

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • APRIL 2010

Liahona

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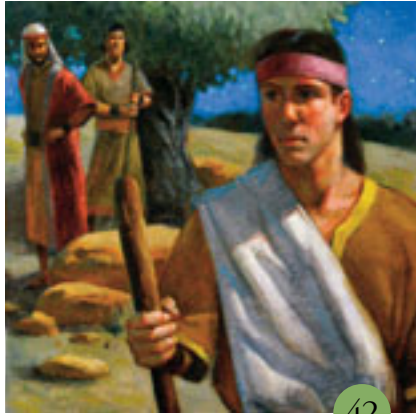
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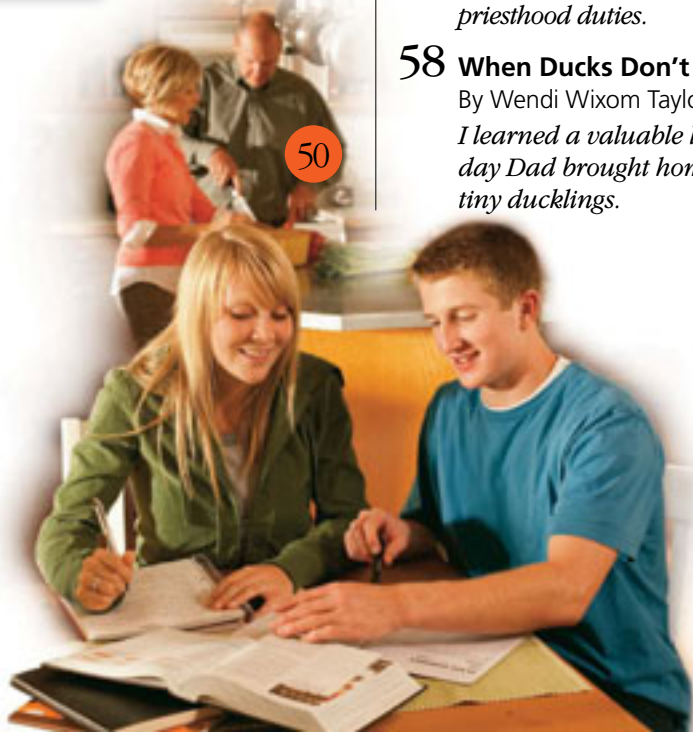
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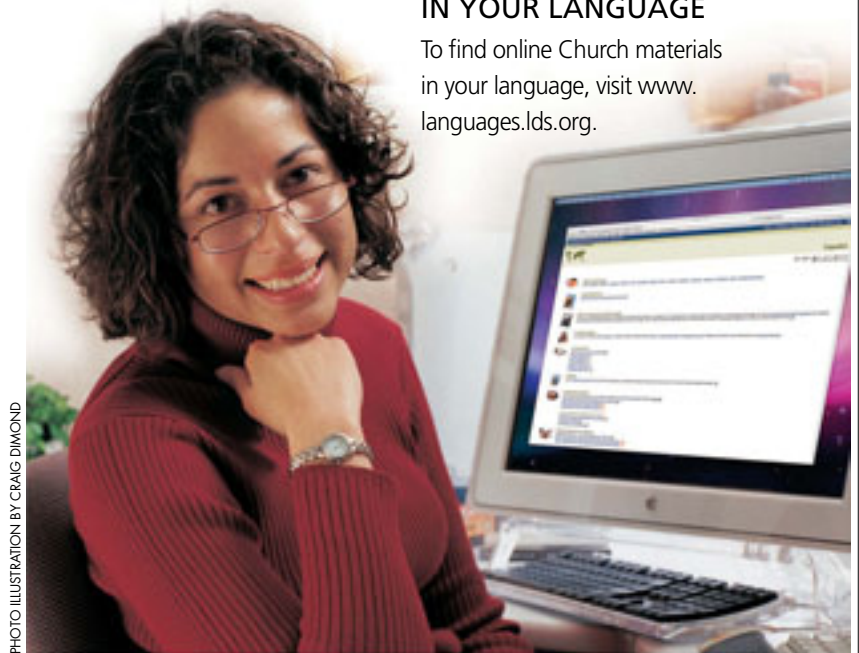


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CRAIG DIMOND

By President
Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Second Counselor in
the First Presidency



A Great Work of GOD

April 6, 1830

One hundred eighty years ago, Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and a handful of others gathered together to organize The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. By all accounts it was a simple but spiritual meeting. Joseph records that following the sacrament, “the Holy Ghost was poured out upon us to a very great degree—some prophesied, whilst we all praised the Lord, and rejoiced exceedingly.”¹

The events of this day went unnoticed by the world; they were not accompanied by headlines or heralds. Nevertheless, how the heavens must have rejoiced and glorified God—for on that day, the Church of Jesus Christ returned to earth!

Solomon Chamberlain

From that day to this, millions of faith-filled sons and daughters of Heavenly Father have followed the promptings of the Holy Ghost and entered the sacred waters of baptism. One such man was Solomon Chamberlain.

Solomon was a spiritual man and had spent many hours in prayer, seeking for the remission of his sins and pleading with Heavenly Father to lead him to the truth. Sometime around 1816, Solomon was promised in a vision that he would live to see the day when the Church of Christ would be organized after the apostolic order

was established once again on the earth.

Years later Solomon was traveling by boat toward Canada when his vessel stopped in the small town of Palmyra, New York. There he felt a compelling force urging him to disembark. Not knowing why he was there, he began speaking with the townspeople. It wasn’t long before he heard talk of a “gold Bible.” He said those two words sent “a power like electricity [that] went from the top of my head to the end of my toes.”

His inquiries led him to the Smith home, where he spoke with those present about the wonderful news of the restored gospel. After spending two days there and receiving a testimony of the truth, Solomon resumed his journey to Canada, taking with him 64 newly printed, unbound pages of the Book of Mormon. Everywhere he went, he taught the people, “both high and low, rich and poor, . . . to prepare for the great work of God that was now about to come forth.”²

A Great Work of God

Since that day in April 1830, millions have discovered the truth of the restored gospel and have entered the waters of baptism. I testify that this “great work



TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

Personal example is one of the most powerful teaching tools we have" (*Teaching, No Greater Call* [1999], 18). As you share the story of Solomon Chamberlain, invite the family to look for times that he followed the promptings of the Spirit. Discuss how his example may have helped others. Invite family members to share a time when someone's good example has helped them.

of God" is on the earth today. I bear witness that the Lord watches over His Church and directs it through His prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. It is no ordinary blessing to live in these latter days. These are glorious times, foreseen by ancient prophets and attended by watchful, angelic hosts. The Lord is mindful of His Church. He is also mindful of those who, like Solomon Chamberlain, follow the promptings of the Holy Ghost and join with their brothers and sisters the world over in helping to bring forth this great work of God. ■

NOTES

1. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 1:78.
2. "A Short Sketch of the Life of Solomon Chamberlain," typescript, Church History Library (on the Internet at www.boap.org/LDS/Early-Saints/SChamberlain.html); see also William G. Hartley, "Every Member Was a Missionary," *Ensign*, Sept. 1978, 23. A few days after the organization of the Church, Solomon Chamberlain was baptized by Joseph Smith in the waters of Seneca Lake, New York.

YOUTH

My Faith Experiment

When I was 13, I began to read the Book of Mormon every day, and I have been blessed every day since.

By Jason Young

Our Sunday School class of 13-year-olds was not exactly known for our reverence. However, we had a wonderful teacher who tried her best to teach each lesson by the Spirit. One such lesson was on reading the scriptures.

At the end of the lesson she gave us a challenge. It was meant for all of us, but for some reason she looked directly at me as she said, "I challenge you to read from the Book of Mormon every single day!" I thought to myself, "I will show you. I will do it!"

I began 1 Nephi chapter 1 that very night and continued reading every day. I probably did not have a proper attitude when I began, but over time I began to like the way reading the Book of Mormon made me feel. Reading each night became an enjoyable habit.

Months later I came to Alma 32 and was impressed by the idea of a faith experiment. In school we had just learned about conducting scientific experiments, so I kneeled down and told Heavenly Father that I was beginning the experiment. I asked that I would come to know whether the Book of Mormon was true.

In hindsight, I know that Heavenly Father answered my prayers many times. Reading daily from the Book of Mormon gave me increased capacity to overcome evil. I felt closer to my Father in Heaven. I felt strengthened by the power of the Holy Ghost to overcome obstacles. What Alma said about experimenting with God's word is true: "It beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me" (Alma 32:28).

CHILDREN

No Ordinary Blessing

The Church was organized 180 years ago this month. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf said it is "no ordinary blessing" to live today, when the Church has been restored. To find some of the great blessings Heavenly Father gives to people through the Church, look up the scriptures below. Then find the picture that matches each scripture.

Acts 22:16

2 Nephi 32:5

James 5:14-15

D&C 20:8-12

Amos 3:7

D&C 110:7-10

KIDS' ZONE



President Uchtdorf said that everyone can help in the "great work of God." How can you help?



HELPS FOR VISITING TEACHING

As a visiting teacher, you can receive impressions of the Spirit as to the needs of your sisters and how to meet those needs. As you teach this message, share, as appropriate, any inspiration or help you have received regarding visiting teaching.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

1 Samuel 3:10
 1 Kings 19:11–12
 Alma 5:46; 26:22
 3 Nephi 19:19–23
 D&C 8:2–3; 9:8–9; 88:63–64

Seeking and Receiving Personal Revelation



Teach these scriptures and quotations or, if needed, another principle that will bless the sisters you visit. Bear testimony of the doctrine. Invite those you visit to share what they have felt and learned.

How Can I Seek Personal Revelation?

“We prepare to receive personal revelation as the prophets do, by studying the scriptures, fasting, praying, and building faith. Faith is the key. Remember Joseph’s preparation for the First Vision:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. . . .

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.”¹

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

“Prayer is *your* personal key to heaven. The lock is on your side of the veil.

“But that is not all. To one who thought that revelation would flow without effort, the Lord said:

“You have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me.

“But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your *mind*; then you must ask me if it be right,

and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall *feel* that it is right.”²

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

How Can I Receive Personal Revelation?

“In its more familiar forms, revelation or inspiration comes by means of words or thoughts communicated to the mind (see Enos 1:10; D&C 8:2–3), by sudden enlightenment (see D&C 6:14–15), by positive or negative feelings about proposed courses of action, or even by inspiring performances, as in the performing arts. As President Boyd K. Packer, . . . President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has stated, ‘Inspiration comes more as a feeling than as a sound.’³

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.



“The temple is a house of learning. Much of the instruction imparted in the temple is symbolic and learned by the Spirit. This means we are taught from on high. . . . Our understanding of the meaning of the ordinances and covenants will increase as we return to the temple often with the attitude of learning and contemplating the eternal truths taught. . . . Let us enjoy the spiritual strength and the revelation we receive as we attend the temple regularly.”⁴ ■

Silvia H. Allred, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency.

NOTES

1. “Personal Revelation: The Teachings and Examples of the Prophets,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 88.
2. “Personal Revelation: The Gift, the Test, and the Promise,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 59–60.
3. “Eight Reasons for Revelation,” *Liahona*, Sept. 2004, 8; “Eight Ways God Can Speak to You,” *New Era*, Sept. 2004, 4.
4. “Holy Temples, Sacred Covenants,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 113, 114.

Small & Simple Things

“By small and simple things are great things brought to pass” (Alma 37:6).

TEMPLE SPOTLIGHT



Manila Philippines Temple

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) dedicated the Manila Philippines Temple in September 1984. The beautiful six-spire building has an exterior of brilliant white ceramic tiles and is surrounded by majestic palm trees and colorful vegetation.

The temple's open house was held shortly after two hurricanes ravaged the Philippines. Despite the storms, the events went on as planned. On September 3, 1984, a tour for dignitaries was held. On the following day, when the temple opened for public tours, “a

beautiful heavenly spectacle was unfurled over the temple,” said Jovencio Ilagan, executive secretary of the temple committee during its construction. “The sun, in all its brilliance, was seen through a corona of varying colors. . . . At one point, the center spire with the statue of the Angel Moroni was seen at the center of the corona. Almost a hundred people at the temple grounds attest to it. Many were in tears.”¹

NOTE

1. In John L. Hart, “3 Temples Open to Public in a Week—a First Ever,” *Church News*, Sept. 16, 1984, 3.

The Manila Philippines Temple was the first temple built in the Philippines. Construction on the country's second temple began in 2007 in Cebu City.

Entering a Beautiful Place

Before I became a member of the Church, I lived near the Manila Philippines Temple. Every time I passed it, I marveled at the grandeur of the beautiful edifice. I could never see the name of the Church, but I had a feeling of wanting to enter that place.

Years later I went to Hawaii, where I met the missionaries and was baptized. When I returned to Manila, I was surprised to learn that the building I had long wished to enter was one I *could* enter if I was worthy. I was overjoyed.

When I did enter the temple, I felt I was a little above the earth. Everything was beautiful, almost heavenly. I feel so blessed to have the privilege to go inside the temple.

Joanna Velayo-Munda, Philippines



Feeling the Spirit of the Temple

When I was called to be a member of the high council, the stake president expressed his desire for more members to go to the temple on the days assigned for our stake. Transportation was a problem, so the first thing he did was arrange for a bus to pick up the members at all the ward buildings in the stake and also bring us back when the day was over.

There was another problem, however. Many mothers could not attend because they didn't have anyone to watch

their children. As we discussed the possibility of having some of the young women from the stake help care for the children, I realized that we could call a stake nursery leader. I proposed the idea to the stake president. He suggested that we call new converts to serve as assistants to the nursery leader so they could feel the spirit of the temple. When these ideas were put into action, we had great stake temple attendance.

Cristian Robles, Chile

CHURCH HISTORY AROUND THE WORLD

Greece

Rigas Pofantis and Nicholas Malavetis had been looking for religious truths for three years when they happened upon a newspaper article in 1898 that discussed Mormonism. They were intrigued and wrote to Church headquarters to learn more. Church leaders dispatched the president of the Turkish Mission to visit and teach the pair in Greece. In 1903 Nicholas Malavetis died, but two years later, Rigas Pofantis again wrote to Church headquarters and asked to be baptized. Church leaders again sent the Turkish Mission president, who baptized Brother Pofantis and five others, including Nicholas Malavetis's widow.

The first missionaries arrived in Greece six months after these first baptisms, but beginning in 1909, the Church suspended missionary work there for nearly 70 years, due in part to political unrest in the area. In the meantime, military personnel stationed in the area began to share the gospel with the



In recent years Mars Hill, the location of the Apostle Paul's sermon in Acts 17, has been the site for testimony meetings, service projects, and celebrations of exemplary Greek citizens.

Greek people. Still, progress was slow; when the Athens Branch replaced the servicemen's Church unit in 1967, Church rolls included 80 members in the branch but only eight Greeks.

In 1972 Elder Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, dedicated Greece

for the preaching of the gospel. Since that time several developments have encouraged Church membership growth, including the publication of a Greek translation of the Book of Mormon in 1987, the creation of the Greece Athens Mission in 1990, and the dedication of the first meetinghouse in Greece in 1999.

Membership (2009)	661
Districts	1
Branches	5



INCLUDING EVERYONE IN FAMILY HOME EVENING

- Invite every family member to fulfill an assignment.
- Prayerfully plan lessons and activities that involve the whole family.
- Let children share what they are learning in Primary. It could be a song, a scripture, or a game to learn a gospel principle.
- Ask family members to suggest topics for future lessons. Make a list; then address the topics over time.
- Don't force family members to participate. Try to create a welcoming environment in which thoughts and ideas can be shared.



In upcoming issues, watch for family home evening ideas for single members and for families without children.



TEMPLES BY THE NUMBERS

- 130: temples in operation.
- 21: temples announced or under construction.
- 1: city in the world that has two temples within its borders, South Jordan, Utah. "You may ask why we favor Utah so generously. It is because the degree of activity requires it,"¹ President Gordon B. Hinckley said when he announced the Oquirrh Mountain Utah Temple in October 2005, the fourth temple in the Salt Lake Valley.
- 34: temples dedicated in 2000, the most dedicated in a single year.
- 85: temple dedications performed by President Hinckley over his lifetime, the most by any Apostle in this dispensation. President Hinckley also performed 10 rededications.
- 685,000: people who attended the Draper Utah Temple open house. The temple was dedicated in March 2009.
- 6,800: square feet (682 sq. m) in the Colonia Juárez Chihuahua Mexico Temple, the smallest temple in the Church.
- 331,032: square feet (30,754 sq. m) in the Salt Lake Temple, the largest temple in the Church.
- 169: stakes and districts assigned to the Manila Philippines Temple District, serving more wards and branches than any other temple district in the Church.



NOTE

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "Opening Remarks," *Liahona and Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 5.

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985)

Growing up in rural Arizona, Spencer W. Kimball learned to work hard at an early age. Grandson of the Apostle Heber C. Kimball (1801–68) and son of a stake president, Spencer also developed a strong testimony and deep devotion to the gospel.

When he was a boy, it was often Spencer's duty to ride atop the hay wagon, tramping down the hay as his older brothers pitched the hay up. It was hot, dusty, scratchy work, but he did it—except when the church bell rang

to signal the beginning of Primary, which at that time was held during the week. He had a perfect attendance record and was not going to miss. His brothers had other ideas and began pitching the hay onto the wagon even faster. When they noticed the hay was piling up, Spencer was halfway to Primary.

Spencer W. Kimball went on to serve as a missionary, a bishop, and a stake president before his call to the apostleship in 1943. His work ethic was legendary, despite a number of serious illnesses

that included a heart attack and throat cancer. He urged Church members to lengthen their stride, and his personal motto was simply "Do it." Because of his health, some thought Spencer W. Kimball's administration as President of the Church might be brief. But he presided over the Church for 12 years, during which time the number of operating temples doubled, the number of missionaries increased 50 percent, and the priesthood was extended to all worthy male members.



See his Gospel Classics article, "The Certainty of the Resurrection," on page 28.



His unwavering devotion to the gospel and his strong work ethic carried Spencer W. Kimball from humble beginnings in rural Arizona to the leading councils of the Church. His administration as President of the Church was marked by significant growth in temple building and missionary work. Left: With his wife, Camilla (1894–1987).





By President
Thomas S. Monson

The Worth of a Teacher

Some time ago three young boys were discussing their fathers. One spoke out, “My dad is bigger than your dad,” to which another replied, “Well, my dad is smarter than your dad.” The third boy countered, “My dad is a doctor.” Then, turning to one boy, he taunted in derision, “And your dad is only a teacher.”

There is one teacher whose life overshadows all others. He lived not to be served but to serve, not to receive but to give, not to save His life but to sacrifice it for others. He described a love more beautiful than lust, a poverty richer than treasure. He taught with authority and not as did the scribes. I speak of the Master Teacher, even Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind.

When dedicated teachers respond to His gentle invitation “Come learn of me,” they become partakers of His divine power.

It was my experience as a small boy to come under the influence of such a teacher. In our Sunday School class she taught us concerning the Creation of the world, the Fall of Adam, and the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. She brought to her classroom as honored guests Moses, Joshua, Peter, Thomas, Paul, and even Christ. Though we did not see them, we learned to love, honor, and emulate them.

When the boy heard the taunts: “My dad is bigger than yours,” “My dad is smarter than yours,” “My dad is a doctor,” well could he have replied, “Your dad may be bigger than mine; your dad may be smarter than mine; your dad may be a pilot, an engineer, or a doctor; but my dad is a teacher.”

May each of us ever merit such a sincere and worthy compliment! ■

From “Only a Teacher,” Tambuli, Oct. 1990, 3–8; Ensign, Jan. 1990, 2–7.

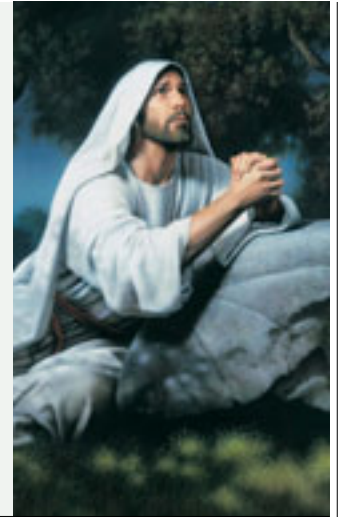


ASKING QUESTIONS THAT WORK

The calling of lecturer does not exist in the Church. A lecturer merely imparts knowledge. But a teacher invites class members to learn, in part by teaching one another. One sure way to transform a dull lecture into a lively, Spirit-filled lesson is by asking effective questions.

1. In your lesson preparation, plan questions to ask throughout the lesson. Consider the questions suggested in the manual. Think of others that might be helpful to your class. Seek the Spirit to help you choose several questions for each main idea you want to teach.
2. To help class members discuss how a gospel concept relates to their lives, you can ask three different types of questions in a series:
 - A fact question: “Whom does the Lord require us to forgive?”
 - An application question: “How does forgiving someone affect us?”
 - An experience question: “What is a positive experience you have had with forgiving someone?”

HIM WILL TAKE UPON HIM THEIR INFIRMITIES



By Elder Jean A. Tefan

Served as an Area Seventy from 2000 to 2009

A few years after my wife, Gisèle, and I returned from presiding over the Fiji Suva Mission, Gisèle was diagnosed with stomach cancer. The ordeal would eventually include three delicate surgical operations and complications that resulted in the complete removal of her stomach. It was at the height of watching my wife's suffering that I came to better understand the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

I remember feeling completely overwhelmed by what Gisèle was experiencing. What had she done to deserve such an affliction? Hadn't she served the Lord faithfully? Hadn't she lived the Word of Wisdom? Why couldn't He have prevented this illness? *Why?*

One particular night I let my heart and my feelings burst in prayer as I recounted to the Lord all of my frustrations. "I can no longer stand to watch my dear wife endure such pain!" I told Him. Then I decided to turn to the scriptures. I found these comforting verses about Jesus Christ in Alma 7:11–12:

"And he 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."

Until that moment I had not considered all that the Savior's wondrous Atonement entailed. I had not truly realized that Jesus Christ would take upon Him Gisèle's pain—or mine. I shifted my hurt and fear upon Him who takes "the pains and the sicknesses of his people." With this new understanding, I felt a heavy burden lifted!

Today, Gisèle is doing very well, as though she never

had cancer. At her regular checkups, her doctor tells her that she is "a miracle." I am so grateful for her physical healing, but I am also grateful for the healing that *I* experienced, a healing of the heart. The comfort that is available only through the Savior gave me a peaceful assurance that everything would be all right.

Now whenever I face tribulation, my thoughts always turn to that powerful lesson and to what the Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith: "The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?" (D&C 122:8). Remembering Jesus

Christ's sacrifice invariably comforts me.

I am eternally grateful for our Savior's willingness to go through what He excruciatingly endured. I testify of His love, His mercy, and His watchful care for His children. He is our Savior, and I love Him. ■

For more on this topic, see Elder Jeffrey R. Holland's April 2009 general conference address, "None Were with Him," at www.conference.lds.org.



A Temple for Kona

By R. Val Johnson
Church Magazines

Leroy Alip listened intently as he was set apart to serve on a stake high council on the Big Island of Hawaii. In the blessing Brother Alip was told he would be on the island when a temple was built there and that he would serve in that temple. This was in 1984, and the only temple in Hawaii was on the island of Oahu, many miles away by boat or plane.

The priesthood blessing energized Brother Alip. “I believe that when you are given a blessing, you have a responsibility to do whatever you can to bring that blessing to you,” he says. So he and his wife, Rose, decided to attend the temple on Oahu once a month.

Doing so was not easy. Traveling there cost U.S. \$300, a lot of money for a couple barely getting by on Brother Alip’s paycheck from the government office where he worked. The only way they could make the trip was to dip into their savings. They did so gladly.

Within a year, however, they were out of money. “But our hearts were in the temple,” Brother Alip says. “We wanted to continue attending. So we prayed for help.”

Not long afterwards, Brother Alip unexpectedly

received an offer to supplement his income by delivering papers for a local business. For these early morning deliveries, he was paid nearly \$700 per month. With more than enough money to continue going to the temple, Brother and Sister Alip were prompted to put the surplus in their own special temple fund.

By June 1986 the reason for that prompting became clear: now living in the Kona Hawaii Stake, they could take to the temple a number of women from the stake who were worthy but had not been able to receive their endowments. So each month, the Alips took one sister with them to Oahu. Each time, the sister returned to bear testimony of the spiritual power and joy she felt in doing her own and others’ temple work. Soon, the spirit of temple work spread throughout the stake, and more members began looking for ways to attend the temple.

Through contacts Brother Alip had in the travel industry, he was able to arrange for discounted airfare, ground transportation, and lodging for all in the stake who wanted to go. By 1994 more than 100 members of the Kona stake were making the monthly trip to the Laie Hawaii Temple.



Brother Alip laughs. He recalls, “The temple president joked that the Saints from Kona were wearing out the carpets because so many of them were in the temple.”

In 1997 President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) announced a new direction for temple construction. Building smaller temples would enable more temples to be built. The faithfulness of the Saints on the Big Island was rewarded six months later when President Hinckley announced a temple for Kona. After the temple was dedicated in 2000, Brother Alip was called as second counselor in the temple presidency. Today, fully retired from his career but fully engaged in the work of the Lord, he supervises the workers who keep the grounds of the Kona Hawaii Temple beautiful.

Brother and Sister Alip are grateful for the ways Heavenly Father has blessed them to have what they need to continue serving others. When they first came to Kona, Brother Alip says, “We had no place to stay except for a small shack in the hills built for a worker in the coffee fields.” They lived there for months until they were able to rent a small cottage.

A number of years later, they had enough savings and income to consider a nicer home, but nothing they looked at felt right to them. One

When Leroy and Rose Alip decided to sacrifice to attend the temple monthly, the Lord blessed them beyond their means to go—and to take others with them.

day while Brother Alip was working on the Kona temple grounds, an elderly sister came by. She was crying. Brother Alip shakes his head. “She was being evicted from her home and had no place to go. For some reason, I told her to go visit her grandchildren, and when she returned, she could move in with us.” The problem was, the Alips’ home was big enough for only Brother and Sister Alip. So they started praying—and looking earnestly for ways to obtain the blessing they sought.

Shortly, a real-estate agent invited them to consider a two-story home with six bedrooms. They loved it, but they assumed the house would cost more than they could afford. Reluctantly, they turned the offer down.

But a way opened up. Within a few weeks, the price of the home dropped, and the Alips learned they had sufficient credit to buy the house. As a result, the sister in need had a place with Brother and Sister Alip when she returned to Kona, and three of the Alips’ children, in need themselves, found a home for their families at the house.

“The Lord has taken good care of us,” Brother Alip says. “When we show that we are willing to sacrifice our time, talents, and means for Him, He showers us with His tender mercies.” ■



HE IS RISEN

By President Thomas S. Monson

Wherever I travel, I try to pay a visit to the town cemetery. It is a time of contemplation, of reflection on the meaning of life and the inevitability of death. In the small cemetery in the town of Santa Clara, Utah, I remember the preponderance of Swiss names which adorn the weathered tombstones. Many of those persons left home and family in verdant Switzerland and, in response to the call “Come to Zion,” settled the communities where they now “rest in peace.” They endured spring floods, summer droughts, scant harvests, and backbreaking labors. They left a legacy of sacrifice.

The largest cemeteries, and in many respects those which evoke the most tender emotions, are honored as the resting places of men who died in the cauldron of conflict known as war while wearing the uniform of their country. One reflects on shattered dreams, unfulfilled hopes, grief-filled hearts, and lives cut short by the sharp scythe of war.

Acres of neat white crosses in the cities of France and Belgium accentuate the terrible toll of World War I. Verdun, France, is in reality a gigantic cemetery. Each spring as farmers till the earth, they uncover a helmet

here, a gun barrel there—grim reminders of the millions of men who literally soaked the soil with the blood of their lives.

Death, a New Chapter of Life

Many years ago I stood by the bedside of a young man, the father of two children, as he hovered between life and the great beyond. He took my

Christ's Resurrection, as a part of the Atonement, opens the way for all of us to be resurrected.



FROM LEFT: MY REDEEMER LIVES; BY ROGER LOVELESS; MAY NOT BE COPIED; PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATTHEW REIER, CHRISTINA SMITH, AND WELDEN C. ANDERSEN; BEHOLD MY HANDS AND FEET; BY HARRY ANDERSON; LAZARUS; BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH

1. We have come to earth to learn, to live, to progress in our eternal journey toward perfection.



2. Some remain on earth but for a moment, while others live long upon the land. The measure is not how long we live but rather how well we live.



3. Then comes death and the beginning of a new chapter of life.



4. This new chapter leads to that glorious day of resurrection, when spirit and body will be reunited, never again to be separated.



hand in his, looked into my eyes, and pleadingly asked, “Bishop, I know I am about to die. Tell me what happens to my spirit when I die.”

I prayed for heavenly guidance. My attention was directed to the Book of Mormon on the table beside his bed. I began to read aloud:

“Now, concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection— . . . the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body, . . . are taken home to that God who gave them life.

“ . . . The spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles and from all care, and sorrow” (Alma 40:11–12).

My young friend closed his eyes, expressed a sincere thank you, and silently slipped away to that paradise about which we had spoken.



Christ said to the grieving Martha, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11:25–26).

Victory over the Tomb

Let Luke, the physician, describe the experience of Mary and the other Mary as they approached the garden tomb:

“And they found the stone rolled away. . . .

“ . . . They entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

“ . . . As they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men

stood by them in shining garments:

“And . . . said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

“He is not here, but is risen” (Luke 24:2–6).

This is the clarion call of Christendom. The reality of the Resurrection provides to one and all the peace that surpasses understanding. It comforts those whose loved ones lie in Flanders fields or who perished in the depths of the sea or who rest in tiny Santa Clara. It is a universal truth.

As the least of His disciples, I declare my personal witness that death has been conquered, that victory over the tomb has been won. May the words made sacred by Him who fulfilled them become actual knowledge to all. Remember them. Cherish them. Honor them. *He is risen.* ■

From “He Is Risen,” Liahona and Ensign, Apr. 2003, 2–7.

I NEED TO GO TO THE Temple

An accident, days and nights on a bus, long boat rides, and high travel costs haven't kept this Brazilian brother from attending the temple.

By Michael R. Morris

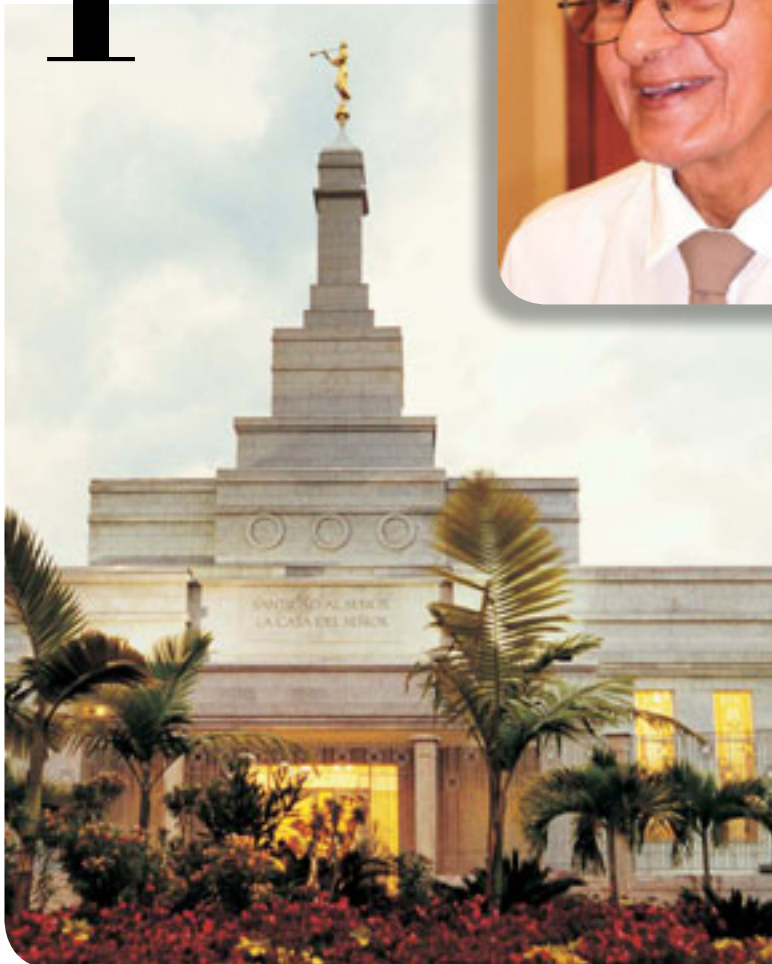
Church Magazines

José Gonçalves da Silva suddenly awoke to people calling his name. It was dark, and he had no idea where he was.

"I was asleep when the bus rolled," José recalls of the early-morning accident in January 2008. "Nobody could find me because I was in the back of the bus covered with luggage. Some of the brethren finally located me as they began to gather up the suitcases."

When the bus driver lost control on a narrow stretch of winding road in southern Venezuela's dense rain forest, José and other Latter-day Saints from Manaus, Brazil, were approximately halfway through their three-day trip to the Caracas Venezuela Temple. José suffered only minor injuries, but several brothers and sisters had to be hospitalized.

"It's time you quit going to the temple," concerned family members told José, who was 80 when the accident occurred. Undeterred, however, he declared: "I need to go to the temple. If the Lord allows it, I will return."



The Caracas Venezuela Temple.

He immediately began saving money for his fourth trip to Caracas, which he made in early 2009. For Brother Gonçalves da Silva, the 40-hour bus ride is easy compared to the three trips he previously made to the São Paulo Brazil Temple. For many years, the São Paulo Temple, located thousands of miles southeast of Manaus, was the

closest temple to this city of two million people in the northern state of Amazonas. Then, in 2005, Manaus became part of the Caracas Venezuela Temple District.

During those years of traveling to São Paulo, “we would take a boat here in Manaus and spend four days getting to Pôrto Velho,” the capital of Rondônia State, José says. “Then we would take a four-day bus ride to São Paulo. My wife is not a member of the Church, and when I went to the temple for the first time in 1985, I went alone. I spent the night at the bus terminal in Pôrto Velho because I arrived late and there was no bus. The next morning I headed for São Paulo. It was a nice experience, but I arrived a little tired.”

He then spent three full days serving in the temple before making the eight-day return trip home. It takes him a year to save enough from his pension to cover the costs of traveling to the temple.

“It is a sacrifice to go, but it is worth it,” says Brother Gonçalves da Silva, who has done much vicarious work for his family. “I felt a special joy the day I was baptized for my father, when someone was baptized for my mother, and when



Above: The Rio Negro, where José Gonçalves da Silva would begin his eight-day trip to the São Paulo Brazil Temple.

Below: Brother Gonçalves da Silva on the 40-hour bus ride to the Caracas Venezuela Temple. He says serving in the house of the Lord is worth the sacrifice it takes to attend.

I represented my father as my parents were sealed. It was a wonderful opportunity. All my brothers and sisters are gone now, but I have done the work for them during my temple trips.”

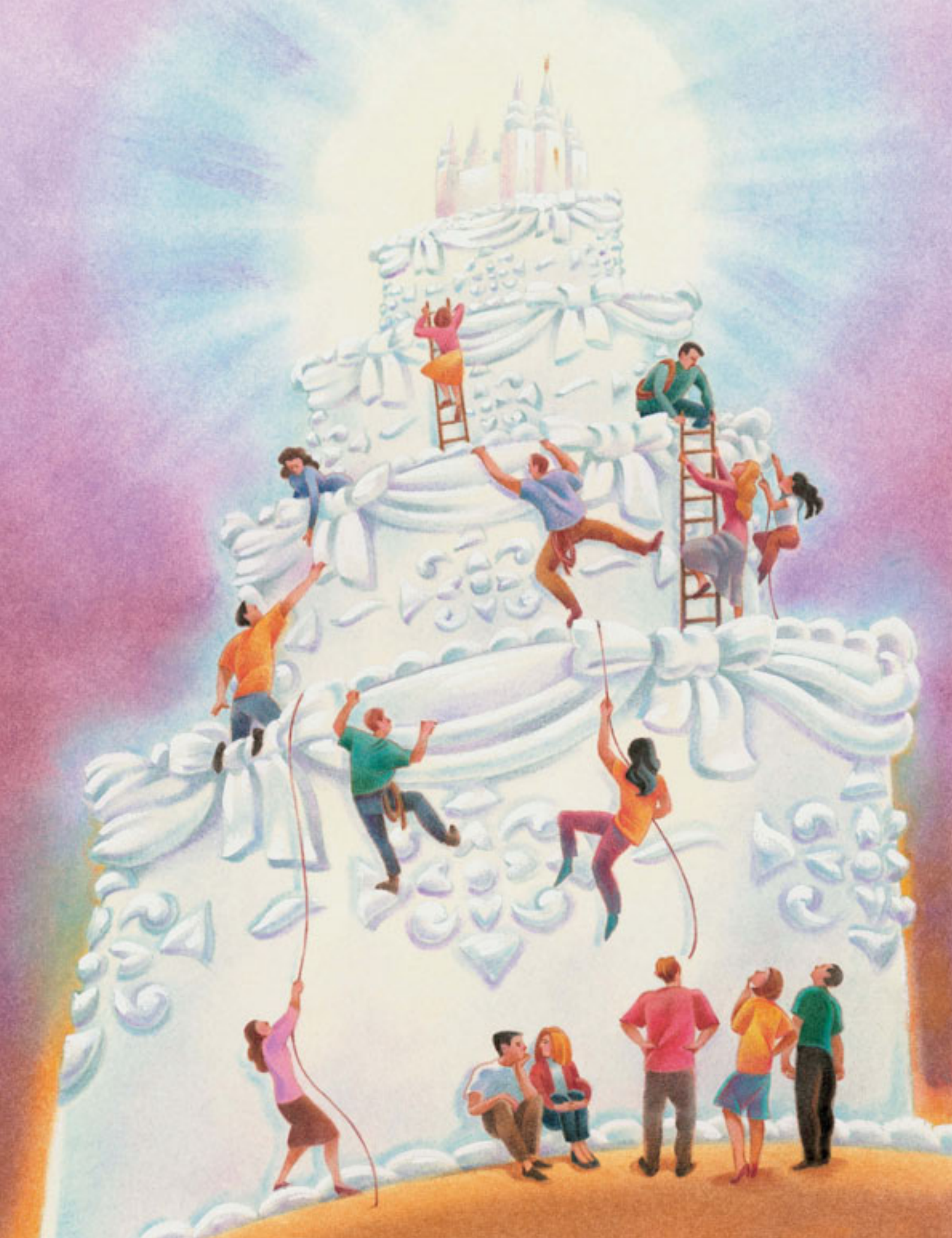
José believes that the sacrifice inherent in traveling so far to the temple will help Latter-day Saints in Manaus be grateful for the day a temple is dedicated there. “I am excited for that day,” he says.

Manaus had one small branch with 20 members when José joined the Church in 1980. Since then he has seen the Church blossom there to nearly 50,000 members living in eight stakes.

“When the announcement came in 2007 that a temple would be built in Manaus,” José says, “I wept for the great joy I felt, and I prayed that the Lord would allow me to live long enough to see the groundbreaking,” which occurred a year later. Now he prays that he will live to see the temple completed and his wife baptized so that they can be sealed.

“We don’t know when we will die, but we should be prepared and happy when that time comes,” Brother Gonçalves da Silva says. “I’m looking forward to returning to the presence of my Father in Heaven and my Savior, Jesus Christ. Being in the temple helps me prepare for that day.” ■





By Elder
Lance B. Wickman
Of the Seventy



Confidence Tests

From Fear to Faith in the Marriage Decision

After graduating from college in 1964, I was commissioned an officer in the United States Army. I volunteered for training as a U.S. Army Ranger. Ranger training is a grueling course in commando and elite infantry tactics. The goal is to produce highly skilled officers and noncommissioned officers.

My Ranger training included a series of “confidence tests,” as the Ranger cadre called them, which were intended as challenges to physical strength, stamina, and courage. Challenging obstacle courses, scaling and rappelling sheer ice-covered rock faces of 100 feet (30 m) or more, night swamp slogging amid alligators and poisonous snakes, and a night compass course across 10 miles (16 km) of rugged terrain—these are just some of the tests we endured. One purpose of these confidence tests was to teach Rangers that in the difficult and trying circumstances of combat, we were capable of doing more than we thought we could do. Our leaders taught us to have confidence in ourselves and in our own training. More than once during the fiery trials of my combat experience, I drew reassurance from the lessons of those Ranger confidence tests.

Throughout our lives, we face other, more significant confidence tests than those I endured in my training.

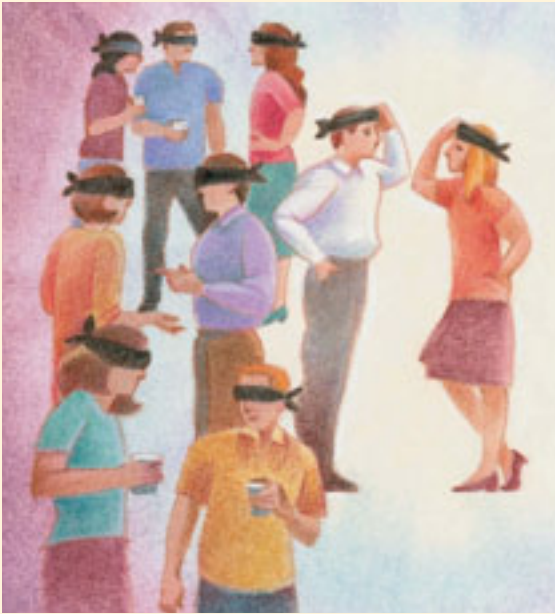
These are not so much tests of confidence in oneself but of confidence in what we receive by the Spirit of God. Prophet after prophet has counseled us to remember what we know—to maintain confidence in the Lord. As he attempted to rekindle faith in his people, Jacob repeatedly declared unto them, “*I know that ye know*” (2 Nephi 9:4, 5; emphasis added). Paul was even more direct: “*Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward*” (Hebrews 10:35; emphasis added). Each of us faces an uncertain future. But when we face it, remembering what we already know, we face it with faith. We face it with good cheer. We face it with *confidence*.

One of the most significant confidence tests of mortality is usually faced in the young-adult season of life. It is the decision to marry. No decision is approached with greater trepidation by this generation of young adults. It is a subject that provokes much anxiety.

Fears about Marriage

I’m not sure of all the reasons this is the case, but here, I believe, are some of them:

- **Ease of hanging out.** Many young people take themselves “out of the game” in finding the right companion



Group socializing can deny a person the opportunity of the close examination of the character and personality of that special someone so vital to making a wise choice.

by doing too much of their socializing in groups. Because this hanging out occurs in mixed groups with males and females, some mistakenly think that they are properly engaged in the sifting process so essential to finding one's eternal companion. But this is not so. Group socializing can deny a person the opportunity of the close examination of the character and personality of that special someone so vital to making a wise choice.

- **Fear of making a mistake.** Divorce statistics are well known. Some young people have lived through the heartache of seeing their parents' or friends' marriages fail or have been through divorce themselves. They have experienced exquisitely the trauma associated with such breakups. Sometimes, the effect is to make them afraid to approach marriage lest they choose the wrong person.
- **Adolescent recoiling from responsibility.** At least for a few, there is a reluctance to meld one's desires and interests to those of another. Such selfishness has a way of prompting some to postpone the marriage decision.

Fallacious Thinking

Whatever the reason for the fear of the marriage decision, it leads to some fallacious thinking, to a "casting away" of one's confidence. This, in turn, causes a person's failure to firmly grasp his or her own responsibility for making that decision. Even if such fear doesn't result in postponing or even avoiding marriage, it can lead to other errors. For instance, some are inclined to treat the decision as entirely a spiritual one. Shortchanging their own obligation to give due process to it, they wait for the functional equivalent of a divine finger writing an answer on the wall or for the seas to part or for some other metaphysical phenomenon that tells them without question that so-and-so is "the one."

Others look to someone else to decide for them. A Brigham Young University stake president told me that it is not uncommon for some women to defer to the opinion of a current boyfriend telling her that he is "the one." Others defer to the judgment of a parent—often a father—who has made decisions for them in the past. In either instance, there is an abdication of responsibility for the most significant choice that a person makes in this life.

Counsel from parents, bishops, and other worthy persons can be valuable. But at the end of the day, no one else can—or should—tell you what to do. The decision of whom to marry is an intensely personal one.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward!" Remember that we come into this life hard-wired, so to speak, to fall in love. Don't make it harder than it is! *Remember what you know*, and move forward with confidence in Heavenly Father and the standing you enjoy as His son or daughter.

Counsel for Courtship

Courtship is a time for two people to get acquainted. It is a time to get to know someone, his or her interests, habits, and perspective on life and the gospel. It is a time to share ambitions and dreams, hopes and fears. It is a time to test someone's commitment to gospel living.

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles tells of a returned missionary who had been dating a special young woman. He cared for her a great deal and was seriously considering making a proposal of marriage to her. This was after President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) had counseled women to wear only one set of earrings. This young man waited patiently for a while, said Elder Bednar, for the young woman to remove the extra set of earrings she wore. But it did not happen. For this and other reasons, with heavy heart, he stopped dating her.

In relating this experience, Elder Bednar said: "I presume that some of you . . . may believe the young man was too judgmental or that basing an eternally important decision, even in part, upon such a supposedly minor issue is silly or fanatical. Perhaps you are bothered because the example focuses upon a young woman who failed to respond to prophetic counsel instead of upon a young man. [But may I just point out to you that] the issue was not earrings!"¹

Here is another tip. As a part of this courtship experience, be careful not to base your judgments merely on what could be described as superficial "ticket punching." By that, I mean do not base your decisions solely on whether someone has served a full-time mission or holds a particular calling in your ward. These things can be, should be, and usually are indications of devotion, faithfulness, and integrity. But not always. That is the reason you need to

get acquainted. Know someone well enough to learn his or her heart and character firsthand and not just his or her "gospel résumé."

A corollary is this: avoid being judgmental about someone until you get to know him or her. Snap negative judgments can be just as erroneous and misleading as snap positive ones. Be just as alert for a diamond in the rough as you are wary of fool's gold.

Praying about It

Only after applying your own judgment and good sense to the relationship after a sufficient period of time should you pray for a confirmation. Remember, like every other important decision, marriage is *your choice*. The Lord will expect *you* to exercise *your* judgment. As He said to Oliver Cowdery, "Behold, you have not understood; you have supposed that



CHOOSING A COMPANION

In choosing a companion, it is necessary to study . . . the one with whom you are contemplating making life's journey. You see how necessary it is to look for the characteristics of honesty, of loyalty, of chastity, and of reverence."

President David O. McKay (1873–1970), *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: David O. McKay* (2003), 140.

You need to get acquainted. Know someone well enough to learn his or her heart and character firsthand and not just his or her "gospel résumé."



I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me” (D&C 9:7).

Once you do your part through an appropriate courtship and make a tentative decision, have confidence that Heavenly Father will respond to your supplication.

The Lord expects you to use your own good sense. He expects you to rely on your own natural feelings of man-woman attraction planted in you from birth. Once you have been drawn to a person of the opposite sex, enjoyed a significant period of friendship—courtship—with him or her, and satisfied yourself that he or she shares your values and is someone with whom you could happily share the most intimate of relationships—then put the matter to Heavenly Father. The lack of a contrary impression to your own feelings may be His way of telling you that He has no objection to your choice.

Have Confidence in the Lord

Years have passed now since that challenging season in my Ranger training. Mortality’s currents have swept me far downstream from the confidence tests of my soldiering days. But their memory and their lessons linger. We are capable of weathering the storms of life and doing so more effectively than we might have thought. It is just a matter of always remembering what we know.

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.” Have confidence in what you know! Then you will meet your own confidence tests with courage and grace, and the Lord will surely direct your paths. ■

From a Brigham Young University–Idaho devotional given on September 25, 2007.

NOTE

1. David A. Bednar, “Quick to Observe,” *Liahona*, Dec. 2006, 17; *Ensign*, Dec. 2006, 33.

MAKING Temple Marriage A PRIORITY

By Vitaly and Ekaterina Shmakov

Vitaly: When I had been home from my mission for a few months, I was asked to be a counselor at a local youth conference. Steven C. Smith, president of the Russia Novosibirsk Mission, called me into his office. I anticipated a new calling or a formal interview of some kind. Instead, President Smith told me about someone he wanted me to meet—a young woman who had recently completed her mission and returned home to another part of Russia but who would be in town for the conference.

I had never seen Katya before, but once I arrived at the conference, I introduced myself, and we casually chatted for a few minutes. Later that night I asked Katya for a dance. The next day I asked her for another.

Katya: Growing up, I didn’t know many young, single priesthood holders, but I always hoped that the Lord would provide a worthy young man for me to marry. I had no idea when or how we would meet, but I had confidence in the Lord and His promises.

After my mission, I was invited to help chaperone a youth conference. When I saw Vitaly at the conference, I was immediately interested in getting to know him. We spent the most wonderful and unforgettable three days together at the conference.

I felt a strong prompting early on that Vitaly was the man I was to marry. Of course, not everyone will experience this kind of feeling so early in a courtship. So how do we know we are heading in the right direction? I learned on my mission to recognize the Spirit and to follow His direction without any doubts. So when I felt promptings that I needed to get to know Vitaly, I decided to follow them.

I know that the Spirit will guide all of us if we seek His companionship. It's important that we not compare our own path to that of others—the Spirit may not guide all of us in exactly the same manner—but if we are following the Spirit, we can have confidence that our path is right for us.

Overcoming Obstacles

Vitaly: During those three days, I realized I had found someone special. I was disappointed when the conference ended and Katya and I had to part. Luckily, though, there was a young single adult conference the next month.

I immediately started looking forward to it.

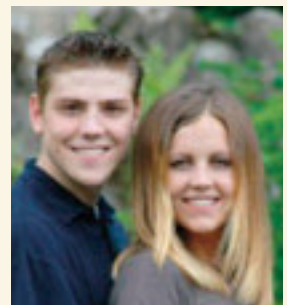
That conference was as great as I had hoped. Katya and I spent a lot of time really getting to know each other. As the event ended, we exchanged phone numbers and went back to our respective cities.

During the following weeks we kept in touch mostly by phone calls and text messages. (I think in less than a month I learned to text on my cell phone faster than most people can type on a laptop!)

Katya lived in Yekaterinburg, which is 11 hours away by train from where I lived in

Omsk, Siberia. Nevertheless, we both desperately wanted to see each other again. We started to make regular trips on the weekends. I would go to see her one weekend, and a few weeks later, she would come visit me. When I visited Katya, I stayed with mutual friends in her town, and when she visited me, she stayed with mutual friends who lived

Vitaly and Ekaterina (Katya) Shmakov were born in Omsk, Russia, and Yekaterinburg, Russia, respectively. Both joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in their teens, and both served missions—Vitaly in the Czech Prague Mission and Katya in the Russia Novosibirsk Mission. They say their conversions opened their minds to the possibilities of happy, confident, fulfilling lives, and their missions cemented their desires to create gospel-centered homes, starting with temple marriage. This is their story.



in my town. We often spent time with these friends from church during our visits.

Katya: Eleven hours may seem like a long commute, but for Russia, that's really just a short walk! Because of the distance, our dates were not as frequent as we would have liked. We could get together only once every few weeks and spend two or three days together before one of us returned home. Often, it felt like we needed a lot more time than that, and parting was always difficult. But because we had to make such an effort to see each other, we appreciated every

minute we spent together. As our relationship progressed, we began to look forward to a time when we would not have to say good-bye.

Our dates were very interesting and diverse: we rode bicycles and horses, visited museums, read the scriptures, cooked, walked in the parks (we even danced in one of them), and went to an orphanage to serve and play with the children.

Every time we met, we did something new, so we had a lot of fun. I appreciated how

Living the Lord's Way

Vitaly: In Russia, as in many places, it is the norm for people to live together before marrying. After I proposed to Katya, some of my friends asked me how I could possibly marry her without knowing beforehand if we were personally compatible. They reasoned, as many also did with Katya, that the only way to really know whether she was right for me was to live with her for an extended period of time.

I told them that there is no need to live with a person to get to know him or her. I also tried to explain to my friends in a way that they could understand that I had prayed and received an answer that I should marry Katya. Having prayed about my decision, I had no fears about married life. I was excited and felt like a whole new life was unfolding before me. No one ever opposed or criticized me for taking this stand. In fact, they supported me in my decision.

Katya: When Vitaly proposed, my parents tried to talk me out of getting married. They thought it was too soon for us to be engaged and that I needed to know Vitaly better than I did. My boss at work told me the same thing and added, "You need to live together before you make a choice like that."

I'm sad that people feel that way about marriage and family. I don't think they understand how happy couples can be when they are married and sealed in the temple. The great love and happiness Vitaly and I felt at our marriage were made even stronger by the knowledge that we are sealed for eternity.

Vitaly: Katya and I were married in Omsk on February 25, 2006. (The laws of Russia require a civil marriage prior to a temple sealing, as many countries do.) The next morning we set off on a trip to the Stockholm Sweden Temple. We boarded an airplane in Omsk and flew three



KEEP AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

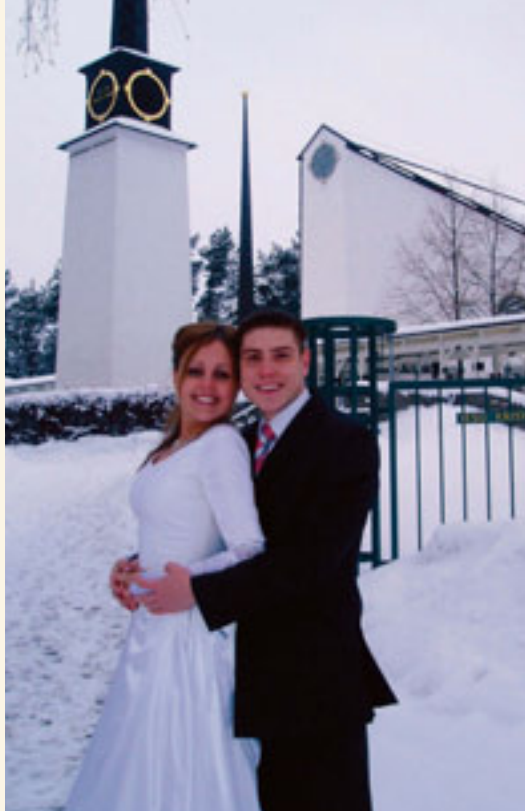
Maintain an eternal perspective. Let there be a temple marriage in your future. There is no scene so sweet, no time so sacred as that very special day of your marriage. Then and there you glimpse celestial joy. Be alert; do not permit temptation to rob you of this blessing."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Be Thou an Example," *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2005, 113.

inventive Vitaly was in planning our dates. The activities he planned helped us really get to know each other.

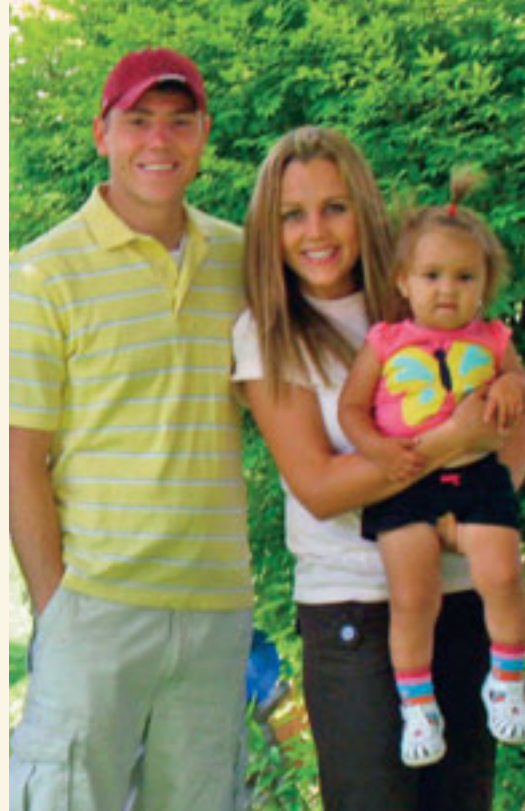
Vitaly: Because I was a student, I couldn't really afford many amusing things. I spent most of my money traveling to see Katya and paying my phone bill. But having a limited budget didn't mean that our dating had to be uninteresting or unproductive. In fact, some of our best dates didn't cost a single penny.

It may sound silly, but I wanted to see how Katya would act around children, so we went to an orphanage. It was like that with many of our dates; we really tried to learn as much about each other as we could.



Left: The Shmakovs on their sealing day in 2006; their trip to the Stockholm Sweden Temple took about 30 hours.

Right: Today, the Shmakovs have a young daughter. Katya says, "I want her to marry in the temple someday, and the best support we could offer her is to be loving companions and parents."



hours to Moscow, where we spent the rest of the day. Then we took an overnight train to Saint Petersburg. Once there we got on a bus with other Latter-day Saints and traveled for eight hours to Helsinki, Finland. The last leg of our journey was an 11-hour ferry ride to Stockholm.

Finally, we had reached the temple.

For some, such a long trip may seem like a challenge, but in many ways, our trip across Europe made a great honeymoon.

The day of our sealing, March 1, 2006, was a great day—a day of peace and assurance. I knew that the person whose hand I was holding was the one I'd share eternity with. This thought alone filled me with great joy and gratitude to Heavenly Father for trusting me with His daughter for my wife. I felt closer to Him than ever before.

Seeking Christlike Characteristics

Katya: Now Vitaly and I have a young daughter. She is wonderful. I want her to marry in the temple someday, and the best support we could offer her is to be loving companions and parents.

I hope that she is able to find a worthy priesthood holder who has many Christlike attributes. It was seeing those kinds of attributes in Vitaly that helped me know I could marry him.

What attracted me to Vitaly? Of course, he is handsome and smart, and he knows how to court a woman. But these were not the main criteria. He had what I like to call "eyes of a disciple of Christ." I sensed a light in him. He is a righteous priesthood holder.

Vitaly: Of course, it's great to be married to someone you're attracted to. But when our focus is solely on physical characteristics, we inevitably miss the most important characteristics—personality, spirituality, and other qualities that really matter in an enduring marriage.

I realize it may be a challenge for some young adults to find a spouse in the Church simply because there are not many Latter-day Saints where they live. I empathize with them. Nevertheless, I know that no matter what circumstances we are in, if we do our part and prepare ourselves to be sealed in the temple, Heavenly Father can provide a way. ■

The Certainty of the Resurrection



Spencer W. Kimball was set apart as the 12th President of the Church on December 30, 1973. President Kimball was a dynamic leader with great vision, presiding over an unprecedented expansion in both missionary work and Church membership. This article comes from an address he delivered in general conference on April 4, 1969.

By President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985)

One Christmastime some years ago, we walked the paths that Jesus walked. We spent some precious hours in what is said to be the Garden of Gethsemane and tried to imagine the sufferings through which He moved in anticipation of His Crucifixion and Resurrection. We were near the places where He prayed, where

He was taken prisoner, where He was tried and condemned.

Outside the city walls, we climbed the caliche hill, pock-marked with little caves, making the rounded end look like a skull, and we were told that this was Golgotha, the place where He was crucified. We zigzagged down the backside of the hill around to the sheer cliff-side of

it and entered the small window-size aperture into a rough-hewn cave in which it is said the body had lain.

Some hours we spent in the little garden outside this tomb and absorbed the gospel story of His burial and of His Resurrection, which here had taken place. We read thoughtfully and prayerfully of the coming of the women to the sepulchre, the angel of the Lord rolling away the stone, and the discomfiture of the recreant keepers.

“He . . . Is Risen”

We could almost imagine we saw the two angels in shining garments who spoke to Mary, saying, “Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

“He is not here, but is risen.”

The Lord had predicted: “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again” (Luke 24:5–7).

We remembered the dialogue between Mary, the angels, and the Lord:

“Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord,



and I know not where they have laid him.”

She turned and “saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

“Jesus saith unto her, 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.

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God” (John 20:13–17). . . .

Significance of Easter

Sometimes our celebrations of notable occurrences seem to take on earthly color, and we do not fully realize the significance of the reason for the celebration. This is true of Easter, when too often we celebrate the holiday rather than the deep significance of the Resurrection of the Lord. They must be unhappy indeed who ignore the godship of Christ, the sonship of the Master. We



feel sorry indeed for those who call the supreme miracle of the Resurrection “but a subjective experience of the disciples, rather than an actual historical event.”

We know truly that all this is real. Christ spoke of Himself to Nicodemus:

“We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness” (John 3:11).

And then we remember that Peter testified:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36).

“But ye denied the Holy One and the Just . . . ;

“And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses” (Acts 3:14–15).

Boldly, Peter and John stood before the council and said again:

“Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man [the former lame man] stand here before you whole. . . .

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:10, 12).

When the council chastised the two

Apostles and commanded them not to speak or teach such things in the name of Jesus, they answered and said: “Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19–20).

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33).

Witness of Peter

We also know the Resurrection is real. The living Peter said to the council of persecutors:

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on the tree. . . .

“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him” (Acts 5:30, 32).

We stand in awe before the great Peter, who had so completely received his total assurances and who had so graciously donned the robe of leadership and the mantle of authority and the courage of the inspired and assured. What strength he had come to have as he led the Saints and faced the world with all its persecutors,

unbelievers, and difficulties. And, as he rehearsed over and over his absolute knowledge, we glory in his stamina as he faced mobs and prelates, officials who could take his life, and as he boldly proclaimed the resurrected Lord, the Prince of Peace, the Holy One and the Just, the Prince of Life, the Prince and Savior. Peter certainly now was sure, impregnable, never to falter. We should gain much sureness by his certainty. . . .

received his lost eyesight, went about in the synagogues confounding the Jews in Damascus, “proving that this is very Christ” (Acts 9:22).

And later Paul came to the Apostles in Jerusalem, and Barnabas, speaking for Paul, “declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus” (Acts 9:27).

Then Paul continues:

“And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

“But God raised him from the dead:

“And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. . . .

“God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again. . . .

“And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption” (Acts 13:29–31, 33–34). . . .

Witness of Joseph Smith

We are lifted by the witness of the modern prophet, Joseph Smith, when he reassures the people of the Resurrection.

Testifying of the risen Lord, Peter and John said, “We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

Paul’s Testimony

The testimony of Paul seems most conclusive. He heard the voice of the risen Christ:

“Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” And to be sure of identity, Saul said, “Who art thou, Lord?” and received the assurance, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” (Acts 9:4–5).

And now that same Paul, who had recovered his strength, who had been administered to by the priesthood, who had



Elder George A. Smith quotes the last public address of Joseph Smith in June 1844, only days before his cruel assassination:

“I am ready to be offered a sacrifice for this people; for what can our enemies do? Only kill the body and their power is then at an end. Stand firm my friends. Never flinch. Do not seek to save your lives, for he that is afraid to die for the truth will lose eternal life. Hold out to the end; and we shall be resurrected and become like Gods, and reign in celestial kingdoms, principalities and eternal dominions.”¹ . . .

Question and Answer of Job

The question asked by Job has been asked by millions who have stood at the open bier of a loved one: “If a man die, shall he live again?” (Job 14:14).

And the question has been answered acceptably to numerous of them as a great, sweet peace

settles down upon them like the dews of heaven. And innumerable times hearts that were weary in agonizing suffering have felt the kiss of that peace which knows not understanding.

And when a deep tranquility of soul has brought a new warm assurance to minds that were troubled and hearts that were torn, those numerous could repeat with beloved Job:

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

“And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

“Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold” (Job 19:25–27).

Job had expressed the wish that his testimony could be printed in books and cut into stone for the generations following him to read. His wish was granted, for peace has come into many souls as they have read his strong testimony.

Vision of John

And in conclusion, let me read the vision of John the Revelator:

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works” (Revelation 20:12–13).

And as the living, verdant spring follows the dismal, deathlike winter, all nature proclaims the divinity of the risen Lord, that He was Creator, that He is the Savior of the world, that He is the very Son of God. ■

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation standardized; citation added.

NOTE

1. Joseph Smith, in *History of the Church*, 6:500.

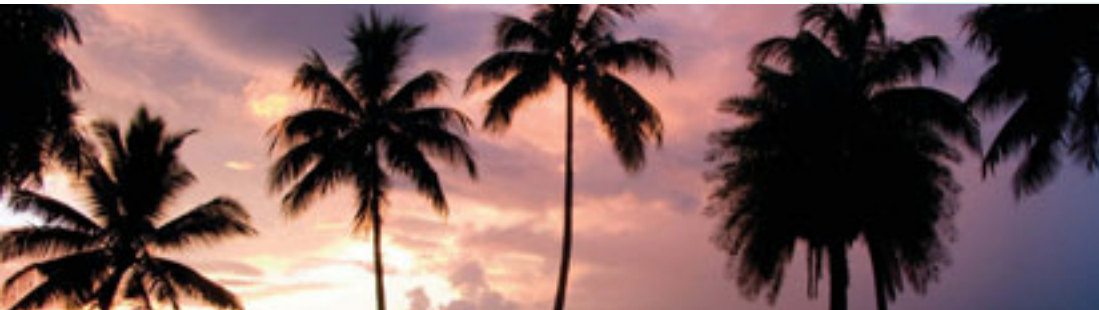
By Don L. Searle
Church Magazines

Fiji



George, Alitiana, and Ryan Kumar.

The Fruits of Faith



Fiji was once seen as fairly remote from the rest of the world—a place to retreat from problems of a faster-paced, more urban style of life. But no longer. The airplane, the satellite, and global commerce now bring to Fiji's shores all the challenges of modern living found elsewhere in the world. For Church members in Fiji, the way to meet those challenges successfully is the same as in any other part of the world: faithful obedience to gospel principles.

Three examples from Fiji teach how these principles shape lives.

The Kumar Family

George Kumar was just looking for a way to be sure his older son, Ryan, would live a productive, moral lifestyle. The Kumar family found much more: eternal gospel truths that brought all of them a new, happier way of life.

The gospel revitalized their family, Brother Kumar says. "We spend more time together—more quality time, with more open relationships." They have family prayer daily, and regular family home evening is "a 'must' thing," Ryan says.

It was Ryan who led the way into the Church.

When Ryan was in his mid-teens, George Kumar became concerned about the path his son might follow in life. Worried that Ryan and his friends were not spending their

time productively, George found a way to surround his son with young people who behaved differently. George learned from talking to a cousin who works at the Fiji LDS Church College, in Suva, that Ryan could qualify for admission. (The Church College is a secondary school equivalent

to a junior high and high school in other areas.)

After he entered the Church College, Ryan's behavior began to improve. "It was the example of the other students," he says. Formerly, he had spent a lot of time with his friends pursuing idle activities. But after seeing the difference in the lives of the students at the Church school, "I lost the desire to do those things," he explains.

Ryan gained a testimony of the gospel, and his parents were so delighted with the changes in his life that when he asked their permission to be baptized and confirmed, they readily said yes. Ryan let go of his old group of friends. He had gained new ones.

When he asked his parents to listen to the missionaries, however, "we were reluctant," George recalls. Still, they had seen the changes the gospel had brought into Ryan's life, so they knew the Church had to be good. The turnabout in Ryan's behavior was so marked that in his third and final year at the Church College, he was named head boy, an honor usually reserved for a student who has spent his entire scholastic career at the school.

Some changes in Ryan's behavior seemed strange to his parents at first. Why, for example, could they not persuade

One family's discovery of truth, another family's growing circle of love, and a young woman's trusting faith.



Elder Michael Kumar
*while serving in the
Utah Salt Lake City
South Mission.*

him to eat on the first Sunday of the month? But when Ryan explained the purpose of fasting, his parents understood that the changes in his

life ran deeper than they had realized.

Ryan's younger brother, Michael, had also observed the changes in his brother, and Michael listened to the gospel. "Ryan started going to Church activities, and the thing that caught me is that every time he came back, he was happy," Michael says. "I actually referred myself to the missionaries. I wanted to take the lessons. I wanted to be baptized and confirmed."

As the missionaries were presenting the new-member lessons to Michael after his baptism, his mother, Alitiana, began to listen. This influenced her husband, and soon both George and his wife had testimonies of their own.

Ryan had the privilege of baptizing both his parents into the Church in 2006, shortly before leaving to serve in the New Zealand Wellington Mission. Later, before Michael left on a mission, he had the privilege of accompanying his parents as they entered the temple. Elder Michael Kumar entered the Utah Salt Lake City South Mission in August 2008, shortly before Ryan returned from New Zealand.

Paying tithing and then financially supporting a son on a mission proved to be difficult for the Kumars. Brother Kumar's income was fully committed to their mortgage and to other obligations. But they made the necessary sacrifices; the whole family understood the need. For example, whenever Brother Kumar said cheerfully that they would be enjoying the "normal" diet that evening, the whole family understood there would be no meat for dinner. "There were days when we had just bread and cocoa," Michael recalls.

Ryan says he is grateful for his parents' sacrifice. "I learned that they are truly committed to the covenants they made."

Ryan's younger brother comments that since their conversion, "we make it through trials better as a family. Heavenly Father has helped us out."

The family's conversion quickly touched other lives as

well. Two of Ryan and Michael's cousins who had come to live with the Kumars also chose to hear the missionary lessons and join the Church.

The blessings of the Kumars' sacrifices have been both temporal and spiritual, Brother Kumar says. They have been able to make their money stretch to meet their needs. And after Michael left on his mission, Brother Kumar was able to obtain a new job that he hopes will enable him to pay off his mortgage more quickly.

But spiritual blessings the Kumars have received have been more important in their lives. George and Alitiana find growth in their callings—he as elders quorum president in the Lami Second Ward, Suva Fiji North Stake, and she as second counselor in the ward Primary.

Ryan notes that his own outlook on life is now far different than that of many of his peers: "I always have something to do—something to build up the kingdom." In planning for the future, he says, the gospel makes believers "look at things from an eternal perspective."

George and Alitiana Kumar had both been taught Christian doctrines before hearing the gospel. But they had not found comfort in what they had been taught. "In other religions," Brother Kumar says, "you are taught to fear God's wrath—to be scared. But the Atonement of Jesus Christ gives you another chance."

The Kumars are trying to make the most of that second chance.

The Naivaluvou Family

Peni and Jieni Naivaluvou doubled the size of their family when they took in four girls from Vanuatu who were attending the Fiji LDS Church College. But the Naivaluvous do not see this as a sacrifice. They feel they have been amply blessed for doing it. One of those blessings, they believe, is the addition to their family of baby Hagoth, born in January 2009.

In early 2008 Bishop and Sister Naivaluvou of the Tamavua Ward, Suva Fiji North Stake, heard that two young students from Vanuatu needed a place to board, so the Naivaluvous took stock of their own situation. Their sons, Soane, 18, and Ross, 16, were away from home attending a

Church school in Tonga, the land of their father's ancestry. The two girls from Vanuatu were boarding, at high cost to their parents, with a non-LDS family in Suva. The two girls would be good company for then 13-year-old Andrea Naivaluvou; Andrea also attends the Church College and was arriving home in the afternoon before her parents

Bishop and Sister Naivaluvou do not focus on what they may have sacrificed by taking in four new family members. They give thanks instead for blessings received.

were off work. So Brother and Sister Naivaluvou decided they would invite the two girls from Vanuatu to live in their home at no charge.

The girls insisted on helping with costs, but still their expenses were less than half of what they had been paying earlier—a blessing for their families.

In April two other Vanuatuan girls came for a visit and enjoyed the atmosphere of the Naivaluvou home. A short time later these two girls asked if they too might come there to live. The Naivaluvous gladly took them in.

How did it work to have four extra young people in the home? “We’ve built up such a bond it’s more like they



Front: Peni, Jieni, and Andrea Naivaluvou. Back: Soane and Ross Naivaluvou.



Suva Fiji Temple.

are our daughters,” Bishop Naivaluvou says. The Naivaluvous made it clear from the beginning that the girls were to be considered part of the family. The four girls from Vanuatu actually are related to each other, but in the Naivaluvou home they treated each other like sisters born of the same parents. Andrea Naivaluvou also came to accept them “like my sisters,” she says; the older girls watched out for her and even helped her with homework when there was a need. The four girls began to call Bishop and Sister Naivaluvou *Ta* and *Na*—“Dad” and “Mom” in Fijian.

This may be the first time, Sister Naivaluvou says, that girls from Vanuatu who are attending the Church College have been able to board with member families. The father of one of the girls, when he came to visit, expressed his deep gratitude to the Naivaluvous for the love they have shown his daughter.

Sister Naivaluvou points out that one of the girls, the daughter of a district president on Vanuatu, was a great example to their family through her faith; Bishop Naivaluvou says her example helped his family be more consistent about scripture study and family prayer.

Both of the Naivaluvous say they have been blessed temporally because they have shared with others. Their resources have gone farther. And Sister Naivaluvou believes the blessing of being able to become pregnant again after 13 years is connected with their willingness to share love with others.

When the Naivaluvous’ two sons returned home at the end of their school year in Tonga, they too accepted the

What advice would Asenaca Ramasima (right) give to other young people? “Stay true to the gospel, and always listen to your parents. You might think you know better than they do, but it is likely they understand things you have not yet learned.”

young women as part of the family. But perhaps Soane can be excused for not seeing the girls exactly as sisters. He found himself drafted as a prom date for one of the young women. He played his role like a gentleman.

When the four girls finished their school year and returned home to Vanuatu late in 2008, the farewells were heart tugging, Bishop Naivaluvou recalls. It was as though he and his wife were saying good-bye to four daughters. And when a new school year began in 2009, the Naivaluvous were glad to welcome their four “daughters” back—plus two more.

With only four sleeping rooms in their home, some would wonder how they could make room for six young women in addition to their own daughter and new baby. But the Naivaluvou family quickly worked it out without difficulty.

After all, it was not a matter of personal space. It was simply a matter of expanding their circle of love.

Asenaca Ramasima

During 2008, Asenaca Ramasima won what are probably the two most prestigious awards for students at the Fiji LDS Church College. First, she was selected as dux, or top student in the school. That award carries with it a tuition scholarship. But she also received the

Lion of the Lord Award, given to an exemplary seminary student. She treasures this second award even more than the first, because it is a reminder of how she has tried to apply faith in her Heavenly Father in her own day-to-day life.

Life has already dealt Asenaca an ample share of hardship, even though she is only 19. And yet she seems to radiate joy—joy in the knowledge that she has an eternal family because they were sealed in the Suva Fiji Temple in 2001 and joy in the knowledge that she is known and loved by her Heavenly Father.

Asenaca is the youngest of five children, after four brothers. When their father died, she recalls, their oldest brother, then serving as a missionary, urged all of them to remember that their father was not lost to them; he would always be close.

Her brothers became breadwinners for the family, while their mother became a spiritual bonding agent to hold them together. The children have benefited as they have followed their parents' examples.

"My father was an inspiration for me. He always taught us, 'Work hard, work hard,'" the soft-spoken Asenaca says.

Working hard in school has been her way of honoring her father and helping her mother. The scholarship that comes with the dux award is a valuable contribution Asenaca has made toward the costs of her own education.

Parental example also gave her a foundation for her spiritual education. "We were taught every day at home through family scripture reading and teachings from our own parents," Asenaca says. Her mother, she adds, continues to build on this foundation for her family.

Asenaca's own regular scripture study helps her maintain and strengthen her faith in Jesus Christ. She makes time for scripture study no matter what her schedule may be.

Faith in Jesus Christ has in turn helped her stay close to her Heavenly Father so she can call on His guidance. "I know He is always there," she says. "If I do what He wants me to do, He will be there for me, and His Spirit will confirm what is right."

That guidance is important when some young women her age try to talk her into "having fun" the way they do—drinking, smoking, putting chastity aside. But "those things are against my conscience," Asenaca says, and because of her faith and the safety she feels in Heavenly Father's guidance, "I can say no."

Service in the Church, she says, has helped her build some confidence she would not otherwise have. That will be important when she finishes her schooling at the Church College, because then she hopes to be able to attend Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, or BYU–Hawaii to study accounting.

Those places are a long way from her family's home in a rural area on the outskirts of Suva. Would it be a bit scary to go so far from home? Asenaca thinks about this question for a moment, then gives one of her broad smiles. Yes, she answers—but she will do it to meet her goals.

It is easy to believe that Asenaca will do what she says. So far, she has done very well at meeting her goals. And like other faithful members in Fiji, she has found both spiritual growth and temporal progress through exercising faith and keeping the commandments. ■



He Honored My Request

When I was baptized at 18 years old, I knew that living the gospel of Jesus Christ would become a way of life. I felt the importance and seriousness of living gospel standards, and doing so has blessed my life in many ways.

One gospel principle that is really important to me is honoring the Sabbath day. It allows me to stop my daily routine and to focus my

“I need you all to come to work for the next two weekends,” my boss said. My heart sank. I knew this meant I would need to work on Sunday.

thoughts on my Heavenly Father.

I work in a tourism business in Costa Rica. In this industry, it is typical for people to work on Sundays. When I started my job, I identified myself as a member of the Church. I requested—and was granted—Sundays off.

Because of my unusual request, my colleagues and my boss were curious. They asked me a lot of questions about my beliefs. Over time I had opportunities to explain to them some of the things that Latter-day Saints believe. In many cases my explanations of gospel doctrines earned their respect.

One day my boss gathered our staff for an announcement. “I need

you all to come to work for the next two weekends,” he said. My heart sank. I knew this meant I would need to work on Sunday.

But then my boss continued: “That is, everyone except Juan Carlos. We know that nothing is going to make him come to work on Sunday.”

I was relieved. My boss had honored my request! Because of my behavior and the standards I exhibited at work, I had gained his respect. As a result he was willing to honor my beliefs.

I know that as we make gospel standards a priority in our lives, the Lord will bless us. ■

Juan Carlos Fallas Agüero, San José, Costa Rica





Blessed by Mama Taamino

When I met Taumatagi Taamino, I was a young missionary laboring in my own country. An aging widow, Sister Taamino was slightly bent over from age and hard work, but she always extended her arms to greet my companion and me and kiss us on both cheeks, as is the custom in French Polynesia.

Sister Taamino was frail, and her walk was slow and deliberate, but she took care of everyone. She even made sure that my companion and I always had clean, ironed clothing. Children loved to be around her because she welcomed them and listened to what they had to say. She

Even in her 80s, Sister Taamino worked in the meetinghouse flower beds, weeding and cleaning. This was her way of continuing to serve the Lord.

lived a simple life in a two-room home surrounded by sand, palm trees, family, and friends. Out of respect, everyone called her “Mama Taamino.”

The Tahiti Papeete Mission president had assigned my companion, Elder Tchan Fat, and me to help prepare a group of 80 Latter-day Saints to receive their endowments and be sealed as families in the nearest temple—the Hamilton New Zealand Temple, five hours away by plane. Mama Taamino had traveled to the temple every year for six years,

and this year she would go again. I wondered how she could afford such expensive trips when her living conditions were so meager. Six years later I learned the answer.

In 1976, as president of the Papeete Tahiti Stake, I regularly inspected the stake’s meetinghouses. One day at noon I stopped at the chapel in Tipaerui. At the time, we had paid custodians, and there I found Mama Taamino, now in her late 60s, working as a custodian to help support her large family. She greeted me with her usual “Come and eat,” but I replied, “Mama Taamino, you are not young anymore, and for lunch all you are having is a small piece of bread, a tiny can of sardines, and a little bottle of juice? Aren’t you earning enough to have more food than this?”

She replied, “I’m saving to travel to the temple again.” My heart melted with admiration for her example of love and sacrifice. Mama Taamino traveled to the temple in New Zealand nearly 15 times—every year until the Papeete Tahiti Temple was dedicated in October 1983. At the dedication she radiated joy.

In 1995, this time as a mission president, I saw Mama Taamino again. She had moved back to the atoll of Makemo, not far from her birthplace. Now in her 80s, she could no longer walk, but the wrinkles of her face expressed peace, patience, and a deep understanding of life and the gospel. She still had a beautiful smile, and her eyes showed pure charity.

Early the next morning I found her seated in one of the meetinghouse flower beds, weeding and cleaning. One of her sons had carried her there. After she finished one area, she would use her hands and arms to move herself to the next area. This was her way of continuing to serve the Lord.

In the late afternoon when I was conducting temple recommend interviews, Mama Taamino was brought to where I was seated in the shade of a tree near the chapel. She wanted the opportunity to answer each question required for a temple recommend.

“President, I cannot go to the temple anymore,” she said. “I am getting old and sick, but I always want to have a current temple recommend with me.”

I could tell how much she wanted to return to the temple, and I knew that her longing was acceptable to God. Not long afterward, she left her earthly tabernacle to join those she had faithfully served in the house of the Lord. She took with her nothing but her faith, testimony, kindness, charity, and willingness to serve.

Mama Taamino was a true Polynesian pioneer whose example blessed many of her brothers and sisters—including me. ■

Victor D. Cave, Church Magazines

Taylor’s Talent

Can you tell me what talents Taylor has that I could share with the class?” my eight-year-old’s Primary teacher asked me. She had telephoned because Taylor’s class would be talking about talents they had received from Heavenly Father.

My mind went blank. I thought back over the past eight years, trying to come up with an answer. At four days old Taylor had suffered a stroke that left him with profound brain damage and an uncontrollable seizure disorder. He is unable to see, speak, or communicate. He has never progressed past a six-month-old child’s level of mental development. He

spends most of his days in a wheelchair as we care for him and try to keep him comfortable.

We cheered when he learned to giggle or drink from a special cup, and we celebrated when he could stand and take a few steps. But while we cheered and celebrated on the outside, on the inside we wept with the realization that these small achievements were probably as significant as any Taylor would attain. Somehow I didn’t think this was what his Primary teacher wanted to hear.

I cleared my throat and uncomfortably answered, “Taylor really doesn’t have any talents that I can think of.”

This kind sister then forever altered my relationship with my son by her response.

“I have seen the other children learn to push Taylor’s wheelchair, open doors for him, and overcome their fear,” my son’s Primary teacher told me.





The pain in my left eye soon spread throughout my head. As soon as I lay down, the still, small voice prompted me: “Get up. Don’t go to sleep.”

“As I thought about this lesson, I realized that every child of God has a talent,” she said. “I would suggest that Taylor’s talent is that he teaches others to serve. If it is OK with you, I would like to talk to our class about how I have noticed Taylor’s talent here at church. I have seen the other Primary children learn to push his wheelchair, open doors for him, and overcome their fear to wipe his chin with a handkerchief when needed. I think that is a great talent by which he blesses our lives.”

I murmured in agreement, and we quietly said good-bye. I wonder if that Primary teacher knew what a profound impact that conversation would have on my life. Taylor remained the same. He still requires a great deal of care. Hospitals, doctors, and therapists still take up a large part of my life. But my perspective changed, and I began to notice his talent.

I saw how people around us would alter their behavior as they sought to care for him. I also noticed how he reminds us to slow down, notice his needs, and become more compassionate, observant, and patient.

I do not know God’s purpose in having Taylor face such daunting challenges, but I believe that his Primary teacher gave me a small glimpse of it. He is here to share his talent with us. He is here to give us the opportunity to learn how to serve. ■

Heather Hall, Utah, USA

Call an Ambulance!

In 1991 while I was boarding up the loft of our home, I felt a sharp pain in my left eye. The pain, which felt like a splinter, soon spread throughout my head. I continued working until the discomfort forced me to my bedroom for rest.

As soon as I lay down, however, the still, small voice prompted me. “Get up,” the Spirit said. “Don’t go to sleep.”

As I pondered the warning and thought about what I should do, I decided to get one of the tablets my mother took for migraine headaches. I walked to my parents’ room and found the tablets, but as I began to open the bottle, the voice came again: “Don’t take one of those.”

A short while later, the voice came a third time: “You need to phone for an ambulance—now!”

I had never phoned emergency services before, but I immediately called. An ambulance soon arrived, and two paramedics put me on a stretcher. The last thing I remember was that they asked me my name. Then the lights went out.

Later I woke up in the intensive care unit at the hospital. I was still weak and under the influence of anesthesia, but I remember feeling hands on my head as my father and my bishop gave me a blessing. I heard the words “You will be restored to health, as if nothing had happened.”

After three days in intensive care and four additional days in a hospital ward, I was finally able to return home. Only then did I learn that I had suffered a brain hemorrhage. The surgeon who operated on me later told me that I was “just a click away from dying” and that I would have died had I taken a migraine tablet.

Today I am fit and healthy, thankful that the Lord guided my thoughts that day. I have been sealed in the temple to my loving wife, and we have five wonderful children.

I thank my Heavenly Father and my Savior, Jesus Christ, for the miracle of life. I strive every day to make the most of the time They have given me, and I gratefully remember the protecting influence of the voice of the Spirit. ■

Simon Heal, Queensland, Australia

Nephi's Story, My Story

Jake's phone call left me brokenhearted, but I found hope in the example of an ancient prophet.

Name withheld

A few years after I had finished college, I found myself sitting in family home evening with other young single adults in my ward. We had been invited to the home of a counselor in our stake presidency, and his wife was giving the lesson.

We were reading the account of Nephi and his brothers going to get the brass plates from Laban (see 1 Nephi 3–5). Our teacher talked about the courage and persistence Nephi exhibited. Then she looked up at our small group. Her gaze was penetrating.

“Nephi and his brothers had been given a difficult task,” she pointed out. “It took several tries, none of which was easy. But it was worth persistent effort. As a result of having the scriptures, Nephi would prevent his family from ‘dwindl[ing] and perish[ing] in unbelief’ (1 Nephi 4:13).

“There will be ‘plates’ in your own lives,” she continued. “Maybe you will have to demonstrate persistence in obtaining your education. Perhaps you will be called on to exhibit courage when you’re dating. Whatever the sacrifices, the roadblocks, the setbacks, the heartbreaks—whatever

it takes to preserve your future family and keep them from dwindling in unbelief—go back and get the plates.”

It was a nice parallel, I thought. I filed it away in my memory for later recollection. At that moment I didn’t feel that my life had many roadblocks. I had finished school, I was enjoying my job, and I had been dating a great guy—a longtime friend with whom things had turned more serious—for about four months. I couldn’t have been happier with how things were going.

Several months later my relationship with Jake (name has been changed) had progressed a great deal. But Jake’s parents had divorced years earlier, and their separation still affected him deeply. He was afraid that if we got married, things would end for us as they had for his parents.

I told him I was willing to give him time—lots if he needed it—to sort things out in his mind and his heart. We talked about making decisions based on faith instead of fear. We discussed the role of agency and the fact that he didn’t need to assume that his parents’ path would automatically be his fate too. And we talked about the

Atonement of Jesus Christ and the Savior’s ability to heal our hearts.

Our conversations seemed to help relieve his anxiety some, and our relationship continued as usual. So when he called me one Saturday afternoon to break up, it more than surprised me. He told me that he couldn’t see himself being married to me—or to anyone. He just didn’t believe in marriage anymore.

For the next hour we rehearsed what we had already discussed, but I couldn’t persuade him. He whispered, “I’m so sorry,” and he hung up the phone. I sat silently on my bed, tears running down my face, absolutely stunned.

A while later my roommate knocked on the bedroom door. “Are you coming to stake conference?” she asked. I didn’t feel much like going anywhere or doing anything, but I put on a dress and got in her car.

When we arrived the first person I saw was the woman who had given that family home evening lesson months earlier. Neither of us said





The prompting to “go back and get the plates” wasn’t just about Nephi returning to get a sacred record. It was also about me.

But during that time I could avoid wallowing in self-pity. I could resist the temptation to be snide about Jake—or men in general. I could seek friends who believed in marriage and looked forward to it. And I could, like Nephi, trust in a loving Heavenly Father who gives no commandment—whether it’s obtaining ancient scriptural records or marrying and creating families—without preparing a way for us to accomplish it.

I’m still in the “accomplishing”—not the “accomplished”—stage. I’m not yet married, but I feel grateful for the good dating experiences I’ve had—experiences made richer by an improved

anything, but our eyes met, and in my mind, I heard a voice call my name and say, “Go back and get the plates.”

Somehow I knew all that the prompting implied. It wasn’t just about an ancient prophet returning to get a sacred record. It was also about me. It meant that even though Jake didn’t believe in marriage, I still could. I could hope for it and pray for it and work for it—not in a wishful, wistful way but in a believing, active, prepare-myself-daily-because-this-is-God’s-plan-for-His-children kind of way. It didn’t mean that I had to go back to Jake and be with him until I “wore him down” on the idea of marriage, and it also didn’t mean I had to start dating someone new right away. It was OK for me to have a time to grieve and heal.



understanding of the role persistence plays in righteous goals.

I also feel comforted by and confident in knowing what Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught about Nephi's pattern of perseverance. He said:

“After two unsuccessful attempts, Nephi remained confident. He crept into the city toward the house of Laban without all the answers. He observed, ‘I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do,’ significantly adding, *‘Nevertheless I went forth.’* (1 Ne. 4:6–7; italics added.)

“Nephi was willing to try time and again, using his best efforts. He expressed faith that he would be helped. He refused to be discouraged. But because he acted, had confidence in the Lord, was obedient, and properly used his agency, he received guidance. He was inspired step after step to success, and in his

mother's words was ‘given . . . *power* [to] accomplish the thing which the Lord hath commanded.’ (1 Ne. 5:8; italics added.)”¹

This principle of persistence is not limited to the dating realm, of course. It also applies to those who are chronically ill and aren't sure they can cheerfully face another pain-filled day; to a couple who are striving to work through challenges in their marriage; to parents who pray for years for a child who has gone astray; to a teenager who faces antagonism at school because of her beliefs; to missionaries who have worked for days without teaching a lesson. In some way all of us have been commanded to go back and get the plates.

And like Nephi, we can. With courage, persistence, and faith, we can accomplish *all* things that the Lord has commanded us. ■

NOTE

1. Richard G. Scott, “Learning to Recognize Answers to Prayer,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1989, 32.



NEVER GIVE UP

Persistence is a positive, active characteristic. It is not idly, passively waiting and hoping for some good thing to happen. It gives us hope by helping us realize that the righteous suffer no failure except in giving up and no longer trying.”

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (1917–2008)
of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
“Never Give Up,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 8.



By Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915–94)

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

A quality life is God's greatest wish for us. Life is to be lived well in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. There should not be a waiting period. . . .

All of us must live with proper priorities and purposes. Don't be harsh in your self-appraisal. Rather, measure yourself by whether or not you are living the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I like the way of life expressed by my friend, Carol Clark, . . . when she says that the personal challenge is not to wait successfully but to live richly, fully, and joyfully. The goal is not to wait for the right person but to be the right person.

“The real fun of life is in overcoming obstacles while still happily hoping everything will work out. . . . I freely admit that living with my dreams unfulfilled has proven to be a softening, humbling influence because it's been so hard. But the anchor is at hand, and because it is, I can progress, even though to date I've lost at love—the one thing I've wanted more in life than anything else save righteousness itself. . . .

“Last summer I complained to a non-Latter-day Saint friend that I was exhausted, having no fun, living like an automaton. Nonsympathetically, she countered, ‘What do you think this is? A dress rehearsal? This is your



Becoming a Quality Person Now

life, Carol. Fix it.' I expected a pat and a kind word. Instead, I got a splash of reality square in the face. She was, of course, quite right. I wasn't giving my life value, so I didn't feel it had value. I went home, reread the parables of the sower and of the talents, and regrouped" (*A Singular Life*, ed. Carol L. Clark and Blythe Darlyn Thatcher [1987], 35–36).

Brothers and sisters, regroup, if that's what is needed. Do not wait. Rather fill your life with service, education, personality development, love for

all, and other such meaningful traits. Live with purpose each day. . . .

. . . I recommend you come to know your Father in Heaven. Come to love Him. Always remember that He loves you and will give you guidance and support if you will but give Him the chance. Include Him in your decision making. Include Him in your heartaches and heartbreaks. Include Him when you take inventory of your personal worth. "For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold

the day of this life is the day for men [and women] to perform their labors" (Alma 34:32).

As you strive to become a quality person, commune daily with your Heavenly Father who knows you best of all. He knows your talents, your strengths, and your weaknesses. You are here on the earth at this time to develop and refine these characteristics. I promise you He will help you. He is aware of your needs. ■

From "Be a Quality Person," Ensign, Feb. 1993, 64–67; punctuation standardized.

Questions & Answers

“How can I have clean thoughts when I see so much immodesty around me?”

It may seem like you can't go anywhere today without seeing people immodestly dressed, whether in person or in the media. You may not always be able to control your surroundings, but you can control your thoughts.

If you see an immodestly dressed person, you can quickly look away or remove yourself from the situation. If an unclean thought comes to mind, choose not to dwell on it, but rather crowd it out with clean thoughts. “Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then . . . the Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion” (D&C 121:45–46). Having clean thoughts will help you be happier and have the influence of the Spirit with you.

Make it a habit always to have clean thoughts. Try to be around people who dress modestly, and avoid situations where you might see immodest dress. Pray for Heavenly Father to help you. Memorize hymns or scriptures so you have good things to think of when you are tempted. Read the scriptures regularly, and attend the temple if possible. Then when you see someone dressed immodestly, you can think of something positive. ■

We Are Not of the World

We should remember that we are in the world but not of the world. We are special sons and daughters of our beloved Heavenly Father. For this reason, the adversary tempts us even more, but we must be stronger than the temptation. Worldly persons may dress immodestly, not knowing that the body is a sacred temple. But Latter-day Saints have this knowledge. Therefore, we should keep ourselves virtuous and pure. If bad thoughts invade our minds, we should immediately seek the help of our Heavenly Father through prayer, for there is no one better to help us than He.

Dayana H., age 19, São Paulo, Brazil

Ask Your Friends to Help



As the only Latter-day Saint sixth grader in my school, I am faced with vulgar language, immodesty, and pressure to follow the crowd.

But at the start of the year, I explained to my friends my standards and that I stick to them no matter what. They have learned through the months about my Church values. Your friends will help you if you explain your values and your standards to them. My friends' attitudes, clothing, and language have changed for the better. I have learned that if they are truly your friends, they will help you think clean thoughts and will help you stay on the strait and narrow path.

Celia N., age 12, Virginia, USA

Prayer Helps

I found that as I struggled to maintain pure thoughts, prayer was my real answer to keeping a clean mind and allowing the influence of the Spirit to be with me wherever I went. Praying every morning for Heavenly Father to help me have clean thoughts and to give me guidance throughout the day and thanking Him in the evening gave me a better relationship with Him and helped me steer away from immodesty and keep my standards. A prayer each morning and night can help you invite the Spirit to be with you as you face worldly adversaries. “Be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works” (Mosiah 5:15).

Gunmar R., age 16, Wisconsin, USA

We Are Temples



When people around you dress immodestly, don't criticize them, for you need to have good thoughts. Set an example

to them by showing that you follow Church standards. And help people by loving them and telling them our Heavenly Father loves them and wants them to be morally clean both in actions and thoughts. Purity is essential to our salvation, because we are the temples of our God.

Maricris B., age 19, Quezon, Philippines

Live the Gospel Teachings

I know that we can have pure thoughts by studying the scriptures and putting their teachings into practice. When we put into practice all the values that are taught in church, when we read *For the Strength of Youth*, and when we go to the temple, we can obtain pure thoughts.

Jossi O., age 16, Antioquia, Colombia

The Mind Is Like a Stage



Preach My Gospel has a section that speaks about virtue. It says our mind is like a stage in a theater.

On this stage, only one person can act at a time. When we think pure, virtuous thoughts, our mind will remain focused on these thoughts, and the stage of our minds cannot be taken over by unwholesome thoughts. Virtue is an attribute of Jesus Christ that we have

been told to develop. At church we learn that we must always think of clean things, but when something impure tempts us, we can sing our favorite hymn or think of our favorite scripture. The greatest form of help can be found in 2 Nephi 32:9: "Pray always, and not faint."

Elder McEachron, age 21, Brazil João Pessoa Mission

Think of Others as Children of God

You control how you respond to what you see. Just because something is there, you do not have to promote it to the stage of your mind. You choose your thoughts; choose to keep them clean. Avoid seeing immodesty as much as you can, and always dress modestly. Then think of those you come in contact with as children of God, with divine potential, loved personally by our Father in Heaven.

When I view others as children of God,

it is hard to be anything but saddened by the immodesty I encounter.

Amy S., age 19, Utah, USA



THINK OF SOMETHING GOOD

Some bad thoughts come by themselves. Others come because we invite them

by what we look at. . . . These things surround you, but you must not participate in them. Work at keeping your thoughts clean by thinking of something good. The mind can think of only one thing at a time. Use that fact to crowd out ugly thoughts."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Making the Right Choices," *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 37.

NEXT QUESTION

"Why does my family have problems even though we go to church, have family home evening, and try to live the gospel? What more can we do?"

Send your answer by May 15, 2010, to:

Liahona, Questions & Answers 5/10
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA
Or e-mail: liahona@ldschurch.org

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.

The following information and permission must be included in your e-mail or letter: (1) full name, (2) birth date, (3) ward or branch, (4) stake or district, (5) your written permission, and, if you are under age 18, your parent's written permission (e-mail is acceptable) to publish your response and photograph.

A Father's Embrace

I lost my father when I was seven. The resulting doubts almost kept me from trusting my Heavenly Father.

By Luiz Fernando Maykot

My family was about to leave the party, but I still wanted to go Rollerblading. My father embraced me and asked if I wanted to stay so he could take me Rollerblading.

“No!” I said angrily.

“You can trust me,” he said.

Others wanted to leave, so we got in the car. Ten minutes later we were in a car accident. Miraculously, I survived, but my father was killed. That “no!” was the last thing I said to him, and he was the last person I would embrace for many years.

For the next 11 years, my life was on a downward spiral. I lost confidence in myself and began to distrust everyone. My life was so unhappy that one day when I was 18, I found myself struggling beneath torrential hopelessness, imploring God to show me the way to a happy life.

A week later two missionaries approached me. They showed me a book and told me I should pray for a witness of its truthfulness. What they asked seemed small, but the wounds left by the death of my father

were deep, and I considered my meeting the missionaries a mere coincidence and not an answer from a God who loved me.

Still, I did read the Book of Mormon and prayed to receive an answer—though not with real intent. After all, that would mean I would have to trust God, to embrace Him and His answer. It was easier to accept the readily available criticisms of the Church. And I had also discovered that

so many of the great historical figures I had been introduced to in school were flawed. What if Joseph Smith was just like them?

In the end, however, I was baptized and confirmed. I knew I needed some direction in my life, and I liked the Church and the members. But I now realize that I joined without a true testimony, one that burns in the heart. The belief I did have resulted from my realization that the arguments made by

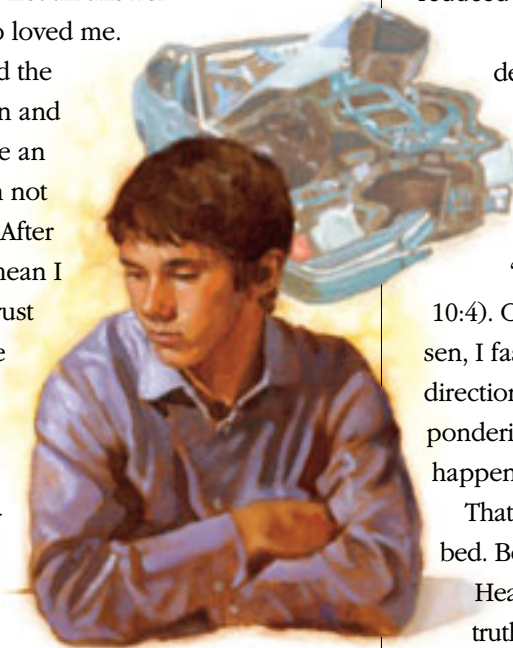
detractors of the Church were superficial. But still distrusting, I reached the point where maintaining that belief felt overwhelming. My introduction to the Church had begun because of my lack of trust and my unhappiness, and I was being reduced to the same state again.

So I made a crucial decision: I will pray, but this time I'll do it just as Moroni exhorted, with “faith in Christ,” “real intent,” and a “sincere heart” (Moroni

10:4). On the day I had chosen, I fasted and prayed for direction. I spent the day pondering everything that had happened.

That night I knelt at my bed. Bowing my head, I asked Heavenly Father about the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. My mind began to remember all my doubts. I closed my eyes, clutched my hands tighter, and asked again—with sincerity, with intent, with faith in our Savior.

The world seemed to stop. I felt warm and enveloped in light. For 11 long years I had yearned for this, and finally I was embraced again by a father—a Heavenly Father. Finally I had found someone to trust. “Yes,” I said, with tears on my face, “I trust Thee.” ■



My angry response was the last thing I said to my father, and he was the last person I would embrace for many years.

LOOK AHEAD



See the future clearly
by keeping
the temple in sight.

(See "I Love to See the Temple," *Children's Songbook*, 95.)

TO THE YOUNG MEN **ON DATING**



By the Young Men General Presidency

What Is Dating?

Young men, dating is when you ask a young woman to participate and interact with you in a planned social activity.

Why Is Dating Important?

Dating can be a wonderful learning experience for both you and the young women you date. You can learn a lot about yourself, and you can develop understanding, respect, and appreciation for God's extraordinary and precious daughters.

It may seem a long way off now, but marriage is one of the most important decisions of your life. Your teenage years are not the time to make that decision, but proper dating will help you prepare to make that decision when it is appropriate. Dating will give you opportunities to develop social skills that will help you become confident and attractive to the young women you date. You'll come to understand and be attracted to those with the qualities and characteristics that will be important to you in an eternal companion. Proper dating will also help you be worthy

and prepared to marry in the temple for time and all eternity the right person at the right time.

All of this will contribute to your enjoying one of the greatest blessings of life: a happy and successful marriage.

What Are Proper Dating Standards?

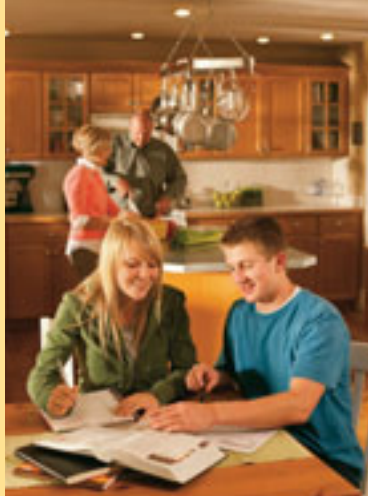
The Lord's prophets have counseled you not to date until you are at least 16 years old. When you start dating, date only those with high standards and in whose company you can maintain your standards. Always participate in wholesome activities that allow you and your date to maintain self-respect and to remain close to the Spirit of the Lord. It is especially important to have pure thoughts and feelings. Avoid having a relationship where there is talk or behavior that is sexually oriented. Avoid being alone with your date or staying out too late. You are both responsible to help

each other maintain the sanctity of the priesthood and womanhood and to protect each other's honor and virtue. Always be kind to and respectful of young women when you ask for or accept a date and throughout all of your dating experiences.

When you begin dating, go with one or more other couples. Avoid going out with the same person too frequently or developing a serious relationship too early.

Remember to maintain balance in your life when you date. You should not date so often that it harms your family relationships or keeps you from doing well in school or developing skills and





“Friends are people who make it easier to live the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

talents. Make sure your parents meet and feel comfortable with the young women you date.

We encourage you to participate in well-planned dating activities that are simple, positive, inexpensive, and that will help you get to know the young women you date. ■

ADVICE TO YOUNG WOMEN ON DATING



By the Young Women General Presidency

Dating is fun! Dating is an opportunity for you to develop and expand your friendships with young men. Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles gave a simple and meaningful definition of a friend: “Friends are people who make it easier to live the gospel

of Jesus Christ.”¹ Date young men who make you want to be a better person. “Be your best self” so you can be a good influence to those you date.²

Become the Kind of Person You Would Like to Date

You can begin now to work on developing those qualities that will make you attractive and interesting.

- **Smile!** Yes, smile and be happy. And your smile will be infectious and help others enjoy your company.
- **Be spiritually fit.** Do those things that will draw you close to the Holy Ghost so He can be your constant companion.
- **Be physically fit.** Take good care of your body, be active, and practice healthy eating habits. Be well-groomed.
- **Develop your interests and talents.** Seek all the education you can. You could read great books, listen to good music, know current events, or learn another language.
- **Behave like a daughter of God.** Do not be forward, loud, brash, or suggestive. You may have seen this kind of behavior in movies, but it is not fitting for a young woman who understands her identity as a daughter of God.
- **Improve your social skills.** Be kind, inclusive of others, and considerate of others’ needs. Practice communicating in person. Learn proper etiquette and manners. All of these things will help you become the kind of person others will want to be around.
- **Be interested in people.** Show interest in others and in the things they



like to do. Ask questions that will help them feel comfortable and help you get to know them better.

- **Set limits.** Do not allow others to take advantage of you. Maintain your purity.
- **Live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.** Don't hesitate to share these standards with those you date. Do not lower your standards for anyone. If someone expects you to do so, he or she is not worthy of your friendship or companionship.
- **Help others become their best selves.** Make them better for having had a date with you. Even if you do not have many opportunities to date, you can smile and make new friends. Choose to be optimistic. Even disappointments in dating can help you grow. Every person you meet can enrich your life, and you can bless others as you share with them your best self.

Choose Wisely Those You Date

Dating is an opportunity to get to know young men in preparation for marriage. Be careful about those you choose to date. When you are considering going with a young man, make sure that he has high standards and will always help you live the gospel of Jesus Christ. Here are some questions you may want to ask yourself:

- Does he have a strong and good character?
- Is he trustworthy and dependable?
- Is he honest?
- Is he respectful and kind to others and to me?

- Is he unselfish?
- Does he respect my parents and honor his parents?
- Does he honor his priesthood?
- Does he motivate me to be my very best?
- Is he worthy to attend the temple?

Have fun and be fun on dates as you get to know others. Plan engaging activities together. Some of the most fun dates can be as simple as cooking a meal together. Or consider a service opportunity. You can observe and get to know the other person better by doing activities than by just sitting and watching movies.

Our prophet has said, "In dating, treat your date with respect, and expect your date to show that same respect for you."³ We know that you will be a positive influence in the lives of all the young men you date—and all your friends who see your righteous example.

As you continue to develop your gifts and talents, make wise choices in your friendships with others, and become a righteous influence, your years of dating will be positive, rewarding, and fun. This is a time to set your sights high, expect the best, and become all that our Heavenly Father intends for you to become. You are a daughter of our Heavenly Father; He loves you, and so do we. ■

NOTES

1. Robert D. Hales, "This Is the Way; and There Is None Other Way," in *Brigham Young University Speeches of the Year, 1981–82* (1982), 67.
2. Thomas S. Monson, "Be Your Best Self," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2009, 67.
3. Thomas S. Monson, "Standards of Strength," *New Era*, Oct. 2008, 5.



PHOTOGRAPH OF MONTREAL QUEBEC TEMPLE © LAURENT LUCIUX

Looking toward the Temple



"You have an important responsibility in choosing not only whom you will date but also whom you will marry. . . .

"I would admonish you to maintain an eternal perspective. Make certain that the marriage in your future is a temple marriage. There is no scene so sweet, no time so sacred as that very special day of your marriage. Then and there you glimpse celestial joy. Be alert; do not permit temptation to rob you of this blessing."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Whom Shall I Marry?" *New Era*, Oct. 2004, 4, 6.



THE SCRIPTURES ARE MY ANCHOR

When I began seminary as a new member of the Church, I never imagined that the scriptures would become my anchor, my shield and protection, my comfort and joy. Through the scriptures I came to know valiant men of God who fought for their beliefs and their families and who always pressed forward, firm and steadfast in Christ. They were humble, patient, and filled with love, charity, and faith. I know they had a desire in their hearts for us in our day to live each principle taught in the scriptures.

Each of these scripture heroes made an impression on me, but the most fascinating one of all was one who was humble and obedient from childhood, one who set a perfect example, one who is owed much by all mankind. That man is Jesus Christ. I have no words to express my gratitude to Him.

Seminary taught me that the scriptures are not just to be stored in our memories but to be applied in our lives. I am thankful to each of my good teachers, who were truly instruments in the hands of the Lord.

Giccelly D., Venezuela



"I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust" (Psalm 91:2).



MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

D&C 122:7–9

I was touched by these verses. I believe these words that were said to Joseph Smith could comfort every child of God. How often it seems that our trials are unbearable. But with great mercy and love, God promises us that our trials shall be for our good.

Dovile B., Lithuania



THIS IS YOUR SPACE

These are your pages—your place to share with other youth what the gospel means to you. Here's what you can look forward to reading on these pages *and* what you can contribute:

- Experiences or insights that helped you understand and live the gospel better.
- A high-resolution photograph that you took and a scripture as a caption.
- A good experience you had while working on Duty to God or Personal Progress.
- Your comments about a scripture that inspires you. Include your photo if you'd like.
- Feedback about the *Liahona*: what articles did you like reading?

E-mail your story, photo, or comments to liahona@ldschurch.org. Please write "Our Space" in the subject line, and include your parent's permission (expressed in the e-mail) to share what you are sending us. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.

Help Make It Happen

That's what these young women from India say since their simple service project got their whole branch excited about family home evening.

By Richard M. Romney

Church Magazines

The young women of the Chennai Second Branch, Chennai India District, wanted to encourage branch members to hold family home evening. It didn't take them long to come up with a simple but practical idea. They made family home evening wheels: charts with a spinner to keep track of assignments like saying prayers, giving the lesson, and preparing a "sweet."

The paper wheels were simple but colorful. They were assembled at a Young Women activity at the meetinghouse one night, each one personalized with photos of the family

it was made for. Two of the young women, Sushmitha Santhosh Kumar, 15, and her sister Sujeetha, 14, were especially excited when they learned that as new members of the Church, they and their family would receive the first wheel.

"After Mutual we went as a group to their apartment and presented the wheel to their father," says Daisy Daniel, 16. "The whole family seemed pleased." The family had already talked about family home evening with the full-time missionaries, and the wheel gave them an added incentive to follow up on what they had learned.

The young women also made enough wheels to give one to each of the families of the Primary children in the branch. Then they made additional wheels for the full-time missionaries to give to new converts.

"Many of us in the branch are new members, and we aren't used to holding family home evening," Daisy says. "But I have a testimony that family home evening will help children and parents to pull together, and I hope that whenever these families see the family home evening wheel, they will think, 'OK, our Church members love us, and they gave us this reminder, so let's



HIGHEST PRIORITY

We counsel parents and children to give highest priority to family prayer, family home evening, gospel study and instruction, and wholesome family activities. However worthy and appropriate other demands or activities may be, they must not be permitted to displace the divinely appointed duties that only parents and families can adequately perform.”

First Presidency letter, Feb. 11, 1999; see *Liahona*, Dec. 1999, 1; *Ensign*, June 1999, 80.

have our family home evening.’” She predicts that soon family home evening will be a weekly event for many people in the branch.

One Good Service Leads to Another

The family home evening wheels are just one of several service projects these young women have completed. In an effort to help a widow from the branch feel a little less lonely, the young women decorated a basket and filled it with lots of short, happy handwritten notes. “No one is there to take care of her,” Daisy says. “So we wanted to remind her that members of the branch are thinking about her.” The young women delivered the basket in person and explained that she could read a note each day to bring a smile to her face.

The basket of notes inspired another idea. The young women decided to write letters of appreciation to each other. “Each of us is writing a beautiful letter to each of the others,” explains Monisha Kalai Selvam, 13.

Long Live Family Home Evening!

Through these and other activities, the young women of the Chennai Second Branch are learning that even simple acts of service can bring people closer to the Savior. It may be that branch members will long remember the family home evening wheels because so many received them and are using them already. But even if the wheels are a temporary reminder, that’s all right too.

“Anyone can make their own wheel or chart or just sit down with pencil and paper and make plans,” Daisy says. “We just know that family home evening is important for everyone, and we wanted to help make it happen.” ■

SCRIPTURES HELP TOO

Scriptures are a great part of family home evening too—just ask the young men of the Chennai Second Branch. When they heard about the growing interest in family home evening in their branch, they decided to look for scriptures that could, with parents’ guidance, be used in lessons. Here are some they recommend:

Karthikeyan Venkatesan, 18, says Alma 32:21, 28 are great scriptures for a lesson about faith. “Alma compares the word of God to a seed, so it’s easy to talk about seeds and how they grow,” he says. “This scripture has helped me to increase my faith, so I can bear testimony of it to others.”

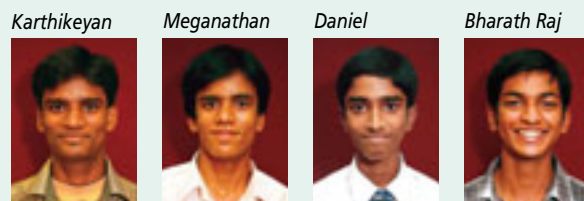
His 16-year-old brother, Meganathan, turns to Alma 36:3, a scripture that teaches about trust. “Alma says that if you put your trust in God, He will help you,” Meganathan says. “We should put our trust in Heavenly Father. There is nothing too big for God; He can help you with any problem.”

Daniel Stephen, 15, reads 3 Nephi 18:20 and says it could be used in a lesson about prayer. “I like that scripture because it says that whatever you ask the Father for, in Jesus Christ’s name, that is right, you will receive it. Don’t ask for bad things or foolish things; ask for good things. If you’re following the Spirit, that will help you to know what to ask for.”

Young Men president Bharath Raj Ramesh Babu, 19, says he would use 1 Nephi 19:9 in a lesson about Jesus Christ. “This scripture says the world will judge Christ to be nothing but that He will be kind and long-suffering toward them. He showed love toward everyone, no matter what they did to Him, and that has taught me to be kinder.”

There are, of course, many scriptures that can be used as part of a family home evening lesson. Talk it over with your family. Which scriptures would you use?

Has your family had a great family home evening based on a scripture? Tell us about it via liahona@ldschurch.org.



Karthikeyan

Meganathan

Daniel

Bharath Raj

By Charles W.
Dahlquist II

Served as Young Men
general president from
2004 to 2009



EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

*These young men in Fiji get up early and walk a long way,
but they eagerly do their duty.*

It's Saturday evening in the Waila Ward of the Nausori Fiji Stake. The responsibilities of the day are fulfilled, and holders of the Aaronic Priesthood have prepared for the Sabbath and are now gathered at the home of Brother and Sister Maiwiriwiri. It is an opportunity for them to have a small meal before beginning their fast—followed by an evening sleeping on mats in the Maiwiriwiris' home.

Morning for these young men of the Aaronic Priesthood comes early. Long before daybreak, they quickly arise, don their white shirts and ties and their dark slacks, and by 6:00 a.m. they have left the home of Brother and Sister Maiwiriwiri in pairs—much like missionaries. Each of these companionships has a specific route to take in order to get to the chapel by 10:00 a.m., when priesthood meeting begins. Their

responsibility is to stop at each member's home on their route and invite them to contribute fast offerings.

These young men walk three miles (5 km) from the Maiwiriwiris' home at one end of the ward to the meetinghouse at the other end of the ward. This is an opportunity to

fulfill their duty and invite members of the Church to participate in the great work of caring for the widows and for their brothers and sisters by contributing fast offerings. President Alipate Tagidugu of the Nausori Fiji Stake commented that as a result of this effort

by the Aaronic Priesthood, fast offering contributions have gone up 20 percent.

Just as important, these young men have an opportunity to fulfill their duty and help the members of the ward keep their covenants made at baptism:

The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and to be with them and strengthen them; . . . and also see that all the members do their duty" (D&C 20:53, 55).





What a blessing for these priesthood bearers to know they have invited members to come closer to the Savior.

The day starts early, but with smiles these young men walk from one end of the ward to the other, gathering fast offerings along the way.

“As ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light;

“Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life” (Mosiah 18:8–9).

For these great young men, collecting fast offerings is not a burden but a blessing. They gladly wear their white shirts and ties, eagerly rise early, and willingly knock on the doors of the members in the early-morning hours to invite them to partake of

the blessings that come from giving a generous fast offering.

As I watched these young men prepare for and fulfill their duty as priesthood holders, I thought what a wonderful blessing it will be to them throughout their lives to understand the significance of their efforts in inviting members of the Church to come closer to the Savior through giving fast offerings. How much better missionaries they will be, and how much better husbands and fathers they will be as a result of their priesthood efforts.

They will better understand this scripture about the Lord’s people: “The Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them” (Moses 7:18). ■

It all started with the surprise gift Dad brought home to his three daughters. Peering inside a chirping cardboard box, we girls squealed with delight. Baby ducklings! We couldn't wait to reach in and grab one. We jostled Dad so much, he almost dropped the box.

"Take it easy, girls!" he chuckled. "There's one for each of you!"

I was surprised at how tiny that little duckling felt in my hand. In my gentle clasp, its warm body felt like the size of a quarter, and it weighed about as much too.

"Wow, it's so light!" I exclaimed. "No wonder baby ducks can float!"

Dad laughed again as he walked off to join Mom in the kitchen. Dad was big on surprises, especially the ones that made his family smile. That's when I remembered the wading pool. It would be the perfect home for our new ducks.

"Nora, get that old plastic pool out of the garage," I ordered my sister.

With our backyard hose pumping clear, cool water into the pool, we began to examine our ducks and set about to name them. Mine had a little speck of brown on his rounded bill and ridiculously giant webbed feet.

Suddenly I remembered my friends. They would laugh at how enthusiastic I was over these new pets. Then I realized my friends wouldn't be by for the next few days. Their parents had given them permission to go camping in the nearby mountains. Bike riding on an old dirt trail, choosing a campsite, pitching a tent. They'd have a ton of fun and be home the next day, laughing and talking about their campout. My mom hadn't given me permission. She said I was too young!

With the wading pool full, we girls gathered around, greatly anticipating this moment. We set our flapping, quacking birds on the water and ZOOM, right to the bottom. All three sank!

We plunged our hands into the pool

and rescued the poor choking birds. What had gone wrong? We weren't asking them to do something difficult, like swim. All they had to do was float. Isn't that easy for a duck?

"What happened?" my sister wondered.

"Maybe we surprised them!"

We all agreed it was like babies when they learn how to walk. They just have to fall sometimes. We agreed to give it another try.

"One, two, three, go!"

Plunk! Plunk! Plunk! straight down like balls of lead.

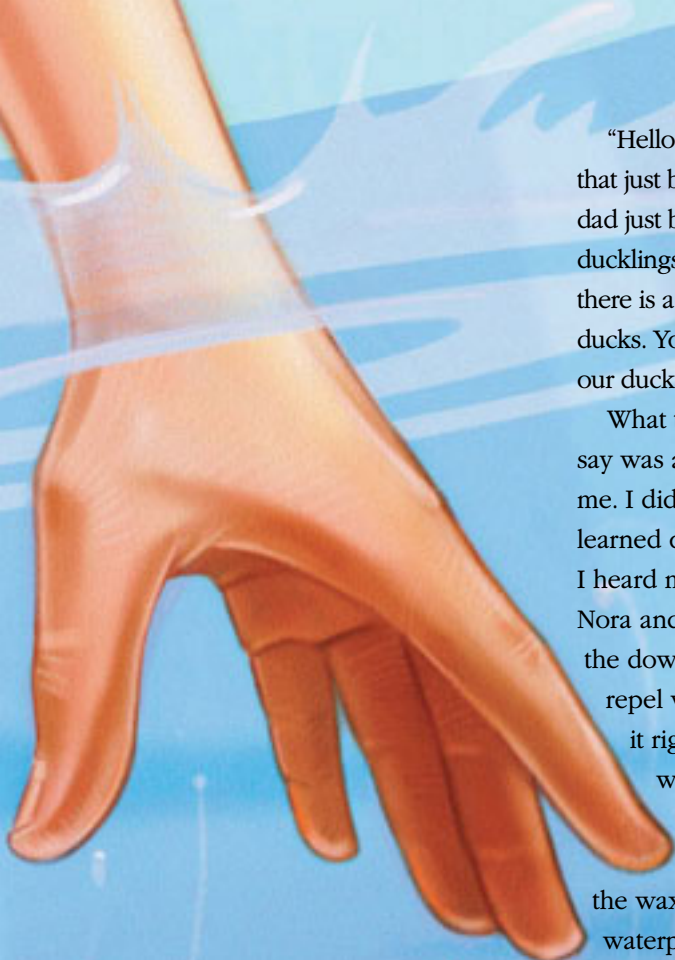
Fortunately for the ducklings, none of us had the heart to follow through on our theory that they just needed practice. When Nora suggested we use the blow dryer on their feathers, we all scrambled into the house. Gently, my two sisters aired out the poor birds with my pink blow dryer while I looked up the phone number from the name on the cardboard box.

WHEN DUCKS DON'T FLOAT

We just assumed our ducklings would take to the water. We were in for a surprise.

By Wendi Wixom Taylor





“Hello, sir? We’re the ones that just bought—well, our dad just bought—three little ducklings. Yes, sir. Well, there is a problem with our ducks. You see, we prefer our ducks to float.”

What this man had to say was an eye-opener for me. I didn’t realize I had learned quite so much until I heard myself explain it to Nora and Suzy: “You see, the downy feathers do not repel water. They soak it right up. We have to wait another week or two for their bodies to make the waxy oil that will waterproof their feathers.”

“But that’s not true,” Nora argued. “I’ve seen baby ducks follow their mother on the river. They were just a few days old.”



“There are countless ways in which you can show true love to your mothers and your fathers. You can obey them and follow their teachings, for they will never lead you astray. You can treat them with respect.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Be Thou an Example,” *Liahona and Ensign*, May 2005, 112.

“The man explained that to me. When ducks are born, the mother wraps her wings around the babies to keep them warm. The oil from the mother’s wings rubs off onto her babies. With their mother, they can stay afloat. On their own, they need to get a little older before they’re safe in the water.”

That’s when my brain trailed off to the mountains somewhere, thinking about my friends in their tent. Maybe Mom just wanted to keep me under her wings for a little while longer. I stroked my duck-

ling’s tiny back with one finger.

“We’ll keep you out of the pool for now, little one,” I promised him. Then, as an afterthought, I added, “Do you miss your mom?” ■



"When you practice, it's not a test. If you mess up, it's fine because you're learning. Have confidence, and keep believing." **Andrea C., age 11**



"I practice before school and again after school. Keep practicing until you get it. Playing the piano is a great experience. You can help lots of people." **Erick V., age 10**

PRACTICE TIPS

By **Jan Pinborough**
Church Magazines

PRIMARY

“No way!”

“You’ve got to be kidding!”

“That’s never going to happen!”

That’s what Andrea, Erick, Kristofer, Suzett, and Yuridia of Provo, Utah, might have said if you had told them they would play the piano for their next Primary sacrament meeting presentation. After all, only one of them had ever played the piano before!

But their Primary pianist, Sister Perry, gave them the challenge—and they were willing to accept it.

Once a week, each child had a piano lesson with Sister Perry, except for one child who already had a teacher. At home they practiced on electric keyboards. Soon they were learning simplified versions of the songs for the sacrament meeting presentation. They also practiced in Primary as other children sang along.

Finally, the big day came. Each child played one or two songs.

Were they nervous to play in front of the whole ward? Definitely! But that didn’t stop them.

“I felt really nervous,” Kristofer said, “but I kept having faith.”

Thanks to their faith and hard work, everyone did well that day. And the best thing about it?

“It feels good to be able to help in church,” Andrea said. “It’s a great blessing for me.”

Now the children can play during family home evening, at baptisms, and when their families sing in sacrament meeting. Awesome! ■



"Play the song you like best first. I practice an hour after school and also after dinner." **Kristofer P., age 8**



"Go slowly at first. When you know the song better, you can play it faster."

Yuridia M., age 11

"Remember to keep your fingers curved. When you get frustrated, don't give up. Keep trying!" **Suzett M., age 10**

PIANISTS

YOU CAN LEARN TOO!

The children learned to play from a book called the *Keyboard Course*. You can read it online or print it from the Internet at www.lds.org/churchmusic (in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish). Click on **Learning Materials, Accompanying Others,** and **Keyboard Course Book and Audio**. In the United States and Canada, you can order it with your parent's permission and help from ldscatalog.com.

Keyboards like the ones the children used are also available from the Church Distribution Center.

But what if you don't have a piano teacher? Your Primary president or your bishop or branch president might know someone who could help you learn. If you are determined, you can find a way. Think how happy you'll feel when you can serve others with the gift of music.

You might want to start by learning "Come, Follow Me" on page 62 of this issue. It's one of the songs your Primary may sing for the sacrament meeting presentation this year.



A SPECIAL TEACHER

The children's teacher, Sister Janice Kapp Perry, is a composer. She wrote "I Love to See the Temple" and other songs in the *Children's Songbook*. "Children are the future of music," Sister Perry says.

Come, Follow Me

Simplified

Humbly ♩ = 69-76

1. "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior said.

Then let us in His foot - steps tread,

For thus a - lone can we be one

With God's own loved, be - got - ten Son.

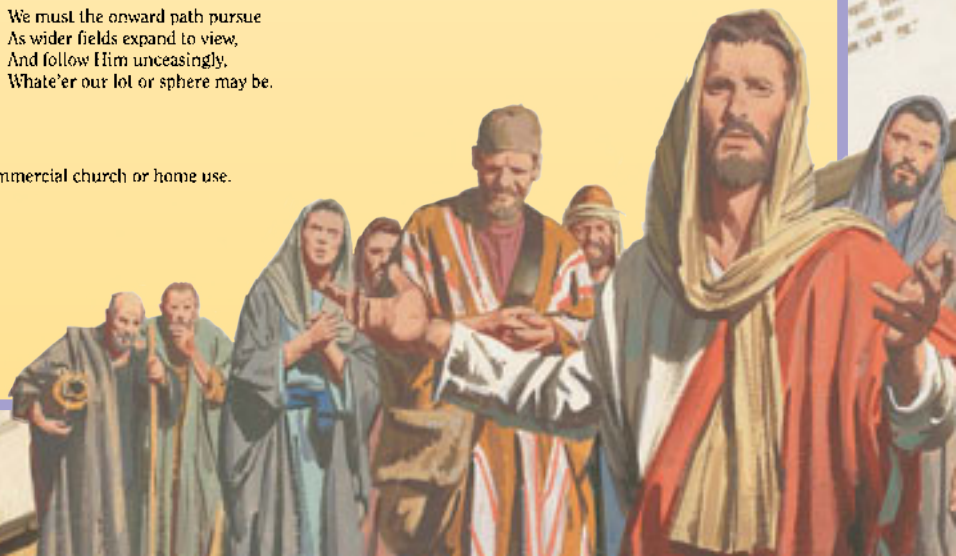
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>2. "Come, follow me," a simple phrase,
Yet truth's sublime, effulgent rays
Are in these simple words combined
To urge, inspire the human mind.</p> <p>3. Is it enough alone to know
That we must follow Him below,
While trav'ling thru this vale of tears?
No, this extends to holier spheres.</p> | <p>4. Not only shall we emulate
His course while in this earthly state,
But when we're freed from present cares,
If with our Lord we would be heirs.</p> <p>5. We must the onward path pursue
As wider fields expand to view,
And follow Him unceasingly,
Whate'er our lot or sphere may be.</p> | <p>6. For thrones, dominions, kingdoms, pow'rs,
And glory great and bliss are ours,
If we, throughout eternity,
Obey His words, "Come, follow me."</p> |
|--|--|--|

Text: John Nicholson, 1839-1909

Music: Samuel McBurney, 1847-1909

This hymn may be copied for incidental, noncommercial church or home use.

Matthew 4:19
2 Nephi 31:10-21



Our Page

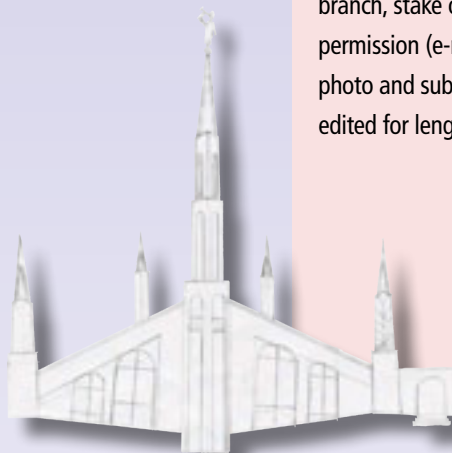


Sometimes I feel like I don't understand something about the Church or I feel like I don't have enough faith in a particular thing. Whenever I have this feeling, I pray to Heavenly

Father for help. I almost always get an answer. I feel warm and safe all over, and I get a true feeling that God listens to my prayers and loves me very much. These experiences help my testimony and my love for God to grow.

I know that God is our Father and loves each of us very much. He listens to our problems and sends the Holy Ghost to comfort us. I know He hears our prayers and is happy when we are righteous. I am filled with joy to know that God loves me and that I am a member of the Church. I know that Jesus Christ is His Son and our Savior.

Deveney R., age 11, Switzerland



Viet Minh Tri P., age 10, Cambodia

Carlos D., age 8, Brazil



Daniel K., age 7, from Denmark, is a happy and courageous boy. He likes to help in the garden. He also likes to help cook—especially rolling dough for pizza. He works hard at school and loves to play soccer, go swimming, and climb trees. He enjoys helping build fires at Scouting activities. At church he loves stories about Joseph Smith and Jesus, and he enjoys singing "Choose the Right."

If you would like to submit a drawing, photo, experience, testimony, or letter for Our Page, e-mail it to liahona@ldschurch.org, with "Our Page" in the subject line. Or mail it to:

Liahona, Our Page

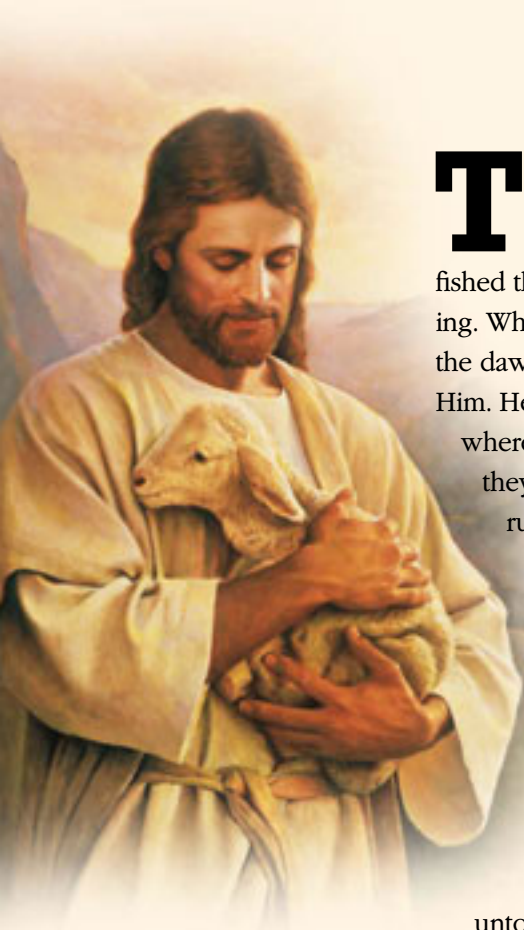
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

Each submission **must** include the child's full name and age plus the parent's name, ward or branch, stake or district, and the parent's written permission (e-mail is acceptable) to use the child's photo and submission. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.



By President Henry B. Eyring
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Helping Feed the Savior's Lambs



The Savior had been crucified and then resurrected. His disciples had gone to Galilee. They had fished through the night, catching nothing. When they drew near to shore, in the dawn, they did not at first recognize Him. He called out to them, telling them where to cast their nets, and when they did, the nets were filled. They rushed to greet Him on the shore.

They found a fire of coals with fish cooking and bread. Then He gave a commandment to them which still stands for each of us.

“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs” (John 21:15).

The Saints of God have always been under covenant to **nourish** each other spiritually, especially those tender in the gospel.

A child can do the things which nourish the faith of others. Children could

invite a recent convert to come with them to a meeting. Children could smile and greet a new member coming into a chapel or into a class. And as we do, the Holy Ghost will be our companion.

Every word we speak can strengthen or weaken faith. We need help from the Spirit to speak the words which will nourish and strengthen.

We can by simple obedience help the Lord to take the lambs, His lambs, into His arms home to their Father and our Father.

I know that Jesus is the Christ. I know that He lives. And I know that He leads us in this work—His work—to bring to pass the eternal life of His Father’s children. ■

From an October 1997 general conference address.

To *nourish* means to feed.

CARING FOR LAMBS

Lambs are weak and cannot defend themselves. They need special care so they can grow up to be healthy and strong. Look at the pictures of some things that lambs need.



Protection from wolves and other dangers

WHO ARE THE SAVIOR'S LAMBS?

The Savior asked His disciples to give special care to people who are not strong in the gospel or who are new members of the Church. He called these people "lambs." They need someone to help them so they can grow strong—strong in the gospel.

Color the pictures of things children can do to help the Savior's lambs. Then draw one picture of something you can do.

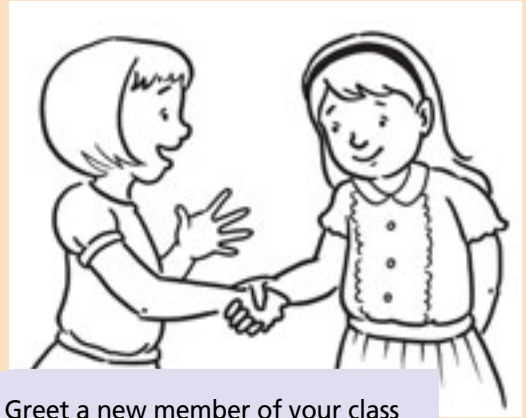
A safe place to sleep



Food



Water



Greet a new member of your class



Invite a friend to come to Primary



Share the *Liahona*

Jesus Christ Restored the Fulness of the Gospel through Joseph Smith

By Sandra Tanner and Cristina Franco

Imagine a glass full of clear, pure water. If we bump the glass, some water might spill out and the glass wouldn't be full anymore.

In the beginning the fulness of the gospel was on the earth. For many years prophets taught the gospel.

When Jesus Christ was on the earth, He established His Church. He taught the fulness of the gospel: faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and obedience to the commandments. Jesus showed all people how we should live. He became the Savior of us all. The gospel glass was full.

But as the years passed, parts of the gospel were lost because wicked people changed it or didn't obey it. The fulness of the gospel was no longer on the earth. Heavenly Father promised His children He would give them the fulness of the gospel again. He called Joseph Smith to help Him restore the fulness of the gospel.

John 3:16 teaches us that Heavenly Father gave us His Son and the gospel because He loves His children. He calls prophets to teach everyone His gospel so we will know the way back to Him.

We are blessed to have the fulness of the gospel in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Our gospel glasses are full to the top, and Heavenly Father



has promised that the gospel will never be taken from the earth again.

April 2010 Scripture Journal

Read the sixth article of faith in the Pearl of Great Price.

Memorize this article of faith.

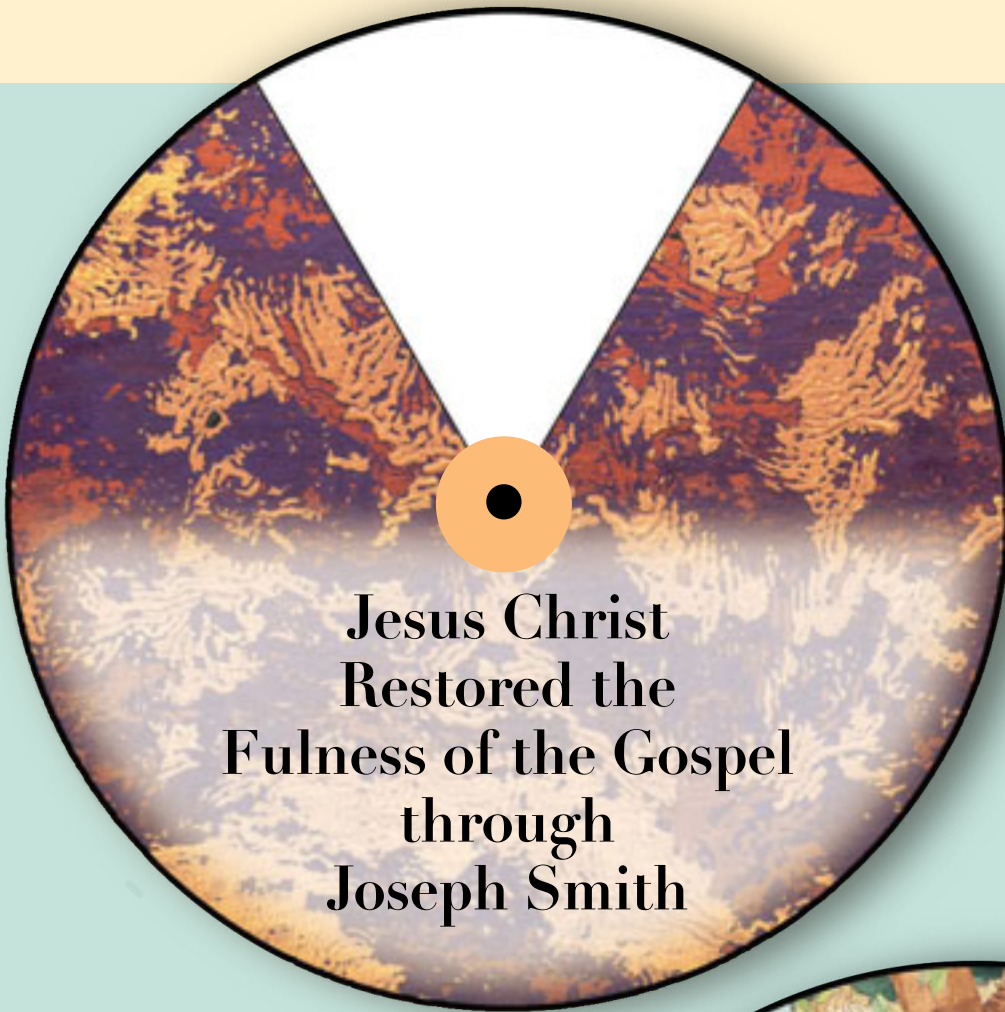
Pray to ask Heavenly Father to help you know that Jesus Christ restored the fulness of the gospel through Joseph Smith.

Choose one of these activities, or create your own:

- Help someone else learn this article of faith.
- Read or have someone read to you Joseph Smith—History in the Pearl of Great Price.
- Make the story wheel on page 67. Cut out the two wheels, and attach them with a brass fastener. Use the wheel to teach someone how Jesus Christ restored the fulness of the gospel through Joseph Smith.
- Our missionaries are teaching the truths of the restored gospel throughout the world. Pray for them. Pray to know whom you could invite to listen to the missionaries' message.

How does what you have done help you understand the sixth article of faith?

Write in your journal or draw a picture about what you have done. ■



Jesus Christ
Restored the
Fulness of the Gospel
through
Joseph Smith



LEFT, THE FIRST VISION, BY GARY L. KAPP, MAY NOT BE COPIED; TOP RIGHT, ILLUSTRATION © VIVID DETAILS; BOTTOM RIGHT, JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATING THE BOOK OF MORMON, BY DEL PARSON, © IRI; OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

A WEDDING DRESS AND A PLAN

By Jane McBride Choate

*“Marriage is ordained of God”
(D&C 49:15).*

Based on a true story

Lori sat on her older sister’s bed as Karyn finished packing her temple bag. Karyn was getting married today.

Lori was excited to go to the wedding reception that evening, but she also felt sad. Her older brother, who had served a mission, could go inside the temple with Karyn. Her parents could go too. But Lori and her two younger brothers couldn’t go inside.

“I wish I could be in the temple with you,” Lori said.

Karyn looked up from her packing. “I do too, but you’ll be right outside. And someday I’ll go to the temple with you when you get married.”

Lori didn’t feel so sad anymore, but she wondered about something else. “How did you know you wanted to marry Matt?” she asked.

Karyn sat down beside Lori. “A long time ago I learned that Heavenly Father has a plan for me. When I met Matt, I realized we could fulfill that plan together.”





Each day as you choose to live the commandments, keep your baptismal covenants, and try to be more like Jesus Christ, you are preparing to go to the temple.”

Vicki F. Matsumori, second counselor in the Primary general presidency, “A Place of Love and Beauty,” *Friend*, Jan. 2002, 30.



“Have you finished that plan?”

Lori asked.

Karyn shook her head no. “Matt and I want to have children, finish our education, and much more.”

Lori looked at the beautiful white wedding dress hanging on Karyn’s closet door. “Your dress is so pretty,” she said.

Karyn smiled. “That’s another part of the plan,” she said. “I always wanted to be married in the temple, so my dress needs to be modest.”

A few hours later Lori watched Karyn and Matt come out of the temple. Their faces glowed.

Lori ran to Karyn and threw her arms around her.

Several weeks later Lori got a picture in the mail. It was a photo of Karyn and Matt standing in front of the temple. Karyn had written at the top, “Heavenly Father has a plan for you.”

Lori put the picture on her dresser. She promised herself that someday she would go to the temple and have the same glow that shone on her sister’s face. ■



“Feed My Sheep”

By Jennifer Holt

*“Follow me, and feed my sheep”
(D&C 112:14).*

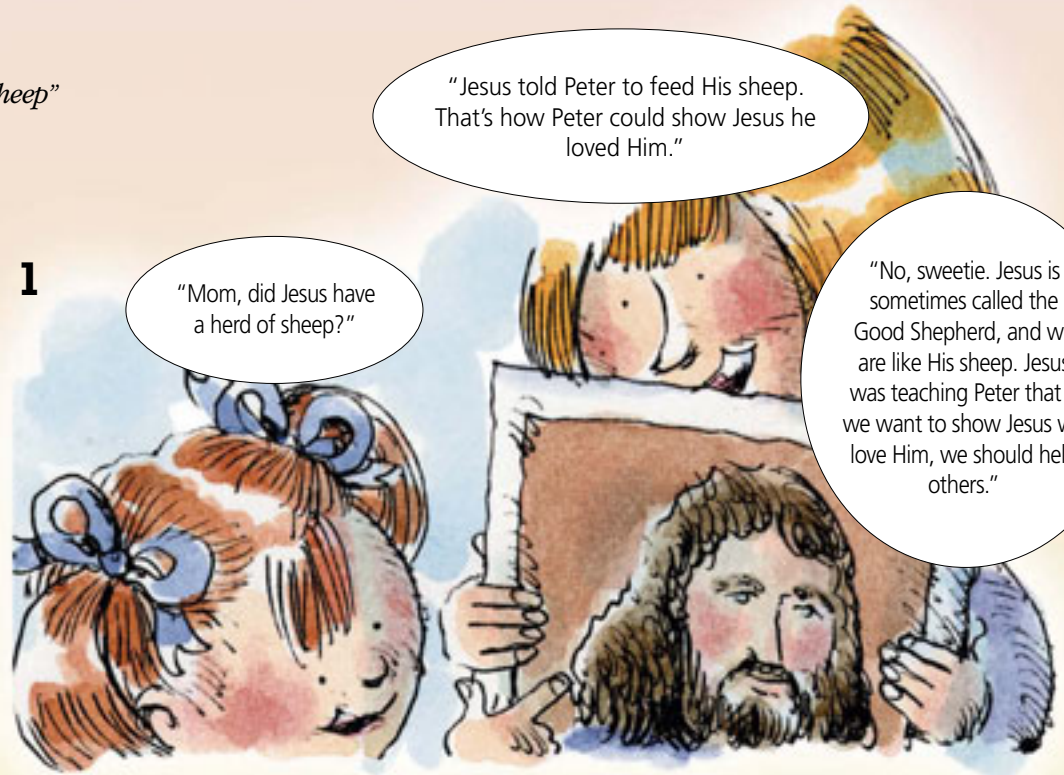
Based on a true story

1

“Mom, did Jesus have a herd of sheep?”

“Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep. That’s how Peter could show Jesus he loved Him.”

“No, sweetie. Jesus is sometimes called the Good Shepherd, and we are like His sheep. Jesus was teaching Peter that if we want to show Jesus we love Him, we should help others.”



“Is that why we are going to deliver the pie to Sister Jacobs after family home evening?”

“Yes, it is. But it would be nice for you to think of something you can do to show Sister Jacobs you love her.”

Olivia thought about what she could do. She remembered that Mom and Grandma really like the pictures she draws.

2



“I know! I can make a card for Sister Jacobs and draw a picture on it!”

3



4

Olivia drew a beautiful rainbow. On the inside of the card she wrote, "Get well soon! Love, Olivia."

*Get well soon!
Love,
Olivia*

Mom handed Sister Jacobs the pie. Then Olivia gave her the card she had made.

"Thank you, Olivia. This beautiful card and your sweet smile make me feel better."

6

Olivia felt like somebody was hugging her heart. She was happy that she could help Jesus feed His sheep. ■

7

When Olivia and her family got to Sister Jacobs's house, Mom asked Sister Jacobs how she was feeling. Sister Jacobs started to cry.

"I just found out I have to go to the hospital to have an operation tomorrow. I'm a little scared."

5

HELPS FOR PARENTS

Ask your children to think of somebody they would like to make happy. Help them make and deliver a card to this person.

Find the Sheep

By Chad E. Phares

Church Magazines

Jesus taught that we can show our love for Him by “feeding His sheep” (see John 21:15–17). We can do that by helping others. These children are feeding Jesus’s sheep by helping their neighbor pull weeds from her garden. We should always look for people to serve.

See if you can find and circle the 10 sheep hidden in this picture.

HELPS FOR PARENTS

Consider reading John 21:14–17 with your children. Ask them who Jesus Christ’s sheep are. Explain that the Lord expects us to help other people. Tell of a time somebody helped you.



Children's Art Exhibit

Take out your crayons or paints, and get ready to create! In 2011, art by Primary children from around the world will appear in an exhibit at the Church History Museum and in an online art show. Here's how you can get involved:

1. Create a work of art on the theme "The Gospel Blesses My Life." Your artwork could be about families, temples, missionaries, prophets, scriptures, nature,

service, pioneers, Primary, or Church activities.

2. You must be between the ages of 5 and 12, and you may send only one work of art.

3. Your artwork should be on a flat piece of paper or fabric. It should be no larger than 12 inches by 14 inches (30 cm by 36 cm), and it should not be framed.

4. You may use crayon, pencil, marker, ink, charcoal, acrylic, watercolor, pastels, oil, or any other two-dimensional medium.

5. Take your time so your artwork will be the best you can create. Your art should take up most of the space on your paper.

6. Write your full name on the back of your artwork. Have a parent complete and sign the form below. Then tape the form to the back of your artwork.

7. Your entry must be postmarked on or before July 31, 2010. Your artwork will not be returned to you.

Your entry might be featured in an exhibit at the Church History Museum, from January 1 to June 30, 2011; in an online art show on the *Friend* and *Liahona* Web sites; or in Our Page in the *Liahona* or in Our Creative Friends in the *Friend*. Not all entries will be used or exhibited.

PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRY TO:

Children's Art Exhibit
45 N. West Temple St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84150, USA

The following information and permission must be included:

Child's full name _____

Age _____

State/Province, Country _____

Parent's e-mail address or phone number _____

I grant permission for this entry to be featured in an exhibit, on the Church Web site, and in the Church magazines, and for all publicity.

Signature of parent or legal guardian _____

Perpetual Education Fund Thriving Nine Years Later

By Ryan Kunz

Church Magazines

Tyson Kemege, stricken with polio and orphaned as an infant, grew up in Nairobi, Kenya, where he never slept on a mattress and rarely had two meals a day. He got around only with the aid of a pair of hand crutches.

He made up his mind to attend Kenya's Augustana College to study information technology, but with no family and no money, his prospects seemed bleak.

Brother Kemege, who had joined the Church a few years earlier after completing his secondary education, contacted a senior missionary couple and told them of his desires. The missionaries put him in touch with the Perpetual Education Fund (PEF) committee. A PEF loan helped him gain admission to the school.

"I'm the luckiest man on earth," Brother Kemege often told the missionaries.

Brother Kemege has served as student body president of Augustana University and holds two callings in his ward.

Nine years after President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) first announced the PEF, the program has more than 38,000 participants in 42 countries. Despite worldwide economic difficulties, the Perpetual Education Fund is healthy and helping people like Tyson Kemege get an education, escape poverty, and contribute to their communities.

More than 87 percent of PEF participants who have completed their schooling are currently employed.

Overcoming Challenges

While the program has not been threatened by the economic downturn, those who oversee the program say it has had to overcome some challenges.

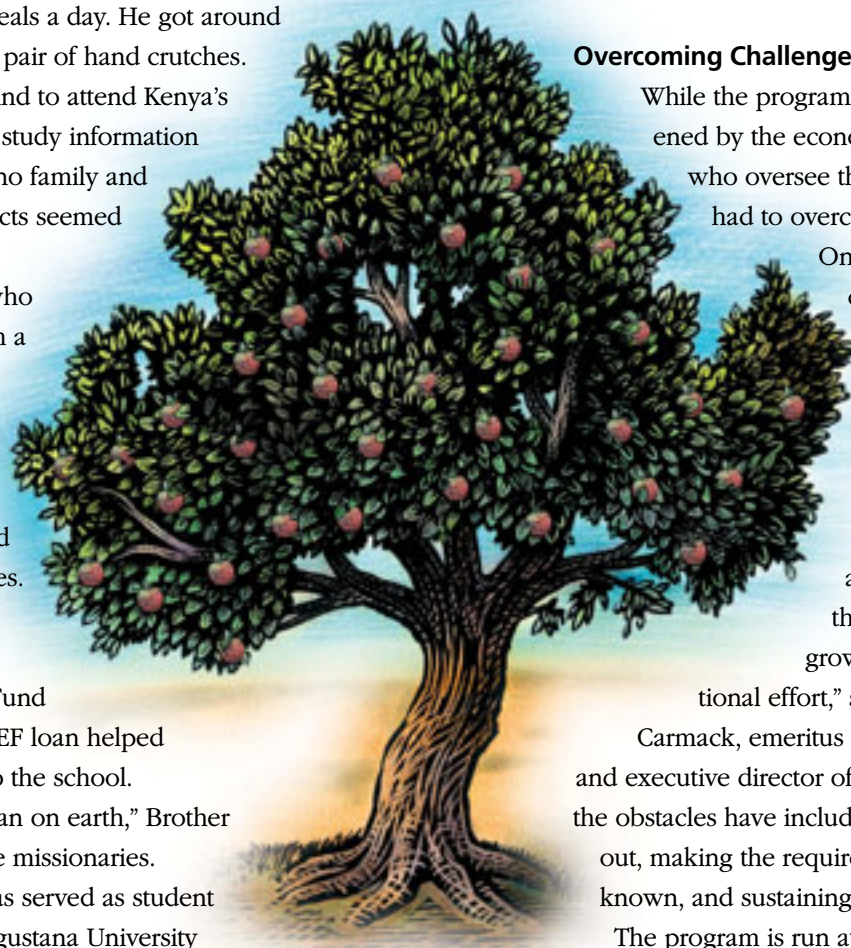
One of the greatest challenges faced by the program is the growing number of participants.

"The obstacles that we have had to face and overcome are the usual obstacles that go along with rapid growth and an international effort," said Elder John K.

Carmack, emeritus member of the Seventy and executive director of the fund. "Some of the obstacles have included getting the word out, making the requirements and availability known, and sustaining the participants."

The program is run at Church headquarters by a relatively small administrative group, including a few employees, missionary couples, and local volunteers. It is overseen by two emeritus General Authorities, Elder Carmack and Elder Richard E. Cook.

In order to administer the widespread program, PEF personnel and missionaries work with Area Presidencies to train area leaders, who in turn



*Eligible members
can be blessed . . .*

work with local leaders to train and support local teachers, staff, volunteers, and participants.

“It was and is such an innovative initiative,” said Rex Allen, director of training and communications for the program. “It’s new at every level, so communication and training have been essential.”

How It Works

The program is made possible by hundreds of thousands of individuals who donate money to the fund. All of the money donated goes to support participants.

For participants, the process begins with a preparation phase coordinated through the institute of religion program in which the member is enrolled. With help from LDS employment resource centers, participants take “Planning for Success” courses and career workshops before completing the online loan application.

Once loans are approved, participants pursue their educations with the understanding that they will repay their debt so that others may benefit from the fund as well. Participants repay more than US \$2.5 million toward their loans every year.

Elder Carmack said the program is succeeding not only because of members’ great financial support but also because of great leadership. “The father of the Perpetual Education Fund is Gordon B. Hinckley,” he said, “but President [Thomas S.] Monson’s support and interest are just as great as President Hinckley’s were. [President Monson] has been in on the process from the beginning and directs it today with prophetic insight.”



*by partaking
of the fruits of
the Perpetual
Education Fund . . .*



*and by giving
back so others
can benefit as
well.*

The Results

When announcing the program in the April 2001 general conference, President Hinckley said: “With good employment skills, these young men and women can rise out of the poverty they and generations before them have known. They will better provide for their families. They will serve in the Church and grow in leadership and responsibility. They will repay their loans to make it possible for others to be blessed as they have been blessed” (“The Perpetual Education Fund,” *Liahona*, July 2001, 60; *Ensign*, May 2001, 51).

The program’s leaders continue to see the fulfillment of President Hinckley’s words. As many as 10 to 15 percent of current Church leaders in some PEF-approved countries are previous beneficiaries of the fund.

“This is not an idle dream,” President Hinckley continued. “We have the resources through the goodness and kindness of wonderful and generous friends. We have the organization. We have the manpower and dedicated servants of the Lord to make it succeed. It is an all-volunteer effort that will cost the Church practically nothing. We pray humbly and gratefully that God will prosper this effort and that it will bring blessings, rich and wonderful, upon the heads of thousands just as its predecessor organization, the Perpetual Emigration Fund, brought untold blessings upon the lives of those who partook of its opportunities.”

Nine years later, the program continues to grow, made possible, according to Brother Allen, “through great goodwill and tremendous faith.” ■

New Relief Society Guidelines

Blessing Members

Julie B. Beck, Relief Society general president, announced new guidelines for Relief Society meetings six months ago at the general Relief Society meeting, and the results are blessing the lives of sisters around the world.

The reception of the new guidelines has been generally warm, said Sister Beck, pointing out that members worldwide can now design meetings according to their individual needs, allowing more flexibility in a church that isn't confined to one culture or locale.

"This has been a very positive step for a global organization," Sister Beck said. "We love the sisters, we trust the sisters, and we know that if they make this a matter of faith and obedience, they won't have any problem with it."

Sister Beck's address, entitled "Relief Society: A Sacred Work" (*Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 110) should serve as the official policy regarding meetings, and Relief Society leaders with questions about the policies should counsel with their priesthood leaders.

General Changes

It was affirmed that Relief Society counselors should follow the pattern of the priesthood and be called the first or second counselor. The calling previously known as the home, family, and personal enrichment leader should be called the Relief Society meeting coordinator. The sister in this calling should continue to arrange Relief Society meetings held on weekdays under the direction of the presidency.

Relief Society Meeting Guidelines

In her address, Sister Beck told how the meetings formerly called "home, family and personal

enrichment" would now simply be called Relief Society meetings.

Sister Beck described how the ward Relief Society president should oversee all Relief Society meetings and counsel with the bishop or branch president, who approves all meeting plans.

The Relief Society president should oversee the meetings, but may ask the first or second

Meetings should accomplish the "charitable and practical responsibilities" of Relief Society, increasing faith and personal righteousness and seeing to the spiritual and temporal needs of individuals and families.

counselor—or recommend a sister in the ward or branch be called—to be coordinator of the meetings. At least one member of the presidency should be present at all meetings.

Meetings generally should be held monthly, but at least quarterly, at a time other than Sunday or Monday evening. The bishop or branch president and the Relief Society president determine the frequency of the meetings, and sisters should not be made to feel it is mandatory to attend all these meetings.

When planning meetings, the Relief Society presidency should consider such issues as time commitment, cost, safety, and travel distance.

Meetings should accomplish the "charitable and practical responsibilities" of Relief Society, increasing faith and personal righteousness and seeing

to the spiritual and temporal needs of individuals and families.

In planning meetings the Relief Society presidency should give priority to topics that fulfill Relief Society purposes; meetings can focus on one topic or be divided into more than one class

or activity. Teachers should generally be members of the ward or stake.

“Using Relief Society meetings appropriately will increase the ability of the Relief Society to work in powerful ways with priesthood leaders in every ward,” Sister Beck said. ■

Subscribers Will Receive Updated Temple Booklet

Subscribers to the *Liahona* and *Ensign* magazines will receive the updated *Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* booklet in place of their regular October 2010 issues.

This booklet is an updated version of a publication that has been in print for more than 50 years. It began as an issue of the Church magazine *Improvement Era* in 1955. It later became a separate booklet that has since been updated eight times. The latest version will include new articles and photos and will be published in 45 languages.

Latter-day prophets, including President Thomas S. Monson, have continually encouraged members to receive their own temple ordinances and then return to the temple to do work for their ancestors.

The booklet is intended to teach the doctrines and principles of temple worship. Members of the Church are encouraged to have at least one copy in their homes so parents can use the booklets in family home evening or other settings to teach their families about the temple.

All ages can find something applicable in the booklet. Articles new to this edition of the booklet include “Blessings of the Temple,” by President Thomas S. Monson, and “Prepare for the Blessings of the Temple,” by Elder Russell M. Nelson of the



Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. The booklet also contains an article for youth titled “Making the Temple a Part of Your Life,” and children can learn about temples from an article titled “Your Path to the Temple.” All readers will enjoy browsing the photo essays of temples throughout the world. The booklet also contains answers to commonly asked questions to help members who are preparing to attend the temple for the first time.

Members are encouraged to share this booklet

In October, subscribers will receive an updated version of the temple booklet.

with their family members and friends of other faiths. Additional copies of the booklet will be available at Church distribution centers and at LDScatalog.com.

Stake presidents, bishops, and teachers of the temple preparation class may choose to use these materials as a supplemental resource with the *Endowed from on High* teacher's manual and the booklet, *Preparing to Enter the Temple*.

As appropriate, priesthood leaders may give a booklet to members who are already endowed to help them remember their own temple experiences. It may also be useful for helping those coming back into Church activity who are preparing to be sealed in the temple.

"This booklet could be a wonderful resource for all members," said Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi of the Seventy. "It is an aid to remembering the sacred temple experience, the associated covenants and blessings, and the individual responsibilities of members to do family history work to identify their ancestors and to provide essential temple ordinances for them by actively participating in temple service." ■

Help Us Improve

The *Liahona* staff is seeking members of all ages who are willing to give feedback about proposed articles and features in upcoming issues. Those who are interested in volunteering for this *Liahona* Evaluation Committee must have Internet access and be able to communicate in English. To volunteer, e-mail liahona@ldschurch.org and put "Evaluation Committee" in the subject line. We will send you questions periodically. Your feedback will help the *Liahona* better meet the needs of readers around the world. ■

WORLD BRIEFS

New Europe East Area Presidency Announced

The First Presidency has announced a change in the Europe East Area Presidency, effective immediately. Elder Kevin W. Pearson, First Counselor in the Area Presidency, has been transferred to Church headquarters for a special assignment in the Missionary Department. Elder Wolfgang H. Paul will continue as President of the area, with Elder Gregory A. Schwitzer of the Seventy as First Counselor and Elder Aleksandr N. Manzhos, Area Seventy, as Second Counselor.

Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple Site Selected

In November 2009 the First Presidency announced that the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple will be located at 1739 Vine Street in downtown Philadelphia. The site is adjacent to the Vine Street Expressway and neighboring Courts Building and is situated diagonally across the street from Logan Square, a prominent Philadelphia landmark. President Thomas S. Monson announced the temple in October 2008. Currently there

are 130 operating temples in the world, with another 21 announced or under construction.

Vancouver Temple Dates Announced

The Vancouver British Columbia Temple open house will be held from April 9 through April 24, 2010, except Sundays, and a cultural celebration will be held on May 1.



The dedication will take place in three sessions on Sunday, May 2, at 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. The three dedicatory sessions will be broadcast to all Church units within the temple district. The temple will open for ordinances the next day. ■

COMMENT

A New *Liahona*

When I read that starting in January 2010 we would have a new *Liahona*, I was nostalgic. The magazine has been my anchor in the gospel since I was baptized at age 17. My tender testimony was strengthened as I read the experiences of other members and knew that I was not alone. I treasure the magazines I have collected, for they contain inspired messages that have helped me in times of tribulation and need.

Now you have delivered to us a *Liahona* that is more mature and more diverse, but just as true as the first one I read in 1992. Thank you from the depths of my heart.

Julia A. Florian, Guatemala

A Source of Spirituality and Strength

The *Liahona* is a great blessing and a joy to me. It helps me meet members all over the world, learn about their countries and culture, and benefit from their faith. The magazine is a source of much spirituality and strength, and it helps me to be better.

Modesta Giuliani, Italy

A Miracle in Our Ward

In my ward our visiting teaching was scarce and temple attendance was very low. As the visiting teaching leader and a temple worker, I prayed that this could change. I used Elder Richard G. Scott's conference talk, "Temple Worship: The Source of Strength and Power in Times of Need" (*Liahona*, May 2009, 43) to speak in both sacrament meeting and in Relief Society. The ward members were touched. Visiting teaching is now almost at 100 percent, and many are attending the temple and putting into practice the steps Elder Scott outlined in his message. A thousand thanks to Elder Scott for his beautiful message and to you for the *Liahona*.

Ana Meza de Eulogio, Peru

Please send your feedback or suggestions to liahona@ldschurch.org. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity. ■

FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening. The following are a few examples.

"Becoming a Quality Person Now," p. 45: Display several items (for example, a pencil, Book of Mormon, *Liahona*, pair of shoes), and invite family members to rank them from most valuable to least valuable. Discuss how they chose the rankings. What qualities make a person's life valuable? Encourage each person to do something specific in the coming week to become a more quality person.



"Early Sunday Morning," p. 56: Invite each family member to think of a neighbor who could use a visit or an act of service. Plan to do something this week for that person. Read Mosiah 18:7–10, and discuss how helping others is a way of keeping our baptismal covenant.

"When Ducks Don't Float," p. 58: List some of your family's rules, and discuss how they protect your family. Also list some of Heavenly Father's commandments, and discuss how they protect us physically or spiritually.

.....

The Happy Family Home Evening

Several years ago, my husband asked our family to prepare for a special home evening. Our four-year-old daughter asked to sing "I Am a Child of God." Our 10-year-old son said the opening prayer. We felt the strong and marvelous presence of the Spirit.

My husband shared a few thoughts from Church leaders and encouraged us to remain united in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He then gave our little daughter a father's blessing. My mother and I were also given blessings, and last was our son. Before placing his hands on our son's head, my husband spoke of his gratitude for the priesthood and encouraged him to be worthy of this authority.

Nearly a year and a half later, our daughter said, "Let's do another family home evening like we did that one time." Knowing what she meant, still I asked her which one. She replied, "The one when we cried a lot and were very happy!"

Marlúcia Souza de Jesus Costa, Bahia, Brazil

Your Favorite Family Home Evening

Send a description of your favorite family home evening to liahona@ldschurch.org. ■

Sealed Sepulchres

By David L. Frischknecht

Curriculum Department

The day after Dad passed away, my mother, brothers, sister, and I made the necessary visit to the mortuary for funeral arrangements. Our tasks included choosing a casket and a vault into which the casket would be placed.

As we considered the options, I noticed a sales pamphlet promoting a certain vault. It claimed, among other things, that the vault was self-sealing, and it guaranteed that seal for 75 years. Even though the occasion was a solemn one, the guarantee amused me.

“Who will check on the seal in 75 years?” I wondered. “And if someone does and it has failed, who will collect on the guarantee? What are the chances, really,” I mused, “of that vault staying sealed?”

In that thoughtful moment, my mind was directed to another vault, the one described in Matthew 27. This vault, actually a sepulchre in a distant time and place, had an opening covered by a great stone:

“Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

“Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

“Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

“Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.



The claims in a sales pamphlet seemed unlikely—almost laughable—but they reminded me of a promise that is eternally guaranteed.

“So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch” (Matthew 27:62–66).

Of all the commands ever given in the history of kings and generals and rulers, Pilate’s command to keep the sepulchre sure was perhaps the most futile.

What chance did that sepulchre have of remaining sealed? In reality, there was no way for the soldiers to carry out that order as there was no way that the sepulchre would not open: “Behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door” (Matthew 28:2).

Because of the unsealing of that one sepulchre, all the vaults and tombs and sepulchres that have ever been sealed will open. Guaranteed.

The Rock of Our Salvation is our deliverer from death and from hell. He is “the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25). Because of Him “hell must deliver up its captive spirits, and the grave must deliver up its captive bodies, and the bodies and the spirits of men will be restored one to the other; and it is by the power of the resurrection of the Holy One of Israel” (2 Nephi 9:12). ■



He Is Not Here, by Walter Rane

The Savior foretold His own death and Resurrection. On the way to Jerusalem, He told His Apostles:

“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

“And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again” (Mark 10:33–34; see also John 20:1–8).



While walking the paths that Jesus walked, President Spencer W. Kimball recalled the many witnesses of the Savior's Resurrection, including Mary, who was among the first to learn that "He is not here, but is risen" (Luke 24:6).

See "The Certainty of the Resurrection," page 28.

