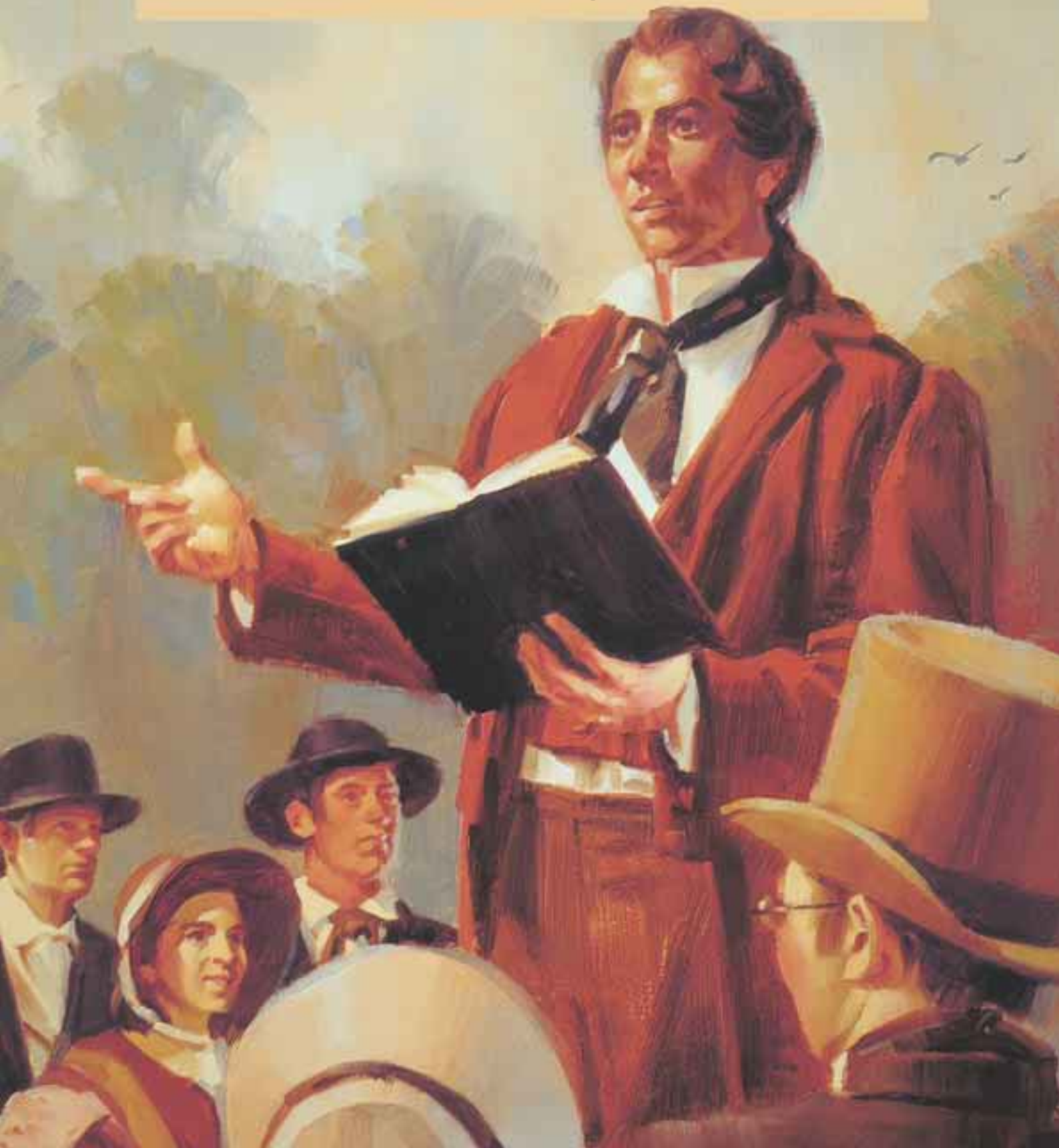


THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • AUGUST 2001

LIAHONA



LIAHONA



ON THE COVER

Front: *The Prophet Joseph Keeps His Preaching Appointment*, by Sam Lawlor.
Back: *Lucy Mack Smith's Group Leaves New York for Ohio*, by Sam Lawlor.



THE FRIEND COVER

Illustrated by Brad Teare.



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PAGE 10

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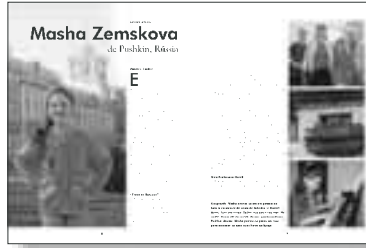
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MASHA ZEMSKOVA AN INSPIRATION

I can't describe how happy *A Liahona* (Portuguese) makes me. One of the parts I like to read most is the children's section, *The Friend*. I am amazed by the testimonies and experiences of such small but special children.

I am writing to thank you for the Making Friends article about Masha Zemskova, a young girl in Russia, in the October 1999 issue. In the mission field, I have tried to teach, strengthen, and render assistance wherever I can. At times, however, I don't feel that I'm helping or I feel that the help I offer has no effect, and my heart aches. I was in the middle of such feelings when I read about Masha. Each line gave me strength to continue my work.

*Elder Lourenço Ferreira Da Silva,
Brazil Brasília Mission*

INSPIRATIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS

How thankful I am for the wonderful pictures in the *Liahona* (German). Sometimes I am troubled so much that I don't have the strength or concentration to read. But the beautiful illustrations in the *Liahona* are always a source of strength and inspiration.

*Hazel-Rose Lankmayer,
St. Johann-Pongau Branch,
Salzburg Austria Stake*



A LIAHONA WRITTEN TO ME

My parents have always encouraged me to read *A Liahona* (Portuguese), but I never did until I moved away to go to college. Being on my own made me think about my priorities. I decided then that I would start reading *A Liahona* each month from cover to cover. When I received the first issue, there were moments when I felt that what I was reading had been written specifically to me. The words were encouraging and inspiring. I felt the Holy Ghost testify of their truthfulness. From that day on I have waited with great anticipation for the arrival of every issue.

*Evelyn Monteiro Lee Hin,
Barão Geraldo Ward,
Campinas Brazil Castelo Stake*

PROPHET'S VOICE STRENGTHENS TESTIMONY

My life has been greatly blessed by the wonderful teachings and counsel I have read in the *Liahona* (Tongan). I read it myself, and then I share what I have learned with my family. I know that my testimony would be weak if I did not listen to the voice of the prophet.

*Mele K. Peni,
Reno Fourth (Tongan) Ward,
Reno Nevada North Stake*



“Who Shall Ascend into the Hill of the Lord?”

By President James E. Faust

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

In the 24th Psalm is the query, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?” (Psalm 24:3). I believe we find the beauty and sanctity of “his holy place” as we enter the magnificent temples of God. Under the prophetic inspiration of President Gordon B. Hinckley, we are living in the greatest day of temple building. Almost every week last year a new temple was dedicated. In one month as many as seven temples were dedicated. Never before in any age has temple construction gone forward on such a grand scale. The faithful Saints who pay their tithes and offerings have made this possible, and each will receive eternal blessings because of his or her faithfulness. Those who take advantage of the blessings of the temple will also be eternally blessed.

Each temple building is an inspiration, magnificent and beautiful in every way, but the temple building alone does not bless. The endowed blessings and divine functions—involving much that is not of this world, such as priesthood keys—come through obedience and faithfulness to priesthood authority and covenants made.



As we feel and see the awesome beauty of each temple, we see in vision and hold in our remembrance the endless blessings that will come to so many through its being.

As we feel and see the awesome beauty of each temple, we see in vision and hold in our remembrance the endless blessings that will come to so many through its being. However, we should remember that we have faithful leaders and Saints in parts of the world where as yet they have no hallowed sanctuary in which to receive the sanctifying and cleansing ordinances of the temple. They are stake presidencies, patriarchs, high councilors, bishoprics, and other priesthood leaders, and a host of faithful Saints, as yet unendowed, who desire above all else to be sealed to their beloved parents, companions, and children. We have the blessing and the responsibility of helping them receive the blessings of the temple. Future temples will in a measure be a sanctification of our devotion and labors to build the kingdom of God in our time.

In the magnificence and splendor of our modern temples, well might we pause and reflect upon the laborers without shirts and shoes who built the Nauvoo and Kirtland Temples. Each temple that stands today is a vindication of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and a triumph for them and all of our people who suffered the destruction, the beatings, and the murders at the hands of the cruel tyrants in the mobs who drove our people west.

There is triumph for little Sardi Smith, a lad of about nine years who, at the Haun's Mill Massacre on 30 October 1838, crawled under the bellows in the blacksmith shop to seek safety and, when discovered, was shot dead. There is triumph for Bishop Edward Partridge (1793–1840), who was seized in his home and dragged to the town square by brutal and heartless men who proceeded to pour hot tar over his body and sprinkle it with feathers.

In the temples of the Lord, we learn obedience. We learn sacrifice. We make the vows of chastity and have our lives consecrated to holy purposes. It is possible for us to be purged and purified and to have our sins washed away so that we may come before the Lord as

clean, white, and spotless as the newly fallen snow.

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?” We can see in vision the almost endless hosts of the elect, the devout, the believing who shall come to God's holy sanctuary to seek its blessings. As they enter those hallowed halls, Nephi would remind all that “the keeper of the gate is the Holy One of Israel; and he employeth no servant there; and there is none other way save it be by the gate; for he cannot be deceived, for the Lord God is his name” (2 Nephi 9:41).

As the Saints come into the sacrosanct washing and anointing rooms and are washed, they will be spiritually cleansed. As they are anointed, they will be renewed and regenerated in soul and spirit.

We can see in vision the countless couples in their youth and beauty coming to be married. We see clearly the unspeakable joy on their countenances as they are sealed together and as there is sealed upon them, through their faithfulness, the blessing of the holy Resurrection, with power to come forth in the morning of the First Resurrection clothed with glory, immortality, and eternal lives. We can see unnumbered families surrounding the altar, all clothed in white, with bowed heads and clasped hands, as they are sealed one to another, as though they were born in the new and everlasting covenant. We can see the army of angelic young children, with the mirth and eagerness of youth, coming to the house of the Lord with awe and wonder to be baptized for the dead.

We see the vision of the heavenly hosts unnumbered whose eternal odysseys have been suspended as they wait for their vicarious work to be done, including the purification of baptism, the hallowed blessings of the endowment, and the exalting beatitude of sealings. We can see families dancing, shouting, and crying with joy in their being united in another world.

We are grateful for the presence of the sealing power that binds in heaven that which is bound here on earth. We render thanks for and veneration to our



As we recall the commandment to stand in holy places, we should remember that beyond the temple, the most sacred and holy places in all the world should be our own dwelling places.

great and humble prophet, who holds all of these keys.

“Who shall stand in his holy place?” May there be extended a helping hand to those who have wavered in their faith or who have transgressed, to bring them back. After fully repenting, they will have a special need for the redemptive portion of the endowment. May they know that their sins will no more be remembered.

As we recall the commandment to stand in holy places, we should remember that beyond the temple, the most sacred and holy places in all the world should be our own dwelling places. Our homes should be committed and dedicated only to holy purposes. In our homes all of the security, the strengthening love, and the sympathetic understanding that we all so desperately need should be found.

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

“He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn

deceitfully” (Psalm 24:3–4). For “holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever” (Psalm 93:5). □

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

1. What a blessing it is to live in this great day of temple building.
2. It is good to reflect on the early laborers without shirts and shoes who built the Kirtland and Nauvoo Temples.
3. Many members still do not live near temples; all Church members have the responsibility to help them receive temple blessings.
4. The blessings of the temple come through obedience and faithfulness to priesthood authority and sacred covenants.
5. In temples we learn about obedience, sacrifice, chastity, and consecrating our lives to holy purposes.
6. Beyond the temple, the most sacred and holy places should be our own homes, places also dedicated to holy purposes.

WHEN WE FOUND THE GOSPEL, OUR LITTLE SAYING TOOK ON REAL MEANING.

Forever & THREE DAYS

It was 14 February when I knelt across the altar in the Mesa Arizona Temple with my sister, Jennifer; my dad; and my mom. I was 15 years old and had been a member of the Church for a year. What had been only a goal a year before was now a reality. We were about to be sealed as a family for time and eternity.

Twenty-one years earlier, my parents, who were not yet members, married in a religious ceremony. The minister said the marriage was “until death do you part,” but my parents thought marriage should last forever. They signed letters to each other, and later to Jen and me, “Love for forever and three days.” It was their way of saying they hoped we would always be together.

It wasn’t until my dad started having back problems that we met a member of the Church. A therapist who helped my dad with back exercises began talking to my parents about the gospel. Slowly, they became interested and asked to meet the missionaries.

The first meeting we attended was a stake conference. Its theme was

*For years
my parents had
closed letters to each
other and to my sister
and me with
“Love for forever and
three days.” It
reflected our hope that
we could be together
forever. That hope
became a reality when
we were sealed in the
Mesa Arizona
Temple.*

By Rebecca Armstrong,
as told to Elyssa Renee Madsen



strengthening the family. For my mom, who had been searching for ways to make our family closer, the conference was an answer to prayer.

My prayers were answered too. After the missionaries invited us to be baptized, I began praying to know if the Church was true. As I read in John 14:26–27 about having the Holy Ghost and not being afraid, I knew it was true.

INTO THE WATERS

On 11 February 1996, my entire family was baptized. We had been attending the ward for only a few weeks, so we were shocked when dozens of people came to the baptism to show their support.

My family made a goal to be sealed in the temple as soon as we could. We began preparing to attend the temple, focusing on our relationships with each other and with the Savior. Our relationship as a family became more spiritual as we studied the scriptures and prayed together.

I tried to read everything the prophets had written about going to the temple. I also followed my Young Women leader’s suggestion and began

saying “thank you” prayers. Instead of just asking Heavenly Father for things I wanted, I concentrated on thanking Him.

INTO THE TEMPLE

On the day of our sealing, we awoke excited. Today was the day! When we arrived at the temple, Jen and I walked around outside while my parents received their endowments. The weather was perfect. It was as if the flowers had bloomed for us.

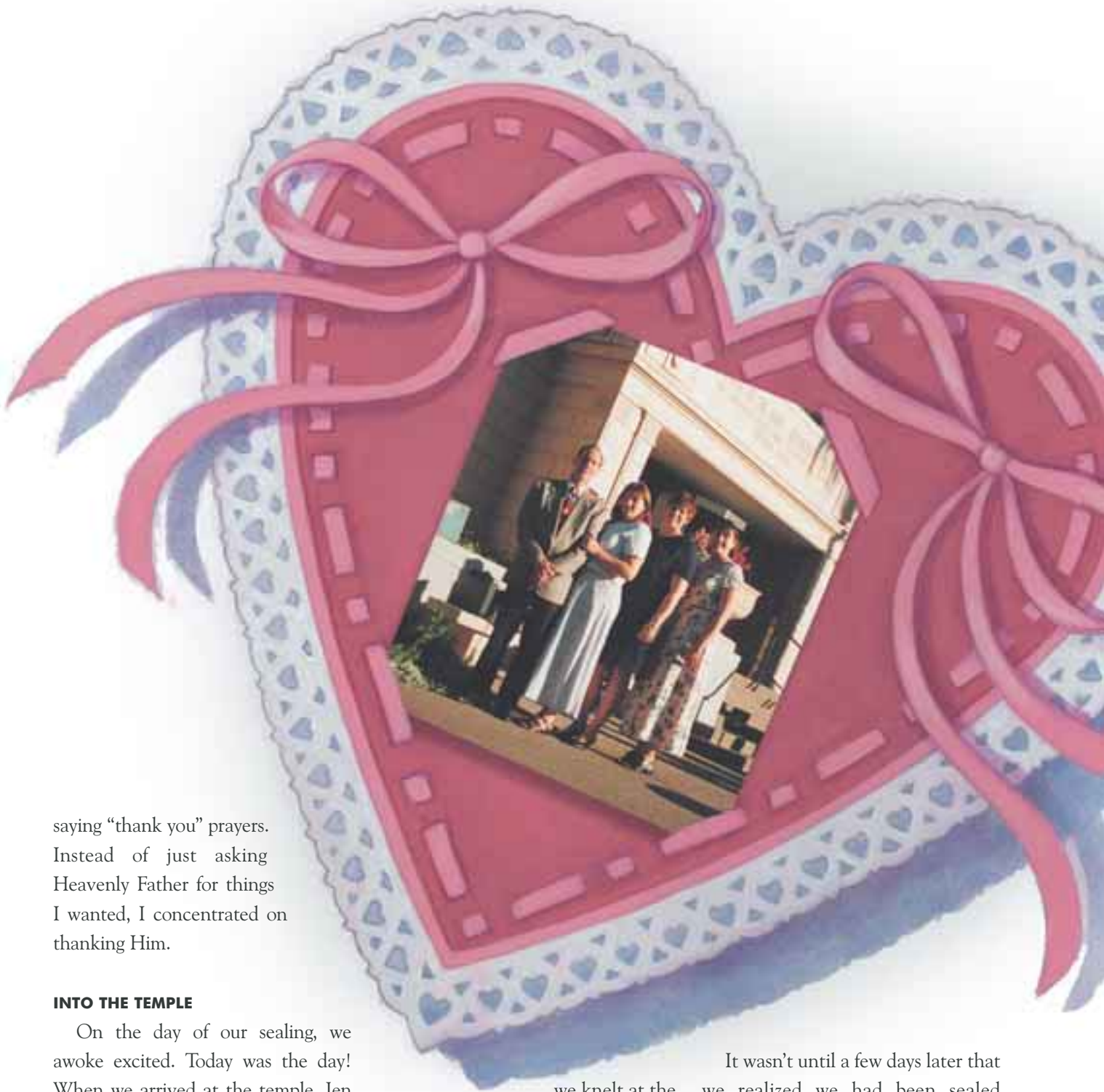
Finally it was time for Jen and me, dressed in white, to join our parents in the sealing room. I remember being struck by how bright and pure and beautiful everything looked. As

we knelt at the altar, I glanced in the mirrors and saw images of our family extending endlessly. I felt the Spirit bear witness that our family could be together forever.

When we walked outside after the sealing, we were again surprised at the number of people who had come to support us.

It wasn't until a few days later that we realized we had been sealed exactly a year and three days after our baptism. Suddenly my parents' signature, “Love for forever and three days,” took on a whole new meaning. Their wish had come true—we could now be a forever family. □

Rebecca Armstrong is a member of the Tucson University First Ward, Tucson Arizona North Stake.





Words of the Living Prophet

THE CAUSE OF GOD

“This is the cause and kingdom of God. This is His work restored in these latter days, held from the world through centuries of time to come forth in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times, when all that pertained in all previous dispensations has been brought together in one, when the curtains were parted and the Father and the Son appeared to a boy and spoke to him. There is nothing like it in all the world. There is no cause like this cause. This is the Church and kingdom of the Father. Believe in it. Accept its teachings. Be obedient to its counsel. Work in it. Give of your strength and energy and means to move it forward, and the Lord will bless you and bring a joy into your lives the like of which you have never before known.”¹

HUMILITY

“Be humble. There is no place for arrogance in our lives. There is no place for conceit in our lives. There is no place for egotism in our lives. We have work to do. We have things to accomplish. . . . ‘Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to

thy prayers’ (D&C 112:10). People ask me what is my favorite scripture, and I say I have many of them. But that is one of them. ‘Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.’”²

WHAT WILL THIS CHURCH DO FOR A MAN?

“What will this Church do for a man? Every worthy man may hold the priesthood of God and speak in the name of God, even the Savior of the world. What a precious and marvelous and wonderful boon that is, my brethren, to be able so to do.

“It offers the blessing of governance in the Church, the power and the authority and the gift to lead out in the affairs of the Church, and in so doing to develop leadership and strength of personality and rise above the ordinary things of life and walk as a son of God in the authority of His divine priesthood. That is what this Church will do for men. It will give them opportunity to serve, to teach, to grow in many ways, to read the precious things the Lord has revealed and make them a part of his store of knowledge.”³

WHAT WILL THIS CHURCH DO FOR A WOMAN?

“What will this Church do for a woman? It will add dignity to her life. It will add purpose to her life. It will add an outlook to her life that will not come in any other way. She will become a member of the great Relief Society organization, an organization of women four million strong, with their own presidency, their own board, their courses of study, their great humanitarian work—all of these things which become so important and beautiful and wonderful and will add development to her life and give her a new outlook and a new purpose.”⁴

WHAT WILL THIS CHURCH DO FOR CHILDREN?

“[This Church] will cast their parents in a new light, a new perspective. There will grow in their hearts a respect and love for their parents. Where the gospel reigns in the home, there is peace, there is love, there is harmony, there is growth, there is development. This Church will impel children in the direction of education.”⁵

KEEP THE FAITH

“I see men and women—not many, I’m grateful to say—who serve in the Church with valiance, who love the Lord apparently, and seek to do His work, then they’re released from service and somehow they drift away and fail to keep the faith. . . . Walk with integrity; in storm and sunshine, be faithful; in richness or in poverty, be faithful; in youth or old age, be faithful. This is the work of the Almighty. . . . God has spoken from the heavens in declaration of the truth of this, His work. And there is no voice greater than His voice. His Son has spoken to man upon the earth and declared His identity, His reality, His great and divine place in the scheme of His Father, as the Redeemer and the Savior of the world. And those truths will last as long as the earth lasts. Keep the faith in those great and sacred truths. . . . Hold out till the end and God will bless you and crown your days with sweetness and peace and love.”⁶

FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM

“What we [in the Church] have seen in the past just indicates something remarkable and glorious and wonderful for the future. I think no man living today can comprehend what it will become. There is no reason why it shouldn’t go on

growing. It must go on growing. It has to go forward to its accomplished purpose and the destiny which the Lord has set for it. Our job is to just keep moving forward.”⁷ □

NOTES

1. Regional conference, Oahu, Hawaii, 22 January 2000.
2. Meeting with youth and young single adults, Spokane, Washington, 22 August 1999.
3. Meeting, Cairns, Australia, 26 January 2000.
4. Meeting, Cairns, Australia, 26 January 2000.
5. Meeting, Cairns, Australia, 26 January 2000.

6. Regional conference, Oahu, Hawaii, 23 January 2000.

7. Interview with *Church News*, 2 November 1999.

“Where the gospel reigns in the home, there is peace, there is love, there is harmony, there is growth, there is development.”

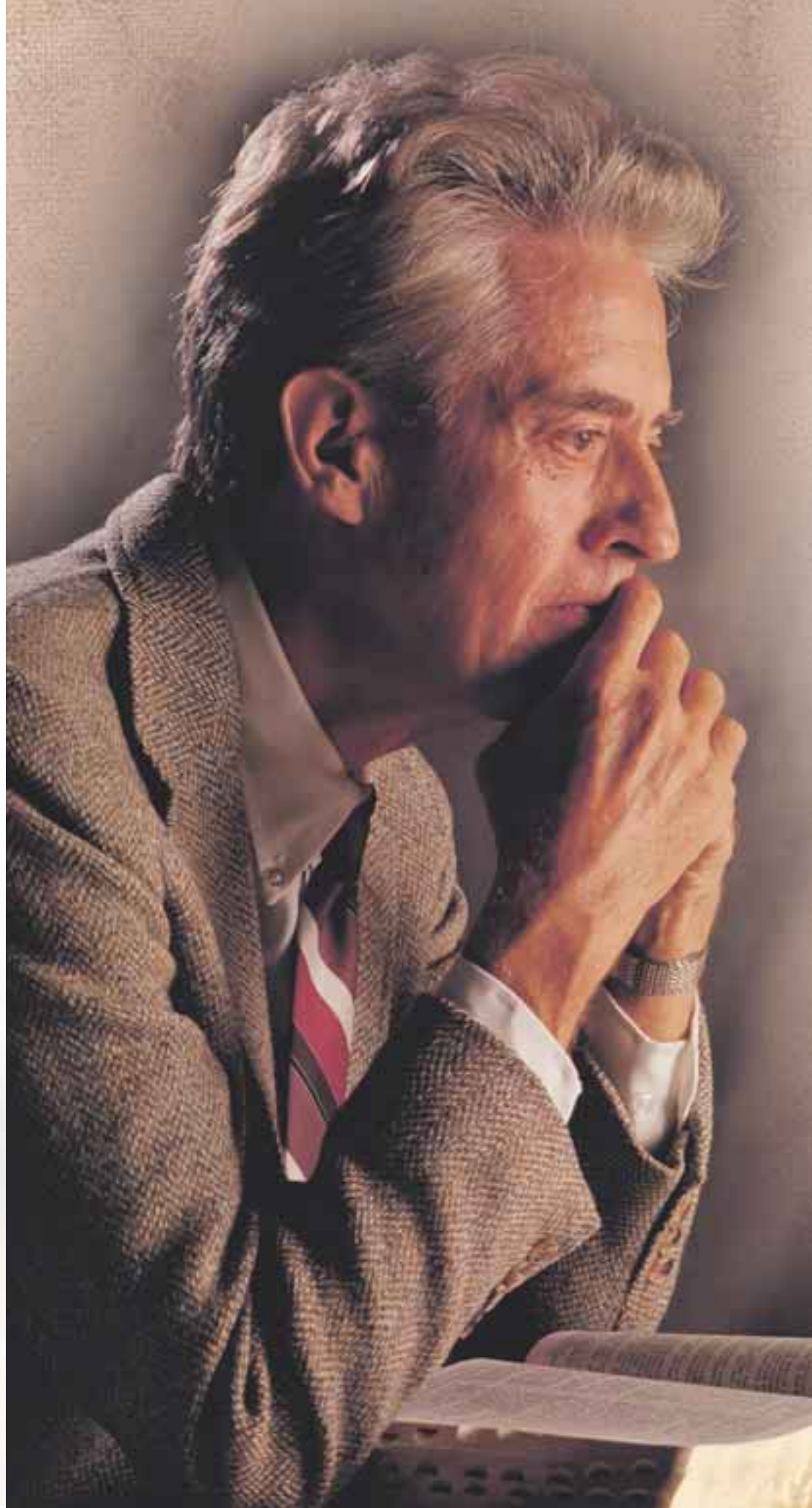




Seek

**We need to remember
Nephi's teaching
that the mysteries of
God, the choicest
of spiritual food,
cannot be understood
"save a man
should inquire of
the Lord."**

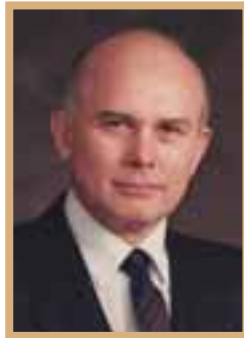
LEFT: CHRIST AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER, BY HEINRICH HOFMANN; RIGHT: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN



Nourishing the S P I R I T

By Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



God reveals Himself and His eternal truths to those who seek, serve, and listen in humility for His teaching.

We know that our physical bodies require certain nutrients to sustain life and to maintain physical and mental health. If we are deprived of those nutrients, our physical and mental vitality are impaired and we have a condition called *malnutrition*. Malnutrition produces such symptoms as reduced mental functions, digestive disorders, loss of physical strength, and impairment of vision. Good nutrition is especially important for children, whose growing bodies are easily impaired if they lack the nutrients necessary for normal growth.

Our spirits also require nourishment. Just as there is food for the body, there is food for the spirit. The consequences of spiritual malnutrition are just as hurtful to our spiritual lives as physical malnutrition is to our physical bodies. Symptoms of spiritual malnutrition include reduced ability to digest spiritual food, reduced spiritual strength, and impairment of spiritual vision.

There are some important principles that we should understand to help assure that we and our children will not suffer spiritual malnutrition.

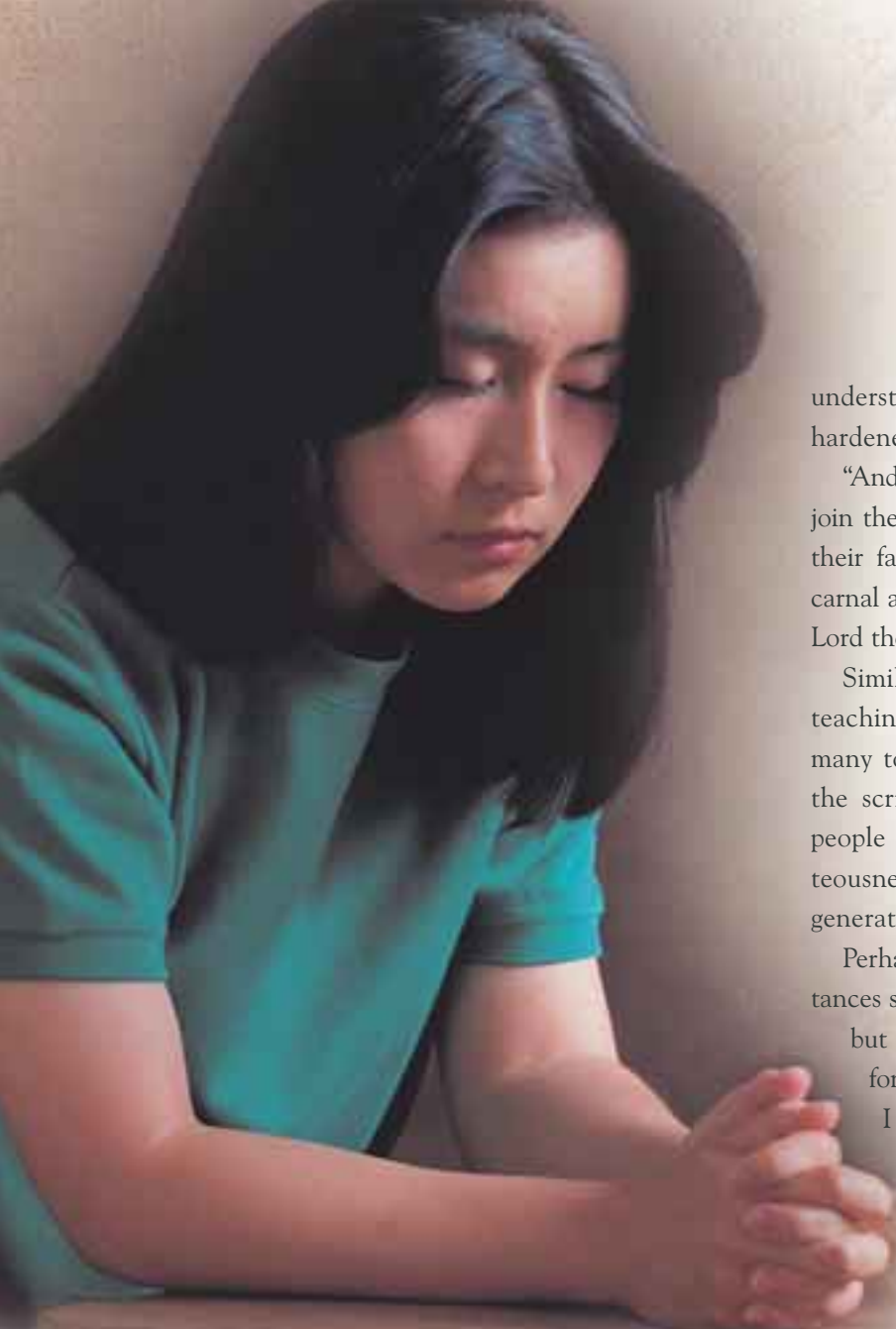
We know the principal sources of spiritual food: prayer, studying the scriptures, attending inspirational meetings, singing the hymns of

Zion, serving in our callings, fasting, partaking of the sacrament, and making other covenants, such as in the temple. We also know that some experiences can interfere with the assimilation of spiritual food,

just as certain poisons can interfere with obtaining needed physical nourishment from physical food. For example, anything that drives away the Spirit of the Lord, such as pornography, profanity, or anger, will prevent us from obtaining the spiritual nourishment we need from experiences that would normally be effective as spiritual food. Some physical substances, like those forbidden by the Word of Wisdom, are harmful to both body and spirit. We must make sure that our children have sufficient spiritual food and that they are protected from those influences that will prevent this food from being assimilated into spiritual nourishment.

NOURISHING THE NEXT GENERATION

If parents receive sufficient spiritual nourishment, does this assure that their children will have it also? While some physical characteristics are inherited, experience teaches that strong faith and spirituality do not pass automatically from one generation to another. Consider the example of King Benjamin, one of the greatest teachers of the Book of Mormon. He taught the purity of the gospel to a generation who were so profoundly affected that they had “no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.” They had experienced what they called



“a mighty change” in their hearts (Mosiah 5:2). But that marvelous faith and spirituality did not pass automatically to their posterity. The scripture records:

“Now it came to pass that there were many of the rising generation that could not understand the words of king Benjamin, being little children at the time he spake unto his people; and they did not believe the tradition of their fathers.

“They did not believe what had been said concerning the resurrection of the dead, neither did they believe concerning the coming of Christ.

“And now because of their unbelief they could not

understand the word of God; and their hearts were hardened.

“And they would not be baptized; neither would they join the church. And they were a separate people as to their faith, and remained so ever after, even in their carnal and sinful state; for they would not call upon the Lord their God” (Mosiah 26:1–4).

Similarly, about a hundred years later, the powerful teachings of the Lamanite prophet Samuel caused many to believe. However, as their children grew up, the scripture says that they were led away and the people “began to decrease as to their faith and righteousness, because of the wickedness of the rising generation” (3 Nephi 1:30).

Perhaps you have seen among your own acquaintances some similar examples of parents who are faithful but whose children mostly reject or have no feeling for the faith of their ancestors. I have seen this, and I have puzzled over how it can happen.

In his first address to the Brigham Young University community, Elder Merrill J. Bateman of the Seventy, speaking in his role as the school’s president, reminded his listeners of a key principle: “God’s children are more than intellect and body. The intellect is housed in a spirit that must also be educated. Sacred or higher truths relating to the spirit are the foundational truths . . . and center on Jesus Christ as the Son of God, . . . who gave his life for the sins of the world” (“A Zion University,” in *Brigham Young University 1995–96 Speeches* [1996], 126).

We all know that the Lord has commanded parents who have children in Zion to teach them to understand the fundamentals of the gospel—faith in Christ and the doctrines of repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. If parents fail to do this, the sin is on their heads (see D&C 68:25). Two years after that early revelation, the Lord commanded the Saints “to bring up [their]

children in light and truth” (D&C 93:40) and then emphasized the importance of that commandment by applying it directly to Sidney Rigdon (1793–1876) and Frederick G. Williams (1787–1842), newly called Counselors in the First Presidency. To President Williams He said:

“You have not taught your children light and truth, according to the commandments; and that wicked one hath power, as yet, over you, and this is the cause of your affliction.

“And now a commandment I give unto you—if you will be delivered you shall set in order your own house, for there are many things that are not right in your house” (D&C 93:42–43).

I believe all parents should remember this important truth—that if they fail to teach their children light and truth, the evil one will have power over those children.

IN THE LORD’S WAY

As I have pondered how to prevent spiritual malnutrition and how to transfer faith and spirituality from one generation to the next, I have concluded that the most important thing we can understand in this matter is that spiritual truths—what the scriptures sometimes call the “mysteries of God”—must be taught and transmitted in the Lord’s way, not in the world’s way. This is demonstrated again and again in the scriptures.

When Father Lehi sought to explain his vision to his rebellious older sons and exhort them to keep the commandments of God, they fell into disputing over his words. Young Nephi, who had just experienced the glorious interpreting vision he had sought, recorded that



Pray

“Study and reason are insufficient as ways of approaching God and understanding the doctrines of his gospel. The things of God must be learned in his own way, through faith in God and revelation from the Holy Ghost.”

his father had spoken “many great things unto them, which were hard to be understood, save a man should inquire of the Lord; and they being hard in their hearts, therefore they did not look unto the Lord as they ought” (1 Nephi 15:3). We need to remember Nephi’s teaching that the mysteries of God, the choicest of spiritual food, cannot be understood “save a man should inquire of the Lord.”

There are other important ingredients. The prophet Ammon gave this significant recipe: “He that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works, and prayeth continually without ceasing—unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God” (Alma 26:22).

Why is it important to know the mysteries of God? President Spencer W.

Kimball (1895–1985) explained:

“Of all treasures of knowledge, the most vital is the knowledge of God: his existence, powers, love, and promises. . . .

“If we spend our mortal days in accumulating secular knowledge to the exclusion of the spiritual then we are in a dead-end street, for this is the time for man to prepare to meet God; this is the time for faith to be built. . . .

“Secular knowledge, important as it may be, can never save a soul nor open the celestial kingdom” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, edited by Edward L. Kimball [1982], 390).

The knowledge of God and His plan of salvation is the kind of knowledge that saves, and this kind of knowledge can be obtained only in the Lord’s way.

God reveals Himself and His eternal truths—the spiritual food that the scriptures call the bread of life

and the living water—to those who seek, who serve, who keep His commandments, and who wait and listen in humility for His teaching. Study and reason are appropriate to begin this process, but “the things of God cannot be learned solely by study and reason. Despite their essential and beneficial uses, the methods of study and reason are insufficient as ways of approaching God and understanding the doctrines of his gospel. We cannot come to know the things of God while rejecting or failing to use the indispensable method God has prescribed to learn these things. The things of God must be learned in his own way, through faith in God and revelation from the Holy Ghost” (Dallin H. Oaks, *The Lord’s Way* [1991], 56). Only in this way can we obtain the spiritual illumination, nutrition, and power necessary to teach and transmit faith and testimony.

Gospel learning is usually initiated by study and

reason, but so far as I can observe, intellectual methods, standing alone, are not effective in transmitting abiding faith and deep spirituality from one person to another or from one generation to another.

The Book of Mormon contains many examples of this. For example, just a few years before the coming of Christ, “the people began to harden their hearts, all save it were the most believing part of them, . . . and began to depend upon their own strength and upon their own wisdom. . . .

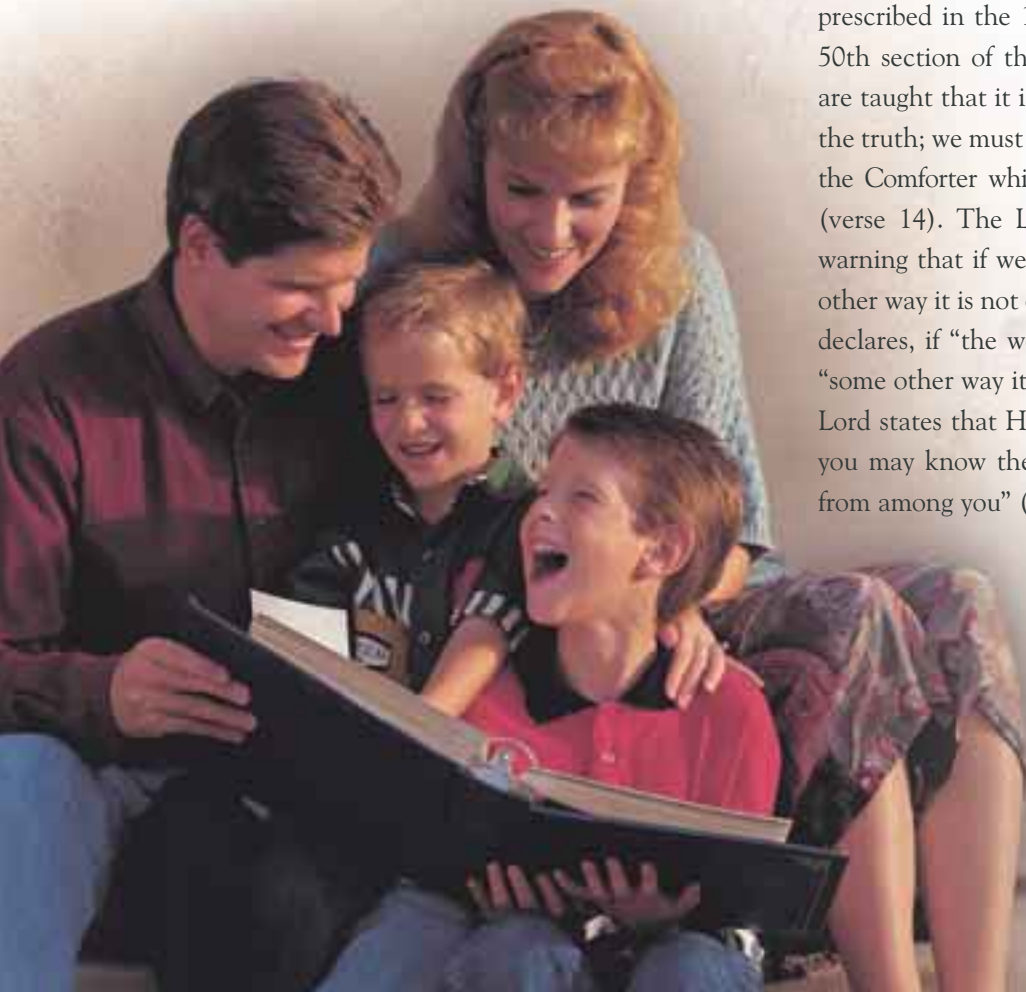
“And they began to reason and to contend among themselves, saying:

“That it is not reasonable that such a being as a Christ shall come” (Helaman 16:15, 17–18).

Then, the scriptures conclude, “Satan did get great hold upon the hearts of the people upon all the face of the land” (Helaman 16:23).

The Lord’s way of teaching the truths of the gospel is prescribed in the 1831 revelation now published as the 50th section of the Doctrine and Covenants. Here we are taught that it is not enough simply to speak or teach the truth; we must teach gospel truths “by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth” (verse 14). The Lord reemphasizes this vital truth by warning that if we preach or teach the gospel “by some other way it is not of God” (verse 18). Similarly, the Lord declares, if “the word of truth” (verse 19) is *received* by “some other way it is not of God” (verse 20). Finally, the Lord states that He has explained these principles “that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you” (verse 25).

Of course, we may ignore these directions and seek to teach the gospel to our children or to investigators by the world’s way of study and reason, independent of the witness and teaching of the Spirit. But the results are not the same. If we deviate from the



Lord's way, we relinquish the Lord's promises. President Brigham Young (1801–77) explained an important difference between a conversion based on intellectual grounds and a conversion based on a spiritual witness when he said: "Many receive the Gospel because they know it is true; they are convinced in their judgment that it is true; strong argument overpowers them, and they are rationally compelled to admit the Gospel to be true upon fair reasoning. They yield to it, and obey its first principles, but never seek to be enlightened by the power of the Holy Ghost; such ones frequently step out of the way" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* [1997], 80).

There are those whose intellectual approach to spiritual things has left them spiritually undernourished and vulnerable to doubts and misgivings. President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, has suggested how such persons can seek greater spirituality: "Their faith can be strengthened by following their intuitive judgment and the purest and noblest feelings of their own souls" (*Reach Up for the Light* [1990], 29). Note President Faust's use of the word *feelings*. Spiritual things, like conversion and testimony, come in large part by feelings—the enlightenment of the Spirit. Those who seek or are satisfied to stop with an intellectual conviction live in a spiritual habitation built upon the sand. For them and for their children—if that is all the inheritance their children obtain—that habitation is forever vulnerable. The things of God, including a spiritual conversion and testimony, must be transmitted in the Lord's way, "by the Spirit."

In response to a skeptic's questions about the



Teach

We are taught that it is not enough simply to speak or teach the truth; we must teach gospel truths "by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth."

Resurrection, the prophet Alma gave this great insight into the mysteries of God:

"It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; nevertheless they are laid under a strict command that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word which he doth grant unto the children of men, according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him.

"And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full.

"And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; and then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction. Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell" (Alma 12:9–11).

We teach and learn the mysteries of God by revelation from His Holy Spirit. If we harden our hearts to revelation and limit our understanding to what we can obtain by study and reason, we are limited to what Alma called "the lesser portion of the word."

THE POWER OF PARENTAL EXAMPLE

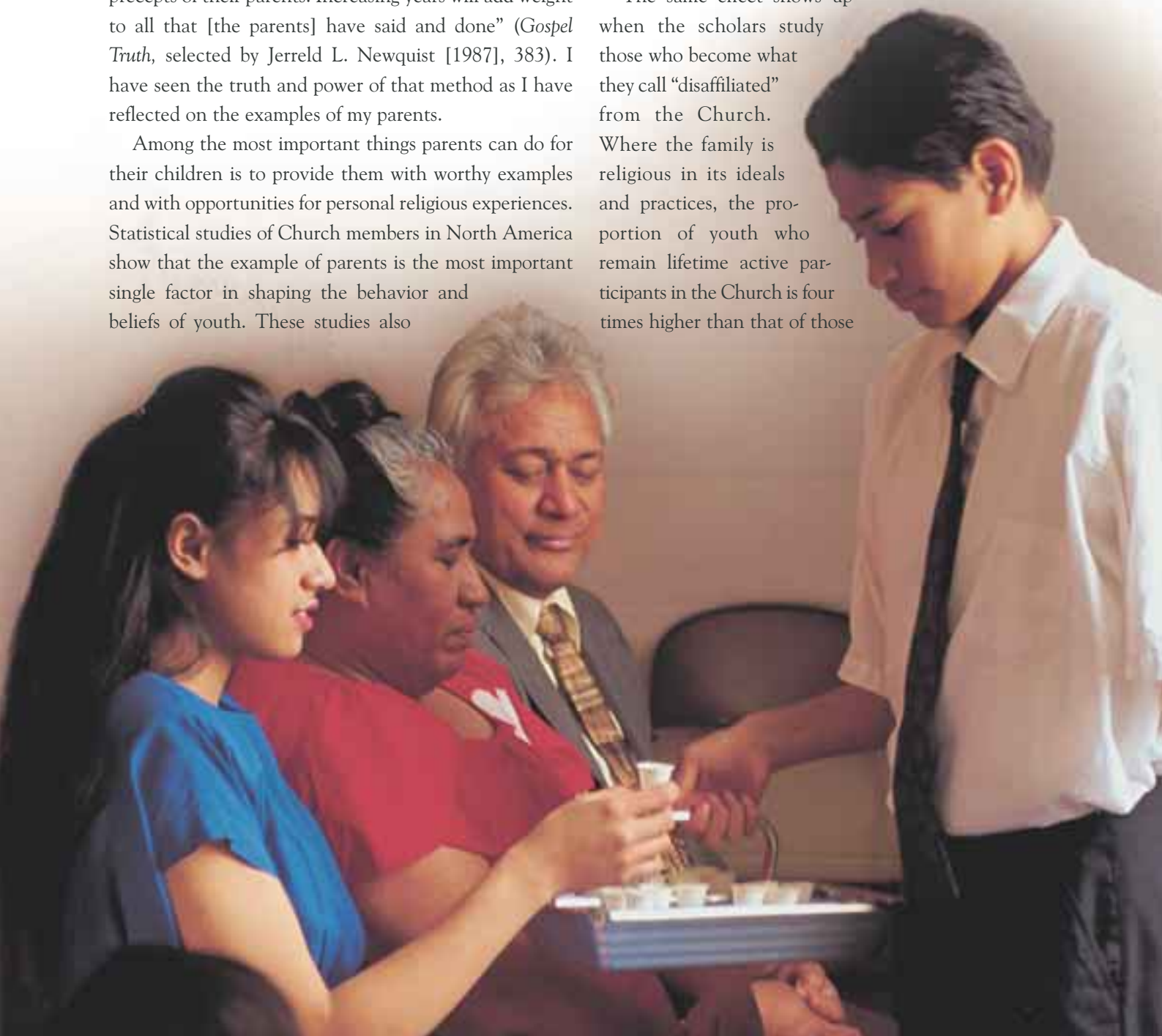
As we seek to transmit faith and spiritual nourishment to our children, few methods are more effective than parental example. Family prayer and parental teachings and testimonies, such as in family home evenings, are powerful transmitters of religious values. So are Sabbath observance, tithe paying, and missionary service.

More than a hundred years ago, President George Q. Cannon (1827–1901), First Counselor in the First Presidency, reminded parents of this principle. If they will teach correct principles and then show those principles in action by proper examples, he said, “as the children grow in years, they will think about the examples and precepts of their parents. Increasing years will add weight to all that [the parents] have said and done” (*Gospel Truth*, selected by Jerreld L. Newquist [1987], 383). I have seen the truth and power of that method as I have reflected on the examples of my parents.

Among the most important things parents can do for their children is to provide them with worthy examples and with opportunities for personal religious experiences. Statistical studies of Church members in North America show that the example of parents is the most important single factor in shaping the behavior and beliefs of youth. These studies also

show that family experiences are the strongest methods of affecting religious behavior—clearly exceeding the effect of Church activities. Family religious observances when young people are adolescents are important predictors of their values and behaviors when they become young adults.

The same effect shows up when the scholars study those who become what they call “disaffiliated” from the Church. Where the family is religious in its ideals and practices, the proportion of youth who remain lifetime active participants in the Church is four times higher than that of those



raised in families that are not religious.

None of this is surprising, but it is sobering. Think of the responsibility parents assume when they neglect family religious observances or when they engage in behaviors they would not recommend for their children. Further, intellectual methods and experiences are not sufficient to transmit faith and spirituality. Parents who fail to provide their children with good examples and positive personal religious experiences seriously jeopardize the transmission of faith and spirituality to the next generation.

Parents teach most effectively by what their children see them do. The parental examples that influenced me most were my mother's expressions of faith in God, her absolute support and total noncriticism of the leaders of the Church, and her faithful payment of tithing, even when times were hard.

I will describe three parental examples of the kind that give children the spiritual nourishment to sustain them throughout their lives.

Levi M. Savage was a Latter-day Saint pioneer called to settle eastern Arizona. Year after year, he labored faithfully in his assigned area. Finally, after his large family was reared, he wanted a little rest. He would not ask to be released from his mission, but he allowed his son to contact President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) in Salt Lake City to advise that at age 70 Brother Savage was still “doing day’s work on the Woodruff Dam, walking six miles [9.5 kilometers] to and from the place of his work.” The emissary asked whether Brother Savage had fulfilled his mission and could now leave and live in another place, but added that “he is willing to stay provided we think it is best for him to do so.” The President of the



Partake

Partaking of the emblems of the sacrament—bread and water—is one of the means by which we may be “filled with the Holy Ghost,” as the Savior taught.

Church sent word that Brother Savage should “consider himself free to make his home elsewhere.”

After receiving that word, Brother Savage remained for an additional time until the new dam was built “to get the water into the valley again.” Only then did Levi Savage feel relieved of the duty imposed on him by priesthood authority in 1871, 47 years earlier (quoted in Nels Anderson, *Desert Saints* [1942], 359). What a heritage of faith and service for the spiritual inheritance of his posterity and others!

My second example also comes from pioneer times. When the Saints needed a large quantity of rags to process in their paper mill, the First Presidency asked bishops to sponsor rag drives in their local wards and settlements. In 1861, President Brigham Young called George Goddard, a loyal Church member, on a “rag mission” to promote this effort.

Brother Goddard recalled: “[This calling] was a severe blow to my native pride. . . . After being known in the community for years, as a merchant and auctioneer, and then to be seen on the streets going from door to door with a basket on one arm and an empty sack on the other, enquiring for rags at every house. Oh, what a change in the aspect of affairs. . . . When President Young first made the proposition, the humiliating prospect almost stunned me, but a few moments’ reflection reminded me that I came to these valleys of the mountains from my native country, England, for the purpose of doing the will of my Heavenly Father, my time and means must be at His disposal. I therefore answered President Young in the affirmative” (quoted in Leonard J. Arrington, *Great Basin Kingdom* [1958], 115).

For more than three years, George Goddard traveled from Franklin, Idaho, in the north to Sanpete County, Utah, in the south, visiting hundreds of houses. On Sundays he preached what were called “rag sermons.” By the end of this three-year mission, he had collected more than 45,000 kilograms of rags for the paper project. It was humble work, but it was essential for the progress of his community, and it was assigned by priesthood authority.

My third example is more modern. In *Tongan Saints: Legacy of Faith*, Brigham Young University—Hawaii president Eric B. Shumway shares something he experienced as a young missionary in Tonga. He was invited to the evening meal of a faithful Tongan family who were living in extreme poverty. Brother Shumway writes:

“Now the Kinikini family had no plantation and no animals on Tongatapu, except for a small flock of ducks that eventually dwindled to one little duckling. When I sat down on the floor in the family circle that night, four young children watched their mother put pieces of boiled breadfruit before each one of us. Then, before me, she put a freshly boiled duckling. The sight and the aroma of this delicacy made a visible impression on the children who were sitting quietly with their hands clasped in their lap. It was clear that the duckling was for me.

“‘I’ll not eat this by myself,’ I said to [Brother] Tevita Muli. ‘We will all share.’

“Before I could start dividing it, Tevita Muli quickly interrupted, ‘No, you will eat it by yourself. It is yours!’

“‘But your children?’ I protested.

“‘They do not want to touch it,’ he continued. ‘You honor them by eating it yourself. Some day they will be



Serve

God reveals Himself and His eternal truths—the spiritual food that the scriptures call the bread of life and the living water—to those who seek, who serve, who keep His commandments, and who wait and listen in humility for His teaching.

proud to tell their children they went without *kiki* (meat), so that a servant of the Lord might eat and be filled’” ([1991], 10).

Parental examples like these provide spiritual nourishment and build faith in children and others who observe. This is the kind of teaching that builds testimony and passes faith and spirituality to the next generation.

NURTURING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Jesus’ words to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well remind us of the difference between worldly things and heavenly things, between physical nourishment and spiritual nourishment. “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again,” He told the woman. “But whosoever drinketh of

the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13–14).

Jesus frequently used the familiar examples of food and drink to teach His lessons. In the Beatitudes He declared, “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). The inspired account in the Book of Mormon reveals the spiritual means by which this promise is fulfilled: “. . . for they shall be filled *with the Holy Ghost*” (3 Nephi 12:6; emphasis added).

In the Book of Mormon we also learn that partaking of the emblems of the sacrament—bread and water—is one of the means by which this is accomplished: “He that eateth this bread eateth of my body to his soul; and he that drinketh of this wine drinketh of my blood to his soul; and his soul shall never hunger nor thirst, but shall be filled” (3 Nephi 20:8).

Similarly, John reports Jesus' saying: "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

When we think of how to teach our children the things of the Spirit—how to give them the living water and the bread of life—we should understand that this must be done in the Lord's way, not in the world's way. Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–85) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles wrote: "A special standard of judgment is needed to prove anything in the spiritual realm. No scientific research, no intellectual inquiry, no investigative processes known to mortal man can prove that God is a personal being, that all men will be raised in immortality, and that repentant souls are born of the Spirit. . . . Spiritual verities can be proven only by spiritual means" (*The Millennial Messiah* [1982], 175).

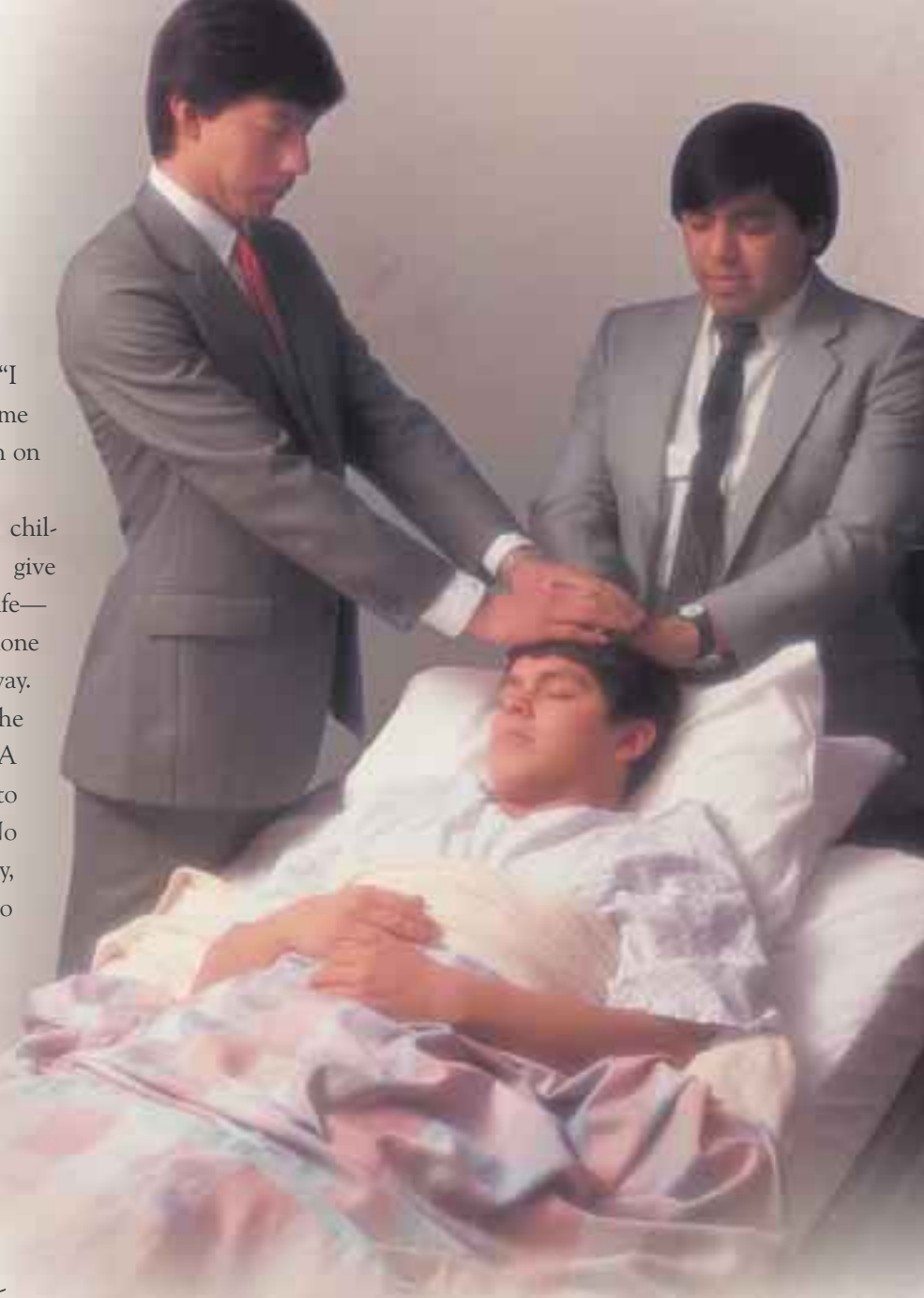
Intellectual methods—study and reason—are essential to our progress toward eternal life, but they are not sufficient. They can prepare the way. They can get the mind ready to receive the Spirit. But what the scriptures call *conversion*—the change of mind and heart that gives us the direction and strength to move resolutely toward eternal life—comes only by the witness and power of the Holy Spirit.

President James E. Faust taught this same truth when he urged us to nurture what he called "a simple, untroubled faith," observing that we sometimes "spend time satisfying our intellectual egos and trying to find all the answers before we accept any." He continued: "We are all in pursuit of truth and knowledge. The nurturing of simple, untroubled faith does not limit us in the

pursuit of growth and accomplishment. On the contrary, it may intensify and hasten our progress" (*Reach Up for the Light*, 15).

Gospel truths and testimony are received from the Holy Ghost through prayerful seeking, through faith, through scripture study, through righteous living, through listening to inspired communications and counsel, through serious conversations with persons of faith, and through reverent personal study and quiet contemplation. It is by these means that our souls are nourished and we realize the promise given in 3 Nephi that we will "be filled with the Holy Ghost" (12:6). □

From an address given at Ricks College on 13 February 1996.



LEFT: CHRIST HEALING THE SICK AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA, BY CARL HEINRICH BLOCH, COURTESY OF THE BETHESDA DANSK INDRÉ MISSION; RIGHT: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE BUNDERSON

“This Is What I Was Looking For!”



By Rodolfo Barboza Guerrero



From the time I was a small boy in Lima, Perú, I had an inclination to seek the things of God. In my childhood, I faithfully attended my family’s church. I spent part of my youth singing in the church choir.

But when I was 17 years old, as I was praying in church, a feeling of uncertainty came into my mind. A particular point of doctrine caused me to wonder if I was in the right place.

That very night, I looked through much of the New Testament. I also went to see a neighbor who was a member of another church, and together we read from

the Bible and found answers to some of the doctrinal questions that had begun troubling me.

It wasn’t hard for me to see that I had been on the wrong road. But it wasn’t easy to find the truth. I attended various religious meetings. I read several articles that discussed God, but none of them aroused any great interest in me. Meanwhile I continued to read the New Testament. I was very interested in finding out about the sheep “not of this fold” that Jesus mentioned in John 10:16.

For almost a year I identified myself as a Christian but did not affiliate with any specific denomination. I was studying at a technology center, and religion was a frequent topic of conversation. One day I overheard a discussion between a young Latter-day Saint and a member of another church. The assurance in the Latter-day Saint's voice and the power of his words made an impression on me. The only thing I had heard about Mormons was that they were a group of cowboys. I didn't know any Mormons well, and there was no LDS Church building nearby.

About that time I was waiting in a doctor's office, and I noticed that the young lady seated next to me had opened a book with a blue cover. The book's text was written in columns like the Bible. I was curious to know if it was the Bible, but I also wanted to get back to the comic book I had been reading.

I directed my eyes to the blue book and read a word at the top of the page: Alma. I made an effort to remember that name from my Bible reading, then went back to my comic book. But the blue book continued to attract me, and once again I directed my eyes to that mysterious book.

When the young lady noticed my interest, I asked if the book was the Bible. She answered no and asked me what church I belonged to. I told her none, because I didn't know which one was true.

That night I couldn't stop thinking about that strange book. I didn't know its name, because the young lady had said only that it belonged to the Mormon Church. I told my friend Gheri about it, and he offered to get me a copy. Several weeks went by, and then one afternoon he handed me a book without a cover and with worn pages. All he said was, "Here's the book."

That afternoon I opened the book and read the testimony of Joseph Smith. I felt that it was what I had wanted to know; the feeling became stronger when I read about the visit of the angel Moroni. Unable to contain my excitement, I arose from my chair and shouted, "This

is what I was looking for! Here is the truth!" I read the first chapters of 1 Nephi very slowly. I felt that I understood them as I had never understood a book before.

Despite my efforts, I couldn't locate an LDS meeting-house. Gheri offered to help, but I never did find the address of the building closest to where I lived. In the meantime, he loaned me some pamphlets that he had.

Finally, while walking not far from my house, I saw a building under construction. The sign read, "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." I recognized the name from the pamphlets.

Months later, when construction was finished, my sister Haydee and I went together to that building. Two missionaries greeted us, and I told them about my experience with the Book of Mormon and my desire to be a member of the Church.

During the discussions, I told the missionaries of my concern about the sheep of the other fold. They asked me to read of the Savior's visit to the Americas—particularly His words in 3 Nephi 15:16–21—and I knew I had found my answer at last. Two weeks after finishing the missionary discussions, my sister and I were baptized into the Church I had sought for so long.

I then prepared myself to be a missionary, and one year later I received a call to serve full time in the Perú Lima North Mission. The testimony I bore on my mission was that what I had received was not revealed to me by "flesh and blood" but by "my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 16:17).

Today, many years later, I long to share my testimony with the world, because I know this is the Lord's true Church. He has blessed me and my wife with a temple marriage and with three beautiful children. We are all happily serving in His Church. My gratitude to the Lord will never equal His mercy to me. □

Rodolfo Barboza Guerrero is a member of the Huascar Branch, Lima Perú Central Stake.



How Can I Prepare to Receive My Patriarchal Blessing?

Most of the youth my age have received their patriarchal blessings. I feel I should probably get mine, too, but I'm not sure I am ready. How can I prepare to receive it? How do I know when the time is right?

Answers are intended for help and perspective, not as pronouncements of Church doctrine.

LIAHONA'S ANSWER

Many Church members are concerned about when to receive a patriarchal blessing. A person receiving this blessing should be old enough and mature enough to understand its meaning and importance.

There is no prescribed age to receive your blessing, but it will be helpful as you contemplate important decisions for your future. It is appropriate to receive a patriarchal blessing before serving a mission, leaving for military service, or moving away from home. Your bishop or branch president can help; he uses judgment and inspiration to know when to issue a patriarchal blessing recommend.

The calling of a patriarch is a revelatory calling. Patriarchs give blessings under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. These blessings name your lineage in the house of Israel and may include blessings, promises, advice, admonition, and warnings. Of course,

the fulfillment of promised blessings depends on your faithfulness.

More important than the time or age at which a young person or a new convert receives this blessing is the person's preparation. Preparation comes through daily righteous living. You prepare each time you pray, study the scriptures, serve, obey, and so on. You also prepare by learning the basic doctrines of the gospel. If you are not sure that you are sufficiently prepared, pray and fast for help to become prepared. If you do your part, the Lord will let you know when the time is right.

When you desire a patriarchal blessing and feel worthy and prepared to receive it, ask your bishop or branch president for an interview. When he feels you are spiritually prepared, he will issue a recommend. You can then make an appointment with the patriarch. If there is not

a patriarch serving locally, you can make other arrangements through the stake or mission president. When you go to receive your blessing, wear Sunday clothes and go with a prayerful spirit. A patriarchal blessing is given in private, but your immediate family members—particularly your parents—may be present.

After receiving your patriarchal blessing, you will be given a printed copy. As you prayerfully study it, the Spirit will help you understand added levels of meaning. This sacred, personal record is confidential and should not be shared with others outside your own family.

Reviewing your blessing can help you during difficult times, because it is an expression of the Lord's love for you. It can help you understand through the Spirit your own marvelous potential and the blessings the Lord wants to give you.

President Gordon B. Hinckley explains: "I hope that we are encouraging those who are mature enough to understand the importance of a patriarchal blessing to receive one. I count my patriarchal blessing as one of the great sacred things of my life. A patriarchal blessing is a unique and sacred and personal and wonderful thing given to every member of this Church who lives worthy of it" ("Inspirational Thoughts," *Liahona*, August 1997, 5).

READERS' ANSWERS

A patriarchal blessing is one of our greatest gifts from Heavenly Father. The way to prepare ourselves is through prayer, fasting, reading and pondering the scriptures, and obeying God's commandments and the teachings of His prophets. The Lord will help you know when you are ready.

*Valentina Pyura-Pototskaya,
Donetsk Tsentralny Branch,
Donetsk Ukraine District*

A patriarchal blessing is our own personal guide. Before receiving it we need to do a lot of pondering in our hearts. We need to be faithful to Heavenly Father, because our patriarchal blessing tells us what He wants from us and also the blessings He promises us in return.

*Luisa Fernanda Guerra Hernández,
Martí Ward,
Guatemala City Guatemala El Molino Stake*

I know I am a son of Heavenly Father. It is important, therefore, for me to faithfully seek His blessings. I will learn about these blessings in my patriarchal blessing. To be prepared spiritually, I can seek help from my bishop, stake president, and parents. And I can pray faithfully for help.

*Ivan Hoe Taumoe'anga,
Navutoka First Ward,
Nuku'alofa Tonga East Stake*

I received my patriarchal blessing when I was 16 years old. My interest in receiving it started during a lesson about patriarchal blessings. Later that interest grew into a desire. Then our stake patriarch spoke at a fireside, and I realized I was ready.

As we pray, fast, and study the scriptures, the Holy Ghost can tell us when we're ready. My parents also helped me make this decision.

*Maaike van Andel,
Zwolle Branch,
Apeldoorn Netherlands Stake*

Every time I learned about patriarchal blessings, I felt a confirmation of their truthfulness. There grew in my heart a desire to receive this blessing from the Lord. I tried to do everything I learned in my Church meetings, and I asked for guidance from my bishop to help me prepare for this blessing.

*Valéria Cristina Ribeiro Custódio,
Itapoã Ward,
Vila Velha Brazil Stake*



Valentina Pyura-Pototskaya



Luisa Fernanda Guerra Hernández



Ivan Hoe Taumoe'anga



Maaike van Andel



Valéria Cristina Ribeiro Custódio



Caroline Lopes Reboucas



Elder William Enrique García Torres



Michelle M. Littaua



Sister Estela Zuleta Chávez

A patriarchal blessing is a message to you from Heavenly Father; it gives you a better understanding of your mission on earth. When we pray with faith, we are preparing ourselves. Fasting and cultivating good thoughts and feelings make us more worthy to receive a special message from God. He will certainly help you recognize when you are prepared.

*Caroline Lopes Reboucas,
Tijuca Ward,
Rio de Janeiro Brazil Andarai Stake*

I'm serving a full-time mission, and my patriarchal blessing really helps me. It's like the Liahona that guided Lehi and his family. When I feel discouraged, I read my patriarchal blessing. It fills me with joy.

*Elder William Enrique García Torres,
Guatemala Guatemala City Central Mission*

How can I prepare? I can be worthy by keeping the commandments of God. I can study the scriptures and sustain the leaders of the Church. I can also magnify whatever calling I have.

If you have done these things, then it's time to see your bishop or branch president and talk about getting a recommend. The formula is simple: worthiness.

*Michelle M. Littaua,
Tuguegarao Fourth Ward,
Tuguegarao Philippines Stake*

We need to prepare spiritually to receive our patriarchal blessings by studying the scriptures, praying to Heavenly Father, and living the way He wants us to live. We need to be clean in word and thought so we can be worthy of the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Then the Holy Ghost will bear witness to our hearts, and we will know we are ready.

*Sister Estela Zuleta Chávez,
Costa Rica San José Mission*

You can make the QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS section helpful by answering the question below. Please mail your answer to arrive no later than 1 October 2001. Send it to QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 10/01, Liahona, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA. Your answer may be typed or clearly written in your own language. For your answer to be considered, it must include your full name, age, home address, and ward and stake (or branch and district). If possible, please include a photograph of yourself; this photograph will not be returned. A representative selection of answers will be published. □

QUESTION: *Some of my friends say I don't believe in the real Jesus Christ because I'm a member of the Church. Nothing I say makes a difference. What can I do?*

STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILIES THROUGH FAMILY HOME EVENING

Hold your family home evenings . . .,” says President Gordon B. Hinckley. “I can remember when it was begun. I was a little boy five years old, and my father said, ‘President [Joseph F.] Smith has asked us to hold family home evenings.’ And we did it. It was not easy to do at first. We were more prone to laugh and giggle than we were to be well behaved. But we did it. I see the fruits of it in my own family and in the families of my grandchildren and in the families of my great-grandchildren. The principle of family solidarity carries with it a conviction of its truth” (“Words of the Living Prophet,” *Liahona*, April 1999, 18).

EFFECTIVE FAMILY HOME EVENINGS

Family home evening fosters love and unity within families, invites the Spirit, and helps family members strengthen their testimonies and withstand temptations. For most families, Monday night is the best time to hold family home evening. That night is kept free of Church meetings and activities so families can meet together and strengthen one another while they learn and practice gospel principles together.

Family home evening could include family prayer, gospel instruction, hymns or Primary songs, and a family activity. Lesson material can be found in many Church resources, including the scriptures, *Gospel Principles* (item number 31110), the *Family Home Evening Resource Book* (item number 31106), and the Church magazines (see page 48 of this issue of the *Liahona*). Family home evening might include activities such as holding a family council, reading the scriptures, enjoying a recreational activity, planning and carrying out a service project, having a family talent show, or enjoying special refreshments.

“Family home evening presents a special opportunity to teach the gospel to the family,” said Elder Merlin R. Lybbert, while serving as a member of the Seventy. “The parents of a five-year-old were

concerned about how they should teach of Nephi’s encounter with the wicked Laban. . . .

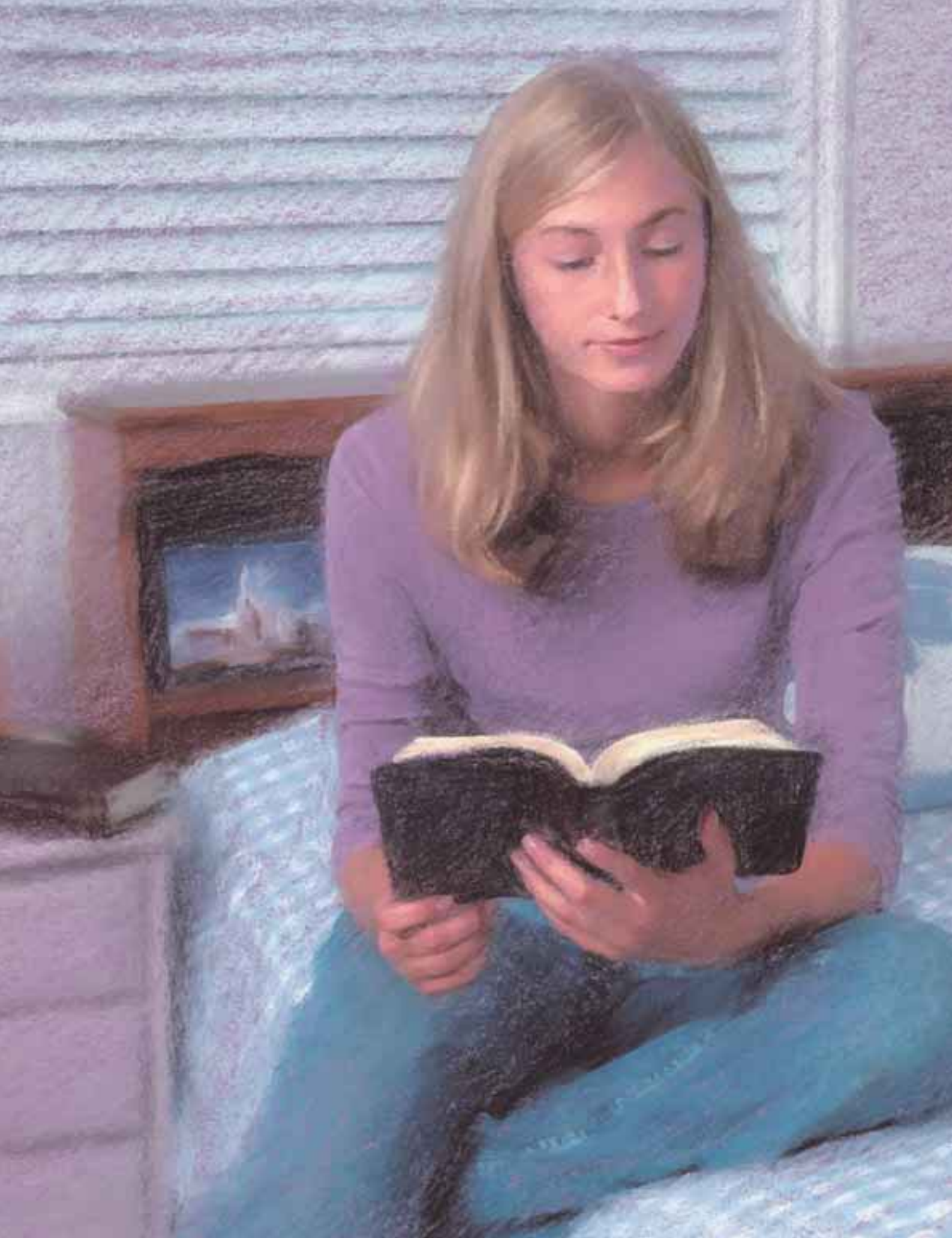
“As this young boy, my grandson, knelt beside his bed that evening, his prayer demonstrated his understanding and personal application of the lesson. He said, ‘And help me, Heavenly Father, to be obedient like Nephi, even when it’s hard’” (“The Special Status of Children,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 32).

BLESSINGS FOR ALL

Whatever our circumstances, we are blessed by participating in family home evening. “Family home evening is for everyone,” President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) and his Counselors declared. “It is for families with parents and children, for families with just one parent, and for parents who have no children at home. It is for home evening groups of single adults and for those who live alone or with roommates” (*Family Home Evening* [1976], 3).

For nearly 90 years now, prophets have counseled us to hold family home evening. Today prophets plead with us to strengthen our families through weekly family home evening. As we follow their counsel, we are blessed to learn just how inspired that counsel has been. □





Winning My War

I was losing a battle I didn't even realize I was fighting. Then someone handed me my armor.

During my junior year of high school, my life began to get off track. I went to church only to pacify my parents, not because I wanted to. Toward the end of the year, nothing was going right—not at school, not at work, and especially not at home.

One day I went to my sister's house. At that time her husband, Gerry, was in the bishopric. I began to tell them all the things that were going wrong in my life. After patiently listening, Gerry suggested I start reading the Book of Mormon 30 minutes a day. I had tried everything else, and nothing had worked, so I decided to give it a try. Gerry promised me if I truly tried to read for 30 minutes a day for a whole month, things would start to change for the better.

I started reading that very night. I think it was the longest half hour of my life. The next day was just a day; nothing great or horrible happened.

But change takes time. The next week was not an easy one. I missed the extra half hour of sleep, but I

kept reading. Soon I started to notice that little things were working out better.

Then I received one of the biggest blessings I had ever had, although I didn't recognize it at first. I had the opportunity to go to Ireland to work for the summer. I was already two weeks into my month of reading when I left, so I decided to continue the Book of Mormon test in Ireland and read every day.

My life began to change dramatically. I began to love the things I had detested. I looked forward to going to church at my little branch in Ireland. I gained a more positive outlook on life, and my testimony began to grow by leaps and bounds.

One day I wrote in my journal: *Today was the most wonderful day. I woke up and went to church at 10:30. Today was our branch conference. It was the most spiritual meeting I have ever attended! I don't think I have ever felt the Spirit so strongly before. The people here in Galway are the friendliest, most generous, most righteous people I have*

Nothing was going right in my life. Then my brother-in-law suggested I start reading the Book of Mormon for 30 minutes a day. Soon I started to notice that little things were working out better.



By Trisha Swanson Dayton

Win by Feasting

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles teaches: “If we ‘press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, . . . [we] shall have eternal life’ [2 Nephi 31:20]. To feast means more than to taste. To feast means to savor. We savor the scriptures by studying them in a spirit of delightful discovery and faithful obedience. When we feast upon the words of Christ, they are embedded ‘in fleshy tables of the heart’ [2 Corinthians 3:3]. They become an integral part of our nature” (“Living by Scriptural Guidance,” *Liahona*, January 2001, 21).



My sister explained that there was a war going on for my soul, and I was the only one who could win it.

ever met. They give me strength. They are so firmly rooted in the gospel; I learn so much just by their examples. I think today is the first time I have ever known or felt absolutely positive that the gospel is right and true.

Reading the Book of Mormon was no longer a chore. It was something I began to look forward to every day.

My time in Ireland was soon up, and I had to return home. I knew that facing my home life and my old friends was going to be a great challenge.

When I got home, though, it wasn't as bad as I thought. My mom and I actually saw eye to eye on a lot of things, and I grew to love her with all my heart. As the wrinkles in my home life began to iron out, so did the situation with my friends. I stopped hanging out with some of my old friends and started associating with a different group of girls. This change was hard, but I had a lot of support. My life took a complete turn.

Throughout this whole process, I had the scriptures and my sister to help me. My sister always knew

when things were getting rough, and she wrote notes of encouragement. She gave me a compass to remind me of the changes I had made in my life and to encourage me to keep going in the right direction.

A few months later, time became harder to find, and scripture study became shorter and shorter. I found that my compass had grown cloudy.

My sister wrote me this note: *You know, Trish, I feel that you are in a major war for your soul, and as much as I would like to be with you on the daily battlefield and as much as I talk about fighting for you, I realized last night that you are the only one who can win your war. You are the only one who can put on your armor every day by reading the Book of Mormon.*

Once again I turned to the scriptures, increasing my reading to 30 minutes a day. And again, things turned around.

I know there is a battle raging each day for our souls. Satan wants to have us, but we have the tools to fight back. I know from experience that reading the Book of Mormon every day will keep us headed in the right direction. I know it helped me. I have a testimony of the power of the scriptures and all they can do for each of us. Take the challenge and find out for yourself. □

Trisha Swanson Dayton is a member of the BYU 200th Ward, Brigham Young University 18th Stake.

Latter-day Prophets Speak about Scripture Study



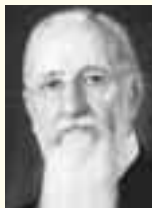
**JOSEPH SMITH (1805–44), FIRST
PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book” (*History of the Church*, 4:461).



**BRIGHAM YOUNG (1801–77), SECOND
PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“We consider the Bible . . . as a guide . . . pointing to a certain destination. This is a true doctrine, which we boldly advance. If you will follow the doctrines, and be guided by the precepts of that book, it will direct you where you may see as you are seen, where you may converse with Jesus Christ, have the visitation of angels, have dreams, visions, and revelations, and understand and know God for yourselves” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* [1997], 120).



**JOSEPH F. SMITH (1838–1918), SIXTH
PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“I see too many of our people who are very much better read in the things that are written by some of the popular authors of books than they are in the things of God. They don’t know one thing about the real essence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they don’t know or comprehend one thing about the rites of the Priesthood and the principles of government

that God has revealed to the children of men to maintain the kingdom of God in the earth. They know more about novels than they do about the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants—yes, far more” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* [1998], 46).



**SPENCER W. KIMBALL (1895–1985),
TWELFTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“I find that when I get casual in my relationships with divinity and when it seems that no divine ear is listening and no divine voice is speaking, that I am far, far away. If I immerse myself in the scriptures the distance narrows and the spirituality returns. I find myself loving more intensely those whom I must love with all my heart and mind and strength, and loving them more, I find it easier to abide their counsel” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, edited by Edward L. Kimball [1982], 135).



**GORDON B. HINCKLEY (1910–),
FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“[The Book of Mormon] came forth as a voice from the dust, from Cumorah’s hill, to go forth to the world in declaration of the divinity of the Lord. . . . It carries with it an inspiration, a power that is wonderful to behold. It is more than just an ordinary book; it is something which touches the hearts of those who read it prayerfully and carefully” (“Inspirational Thoughts,” *Liahona*, August 2000, 5). □

The faith, obedience, gratitude, and sacrifice of our forefathers are all gifts we can pass on to our children.



ANCHORED BY
FAITH
AND
COMMITMENT

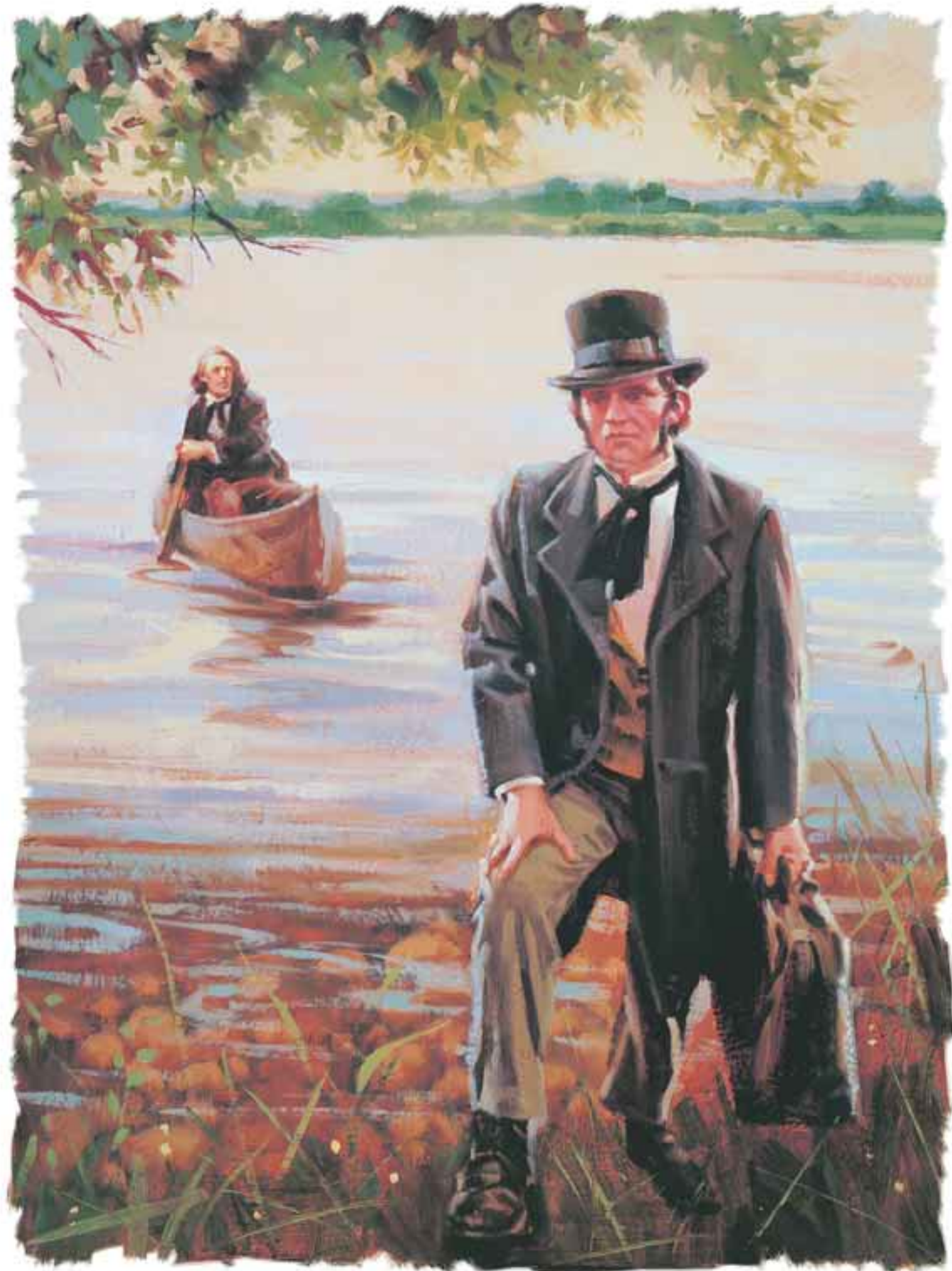
By **Elder M. Russell Ballard**
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



IN A DISCOURSE GIVEN BEFORE
APRIL 1844, THE PROPHET

THOUSANDS IN NAUVOO IN
JOSEPH SMITH SPOKE ABOUT

THE IMPORTANCE OF STARTING OUT WITH A CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHARACTER AND DESIGNS OF GOD. HE STATED, "IF WE START RIGHT, IT IS EASY TO GO RIGHT ALL THE TIME; BUT IF WE START WRONG WE MAY GO WRONG, AND IT WILL BE A HARD MATTER TO GET RIGHT" (*HISTORY OF THE CHURCH*, 6:303). AS WE CONSIDER WHAT IS AHEAD FOR OURSELVES, FOR OUR FAMILIES, AND FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD, DO WE FULLY COMPREHEND THE DESIGNS OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES?





In 1920, Brother Marion G. Romney attended a Fremont Stake conference in the Rexburg Tabernacle. My grandfather, Elder Melvin J. Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was the presiding authority. Because Brother Romney was 23 years of age and the financial circumstances of his family were very difficult, he had not contemplated serving a full-time mission.

Years later, on 15 October 1963, Elder Romney, then a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, explained his experience: “At the time I graduated, I planned to go in the fall to the University of Idaho. It was my intention to play basketball and football and prepare to be a coach. In late August, I attended a stake conference [and] sat on the front row at the east end of the choir seats directly north of the pulpit. As I listened intently with my eyes fixed on [Elder Ballard’s] profile, there came to me by the power of the Spirit an irresistible urgency to go on a mission. There and then I abandoned my plans for a coaching career. In November I left for a mission to Australia” (address given at a Ricks College devotional, 15 October 1963).

Elder Romney, en route to Australia, came to Salt Lake City, where my grandfather set him apart as a missionary. Grandfather gave Elder Romney counsel and said, among other things, “One never gives a crust to the Lord without receiving a loaf in return” (quoted in F. Burton Howard, *Marion G. Romney: His Life and Faith* [1988], 66). Marion G. Romney never forgot that phrase.

As we seek to understand the work the Lord has for us to accomplish, we may consider the current situation of some countries. Unlike past years when many adults could count on continued progress within a particular occupation until retirement, career changes and setbacks are now increasingly the rule rather than the exception. On the one hand, we see the growth of a world economy and the accelerating pace of scientific and technological advances. We also see the spread of terrorism, the explosion of gangs and crime, and ethnic hatred causing entire nations to disintegrate. Powerful forces in society are

attacking gospel values, demolishing families, and corroding the principles and integrity of some leaders in business and government.

We can certainly anticipate some exciting and wonderful opportunities in the years ahead. But it will be more and more difficult to remain a committed follower of Jesus Christ. I believe future followers of Christ will face adversity and persecution that is much more intense than anything we see today.

What course will we set in the future? What will be our compass in the midst of the storms of life? What will be our anchor to keep us from drifting off the course that will lead us to eternal life?

I turn for answers to these questions to the lives of the Prophet Joseph Smith; his mother, Lucy Mack Smith; and other valiant men and women who laid the foundation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

SETTING THE COURSE: THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH

Joseph Smith’s name is very dear to all faithful Latter-day Saints. His name is especially dear to me and my family because we are blessed to claim his older brother Hyrum as our forefather.

We often think of that day in 1805, just two days before Christmas, when the Prophet Joseph Smith was born in a humble home in the rolling hills of Vermont. More than 195 years have passed since his birth. On 27 June of each year, we acknowledge the day Joseph and Hyrum were martyred in Carthage Jail. As we face our own trials in future years, we must always remember Joseph Smith’s perseverance in the face of incredible hardships and opposition to bring forth the restored Church of Jesus Christ.

I love the experience President Wilford Woodruff tells of the Prophet’s message to the elders who met in preparation for the 1834 Zion’s Camp march: “On Sunday night the Prophet called on all who held the



Priesthood to gather into the little log school house they had there. It was a small house, perhaps 14 feet [4.2 meters] square. But it held the whole of the Priesthood of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who were then in the town of Kirtland, and who had gathered together to go off in Zion's camp. That was the first time I ever saw Oliver Cowdery, or heard him speak; the first time I ever saw Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, and the two Pratts, and Orson Hyde and many others. There were no Apostles in the Church then except Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. When we got together the Prophet called upon the Elders of Israel with him to bear testimony of this work. Those that I have named spoke, and a good many that I have not named, bore their testimonies. When they got through the Prophet said, 'Brethren I have been very much edified and instructed in your testimonies here tonight, but I want to say to you before the Lord, that you know no more concerning the destinies of this Church and kingdom than a babe upon its mother's lap. You don't comprehend it.' I was rather surprised. He said 'it is only a little handfull of Priesthood you see here tonight, but this Church will fill North and South America—it will fill the world'" (in Conference Report, April 1898, 57).

The Articles of Faith first appeared in a letter that Joseph Smith wrote to Mr. John Wentworth, the editor of a Chicago newspaper. In the Wentworth letter, which was dated 1 March 1842, Joseph Smith wrote a vision of the destiny of the Church in a profound prophecy: "The Standard of Truth has been erected; no unhallowed hand

can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly, and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done" (*History of the Church*, 4:540).

Since the organization of the Church in 1830,

17 decades have passed. We have had more than 170 years to observe what has happened in fulfillment of this prophecy. The truth of God has gone to the nations despite persecution and opposition. Persecutions have raged, mobs have combined, armies have assembled, and calumny has defamed.

The Church began its first decade with only six members, and "unhallowed hands" made every effort to stop the spread of the gospel and destroy the Church in its infancy. Joseph

Smith soon learned how mobs may combine.

From Church history we read: "Certain residents of Hiram, Ohio, vented their personal feelings with mob action directed against the Prophet and Sidney Rigdon. Stimulated by whiskey and hidden behind blackened faces, a gang of more than two dozen men dragged Joseph from his bed during the night of March 24, 1832. Choking him into submission, they stripped him naked, scratched his skin with their fingernails, tore his hair, then smeared his body with tar and feathers. A vial of nitric acid forced against his teeth splashed on his face; a front tooth was broken. Meanwhile other members of the mob dragged Rigdon

We can certainly anticipate some exciting and wonderful opportunities in the years ahead. But it will be more and more difficult to remain a committed follower of Jesus Christ. I believe future followers of Christ will face adversity and persecution that is much more intense than anything we see today.



by the heels from his home, bumping his head on the frozen ground, which left him delirious for days. The Prophet's friends spent the night removing the tar to help him keep a Sunday morning [preaching] appointment. He addressed a congregation that included Simonds Ryder, organizer of the mob" (James B. Allen and Glen M. Leonard, *The Story of the Latter-day Saints* [1976], 71).

Ryder was a convert who turned away because the

is by Him we received our birth. It was by His voice that we were called to a dispensation of His Gospel in the beginning of the fullness of times. It was by Him we received the Book of Mormon; and it is by Him that we remain unto this day; and by Him we shall remain, if it shall be for our glory; and in His Almighty name we are determined to endure tribulation as good soldiers unto the end" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 139).



We need to learn that early members of the Church succeeded in the face of all opposition because they had the unwavering faith to open their mouths and declare the truth and because they took with them the mighty sword of the Lord's Spirit.

Prophet Joseph had misspelled his name, apparently concluding that a prophet was one who had to be a perfect speller.

Later, the Saints in Missouri found out in a tragic manner how the armies of the enemy may assemble. In 1838 Governor Lilburn W. Boggs of Missouri issued his infamous "Order of Extermination" (see *History of the Church*, 3:175). From history we learn of the horrifying story of Haun's Mill (see *History of the Church*, 3:182–87).

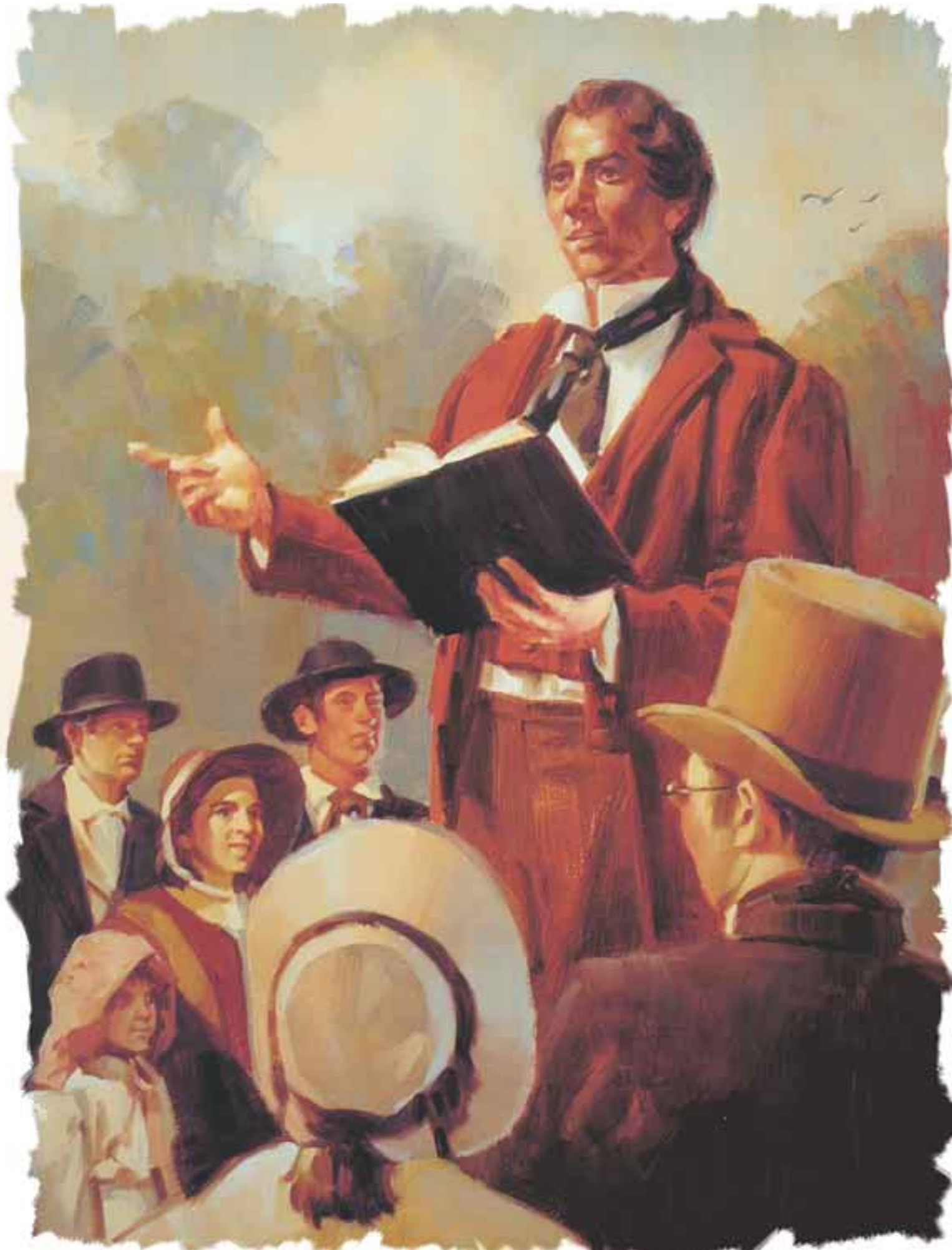
In the midst of all these trials, Joseph said: "Hell may pour forth its rage like the burning lava of Mount Vesuvius, or of Etna, or of the most terrible of the burning mountains; and yet shall 'Mormonism' stand. Water, fire, truth and God are all realities. Truth is 'Mormonism.' God is the author of it. He is our shield. It

COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE: THE EARLY MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH

Despite intense opposition against all efforts to erect the standard of truth, 597 missionaries were set apart during the 1830s, and nearly 20,000 converts joined the restored Church during that first decade. Missionaries taught and baptized people in most of the states then in the United States, and both Canada and Great Britain were opened to the preaching of the gospel. The gospel message penetrated two continents and began to sweep across three nations.

Lorenzo Snow was a great early missionary. He had been a member of the Church for less than a year when he set out on his first mission in 1837. He tells about his first experiences preaching the gospel in the following words:

"I . . . traveled about thirty miles [48 kilometers], and





just as the sun was setting I made my first call for a night's lodging, as a 'Mormon' Elder, and was refused; then another, and so on, until the eighth call, when I was admitted to a night's lodging—going to bed supperless, and leaving in the morning, minus a breakfast.

“The first meeting I held was in the neighborhood of my uncle, by the name of Goddard, near the county seat of Medina County, Ohio. The people were notified and a respectable congregation assembled. It was a sore trial to face that audience in the capacity of a preacher, but I believed and felt an assurance that a Spirit of inspiration would prompt and give me utterance. . . . [It did, for] I baptized and confirmed into the Church my uncle, aunt and several of my cousins” (quoted in Eliza R. Snow Smith, *Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow* [1884], 16).

Brothers and sisters, we need to learn that early members of the Church succeeded in the face of all opposition because they had the unwavering faith to open their mouths and declare the truth and because they took with them the mighty sword of the Lord's Spirit (see D&C 27:16–18). They remembered their baptismal covenant “to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places . . . even until death” (Mosiah 18:9).

In 1839 some members of the Quorum of the Twelve left for missions in England under very trying circumstances:

“Wilford Woodruff and John Taylor were the first to start out. Wilford, in Montrose, had been suffering for days from chills and fever. His infant daughter, Sarah Emma, also seriously ill, was being cared for by friends with more suitable accommodations. On August 8 he finally bade [his wife] Phoebe a tender farewell and walked to the banks of the Mississippi. Brigham Young paddled him across the river in a canoe. When Joseph Smith found him resting by the post office, Wilford told the Prophet that he felt and looked more like a subject for the dissecting room than a missionary. . . .

“It took Elders Woodruff and Taylor, traveling together, the rest of the month to make it as far as Germantown, Indiana. . . .

“By the time they arrived in Germantown John Taylor was so desperately ill that it was impossible for him to continue. . . .

“[He] remained ill, sometimes near death, for about three weeks. His optimism was tenacious, however, as suggested in a tender letter to [his wife] Leonora, dated September 19 [1839]:

“You may ask me how I am going to prosecute my journey. . . . I do not know but one thing I do know, that there is a being who clothes the lillies of the valley & feeds the ravens & he has given me to understand that all these things shall be added & that is all I want to know. He laid me on a bed of sickness & I was satisfied, he has raised me from it again & I am thankful. He stopped me on my road & I am content. . . . If he took me I felt that it would be well. He has spared me, & it is better” (James B. Allen, Ronald K. Esplin, and David J. Whittaker, *Men with a Mission, 1837–1841: The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in the British Isles* [1992], 67–70).

ANCHORED BY FAITH: HENRY BALLARD

Yet it was not just the Lord's Apostles in those early years who were anchored by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Many other men and women pursued a similar course of dedication and service because they had firm testimonies of the restored gospel and a vision of the destiny of the Church.

Ten years after John Taylor and Wilford Woodruff arrived in England, my own great-grandfather, Henry Ballard, was introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by a faithful member:

“Henry was only seventeen years old at the time he joined the Church [in 1849]. . . . Sometime during the winter months of 1849, Henry traveled to London News,



a community . . . north of London, to live with his married brother George [who] . . . had established a fairly successful carriage business in the area. They had much to offer Henry—especially material things. George was always kind to Henry, and being eleven years older, felt the need to protect and watch after his welfare. The following incident bears this out.

“It was Sunday evening, and Henry had just returned from church. George, curious about Henry’s whereabouts,

one would pray, then the other, in an effort to save Henry. Henry held steadfastly to his convictions, never wavering nor doubting. The Holy Ghost had told him the Church was true. He dared not deny it. Convinced no argument of reason . . . would ever change Henry’s mind, George took another approach.

“As Satan tempted Christ, George tempted Henry—or tried to. He offered to give him the best carriage in all of London. He would give him a coachman to drive him

Many men and women pursued a course of dedication and service because they had firm testimonies of the restored gospel and a vision of the destiny of the Church.



inquired as to where he had been. ‘To church,’ Henry replied. George, having already attended church without seeing Henry there asked, ‘What church?’ ‘The Mormon church,’ Henry said truthfully. Amazed and astonished, George vocally wondered why, in heaven’s name, would he attend the ‘detestable’ Mormon church. ‘Because I am a member of it,’ replied Henry. Henry then bore his testimony of the truthfulness of what he believed to be the only true church. George, unconverted, became angry.

“George reprimanded Henry severely and told him he had just made the biggest mistake of his life. Henry remained firm, but feared what his older brother might do.

“When George could see he was getting nowhere, he enlisted the support of his minister. Three days passed as they tried to persuade Henry to change his mind. First

around and cater to all of his whims. Henry would be a gentleman as he presented himself in his fine clothes, kidskin gloves, and silk hat.

“How could Henry refuse the hospitality of George’s fine home for as long as he wished? Henry would never have to work, unless it became his desire. A part of the business would be his, and he would never again live in poverty, as his father and mother had all their lives. No religion would be worth losing all this. George only asked for Henry to give up the ‘foolish notion’ of Mormonism.

“Like [the Prophet] Joseph Smith, Henry kept the faith. His testimony and strength of character prevailed.

“George was explosive. He expelled Henry from his home—forever. Henry left, heavy of heart over being such a disappointment to the brother he loved, a brother who had been so kind and giving. Henry was never to set



eyes on him again in this life” (Douglas O. Crookston, editor, *Henry Ballard: The Story of a Courageous Pioneer, 1832–1908* [1994], 4–6).

Three years later, in an impoverished condition with virtually no material possessions, Henry Ballard set sail on a 63-day trip from Liverpool to New Orleans; took a riverboat to Winter Quarters in Omaha, Nebraska; and then walked all the way to Utah. He drove a herd of sheep across the plains to pay his way. Later in life, Henry recalled his entrance into the Salt Lake Valley: “In October as I drove the sheep down little mountain and through the mouth of Emigration Canyon, I first beheld the Salt Lake Valley. While I rejoiced in viewing the ‘Promised Land,’ I lived in fear that some one might see me. I hid myself behind bushes all day until after dark for the rags I had on did not cover my body and I was ashamed to be thus exposed. After dark I crossed over the field to a house where a light was shining, near the mouth of the canyon, and timidly knocked on the door. Fortunately, a man answered the door and the candle light did not expose me to the view of the other members of his household. I begged for clothes to cover my naked body so that I might continue my journey and locate my parents. I was given some clothing and the next day continued my journey and arrived in Salt Lake City 16th October, 1852, feeling very thankful to God that I had reached my future home in safety” (quoted in *Henry Ballard*, 14–15).

Incidentally, Henry’s history discloses that one of the first proxy endowments in the Logan Temple that he performed was for his older brother George.

PRESSING FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE IN GOD:

LUCY MACK SMITH

The mother of the Prophet Joseph, Lucy Mack Smith, is a great example of unwavering faith and commitment. On one occasion, she was traveling from New York to Kirtland, Ohio. Her account of an incident in Buffalo,

New York, illustrates her faith in the prophets of the Lord and the restored gospel:

“[In Buffalo] we found the brethren from Colesville, who informed us that they had been detained one week at this place, waiting for the navigation to open [the waterway that had been blocked by ice]. Also, [we learned] that Mr. Smith and Hyrum had gone through to Kirtland by land, in order to be there by the first of April.

The mother of the Prophet Joseph, Lucy Mack Smith, is a great example of unwavering faith and commitment. We need sisters today with the same unwavering faith.

“I asked [the Colesville brethren] if they had confessed to the people that they were ‘Mormons.’ ‘No, indeed,’ they replied, ‘neither must you mention a word about your religion, for if you do you will never be able to get a house, or a boat either.’

“I told them I should tell the people precisely who I was; ‘and,’ continued I, ‘if you are ashamed of Christ, you must not expect to be prospered; and I shall wonder if we do not get to Kirtland before you’” (Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith*, edited by Preston Nibley [1958], 199).

Lucy Mack Smith then searched for and found a Captain Blake, who was willing to take her group on his boat: “On arriving there [on the boat], Captain Blake requested the passengers to remain on board, as he wished, from that time, to be ready to start at a moment’s warning; at the same time he sent out a man to measure the depth of the ice, who, when he returned, reported that it was piled up to the height of twenty feet [six





meters], and that it was his opinion that we would remain in the harbor at least two weeks longer” (*History of Joseph Smith*, 202).

Most of the Saints traveling on the boat with Lucy Mack Smith assumed that they would be there for a long stay, and many of them murmured and grumbled. Hearing and seeing their reaction, the Prophet’s mother responded: “Where is your faith? Where is your confidence in God? Can you not realize that all things were made by him, and that he rules over the works of his own hands? And suppose that all the Saints here should lift their hearts in prayer to God, that the way might be opened before us, how easy it would be for him to cause the ice to break away, so that in a moment we could be on our journey! . . .

“Now, brethren and sisters, if you will all of you raise your desires to heaven, that the ice may be broken up, and we be set at liberty, as sure as the Lord lives, it will be done.’ At that instant a noise was heard, like bursting thunder. The captain cried, ‘Every man to his post.’ The ice parted, leaving barely a passage for the boat. . . . The noise of the ice, and the cries and confusion of the spectators, presented a scene truly terrible. We had barely passed through the avenue when the ice closed together again, and the Colesville brethren were left in Buffalo, unable to follow us.

“As we were leaving the harbor, one of the bystanders exclaimed, ‘There goes the “Mormon” company! That boat is sunk in the water nine inches [23 centimeters] deeper than ever it was before, and, mark it, she will sink—there is nothing surer.’ In fact, they were so sure of it that they went straight to the office and had it published that we were sunk, so that when we arrived at Fairport we read in the papers the news of our own death.

“After our miraculous escape from the wharf at Buffalo, we called our company together and had a prayer meeting in which we offered up our thanks to God for his mercy” (*History of Joseph Smith*, 203–5).

We need sisters today with the same unwavering faith as that of the Prophet Joseph Smith’s mother.

SECURING THE FUTURE: PASSING ON OUR LEGACY OF FAITH

Why have I lifted from the pages of history these few examples of unwavering testimonies of the early members of the Church? I have done it for this reason: We must always remember what a great blessing it is to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We must never take lightly nor ever forget the price that our forefathers willingly paid for the establishment of the only true

We must never take lightly nor ever forget the price that our forefathers willingly paid for the establishment of the only true Church upon the earth.

Church upon the earth.

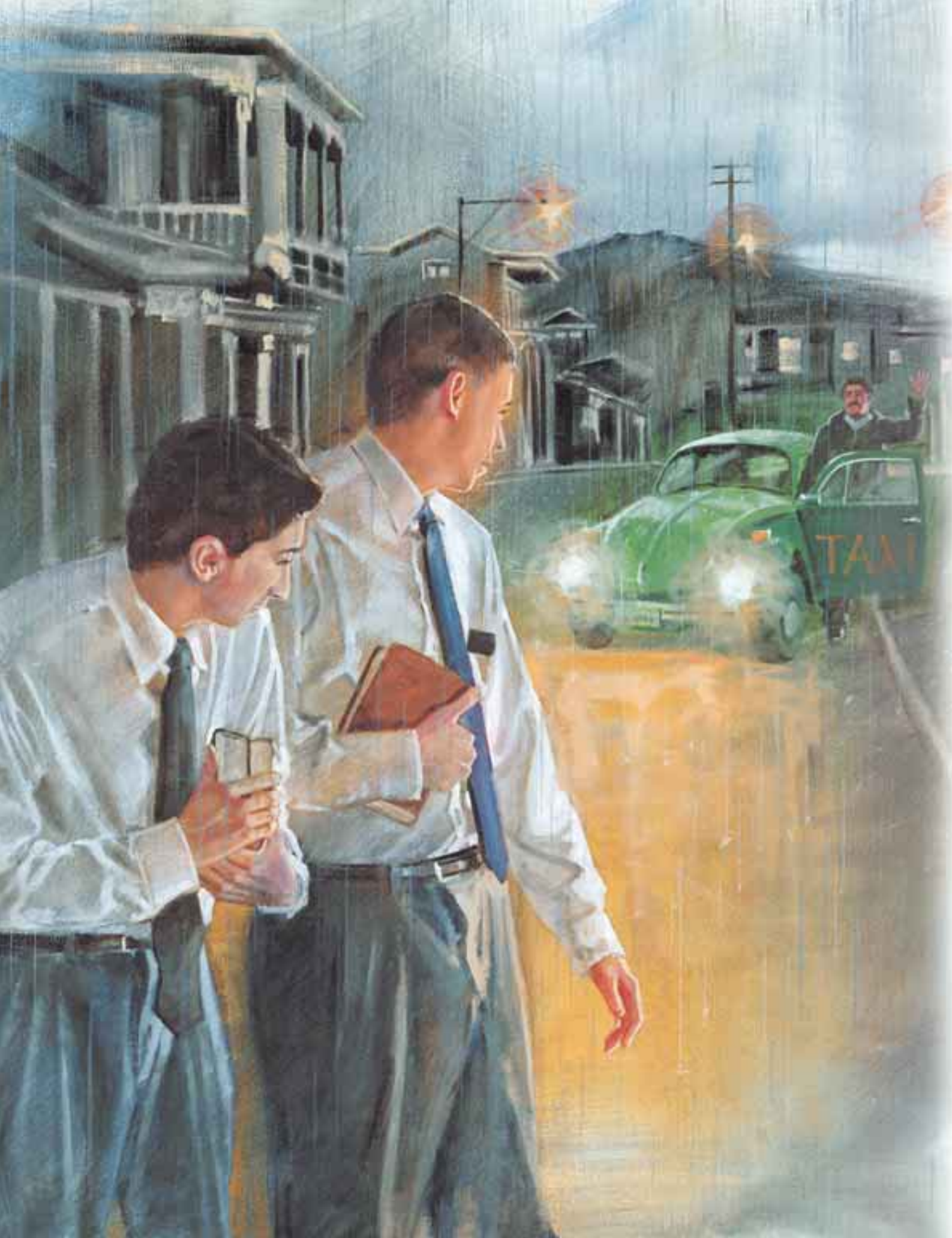
We live in a world that needs the gospel. An unwavering testimony and a lifetime of willing service to build the kingdom of God upon the earth will save us eternally.

How can we as Latter-day Saints be sure that we make a significant contribution to strengthening the Lord’s Church? If our testimonies and service can equal that of the founders of the Church, tomorrow will be secure and strong. May their examples give us courage so that we will always be trustworthy and steadfast in our stewardships as we serve God our Eternal Father. Remember the statement of the Prophet Joseph Smith: “If we start right, it is easy to go right all the time” (*Teachings*, 343). We must live by this legacy of faith and must pass this legacy on to our children so the Church will always have faithful men and women who can continue to prepare for the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. □

CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT?

Embarrassing things
happen to everyone.
Clean up if you can,
apologize if necessary,
and get on with
enjoying life.





The Cause and the Kingdom

In the Intercessory Prayer, Jesus Christ addressed His Father and summed up all He had been teaching His disciples: “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). 🍷 Jesus taught that we come to know the Father through Him, and we come unto Him by receiving those He sends to teach us (see John 12:44–50; 13:20). To this end, the Lord established His Church—the kingdom of God on earth. Through service given and received in this kingdom, the Saints are edified and perfected. 🍷 “This is the cause and kingdom of God,”

President Gordon B. Hinckley testifies. “This is His work restored in these latter days. . . . There is nothing like it in all the world. . . . This is the Church and kingdom of the Father. Believe in it. Accept its teachings. Be obedient to its counsel. Work in it. Give of your strength and energy and means to move it forward, and the Lord will bless you and bring a joy into your lives the like of which you have never before known” (see this issue, page 8). 🍷 As the following stories illustrate, a great joy does come to those who enter the kingdom and faithfully serve its King by loving and serving His children.



Thirsting for the Living Water

By Victor Manuel Cabrera

As a child, I was never taught to read the Bible. I went to church on Sundays, but I contributed nothing and felt nothing in return. I was disillusioned by my religion. I remember having serious arguments with my mother over a metal object called the *Santísimo* that my parents worshiped. They expected me to worship it as well. I could not. I searched for a better alternative,

wanting to find God—wanting to know if He even existed. I thirsted to know Him and His words. But I could not seem to find what I sought.

There were moments when I felt close to quenching my thirst. When I held my first child, a daughter, in my arms for the first time, I had a feeling that God really did exist. Many years later, when her sister

was born, I experienced the same feeling. Once I told my cousin that I felt in my heart I was somehow going to become a priest with real authority from God. She said that was impossible because I had a family to take care of.

Most of the time, however, an inexplicable tiredness weighed upon

The young men were drenched from head to foot. I opened the door of the taxi and called, “Get in! I’m going to Monterrey.”

my soul. I was spiritually thirsty and could find no place to drink.

In April 1994 I was living in the city of Monterrey, México, earning a living as a taxi driver. One day it rained for hours, sending water cascading down the mountainsides. After driving around in the rain for hours, I found myself in a little town about eight kilometers from Monterrey. It was about 9:30 P.M., nearly time to go home. Suddenly I saw two young men on foot. They were wearing dark trousers and white shirts, and they were drenched from head to foot.

I opened the door of the taxi and called out, "Get in! I'm going to Monterrey."

The taller one, who had a very fair complexion, replied, "We don't have any money."

"No charge," I replied.

As I drove, we talked. They asked if they could share a message about Jesus Christ. I agreed and gave them my address.

When I got home, I woke my wife and told her about the two young men. "What a coincidence," I said. "One is Mexican and the other is American, and they are both named Elder."

"Elder means missionary," my wife answered, knowing just a little about the Church.

From deep within me, I felt something stir. These young men had left

a feeling of exquisite wonder in my heart. I felt close to finding the water that would quench my thirst.

The missionaries came to our home, and I was happy to listen to them. Two weeks later, I was baptized. My wife was baptized four months later. Our oldest daughter had been receiving religious training at school. When she went to the LDS Church for the first time, she cried, "Papá, this is so much better than what I am learning at school!" She too was baptized.

In December 1995 we were sealed as a family in the México City México Temple for this life and for eternity. Now as a family we enjoy harmony, peace, and happiness. We know whom we worship. We know where we came from and where we are going. We love God's holy word, especially the Book of Mormon, and we love His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Through these gifts we have found that well of living water the Savior spoke of to the woman of Samaria: "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

Victor Manuel Cabrera is a member of the Mirador Ward, Monterrey México Roma Stake.

Serving Any Way I Could

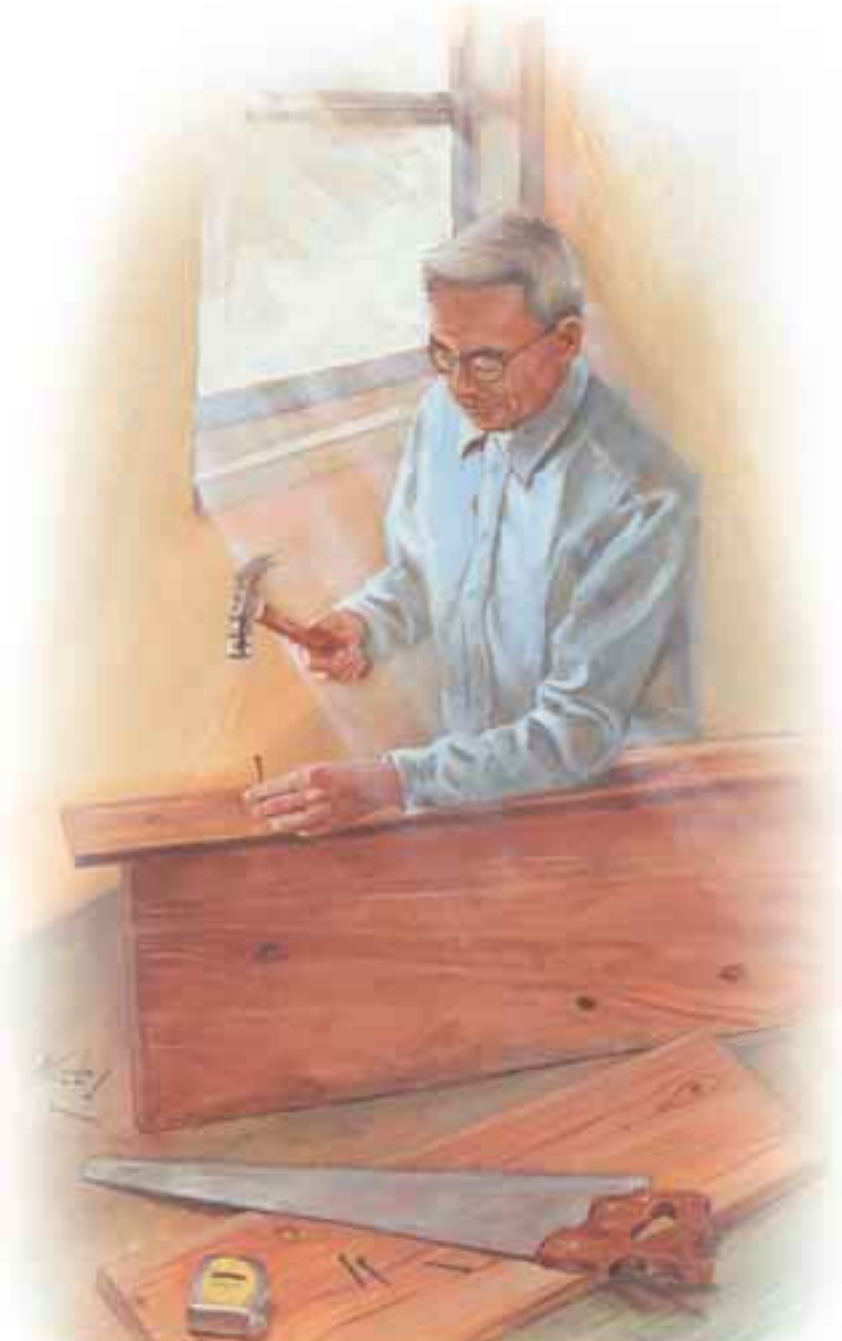
By Huang Syi-hua

I was baptized on 14 December 1974 in Shih Lin, Taiwan. Although I was 70 years old and the water in the outdoor baptismal font was just above freezing, I felt only warmth.

After I was baptized and confirmed, the branch president ordained me to the priesthood and asked me to visit the members. At the time there were about 100 members in the branch, but only about 20 attended church. I obediently visited members every month, and attendance at church quickly rose to more than 80.

As wonderful as the increased attendance was, it presented a problem. We were meeting in a small building off Chung Cheng Road and did not have room for all who wanted to come. So we moved to a larger building on Chung Shan North Road. Though the building was larger, we did not have enough chairs, and in those days it was difficult to obtain materials through normal Church channels. We felt blessed when a member bought 100 chairs and donated them to our chapel. He also bought a piano to replace the old, dilapidated organ we had found in the building.

Yet we had still another problem: no podium. As we prayed to know



For days I searched for a carpenter who could build a podium, but I couldn't find one. Finally I decided to build it myself.

especially the Book of Mormon. In it are words of great beauty. I know that studying the Book of Mormon can bring us spiritual strength and help us deal with the difficult challenges of our time. I know, too, that serving God, no matter what our calling, results in a multitude of blessings. Sometimes even miracles happen.

Huang Syi-hua is a member of the Pei Tou Ward, Taipei Taiwan East Stake.

My Weeping Ceased

By Eliana Maribel Gordón Aguirre

Even when I was young, I wanted to be useful, to help others, and to be close to Jesus' Church. But I didn't know how. As I grew older, my desire grew stronger and I began looking at ways I could serve God through my religion.

In time I went to a boarding school in Riobamba, Ecuador. I became acquainted with the mother superior at a convent. We became friends, and she eventually influenced me to become a nun. I took my first vows and became a novice.

During the next six years I prayed every day to Heavenly Father to help me know Him better. For some

how to get one, I learned that a local elementary school had some wood we could use. For days I searched for a carpenter who could build a podium from the wood, but I couldn't find one. Finally, on a Saturday, I decided to build it myself. I had never carried such heavy objects, and I would never have believed I could finish the podium in one day, but God helped me. The podium was ready for church the next day. All the

members were amazed, but not as amazed as I was. It seemed a miracle to me.

Since joining the Church, I have not let one day pass without serving in some way. As a result, my life has been blessed with joy, fulfillment, and spiritual riches. Before I joined the Church, my body was weak, but now I feel strong and healthy even as I grow older. I am able to serve often in the Taipei Taiwan Temple. I am grateful for all of God's blessings,

reason, I felt comfortable praying to Him directly instead of through intercessors, as I had been taught. I knew that by getting to know Him, I would get to know myself. I would also be able to see others with a more Christlike perspective and thus serve them as He would have me do. Though I prayed fervently, I felt an inexplicable void. The emptiness I felt became so great I decided to leave the convent.

One day while the bishop was visiting, I talked with him about my decision to leave. He asked me to ponder and pray about my decision. I did and felt even stronger that my decision was right. I knew if I waited until after my solemn vows, which would take place in a year, it would be even more difficult for me to leave. I would have to get the pope's permission, not just the bishop's.

The next time I met the bishop, I told him of my decision, and he asked me to request dismissal in writing. Eventually my letter reached him. He was surprised because he thought I would not follow through on my request. When he granted the dismissal of my vows, I bid farewell to the nuns, thankful for all the good I had learned and experienced, and I left in peace.

At least I thought I would have peace. Instead, I faced insults and rejection. Slanderous speculations circulated about my reasons for

leaving the convent. Frustrated and filled with feelings of worthlessness, I became confused and decided on the most deplorable course of action—taking my own life.

On 21 November 1995 I wandered down a street, with thoughts of suicide filling my mind and tears running down my cheeks, when I happened upon a church building. Trying to keep my tears private and find some relief from my pain, I entered the building. Inside, I came upon a bulletin board. I was surprised to see a friendly and warm illustration of the Savior, accompanied by words so simple and understandable that I was instantly captivated. It was the Christ I had been searching for. Without realizing it, I had stopped weeping.

A few minutes later a kind woman asked if she could help. Not knowing what to say, I blurted out, "What is this church about?" She started to explain, and suddenly tears came to my eyes again. I told her, embarrassed, that I needed a friend. At that moment her husband joined us, and I told them of my sorrow. They said they knew a Friend who had all the answers—Jesus Christ—and they invited me to learn more about Him and our Heavenly Father's plan. Without hesitation, I agreed.

For 10 days I met with this loving and kind missionary couple. They never pressured me, just shared

their testimonies and taught me. They also shared one of the greatest gifts we can receive—the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ. I read it, studied it, and put Moroni's promise to the test (see Moroni 10:3–5). The Holy Ghost witnessed to me that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. What had been mysteries to me became clear. I knew who the Lord was and how to serve Him. Two sister missionaries taught me the missionary discussions, and I was baptized on 3 December 1995.

I am grateful to all who brought me the light of the gospel. I am grateful for the members who shared their love, their concern, and the warmth of their homes. Above all I am grateful to my Heavenly Father, who answered my fervent prayers. While I still don't have all the answers, I know where to look for them. I know Nephi's words are true: "He that diligently seeketh shall find; and the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto them, by the power of the Holy Ghost" (1 Nephi 10:19). □

Eliana Maribel Gordón Aguirre is a member of La Ofelia Ward, Quito Ecuador La Ofelia Stake.

"What is this church about?"

I blurted out. A kind woman started to explain, and I told her, embarrassed, that I needed a friend.



Venida Cristo

Noche de Ho
Lomas a las

Using the August 2001 *Liahona*

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION

■ “Who Shall Ascend into the Hill of the Lord?” page 2: Discuss the blessings available to those who qualify to enter the Lord’s house. Then ask the question President James E. Faust quotes: “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?” (see Psalm 24:3–4).

■ “Nourishing the Spirit,” page 10: Elder Dallin H. Oaks explains that some people try to understand the gospel solely through the intellectual methods of study and reason. Why is this intellectual approach inadequate?

■ “Anchored by Faith and Commitment,” page 30: Elder M. Russell Ballard tells about his great-grandfather who was offered a life of ease if he would leave the Church. He refused and chose instead to make the difficult trek to Salt Lake City, arriving ragged and destitute but true to his testimony. What are you willing to give up for your faith? Is there anything you would not be willing to sacrifice if the Lord required it?

■ “He Takes Care of His Church,” page F10: Some children are too young and some converts too new in the Church to remember more than one prophet. Discuss the process the Lord uses to choose a new Church President and the process we can use to know that he really is the Lord’s chosen prophet.



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CALL FOR YOUTH ARTICLES

How did you gain your testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ? We invite young people to send ideas, stories, and experiences on the topic of gaining a testimony to *Liahona*, Floor 24, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA; or e-mail to CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org. Please include your complete name, age, address, telephone number, and ward and stake (or branch and district).

The Friend

FOR CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ■ AUGUST 2001



WATCHMEN ON THE TOWER

By Diane S. Nichols

“And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen” (D&C 1:4).



Imagine standing on a high mountain and looking down on the valley below. The view is different from the view down below, isn't it?

From below, you see only the things near you. But when you are up high, you can see things that are far away.

During the Savior's life on earth, farmers grew grapes in great fields called vineyards. Grapes were very valuable. Sometimes robbers came into the vineyards to steal or destroy the crops. Wise farmers built tall towers outside their vineyards. They hired trusted watchmen to stand on the towers and watch for danger. The watchmen could see far beyond the vineyards and could warn those below if danger was coming. The other workers would then have time to prepare to protect the vineyards.

Heavenly Father has given us “watchmen.” These watchmen are prophets and apostles. They have been called by Heavenly Father to watch over us. They warn us about dangers that lie ahead of us, such as temptations and evil influences. They tell us how we can defend ourselves against those dangers.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is

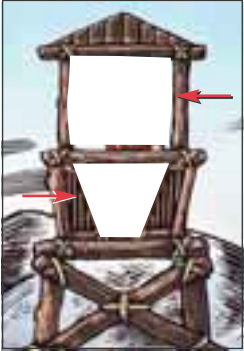
led by a prophet who is the President of the Church. He and his two Counselors make up the First Presidency of the Church. We also have Twelve Apostles whom we sustain as prophets, seers, and revelators. They don't stand on a tower, but they do receive inspiration from Heavenly Father to know what dangers await us. They teach us to face these dangers by keeping our covenants and obeying the commandments. We hear their counsel during general conference. We can also read their words in the *Liahona*. The prophets and apostles are our watchmen on the tower today. If we heed their words, we will be safe.

Instructions

Cut page 3 out of the magazine, and glue it onto heavy paper. Cut out the wheel. On the front cover of this issue of *The Friend*, cut out the window with the man inside and the area below him (see illustration). Attach the wheel to the back of the front cover by pushing a brass fastener through the black dots. As you turn the wheel, you will see pictures of each of the current Twelve Apostles in the top window of the tower on the front cover. Below each picture is something that Apostle has recently warned us to do to protect ourselves from the evil influences of the world.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Invite a Melchizedek Priesthood bearer to portray King Benjamin. Have him tell about who King Benjamin was, when he lived, and who his people were (see Mosiah 2–5). Have him teach a few of the principles King Benjamin taught while speaking on the tower (see Mosiah 2:17; 2:20–22; 4:15–16).



Illustration

Divide into groups, and give each group a reference from King Benjamin's talk. Have the children read the scripture and discuss what they can do to follow this teaching. Invite each group to share the things they will

do to follow King Benjamin. Testify that blessings come when we do what the prophets ask us to do.

2. Have the children tell you some things the prophet has asked us to do. Write their responses on the board. Make several large musical notes with a hymn or song title on each note that will go along with some of the teachings likely to be mentioned. Choose one note, hum or have the pianist play the first few notes of the song, and see if the children can name the song. Discuss which teaching the song goes with, and place the note on the board by the appropriate response. Sing the song, and have the children tell how they can follow the prophet's counsel. □





FRIEND TO FRIEND

Elder L. Tom Perry

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

From an interview by Kellene Ricks Adams

Although we lived in the town of Logan, Utah, my father, L. Tom Perry Sr., wanted his children to have the same kind of experiences he'd had growing up on a farm. We had a large backyard, with an aunt living on one side of our house and my grandfather on the other side. The three backyards became our farm, which included a garden, a pasture, a barn, and alfalfa fields. We learned how to cut the alfalfa with a scythe, let it dry, then store it in the barn.

We planted a garden, weeded it, and irrigated it. Some of my choicest childhood experiences were irrigating with my father. Our turn began at 2:00 A.M., so Dad and I would pitch a tent in the yard and go to bed about 9:00 at night. We would set the alarm clock and get up at 2:00 and turn the water in. Then we would get up every half hour until 6:00 to change its flow. During all my growing-up years, Dad and I spent many nights irrigating side by side. It's a great experience to be with your father like that.

I also have some great memories of taking care of the family cow with my dad. We cleaned the barn,

fed the cow, and got her into her stall. Then I held her tail while Dad milked. There is great discipline in having a cow. It has to be milked every morning and every night. It has to be milked in the summer, winter, spring, and fall. I didn't particularly like the cow sometimes, especially when caring for it interfered with something I really wanted to do. But I developed a love for work and had some great conversations with Dad about baptism, priesthood ordinations, friends, and other important subjects while we were doing chores. I loved spending that time with my father. He is one of the men I most admire and respect.

Dad also taught his children at an early age to work for the Lord. I was six months old when he was called as the bishop, and he served as bishop for 18 years. He involved us in his work at church. I remember filling the stoker at the meetinghouse in the winter—shoveling snow too. Summers were spent cleaning the chapel ceilings and taking care of the yard.

When I was six or seven, Dad had me help my mother with some

Below left: As a young man (back row, left) with his family. Below right: In Logan Canyon. Above right: Grandmother Sonne in front of the family barn and granary.



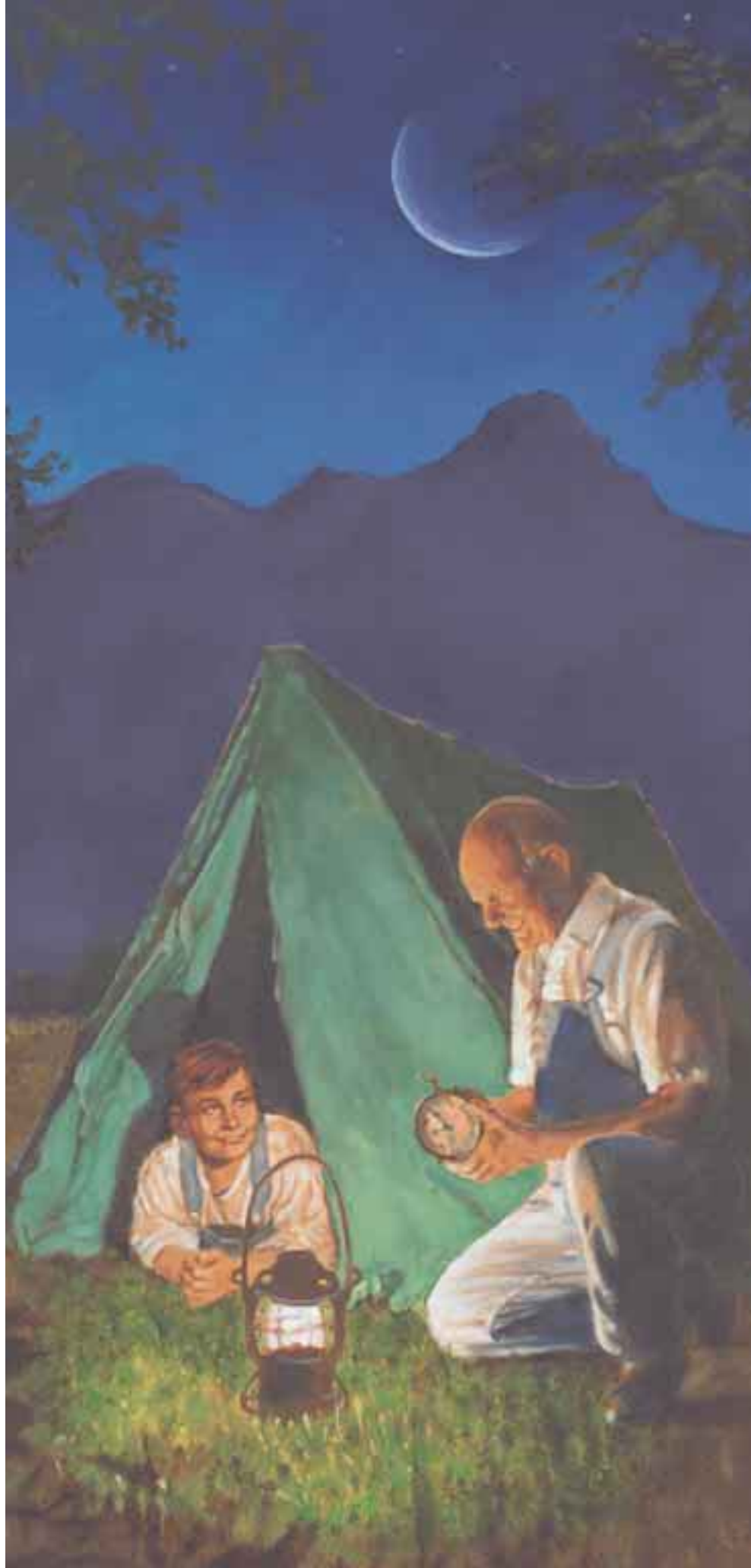


Church financial records. She would call out the numbers, and I would punch them in our old adding machine, pull the crank, and then proofread the figures back to her. I remember lugging that old machine back and forth between our home and the meetinghouse. In winter we hauled it on a sleigh; in the summer we used a wagon.

My father was not an emotional man. One of the few times I ever saw him shed tears was when he was released as bishop. He loved serving the Lord, and he helped develop in all his children a great satisfaction in helping other people. He made sure his Church calling involved our whole family and brought us together.

Because of his example, I developed a great appreciation for working and for serving the Lord. I love my father and am deeply grateful for him and for the many things he taught me through word and example. □

Our irrigation turn began at 2:00 A.M., so Dad and I would pitch a tent and go to bed at 9:00.



JESUS FORGIVES A WOMAN



ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL MANN

A Pharisee—a Jewish leader—asked the Savior to eat with him. Jesus went to his house and sat down.

Luke 7:36



A woman who had many sins lived in the city. She knew Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, and she went there.

Luke 7:37



Crying, she knelt at the Savior's feet and washed them with her tears. Then she dried His feet with her hair and kissed them. She put sweet smelling oil on them too. The Pharisee watched her. He knew the woman had many sins, and he thought Jesus should not let her touch Him.

Luke 7:38–39



The Savior knew what the Pharisee was thinking. Jesus pointed out that the woman had washed His feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and put sweet smelling oil on them. But the Pharisee had not given Him water to wash His feet or oil to anoint His head, as was often done for guests.

Luke 7:44–46



Jesus told the Pharisee the woman had many sins but had repented of them. She loved the Savior very much and had faith in Him. He told the woman that her sins were forgiven, that she should not be sad anymore.

Luke 7:47–48; D&C 58:42–43; James E. Talmage, Jesus the Christ, 3rd edition (1916), 262–63

JESUS COMMANDS THE WINDS AND THE WAVES



Jesus and His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, and Jesus fell asleep. The wind began to blow, and the waves were filling the boat with water. The disciples were afraid. They woke Jesus.

Luke 8:22–24



The Savior stood up and commanded the wind to stop blowing and the waves to go down. The wind stopped blowing, and the sea became calm.

Luke 8:24



Jesus asked the disciples why they were afraid. He said they should have more faith. They wanted to know what kind of man Jesus was to have even the winds and the waves obey Him.

Luke 8:25



He Takes Care of His Church

**By Angie Bergstrom
Based on an actual event**

My mom called all the children in my family together one morning. She told us that President Howard W. Hunter had been sick and had died. We were sad because President Hunter was our prophet and we loved him. “Who will be our new prophet?” Erik, my youngest brother, asked.

“Well, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles will be in charge until another prophet is chosen,” Mom answered. “But remember, Jesus Christ is the head of this Church. We will not be left without a prophet.”

“Really?” I asked. “We’ll have a new one?”

“Absolutely,” Mom said. She explained to me that when a prophet dies, the members of the First Presidency return to their places in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and with the guidance of the Lord, the Apostles reorganize the First Presidency. Mom also explained that the Church follows a pattern established by the Lord. When the Lord calls a new

ELECTRONICALLY COMPOSED BY CLAUDIA E. WARNER; LEFT: THE SECOND COMING, BY HARRY ANDERSON; RIGHT, FROM TOP: PAINTINGS BY ALVIN GITTINS, GEORGE M. OTTINGER, A. WESTWOOD, H. E. PETERSON, LEWIS A. RAMSAY, ALBERT E. SALZBRENNER, CHARLES J. FOX, LEE GREENE RICHARDS, ALVIN GITTINS, SHAUNA CLINGER, DAVID AHRNSBRACK, JUDITH MEHR, JUDITH MEHR, AND WILLIAM F. WHITAKER

Apostle, that Apostle gradually moves forward in seniority in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. At the death of the President of the Church, the senior Apostle becomes the new President of the Church. And, Mom said, we can pray to know for ourselves that the new Church President has been chosen by the Lord.

A little while after President Hunter died, I got a phone call from my friend Molly, who is not a member of the Church.

“Hey, Angie, that’s too bad about your prophet,” she said. “My dad and I were really worried about you. What’s your church going to do? Is your church over now?” she asked me.

I almost dropped the phone because I was so surprised.

“Of course not,” I said, remembering my mother’s words. “The Lord promised us that we would always have a prophet.”

“You mean, they’ll just *choose* the new prophet?” Molly asked. “Don’t you need an angel to come down and declare that he’s the prophet?”

“I believe *God* will choose another prophet. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church,” I said with a smile because I knew it was true.

“But how do you know the new prophet is chosen by God?” she asked.

She didn’t understand that we could pray to Heavenly Father and find out. But I knew exactly



Joseph Smith



Brigham Young



John Taylor



Wilford Woodruff



Lorenzo Snow



Joseph F. Smith



Heber J. Grant



George Albert Smith



David O. McKay



Joseph Fielding Smith



Harold B. Lee



Spencer W. Kimball



Ezra Taft Benson



Howard W. Hunter

Gordon B. Hinckley

what I was going to do. I prayed to know. Right after I finished my prayers that night, I knew that the Lord would take care of His Church.

A few days later an announcement was made that the new President of the Church was President Gordon B. Hinckley.

I raised my hand high a few weeks later during general conference to sustain President Hinckley as the prophet. And in the years that have followed, I have continued to raise my



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CHURCH NEWS

hand to sustain him. I support him in all he says and does. I am thankful that President Hinckley has been called of God to be our prophet. Truly, the Lord does not leave us alone. □

Angie Bergstrom is a member of the BYU 51st Ward, Brigham Young University First Stake.

Since he was sustained as the 15th President of the Church, President Gordon B. Hinckley has traveled all over the world teaching people about the gospel.

How the Lord Takes Care of His Church



In the April 1986 general conference, Elder David B. Haight of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained the process by which a new Church

President is called. He said:

“When one Church President passes away, how is a new President selected?

“In 1835 the Lord gave a revelation on this matter that provides for orderly succession. The revelation states that the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles is a body equal in authority to the First Presidency. (See D&C 107:24.) That means that when the President of the Church dies, the First Presidency is dissolved and the Quorum of the Twelve automatically becomes the presiding body of the Church. That pattern was established with the death of the Church’s first President, Joseph Smith.

“Following the martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph and his

brother Hyrum in 1844, the Quorum of the Twelve, with Brigham Young as quorum president, presided over the Church for the next 3 1/2 years.

“Then, on the banks of the Missouri River in Winter Quarters on December 5, 1847, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles met in council. . . . Brigham Young, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was unanimously sustained by members of that body as President of the Church. . . . This action created a new First Presidency, which was later sustained by the unanimous vote of the Saints. . . .

“This divinely revealed procedure for installing a new First Presidency of the Church—revelation from the Lord and sustaining by the people—has been followed to our present day. The First Presidency is to be ‘upheld by the confidence, faith, and prayer of the church.’ (D&C 107:22.)” (“A Prophet Chosen of the Lord,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 8). □

I Have Many Talents

By Jennifer Cloward
ILLUSTRATED BY EUISE BLACK

Each of us has talents, and all talents are important. Play this game with your family, and talk about the talents each family member possesses.

Instructions: Remove this page from the magazine, and glue it to lightweight cardboard. Cut out the squares on the dotted lines, and place them in a paper sack. Have the first player pick one talent card from the sack and then act out the pictured talent while the other players guess what talent he or she is pantomiming. Whoever guesses correctly then picks a talent card and acts it out. Repeat until all the cards have been selected. □



Anne's COURAGE

By Beverly J. Ahlstrom

Hurry, Cathy," Anne called over her shoulder to her sister as they ran along the road.

"I am hurrying!" Cathy yelled back, barely three steps behind her. Laughing, they turned into the parking lot of Mr. Parkins's Plant Place. Breathing hard, they burst through the front door into the rich smell of potting soil and damp, growing things.

"Well, hello, girls." Mr. Parkins smiled as he looked up. "Did you come to work?"

"Yes, please," Anne said. "Today and tomorrow too, if you need us. We want to earn money to buy a present for Mum."

In the early spring Mr. Parkins often paid the neighborhood children to help transplant seedlings. "Where is your cousin Emmy today?" he asked.

"She went to help Granny," Cathy said.

"Well, come along." Mr. Parkins led them into one of the long, low greenhouses. "We're working on the petunias right now, and I need all the help I can get."

In the greenhouse, long tables were covered with young petunia plants. Allen, Tom, and Lance were already working and laughing loudly.

Mr. Parkins stayed long enough to make sure the girls knew what to do and to check on the boys' work. "I'm sure glad the five of you could come," he said as he left.

The potting soil was crumbly and moist on Anne's fingers as she carefully separated the plants. Cathy worked beside her, filling each of the small containers with soil and planting the seedlings. For a while no one said anything.

Then Lance elbowed Allen and whispered something in his ear. Allen laughed loudly, then whispered in Tom's ear. Tom snorted. Then Lance stopped whispering and started saying nasty things out loud.



Anne's fingers started to shake, and she felt slightly sick. "I wish Emmy was here," she whispered to Cathy.

Cathy nodded. "So do I." Emmy would know what to do. She was as brave as Nephi.

Just last week Anne and Emmy had been walking home from school with several other

girls, when someone started singing in a really silly way. Everyone laughed and joined in. They sang the next song even sillier, singing really high and then really low. It was fun until one girl started singing "I Am a Child of God" in the same way. It hadn't been funny to Anne anymore. It had given her the same sick feeling as the bad talk in the greenhouse was giving her now.

But Emmy had known what to do. "Hey, let's not make fun of Church songs," she had said quietly but in a friendly way.

The other girls had looked surprised for a moment; then one girl started singing the song the right way.

But Anne wasn't Emmy, and she didn't know what to do. She was afraid if she asked the boys to stop,

they would just get worse. Now they were using words Anne knew were not right.

She looked over at Cathy. Cathy's lips were pressed tightly together, and she was about to cry.

"Shall we leave?" Anne whispered.

"But I want to buy something nice for Mum," Cathy said quietly.

"Me too," Anne said. "Besides, Mr. Parkins said he needs all the help he can get."

Cathy nodded and blinked as two tears slid down her cheeks. She hid her eyes so Lance, Allen, and Tom wouldn't know she was crying.

Anne moved closer to her. She was angry now. *If only Emmy was here!* she thought. *If only I knew what to do!*

Suddenly she had an idea. Softly



she started humming her favorite hymn. When Cathy heard the first few notes, she looked up at Anne in surprise. Then she smiled. By the end of the hymn, they were humming softly together.

The boys were still making ugly jokes, but Anne didn't feel angry anymore. She and Cathy hummed "I Am a Child of God" a little louder, and by the end of that song, Lance was quieter. Anne, feeling braver, gave him a big smile as she started singing a Primary song. Cathy joined in, and their voices

echoed sweetly through the greenhouse, while the boys gradually became silent.

Anne and Cathy were still singing Primary songs when Mr. Parkins poked his head in an hour later. "Sounds good, girls." He came over to the long table. "Your work is good, too. But it's almost dark—you'd better get home. I'm glad you'll be coming back tomorrow—I can always use good, cheerful help."

Rubbing the soil off their fingers, the children followed Mr. Parkins out of

the greenhouse and into the early evening light. Lance, Allen, and Tom scooted past Anne and Cathy.

"Babies," Lance hissed as he ran past. Anne just smiled at him again.

The air was cooler now, but the girls didn't feel cold.

"I feel warm and happy," Cathy said, looking up at the pink sky.

"Me, too," Anne said. "Race you home!" □





Prophet of the Lord, by David Lindsley

“He has translated the book, even that part which I have commanded him, and as your Lord and your God liveth it is true” (D&C 17:6).



Early Church members, including the Prophet Joseph (front cover) and his mother, Lucy Mack Smith (above), lived lives anchored by faith and commitment. Their lives can serve as guides for ours. Elder M. Russell Ballard explains, “May their examples give us courage so that we will always be trustworthy and steadfast in our stewardships as we serve God our Eternal Father.” See “Anchored by Faith and Commitment,” page 30.