain,” says Ricardo, who works in logistics for a company at Port Suape, south of Recife. “I told them it was because of my religious principles.” That answer has led to opportunities for Ricardo to talk with his professors and others about the Church.

Mauricio A. Araújo, one of the first Brazilian returned missionaries blessed by the PEF, adds, “With the growth of my career, I have more opportunities to influence people by my example. Sometimes people say to me, ‘Hey, you’re different. You are faithful to your wife. You walk your talk.’ By taking advantage of the PEF and doing our part, we receive blessings and we bless others.”



## HOW THE PERPETUAL EDUCATION FUND BLESSES LIVES

Mauricio, who served in the Brazil Rio de Janeiro Mission in the late 1990s, has received a series of promotions since completing a PEF-funded customer-relations management program—from sales to team leadership to management to the board of directors of an international time-management training company in São Paulo.

“The Perpetual Education Fund is inspired by God,” he says. “The fund was the key I needed to complete my education and move forward in my career.”

### A Good Investment

Although Gabriel Salomão Neto is not a Latter-day Saint, he feels blessed by the Perpetual Education Fund just the same. “This is a great thing your church is doing,” he says, speaking for many employers in Brazil.

Mr. Neto, a manager and co-owner of a large vending-machine company in São Paulo, has reason to be grateful. He was so impressed with the qualifications of Church member Silvia O. H. Parra, who earned a degree in business administration with help from a PEF loan, that he hired her as his executive secretary.

“We love the job she does. She is hardworking and efficient. We believe in her, and we trust her,” says Mr. Neto. “The investment your church made in her has paid off—for you, for her, and for us.”

Grateful for the Perpetual Education Fund and for her membership in the Church, Silvia teaches English classes at her São Paulo ward to both members and nonmembers. “As I have received,” she says, “I also want to give.”

As Silvia’s success illustrates, young men aren’t the only ones taking advantage of the Perpetual Education Fund in

The Perpetual Education Fund, in conjunction with Church employment resource centers and institutes of religion in more than two dozen nations, helps returned missionaries and other young Latter-day Saints receive vocational and technical training and advanced education. PEF applicants first enroll in institute and in career and self-employment workshops offered by employment centers. Workshops help members and nonmembers alike to identify talents and skills and to discover new avenues of education and employment. After completing training or education, PEF recipients pay back their loans with affordable monthly payments.

Donations to the Perpetual Education Fund may be made through wards and branches using the Tithing and Other Offerings form.

Brazil. For economic reasons, many Latter-day Saint women in Brazil must also seek employment.

“Most women in Brazil work not because they want a new car or expensive clothes but rather out of necessity,” says Lorival Viana de Aguirra, manager of the Church employment resource center in Curitiba, in southern Brazil. “They want their families to eat better and their children to have adequate clothing and a quality education.”

### Greater Happiness, Stronger Testimonies

Keite de Lima A. Ahmed and Viviana Torres Noguera struggled to make ends meet even though their husbands worked hard for their families. For both, the PEF was a great blessing.

Less-active members of Keite’s family expressed doubts, however, when she registered for an 18-month safety-technician program. But she excelled in her studies and was offered a full-time position in her field in 2007.

“The fund did more than just help me receive training and employment; it also helped me feel better about myself and grow more confident in my abilities,” says Keite, one of the first women hired to conduct safety inspections, training, and implementation by a company in São José dos Pinhais, near Curitiba. “This inspired program has brought our family greater happiness and stronger testimonies,” she says.

Keite’s parents and siblings, impressed with her performance and determination and with how the PEF blessed her family, have returned to activity in the Church. “They were reminded that the Church lifts people and helps them grow in many ways—not only spiritually but also in



**Above: Keite de Lima A. Ahmed discusses safety issues with Lorival Viana de Aguirra, manager of the Church employment resource center in Curitiba.**

**Below: Viviana Torres Noguera works from her home in Manaus.**

**Inset: Viviana with her husband, Rafael, and their children.**



all important ways that make for a full life," she says.

Viviana and her husband, Rafael, moved from Colombia to Manaus, an important industrial center in northern Brazil, in 2002 in search of economic opportunity. "Prayer, family councils, guidance from priesthood leaders, and career workshop classes helped us to know what our Father in Heaven wanted for us and to make the right decision at the right time," says Viviana, who felt prompted to use a PEF loan to study international business.

In 2007 Viviana went to work overseeing imports for a supermarket in Manaus. Her family needed the extra income, but with a baby on the way, she had to resign. A few months after that child—the couple's fourth—was born, Viviana was offered a job as director

of international commerce for another company. By this time she had learned to speak Portuguese, and her native Spanish made her invaluable in doing business with Brazil's Spanish-speaking neighbors.

"When I was offered the job, I said, 'I have four children. I can't commit myself to work 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,'" says Viviana. "My boss told me that he had a lot of confidence in my abilities, saying, 'I need someone I can depend on. Work at home.' That surprised me."

Using the Internet and a computer, Viviana works at home while her older children attend school and her baby naps. Only occasionally does she have to go to the office.

Rafael attributes the family's blessings to more than coincidence. "The blessings we have received have come from a series of prayerful decisions and from actions made possible by the tools the Church has provided," he says.

### **The Light of Hope**

Gilmar Dias da Silva, PEF director in Brazil, says some Brazilian Latter-day Saints face employment challenges after completing their education, "but most of our PEF participants are progressing in their jobs and improving their lives. The fund is a success here."

That success, in the words of President Thomas S. Monson, "has kindled the light of hope in the eyes of those who felt doomed to mediocrity but who now have an opportunity for a brighter future."<sup>2</sup> ■

### **NOTES**

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "The Perpetual Education Fund," *Liahona*, July 2001, 62; *Ensign*, May 2001, 52; "The Need for Greater Kindness," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2006, 61.
2. Thomas S. Monson, "They Marked the Path to Follow," *Liahona*, Oct. 2007, 6; *Ensign*, Oct. 2007, 8.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## The Church in Hungary

In 1887 Hungarian Mischa Markow was converted near Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey. In 1899 he served as a missionary in his native land, but he was arrested and banished from Hungary because of his preaching. He tried to share the gospel in neighboring countries, but after having difficulties there, Elder Markow and his companion preached in Temesvár, Hungary, until the government forced them to leave. The day before they left, they baptized and confirmed 12 people and appointed leaders for a congregation of 31 members.

Prior to World War I, a total of 106 people joined the Church in Hungary. Political restrictions then limited missionary work until the 1980s.

In June 1988 Hungary gave the Church legal recognition. One year later President Thomas S. Monson dedicated the county's first meetinghouse. The Hungary Budapest Mission was created in June 1990.

Here are a few facts about the Church in Hungary today:

<b>Membership</b>	<b>4,253</b>
<b>Missions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Wards and branches</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Family history centers</b>	<b>5</b>

Information from Newsroom at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org).

## From Bondi Rescue to Baguio Rescue

Blake McKeown, popularly known as the “rookie” lifeguard in the Australian television show *Bondi Rescue*, left his post on the beach last May to perform another kind of rescue. He accepted a mission call to serve in Baguio, Philippines. He shared this news and his feelings with colleagues and audiences on the show.

“When I found out I’d be going to the Philippines, I was stoked,” he said. “I will miss the beach for sure, but going on a mission is important to me. It is something I have been working toward all my life.”

Blake says, “There’s nothing I’d rather have done for the past two years than work on the beach—it’s

*Blake McKeown from the TV show Bondi Rescue has accepted a call to serve a mission in the Philippines.*



the best job in the world—but for the next two years there’s nothing better I want to do than serve a mission. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not a religion you can just say you’re part of; it’s a religion you have to live. It’s my life. I would be a very, very different person if it wasn’t for the Church.”

## By the Numbers

# 58,809

Number of tons of food distributed by the Church worldwide from 1985–2007.



## My Favorite Scripture

“For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads” (D&C 25:12).

This scripture teaches us that music is important to Heavenly Father. It is wonderful that music can be such a beautiful thing and can play a role in the gospel.

*Laura S., 16, Miskolc, Hungary*



**Guidelines for Life**  
*“Some of the most important guidelines for your life are found in the pamphlet For the Strength of Youth.”*

**President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “See the End from the Beginning,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2006, 44.**

# Singing and Storytelling

By Stephen T. Case

When my wife, Sandra, and I were called to serve in the South Africa Durban Mission, we began looking for a community service project. I had been a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for over 20 years, and my wife, a library aide, had conducted story time in an elementary school. When our mission president decided to open missionary work in a nearby township, we knew this was our chance.

We visited the township and discovered that there were no libraries in

the schools, just a small community library in the town. The young elders introduced us to the library director. We explained to her that we would like to hold a weekly story time for children. She was skeptical, but after some thought she agreed to get the word out and we could try.

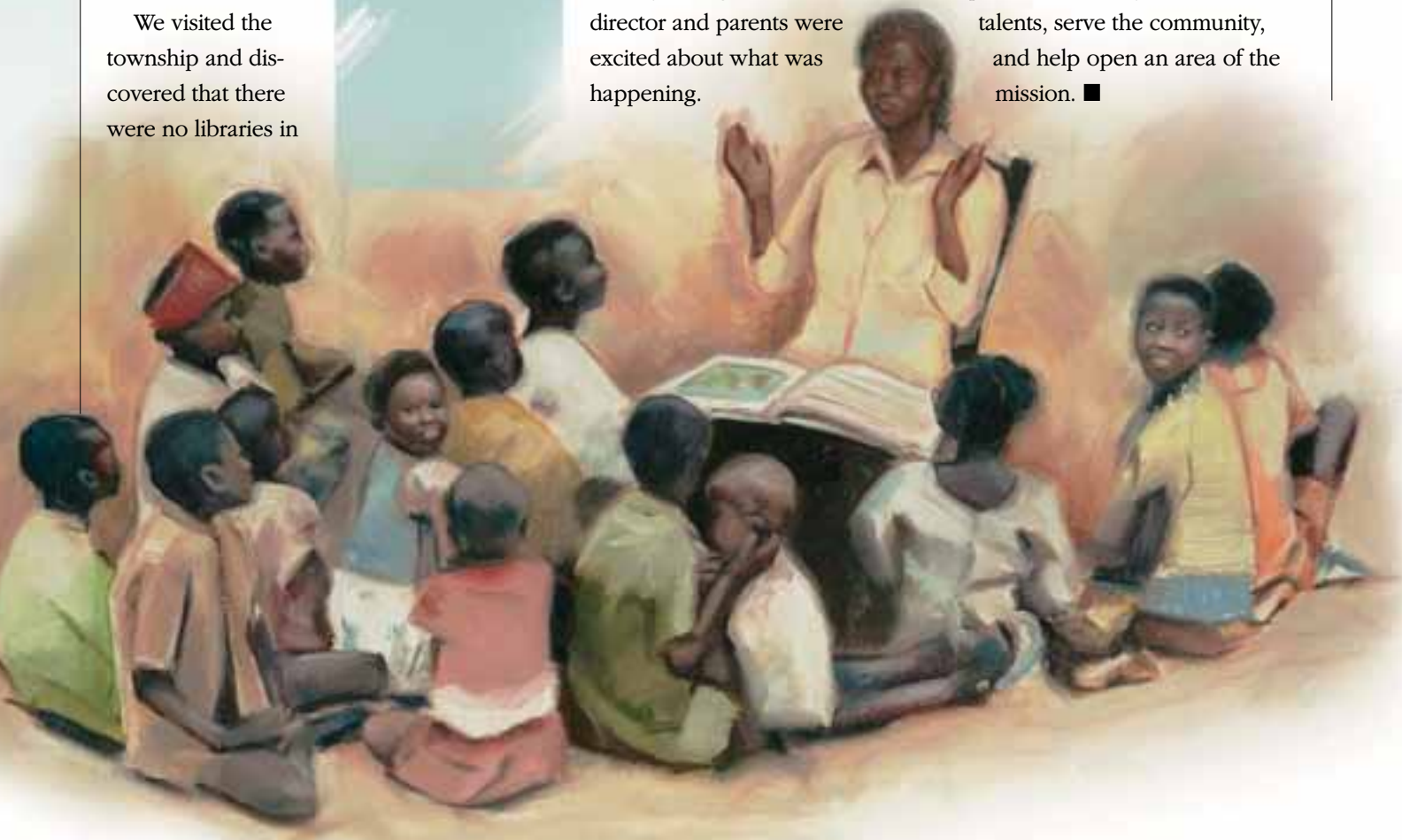
**A**fter we enlisted the help of a recent convert who spoke English and Zulu, attendance at story time grew.

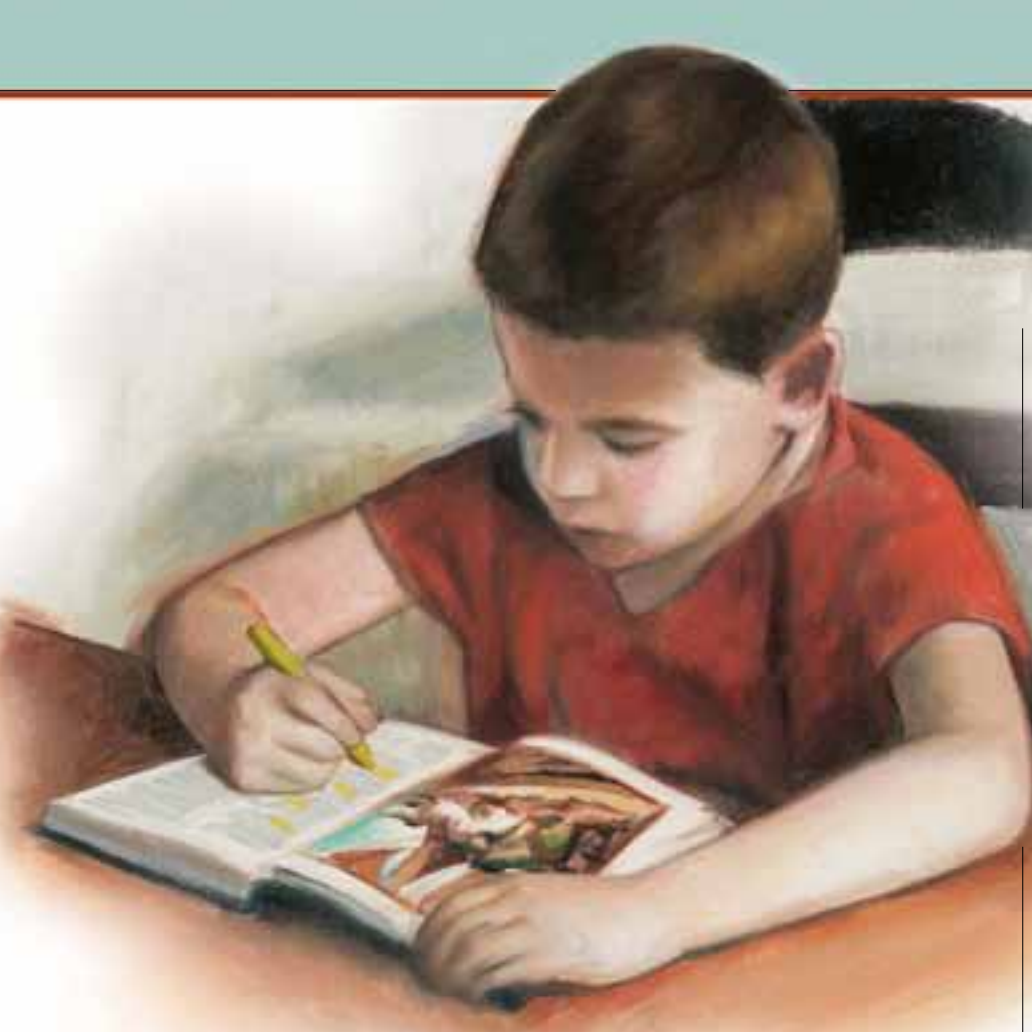
On the first day five children attended. Gradually more came. After several months we enlisted the help of a young lady, a recent convert, who spoke beautiful English and Zulu. Attendance at story time grew, and the director and parents were excited about what was happening.

The Zulu people love to sing, so we added simple songs and rhymes to our story time. By the end of our mission, we were holding two or three sessions of song and story time a week to accommodate the more than 100 children who attended. What a blessing it was when we would see the children elsewhere and they would start singing our songs and reciting our rhymes to us.

Another blessing came out of our service in this area. As the local Church membership grew and we needed a place to start holding our Sunday meetings, the library director insisted that we use the library at no charge.

We are so grateful that the Lord helped us find a way to use our talents, serve the community, and help open an area of the mission. ■





**M**y husband and I challenged our son to read on his own from the Book of Mormon every day.

Soon he moved on to *Jesus*. After that he would pick out words he had seen and ask what they were. He was diligent in his daily reading, and by the end of the year his reading level had surpassed our expectations.

Now our son is in the sixth grade. He is an exceptional reader and helps teach his five younger siblings about the gift he received through reading the Book of Mormon. Each of our children has developed strong reading skills and a habit of reading the Book of Mormon. They are beginning to feel its powerful spirit of truth as their testimonies grow. ■

## The Gift of Literacy

By Lynnette McConkie

Our oldest son loved kindergarten and seemed to do well in school. In first grade, however, it became apparent to us that he was not reading. He could read a few words here and there but struggled with even beginning reading assignments. Months passed, and our son's reading skills scarcely progressed. My husband and I became increasingly concerned.

One day I remembered something my mission president had taught years earlier. I had been called to a foreign-language mission. Learning the Russian language was a challenge of varying degrees for each missionary, and our mission president counseled us to read

the Book of Mormon in Russian every day. He promised us that the power of the Book of Mormon would aid us in our ability to communicate in Russian. He was right. Over time I became better at both speaking and understanding the language, and my testimony grew.

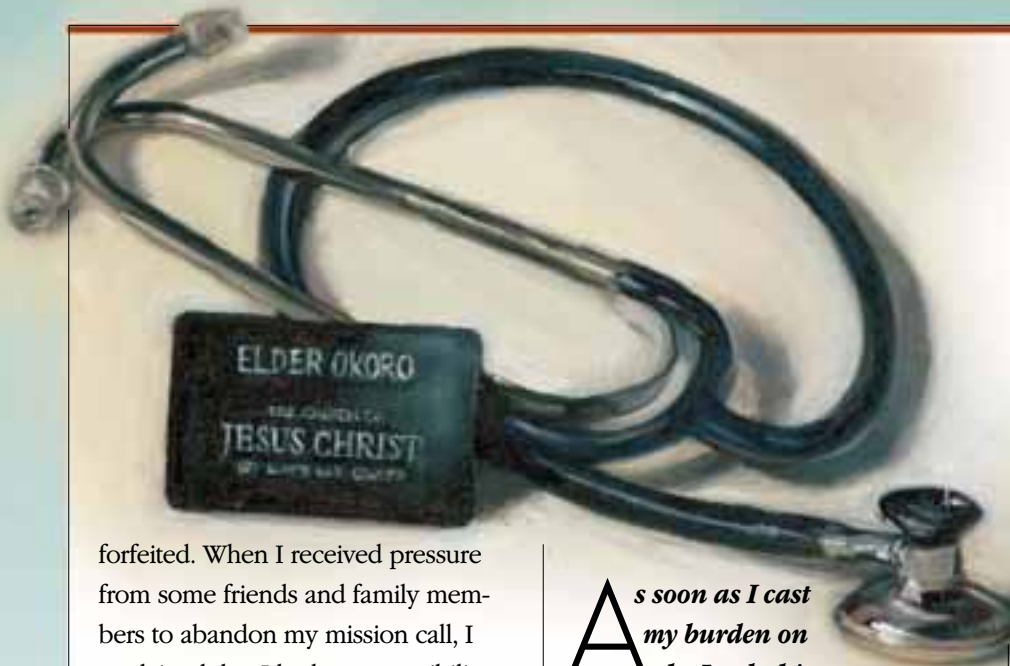
Years after my mission, I found myself thinking, "If it worked for me in Russian, why wouldn't it work for my son in English?" After telling our son about my struggle to learn Russian and my mission president's advice, my husband and I challenged him to read on his own from the Book of Mormon every day. He would spend time highlighting the words *God* and *Lord* as he found them on the pages.

## Should I Give Up School for a Mission?

By Onyebuchi Okoro

I graduated from high school in 1992 and immediately turned in my papers to serve a full-time mission. At the time my call came, I had just been admitted to one of the best universities in Nigeria to study medicine.

In Nigeria admission into medical school is competitive and not to be



forfeited. When I received pressure from some friends and family members to abandon my mission call, I explained that I had a responsibility to serve and had looked forward to doing so since I joined the Church six years before. I was sure I could get readmitted to medical school after my mission, but many thought I would regret my decision.

I am grateful to the home teachers, family members, and Church friends who supported my decision to serve. Attending seminary, studying the scriptures, and living the gospel enabled me to stand by my convictions.

As a missionary I set personal goals and worked hard. Twenty-four months later I received an honorable release. The Lord blesses returned missionaries but has not promised that they will be immune to trials. For the Nigerian returned missionary, those trials include unemployment and lack of funds for education.

During the first three years after my mission, I took and passed three entrance examinations, but I wasn't readmitted to medical school. During those same three years, I couldn't find a job. I was tempted to believe that some of my friends and family members might have been right and that

***As soon as I cast my burden on the Lord, things started working out for me—but not as I had planned.***

it was a mistake to have forfeited my admission to medical school.

On my mission I learned to cast my burden on the Lord, so I let Him direct my life according to His will. As soon as I did, things started working out for me—but not as I had planned.

One fast Sunday I decided to fast and intently pray for the Lord's help. That evening a knock came at the door. When I opened the door, I was astonished to see an acquaintance I had met during security training I had attended six months before. He told me that an opportunity for a security operative had opened in a company his elder brother worked for and that the company urgently needed to fill the position. I was the only person who came to his mind.

The next day the company hired me. That singular experience confirmed to me that Heavenly Father had not abandoned me and that I needed to trust in Him. The job proved to be a springboard to other jobs.

Divine blessings are not measured by temporal achievements alone. I struggled for years after my mission to find temporal stability, but the Lord blessed me spiritually. My patriarchal blessing directed me to get married and told me that the opportunity of higher education would come. It did.

Though I never went to medical school, I have earned the equivalent of degrees in accounting and mathematics. The Lord eventually blessed me with sufficient material stability that I was able to marry.

If we serve an honorable mission, the Lord is bound to bless us as we seek opportunities for higher education afterward. Nothing in the life of a young man or young woman can surpass the experiences, learning, and blessings of full-time missionary service. ■

## Please Save My Father

By Bernadette Garcia Sto. Domingo

It was my father who searched for the truth and found the missionaries. They taught us the gospel, and not long afterward, we—my parents and five brothers and sisters—were baptized. Our testimonies grew stronger. We learned so many things, especially about the Savior and about families.

In 1992, while serving as bishop of our ward in the Philippines, my father



had a heart attack. He was rushed to the hospital from his office. When news came that he was in intensive care, my family was in great shock. Fear gripped our hearts. My father's chances of survival were only marginal. My mother wept and asked all of us to pray.

I lost track of time after that—so many memories came flashing back. With tears on my face, I knelt to pray. My heart was so heavy, and my chest was ready to burst. I wanted to shout to ease the pain and remove the fear gripping me that day. Instead I simply prayed, "Please save my father." It was a sincere prayer, meant to be heard.

That night I was allowed into the intensive-care unit. My father had slipped into a coma, and my mother and my siblings and I had to brace ourselves for the worst. It was a painful experience for our family. The future looked bleak and uncertain. As I silently bade him goodbye, I remembered our first family home evening. We had watched a Church film, *Families Are Forever*.

Before I went to bed that night, my earthly father silently returned to his Heavenly Father.

My father's death, when I was 22, marked the beginning of hundreds of changes in my life. In his absence I learned that I had strengths I was unaware of. I've done more with my life than I otherwise might have because change and growth were thrust upon me.

When Heavenly Father didn't grant

my prayer, it never occurred to me that He hadn't heard me. I know He was listening. He knew exactly what I was going through. He knew exactly what our family needed at the time, and that was what He gave us—strength to overcome the challenges of life, strength to face reality. He taught us how to face our trials with faith.

More than 15 years have passed since that painful day. I am still learning, and I am still growing in the gospel. I now have my own family, and I am so happy that we are sealed in the temple.

I never take my eyes off the road my father marked for us.

Through the

Atonement and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, I know that someday our family will be together again. I still have a long journey to go, but I'm happy to think that I will see my father at the end of that journey. ■

**H**eavenly  
Father  
knew  
*exactly what our  
family needed.  
He taught us how  
to face our trials  
with faith.*



# FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

*These teaching suggestions can be used in the classroom as well as in the home. You may tailor these ideas to your family or class.*

**“What Does the Atonement Mean to You?”**

p. 14: Invite family members to share everything they know about Nephi. Ask why they think he was happy even though he experienced difficult trials (see 2 Nephi 5:27). Summarize the section “Happiness through the Atonement.” Discuss how Nephi handled his problems and how his approach can apply to your family. Conclude by reading the last two paragraphs of the article.

**“Learning and Latter-day Saints,”**

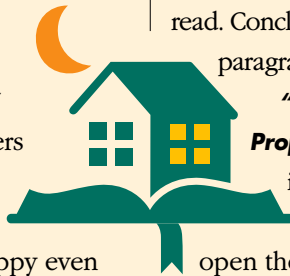
p. 26: In advance, read the article and select the paragraphs that will have the

greatest meaning to your family. Ask family members to read the selected paragraphs and discuss what they have read. Conclude by reading the last two paragraphs of the article.

**“The Promises of a Prophet,”**

p. F6: After reading the article, have family members randomly open their scriptures and try reading a verse upside down. Discuss how reading scriptures regularly can bless each member of the family. Reread the promise given by President Ezra Taft Benson (see the beginning of the article), and set a goal to continue reading the scriptures together regularly.

**“Excited to Learn,”** p. F12: Invite the children to take turns acting out a profession without speaking, and



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have others guess what it is. Discuss what family members would need to learn in order to work in that profession. Read the story. Identify the things that Russell needed to know before he could learn about dinosaurs. Conclude by reading Doctrine and Covenants 88:118.

## Learning from the Prophet Joseph

One of our favorite family home evenings was role-playing the story of Joseph Smith and the First Vision. I told the story; then my grandchildren acted it out, taking the parts of the preachers and Joseph Smith. I drew some paper trees to represent the grove and taped them to the wall in the corner of the room, made some signs that said “Preacher” for the preachers, and

had a chair and a Bible for “Joseph” to study from.

Each of the preachers said to Joseph, “My church is the right one. Join my church, Joseph.” And Joseph replied, “I don’t know,” or, “I need to think about it.” After all the preachers talked to him, Joseph sat in the chair and read James 1:5 out loud. Then he went to the “grove” and knelt to pray. No one acted the

parts of Heavenly Father or Jesus Christ, and we were all reverent when each “Joseph” went to the grove to pray. Each child had a turn to be a preacher and Joseph.

We then talked about what Joseph Smith learned in the First Vision, how we get answers to our prayers even though we don’t see visions, and how the scriptures can guide us.

Sue Barrett, Utah, USA

### YOUR FAVORITE HOME EVENING

Send a description of your favorite family home evening to [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org).

# the Friend



COME LISTEN TO A PROPHET'S VOICE

# Returning Safely to Heavenly Father

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

## The Point of Safe Return

During my training to become an airline captain, I had to learn how to navigate an airplane over long distances. Flights over huge oceans, crossing extensive deserts, and connecting continents need careful planning to ensure a safe arrival at the planned destination. Some of these nonstop flights can last up to 14 hours and cover almost 9,000 miles (14,500 km).

There is an important decision point during such long flights known as the *point of safe return*. Up to this point the aircraft has enough fuel to turn around and return safely to the airport of departure. Having passed the point of safe return, the captain has lost this option



**President Uchtdorf teaches that because of the Atonement, we can repent and always have hope.**

and has to continue on. That is why this point is often referred to as the *point of no return*.

## It's Never Too Late

Satan wants us to think that when we have sinned we have gone past a “point of no return”—that it is too late to change our course. The Atonement of Jesus Christ is the gift of God to His children to correct and overcome the consequences of sin. Christ came to save us. If we have taken a

wrong course, the Atonement of Jesus Christ can give us the assurance that sin is *not* a point of no return.





A safe return is possible if we will follow God's plan for our salvation.

### **There Is Always Hope**

Wherever you find yourselves on this journey through life, whatever trials you may face, there is *always* a point of safe return; there is always hope. You are the captain of your life, and God has prepared a plan to bring you safely back to Him, to your divine destination.

The gift of the Atonement of Jesus Christ provides us at all times and at all places with the blessings of repentance and forgiveness. Because of this gift, the opportunity to make a safe return from the disastrous course of sin is available to all of us. Happiness in this life and eternal joy in a life to come will be our reward if we choose to accept and apply this gift of our Heavenly Father. ●

*From an April 2007 general conference address.*

### **THINGS TO THINK ABOUT**

1. Every time you repent and take the sacrament, you are as clean as you were on the day you were baptized and confirmed. During the sacrament, think of how Jesus loves you and made it possible for you to repent and be happy.
2. Think of a time when you did something you knew was wrong. What does Heavenly Father want you to do when this happens? Why is it so important to repent as soon as you realize you have done something wrong?
3. How does keeping the commandments help you follow Heavenly Father's plan for your salvation? What are some ways that obedience keeps you safe?

# Jesus Christ Is My Savior

**“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”**  
(John 14:6).

BY CHERYL ESPLIN



Before Heavenly Father sent us to earth, He chose Jesus Christ to be our leader and Savior. You chose to follow Jesus Christ

before you were born.

When Jesus came to earth, He taught the gospel and set up His Church. He kept His promise to be our Savior. He suffered and died and was resurrected so that we could be resurrected and live again with Heavenly Father and our families.

The scriptures teach us of the many blessings made possible by Jesus Christ. Do you remember the story of Lehi’s dream? Lehi saw a tree. The tree represents the love of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

On the tree was fruit that would make people happy. Lehi tasted the fruit, and it filled him with great joy. Lehi wanted his whole family to taste the fruit. (See 1 Nephi 8:10–12.)

The fruit of the tree represents the blessings we receive because of Jesus Christ and His Atonement. We taste of the fruit when we trust in Jesus Christ, when we are baptized and receive the Holy Ghost, and when we live the gospel and feel our Savior’s love.

## Activity

Remove page F5, and mount it on heavy paper. Cut slits in the tree on the white lines, and cut out the fruit. For each fruit, look up the scripture, identify the blessing Heavenly Father has given us, and write it on the line. Put the tab of the fruit into a slit on the tree.

## Sharing Time Ideas

**1. In the premortal life, I chose to follow Jesus Christ.** Ask the children to name some of the choices they have made

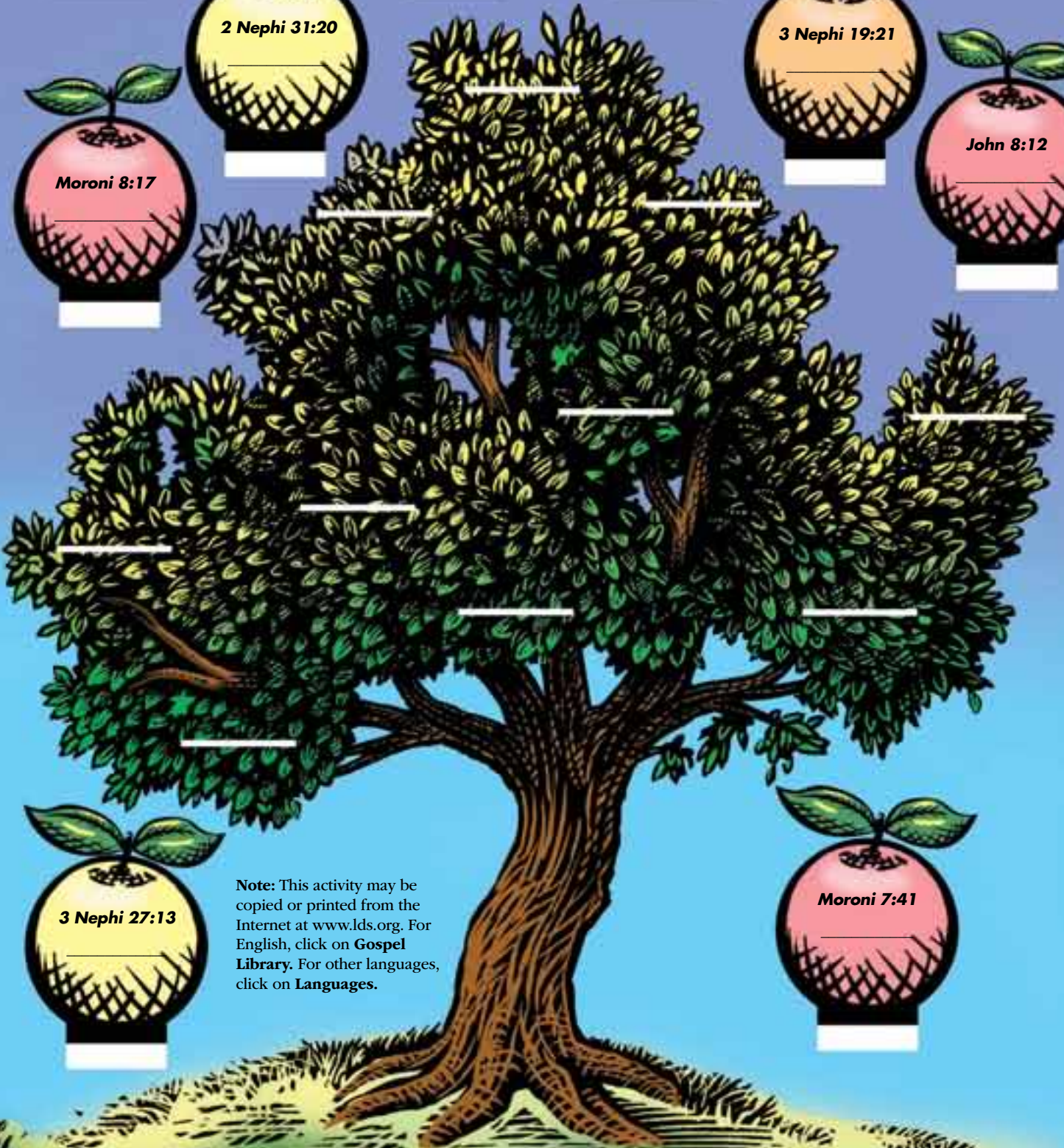


that day (what to wear, what to eat, and so on).

Write responses on the board. Explain that Heavenly Father has given us agency, the ability to make choices. Teach about the Council in Heaven, when Heavenly Father presented His plan. Explain that using our agency is an important part of that plan.

Help the children understand that Satan wanted to change the plan and take away our ability to choose. Jesus Christ wanted to follow Heavenly Father’s plan and volunteered to be our Savior. Emphasize to the children that they chose to follow Jesus Christ (see Primary 6, lesson 2). Write questions to help the children review what they have learned. Put the questions in a container. Choose a child to pick a question out of the container and answer it. Then have that child choose someone else to pick a question and answer it. Continue as time allows. Bear testimony of the importance of continuing to follow Jesus Christ.

**2. My family and I will be resurrected.** Beforehand and with approval of the bishop or branch president, invite a member who has experienced the death of a loved one to bear testimony of what the Resurrection means to him or her. Put the following Gospel Art Picture Kit pictures in a pile in the following order with 227 on top: 227 (Jesus Praying in Gethsemane), 228 (The Betrayal of Jesus), 230 (The Crucifixion), 231 (Burial of Jesus), 233 (Mary and the Resurrected Lord), 234 (Jesus Shows His Wounds), and 316 (Jesus Teaching in the Western Hemisphere). While the pianist plays, have the children pass around a small stone. Tell them it is symbolic of the stone rolled in front of the opening of Christ’s tomb. When the music stops, have the child holding the stone take the picture from the top of the pile and tell about it or choose someone to help. Continue for each picture, pausing after 234 to read Luke 24:39 in unison. Help the children understand that after Jesus was resurrected, the Apostles could feel His hands just as the children can feel their own hands. Continue with the rest of the pictures. Teach that because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ, everyone who has ever lived on the earth will be resurrected. Have the invited guest bear testimony. ●



**Note:** This activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org). For English, click on **Gospel Library**. For other languages, click on **Languages**.



# The Promises of a Prophet

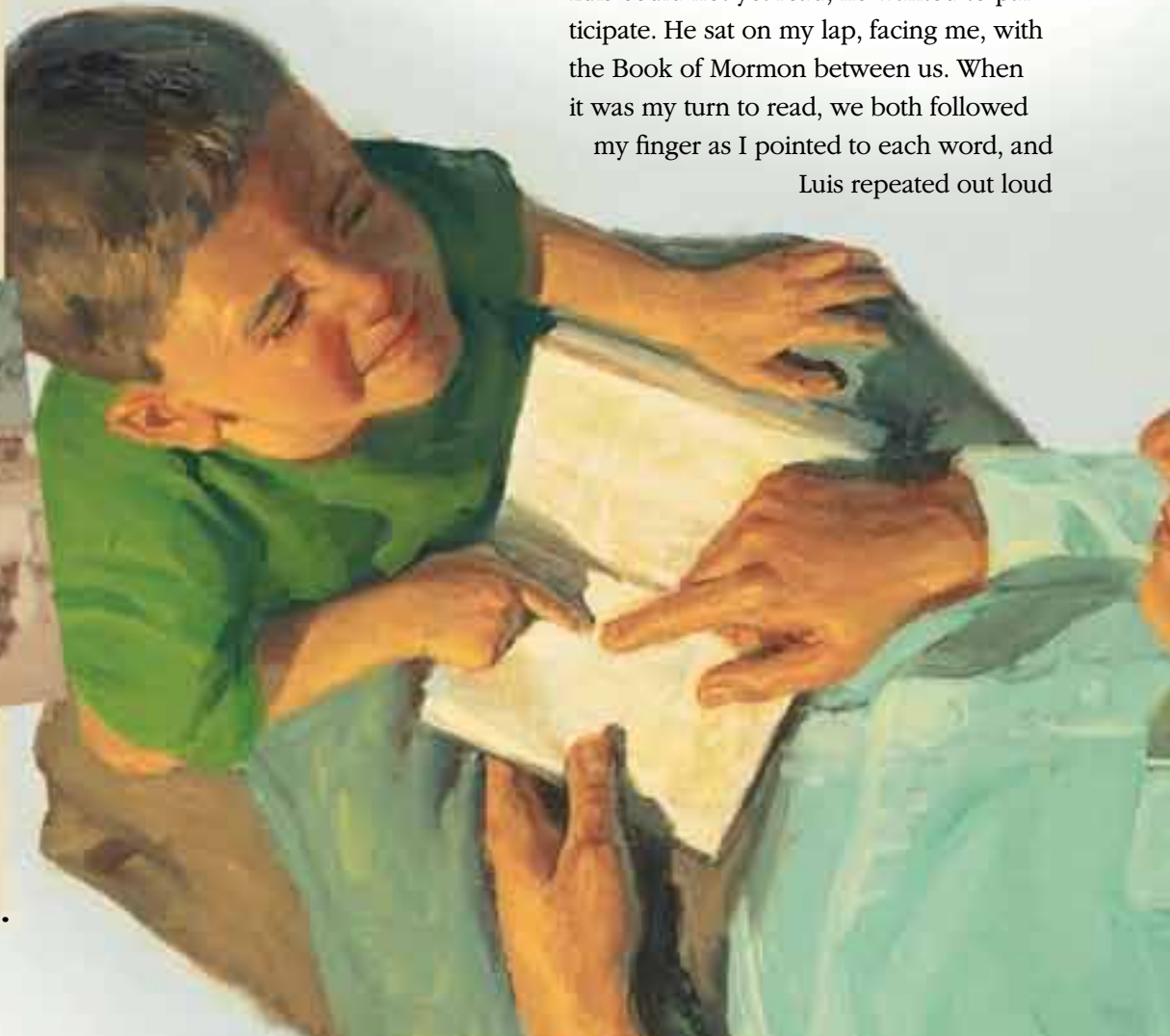
BY ELDER OCTAVIANO TENORIO  
Of the Seventy

*“Search these commandments, for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled” (D&C 1:37).*

Throughout my life I have learned that when we follow the teachings of our prophets, we receive promised blessings. In the April 1986 general conference, President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) promised that if families would read the

scriptures together regularly, the Spirit would fill their homes.<sup>1</sup>

My dear wife and I decided to follow that counsel. We set a goal to read a chapter a day from the Book of Mormon with our three children—Jorge, 10; Susi, 9; and Luis, 3. We read every day, each of us reading one verse at a time. Even though Luis could not yet read, he wanted to participate. He sat on my lap, facing me, with the Book of Mormon between us. When it was my turn to read, we both followed my finger as I pointed to each word, and Luis repeated out loud



*At about age 16, not long after his baptism.*



every word I read while he looked at those words upside down.

Just before he turned five years old, Luis asked, “When is it my turn to read?”

We explained that when he was older, he would go to school and learn to read.

He responded, “I already know how to read!”

Astonished, I handed him a Book of Mormon. He opened the book upside down and began to read perfectly. He had learned to read by following along in the Book of Mormon!

When he was six years old, Luis sometimes went with me to visit Church members. I asked him to share his testimony as well as a short scripture message that I had taught him. Whenever he read from the Book of Mormon, he held it upside down and read perfectly.

I testify to you that if you start to read the scriptures from the time you are a little child, you will better understand the Lord’s promises and you will know what He expects from you. Someday you will become



**His son Luis at age four.**

a parent and have little children of your own. Teach them to read the scriptures, and you will see a fulfillment of the promise in Proverbs 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Luis is now finishing his university studies and working full-time. No matter how late he gets home from work, school, or a Church assignment, he still reads a

chapter from the Book of Mormon before he goes to bed. The prophet’s promise has truly been fulfilled: as a result of our reading this sacred book, our family has been richly blessed and we are more united.

I invite you to read the scriptures every day. If possible, read them with your family. I urge you boys to prepare to serve missions. I invite all of you to have a goal of being sealed in the temple for all eternity. And finally I want you to remember the inspired counsel of President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), who told us: “You need all the education you can get. . . . Whether it be repairing refrigerators, or the work of a skilled surgeon, you must train yourselves.”<sup>2</sup>

My dear children, listen to your teachers, be obedient in the classroom, do your very best, and learn all you can. The Lord has rich blessings in store for you and your families. Our duty is to “follow the prophet; he knows the way.”<sup>3</sup> ●

#### NOTES

1. See Ezra Taft Benson, “The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 81.
2. Gordon B. Hinckley, “A Prophet’s Counsel and Prayer for Youth,” *Liahona*, Apr. 2001, 34, 35; *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 4, 7.
3. “Follow the Prophet,” *Children’s Songbook*, 110–11.



# Questions and Answers about the Organization of the Church

## Why is the Church named after Jesus?

Jesus said it is named after Him because it is His Church (see 3 Nephi 27:8). He organized it to help us return to Heavenly Father. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church.

## What does "latter-day" mean?

Jesus said, "For thus shall my church be called in the last days, even The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (D&C 115:4). "Latter-day" means the last days, the time we live in right now.

## What does "Saints" mean?

"Saints" means members of Christ's Church. The scriptures tell about Saints in many time periods.  
Old Testament times: Deuteronomy 33:3; Psalm 30:4  
New Testament times: 1 Corinthians 1:2  
Book of Mormon times: 1 Nephi 14:14; Moroni 8:26  
Joseph Smith's time: Doctrine and Covenants 57:1; 84:2  
Today, members of the Church are also called Saints.

## THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

### How did Jesus Christ organize His Church?

Jesus organized His Church when He lived on earth, when He visited the American continent, and when He restored it through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Each time He chose Twelve Apostles or disciples to help Him build the kingdom of God on earth by teaching the gospel (see Mark 16:14–15; 3 Nephi 12:1).

Jesus also calls a prophet to lead the Church. The President of the Church is the prophet. Jesus called Joseph



**Joseph Smith,**  
**first President of the Church**



**Thomas S. Monson,**  
**16th President of the Church**

### Latter-day Prophets

Smith as the first prophet in the latter days. Thomas S. Monson is the 16th President of the Church. The prophet is the only person who can receive revelation for the entire Church.



**Twelve Apostles in New Testament times**

**How do our Church leaders help Jesus?**

All of the Church leaders help Jesus by serving other members of the Church. The prophet directs the Twelve Apostles. The Apostles direct the Quorums of the Seventy.

The Quorums of the Seventy help the Apostles teach stake and district presidents.

Stake and district presidents help bishops and branch presidents.



**Twelve disciples in Book of Mormon times**

In wards and branches, bishops, branch presidents direct Relief Society presidents, Young Men and Young Women presidents, Primary presidents, Sunday School presidents, home and visiting teachers, and other leaders.

Leaders and teachers in wards and branches serve all of us.

**How can you help Jesus?**

You help Jesus when you keep His commandments. You help Him by following the prophet. You help Him when you learn about Him by attending church and reading the scriptures.

You help Him when you choose the right. By doing these things, you are preparing to be a future leader in His Church,

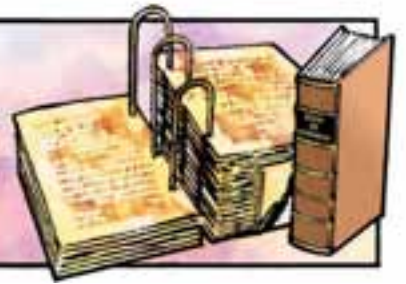
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. ●





FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

# Making Peace with His Enemies



One day when the Prophet was visiting his parents' home in Far West, a group of militiamen burst through the door.

Which one of you is Joe Smith?

We're here to kill him!



Joseph immediately stepped forward, smiled at the men, and shook their hands.

I'm Joseph.

Nice to meet you. Please, come and sit down.

The men stared in disbelief at the Prophet as he continued to speak.

We Mormons believe in Jesus Christ and just want peace. But we have had a lot of persecution these past months since we've moved to Missouri. As far as I know, none of us have ever broken the law. But if we have, we're ready to be tried by the law.





Mother, I believe I will go home. Emma will be expecting me.



You shall not go alone, for it is not safe.

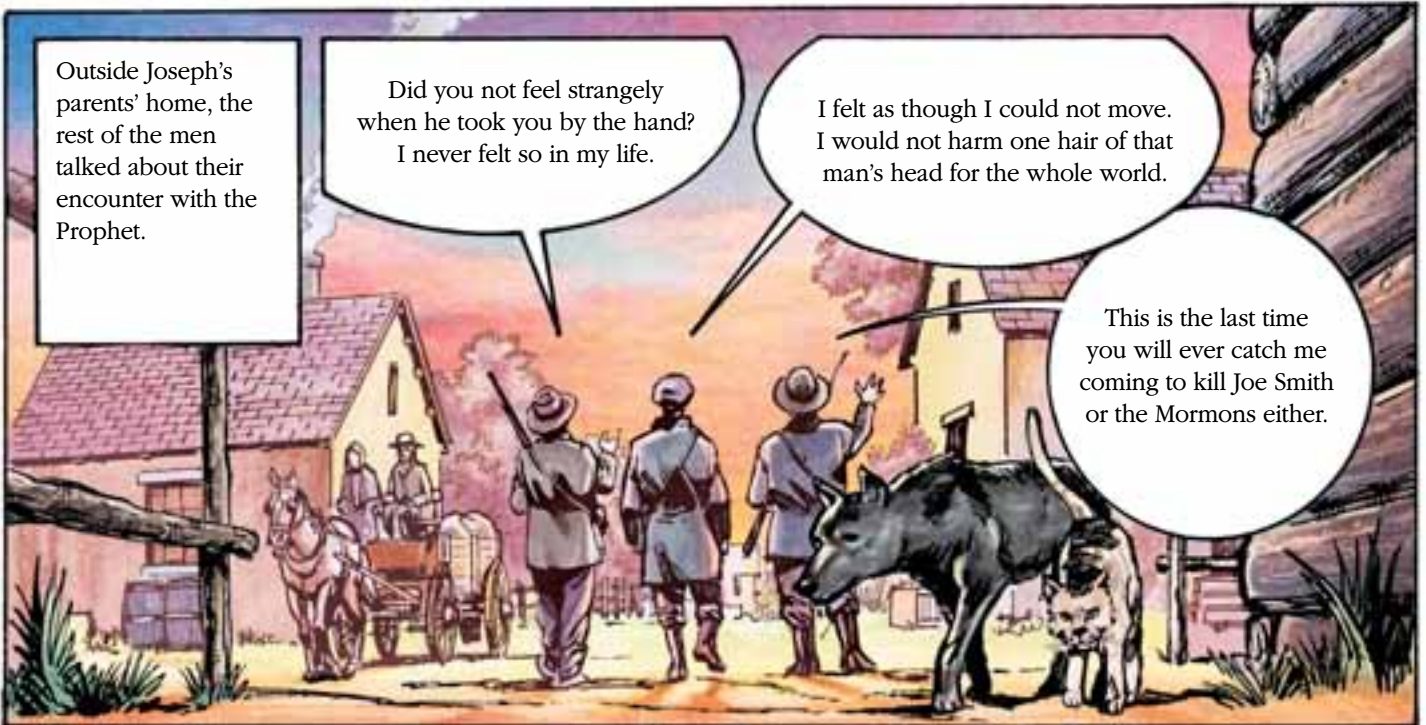
We will go with you and guard you.

Thank you.



We promise to disband the militia under us and go home.

If you need us at all, we'll come back and do whatever you need.



Outside Joseph's parents' home, the rest of the men talked about their encounter with the Prophet.

Did you not feel strangely when he took you by the hand? I never felt so in my life.

I felt as though I could not move. I would not harm one hair of that man's head for the whole world.

This is the last time you will ever catch me coming to kill Joe Smith or the Mormons either.

# Excited to Learn

BY LENA M. HARPER

Based on a true story

*“Seek learning, even by study and also by faith” (D&C 88:118).*

**R**ussell carefully packed his two pencils and his notebook in his schoolbag. He combed his hair and checked to make sure his clothes looked nice. After giving his mom a hug good-bye, he ran to the bus stop. He felt like he would burst if the bus didn't come soon. He was excited to start school for the first time.

Every year, Russell had watched his older brothers and sisters walk to the bus stop, where they got on the bus for school. He wanted to ride the bus with them. Even more, he wanted to learn the things they did. He wanted to learn more about dinosaurs. He wanted to know how trains worked. He wanted to learn to read. He just knew he was going to like school.

Russell's teacher, Mrs. Wilson, smiled when he walked into the classroom. She showed Russell where his desk was. She also showed him where to hang his schoolbag.

“Maybe we'll learn about dinosaurs first,” Russell thought.

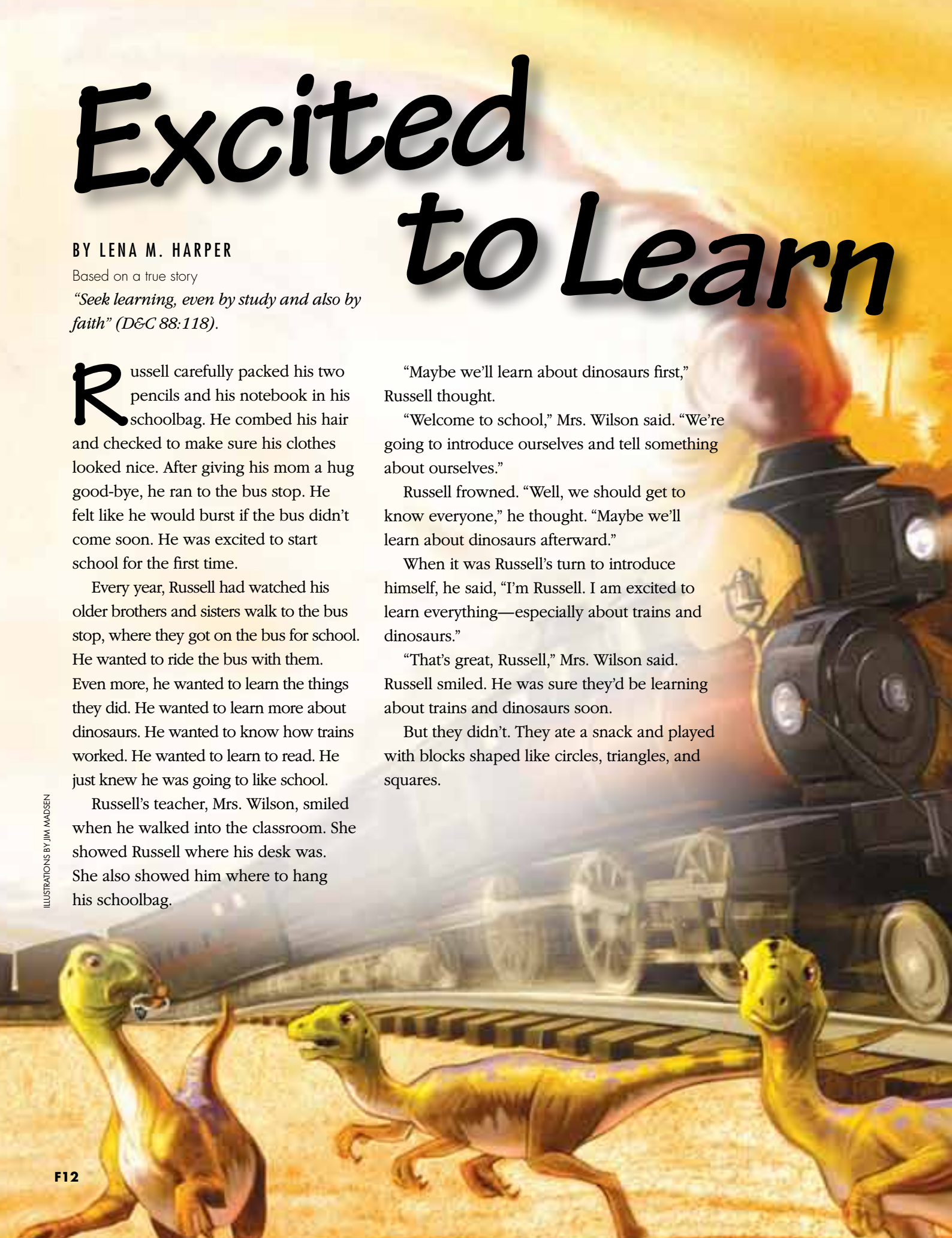
“Welcome to school,” Mrs. Wilson said. “We're going to introduce ourselves and tell something about ourselves.”

Russell frowned. “Well, we should get to know everyone,” he thought. “Maybe we'll learn about dinosaurs afterward.”

When it was Russell's turn to introduce himself, he said, “I'm Russell. I am excited to learn everything—especially about trains and dinosaurs.”

“That's great, Russell,” Mrs. Wilson said. Russell smiled. He was sure they'd be learning about trains and dinosaurs soon.

But they didn't. They ate a snack and played with blocks shaped like circles, triangles, and squares.







*"There is no limit to your potential learning as a child of God."*  
President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, "Do What They Think You Can't Do," *New Era*, Oct. 1989, 6.

"Mrs. Wilson, when are we going to learn about dinosaurs and trains?" Russell asked.

"Not right now, Russell," she said. "Now it's time to read a story."

"Is it about dinosaurs?"

"No, Russell."

After the story they learned about the alphabet. Then it was time to go home.

Russell was mad.

He frowned out the window on the bus. He ran home from the bus stop and stormed through the front door. He ran into his room and buried his head in a blanket.

Mom came in and put her hand on Russell's head. "How was your first day?" she asked.

"Terrible. I'm never going to learn anything, and I'm not going back. All we did today was play with blocks and read stories."

"Well, Russell, it's just your first day," Mom said.

Russell sat up and looked at Mom. "I want to learn about dinosaurs and trains and reading—now."

Mom sat next to Russell on the bed. "You can't learn everything at once. Learning takes time. And the more you learn now, the more you'll be able to learn later."

"What do you mean?" Russell asked.

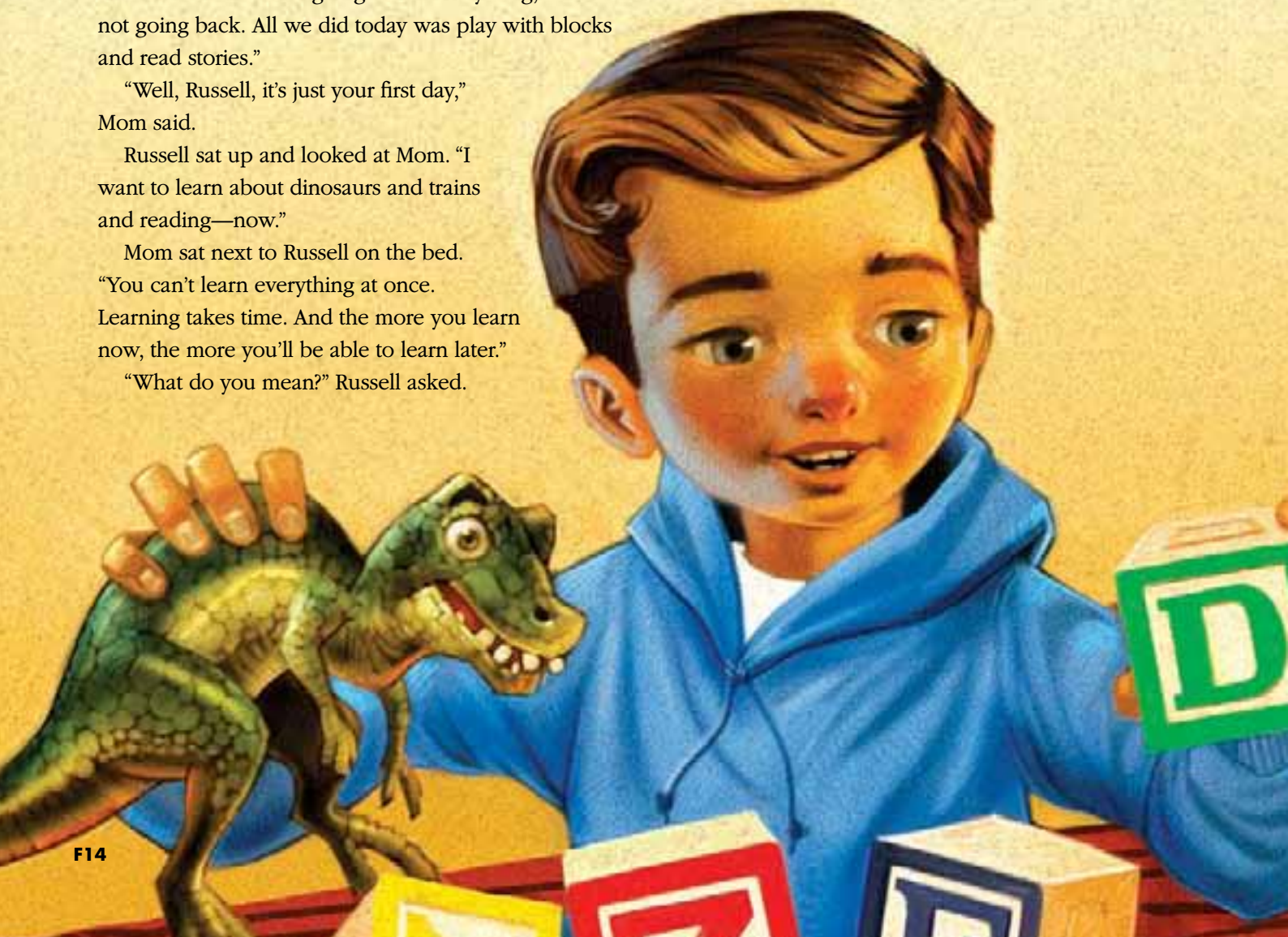
"Well, you need to learn the alphabet before you can learn to read. And you need to learn to read before you can read about the things you're interested in," she said.

Russell thought about it. Maybe there were other things to learn about than only dinosaurs and trains. "Well, I guess I'll try school again tomorrow," he said.

Mom smiled at him.

"But, Mom, do you think we could get a book from the library about dinosaurs?"

"I definitely think we can do that." ●







# I Want to Be Baptized

*Thoughtfully* ♩ = 100-112

Words by Gary Croxall  
Music by Kathleen Holyoak

1. I want to be bap - tized in clothes pure and white, To  
 (2. I) want to be bap - tized when I have turned eight, To  
 (3. I) want to be bap - tized by God's priest - hood pow'r, Be

*with feeling*

fol - low the Sav - ior, to do what is right. I'll cov - e - nant  
 en - ter Christ's king - dom through bap - ti - sm's gate. I'll take His name  
 giv - en His Spir - it, be cleansed as by fire. The Spir - it will

with Him to al - ways be true, For this is the thing that He  
 glad - ly, be known as His child, And strive to be wor - thy, more  
 guide me if I will o - bey And help me re - turn to my

1. 2. wants me to do. 2. I  
 Christ-like and mild. 3. I  
 Fa - ther one day.

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**JESUS CHRIST MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO LIVE WITH MY HEAVENLY FATHER AGAIN**

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father,  
but by me” (John 14:6).



**Mary and the Resurrected Lord, by Harry Anderson**

*“Jesus saith unto [Mary], Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.*

*“Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master” (John 20:15–16).*



*Appearing to His Apostles following His Resurrection,  
the Savior asked:*

*“Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts  
arise in your hearts?”*

*“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself:  
handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones,  
as ye see me have. . . .”*

*“And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an  
honeycomb” (Luke 24:38–39, 42).*

**SEE “HE IS RISEN,” PAGE 8.**