

Liahona



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Liahona



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THE FRIEND COVER

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"PILLARS OF TRUTH"

I am very grateful for the *Liabona*. It is enjoyable to read, and the articles exemplify the qualities of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope all Latter-day Saints will obtain this magnificent tool. I especially appreciated the First Presidency Message, "Pillars of Truth," in the May 2002 issue. We have the truth, and we need to express our gratitude for it every day.

Eduardo Arroyo Teberán,
Paraíso Ward,
Barranquilla Colombia Paraíso Stake

GRATEFUL FOR BEAUTIFUL ARTICLES

Before I was a member of the Church, the woman who later became my wife showed me an issue of the *Liabona*, and there was something special about it. During the time I was progressing from investigator to convert, a spiritual witness confirmed to me the truthfulness of the gospel. I felt the peaceable whisperings of the Holy Ghost, sweetly motivating me to accept the truth.

I'm grateful for my wife's efforts, and I'm grateful to our inspired brothers and sisters for writing such beautiful articles. It is a pleasure to receive the *Liabona*.

I can't stop reading until I've finished the entire issue.

Alfredo José Cánepa,
Ytororo Branch,
Fernando de la Mora Paraguay South Stake

"STANDING UP TO TEMPTATION"

The *Liabona* has helped me a great deal in my personal life. I was deeply moved by the Idea List, "Standing Up to Temptation," in the November 2001 issue. It has helped me as a missionary to overcome temptations. I hope it has also helped others.

Sister Shelly T. Kollab,
Nigeria Port Harcourt Mission

BEARING TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

At school, we were studying different religions. The teacher assigned me and my friend Addressa, who is also a member of the Church, to talk about Jesus Christ.

When we began our presentation, many of our fellow students laughed at us, but we did not weaken. We talked about His life—from His birth to His Resurrection. When we finished, many laughed and said annoying things. I became very sad. I thought about missionaries who have doors slammed in their faces, and I realized I was having a similar experience. I bore my testimony about Jesus Christ, that He gave His life and suffered for our sins.

At the end, many of the teachers, including our own, thanked us for having taught them some things they did not know.

Cléa de Souza Lira, age 14,
Potengi Ward,
Natal Brazil Potengi Stake



The Fatherless and the Widows Beloved of God

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON

First Counselor in the First Presidency

Many years ago I attended a large gathering of Church members in the city of Berlin, Germany. A spirit of quiet reverence permeated the gathering as an organ prelude of hymns was played. I gazed at those who sat before me. There were mothers and fathers and relatively few children. The majority of those who sat on crowded benches were women about middle age—and alone.

Suddenly it dawned on me that perhaps these were widows, having lost their husbands during World War II. My curiosity demanded an answer to my unexpressed thought, so I asked the conducting officer to take a sort of standing roll call. When he asked all those who were widows to please arise, it seemed that half the vast throng stood. Their faces reflected the grim effect of war's cruelty. Their hopes had been shattered, their lives altered, and their future had in a way been taken from them. Behind each countenance was a personal travail of tears. I addressed my remarks to them and to all who have loved, then lost, those most dear.

Death Shows No Mercy

Though perhaps not so cruel and dramatic, yet equally poignant, are the lives described in the obituaries of our day and time when the uninvited enemy called death enters the stage of our mortal existence and snatches from our grasp a loving husband or precious wife and frequently, in the young exuberance of life, our children and grandchildren. Death shows no mercy. Death is no respecter of persons, but in its insidious way it visits all. At times it is after long-suffering and is a blessing; while in other instances those in the prime of life are taken by its grasp.

As of old, the heartbroken frequently and silently repeat the ancient question: "Is there no balm in Gilead?"¹ "Why me; why now?" The words of a beautiful hymn provide a partial answer:

*Where can I turn for peace? Where is my
solace*

*When other sources cease to make me whole?
When with a wounded heart, anger, or malice,
I draw myself apart, Searching my soul? . . .*

*He answers privately, Reaches my reaching
In my Gethsemane, Savior and Friend.*

*Gentle the peace he finds for my beseeching.
Constant he is and kind, Love without end.²*



Let us remember that after the funeral flowers fade, the well wishes of friends become memories and the prayers offered and words spoken dim in the corridors of the mind. Those who grieve frequently find themselves alone.

The Widow of Zarephath

The plight of the widow is a recurring theme through holy writ. Our hearts go out to the widow at Zarephath. Gone was her husband. Consumed was her scant supply of food. Starvation and death awaited. But then came God's prophet with the seemingly brazen command that the widow woman should feed him. Her response is particularly touching: "As the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die."³

The reassuring words of Elijah penetrated her very being:

"Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

"For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail. . . .

"And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah. . . .

"And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail."⁴

The Widow of Nain

Like the widow at Zarephath was the widow of Nain. The New Testament of our Lord records a moving and soul-stirring account of the Master's tender regard for the grieving widow:

"And it came to pass . . . that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

"Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

"And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

"And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

"And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother."⁵

What power, what tenderness, what compassion did our Master and Exemplar demonstrate. We, too, can bless if we will but follow His noble example. Opportunities are everywhere. Needed are eyes to see the pitiable plight, ears to hear the silent pleadings of a broken heart; yes, and a soul filled with compassion, that we might communicate not only eye to eye or voice to ear, but in the majestic style of the Savior, even heart to heart.

"Gladden the Lonely"

The word *widow* appears to have had a most significant meaning to our Lord. He cautioned His disciples to beware of the example of the scribes, who feigned righteousness by their long apparel and their lengthy prayers, but who devoured the houses of widows.⁶

To the Nephites came the direct warning: "I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against . . . those that oppress . . . the widow."⁷

And to the Prophet Joseph Smith, He directed: "The storehouse shall be kept by the consecrations of the church; and widows and orphans shall be provided for, as also the poor."⁸

The widow's home is generally not large or ornate. Frequently it is a modest one in size and humble in appearance. Often it is tucked away at the top of the stairs or the back of the hallway and consists of but one room. To such homes He sends you and me.

There may exist an actual need for food, clothing—even shelter. Such can be supplied. Almost always there remains the hope for that special hyacinth to feed the soul.



Fathers experience loneliness as well as mothers. We need not wait for Christmas; we need not postpone our response to the Savior's tender admonition: "Go, and do thou likewise."



Frequently the need of the widow is not one of food or shelter but of feeling a part of ongoing events.

*Go, gladden the lonely, the dreary;
Go, comfort the weeping, the weary;
Go, scatter kind deeds on your way;
Oh, make the world brighter today!⁹*

Let us remember that after the funeral flowers fade, the well wishes of friends become memories and the prayers offered and words spoken dim in the corridors of the mind. Those who grieve frequently find themselves alone. Missed are the laughter of children, the commotion of teenagers, and the tender, loving concern of a departed companion. The clock ticks more loudly, time passes more slowly, and four walls do indeed a prison make.

Hopefully, all of us may again hear the echo of words spoken by the Master, inspiring us to good deeds: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . ye have done it unto me.”¹⁰

The late Elder Richard L. Evans left for our contemplation and action this admonition:

“We who are younger should never become so blindly absorbed in our own pursuits as to forget that there are still with us those who will live in loneliness unless we let them share our lives as once they let us share theirs. . . .

“We cannot bring them back the morning hours of youth. But we can help them live in the warm glow of a sunset made more beautiful by our thoughtfulness, by our provision, and by our active and unfeigned love. Life in its fullness is a loving ministry of service from generation to generation. God grant that those who belong to us may never be left in loneliness.”¹¹

“Could You Make Arrangements?”

Long years ago a severe drought struck the Salt Lake Valley. The commodities at the storehouse on



“Life in its fullness is a loving ministry of service from generation to generation. God grant that those who belong to us may never be left in loneliness.”

Welfare Square had not been their usual quality, nor were they found in abundance. Many products were missing, especially fresh fruit. As a young bishop, worrying about the needs of the many widows in my ward, I said a prayer one evening that is especially sacred to me. I pleaded that these widows, who were among the finest women I knew in mortality and whose needs were simple and conservative, had no resources on which they might rely.

The next morning I received a call from a ward member, a proprietor of a produce business situated in our ward. “Bishop,” he said, “I would like to send a semitrailer filled with oranges, grapefruit, and bananas to the bishops’ storehouse to be given to those in need. Could you make arrangements?” Could I make arrangements! The storehouse was alerted, and then each bishop was telephoned and the entire shipment distributed.

The wife of that generous businessman became a widow herself. I know the decision

her husband and she made brought her sweet memories and comforting peace to her soul.

Thank You

I express my sincere appreciation to one and all who are mindful of the widow. To the thoughtful neighbors who invite a widow to dinner and to that royal army of noble women, the visiting teachers of the Relief Society, I add, may God bless you for your kindness and your love unfeigned toward her who reaches out and touches vanished hands and listens to voices forever stilled. The words of the Prophet Joseph Smith describe their mission: “I attended by request, the Female Relief Society, whose object is the relief of the poor, the destitute, the widow and the orphan, and for the exercise of all benevolent purposes.”¹²



The widow’s home is generally not large or ornate. To such homes He sends you and me.

Thank you to thoughtful and caring bishops who ensure that no widow’s cupboard is empty, no house unwarmed, no life unblest. I admire the ward leaders who invite the widows to all social activities, often providing a young Aaronic Priesthood lad to be a special escort for the occasion.

Widows and Widowers

Frequently the need of the widow is not one of food or shelter but of feeling a part of ongoing events. Elder H. Bryan Richards of the Seventy once brought to my office a sweet widow whose husband had passed away during a full-time mission they were serving. Elder Richards explained that her financial resources were adequate and that she desired to contribute to the Church’s General Missionary Fund the proceeds of two insurance policies on the life of her departed husband. I could not restrain my tears when she meekly advised me, “This is what I wish to do. It is what my missionary-minded husband would like.”

The gift was received and entered as a most substantial donation to missionary service. I saw the receipt made in her name, but I believe in my heart it was also recorded in heaven. I invited her and Elder Richards to follow me to the unoccupied First Presidency council room in the Church Administration Building. The room is beautiful and peaceful. I asked this sweet widow to sit in the chair usually occupied by our Church President. I felt he would not mind, for I knew his heart.

As she sat ever so humbly in the large leather chair, she gripped each armrest with a hand and declared, "This is one of the happiest days of my life." It was also such for Elder Richards and for me.

I never travel to work along busy Seventh East in Salt Lake City but what I see in my mind's eye a thoughtful daughter, afflicted with arthritis and carrying in her hand a plate of warm food to her aged mother who lived across the busy thoroughfare. She has now gone home to that mother who preceded her in passing. But her lesson was not lost on her daughters, who delight their widowed father by cleaning his house each week, inviting him to dinners in their homes, and sharing with him the laughter of good times together, leaving in that widower's heart a prayer of gratitude for his children, the light of his life. Fathers experience loneliness as well as mothers.

Pure Religion

One evening at Christmastime, my wife and I visited a nursing home in Salt Lake City. We looked in vain for a 95-year-old widow, whose memory had become clouded and who could not speak a word. An attendant led us in our search, and we found Nell in the dining room. She had eaten her meal; she was sitting silently, staring into space. She did not show us any sign of recognition. As I reached to take her hand, she withdrew it. I noticed that she held firmly to a Christmas greeting card. The attendant smiled and said, "I don't know who sent that card, but she will not lay it aside. She doesn't speak but pats the card and holds it to her lips and kisses it." I recognized the card.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After you prayerfully prepare, share this message using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. A few examples follow:

1. Ask family members to make a list of all the widows, widowers, and fatherless or motherless children they know. Read sections of President Monson's message that will help family members appreciate the challenges widows and others probably face. Invite them to gladden the heart of someone on their list.

2. Invite family members to tell of times they have visited or given other service to those who live alone. Read President Monson's thank you. Then read aloud the last section of this message, and bear your testimony of the blessings that come from remembering the lonely.

It was one my wife, Frances, had sent to Nell the week before.

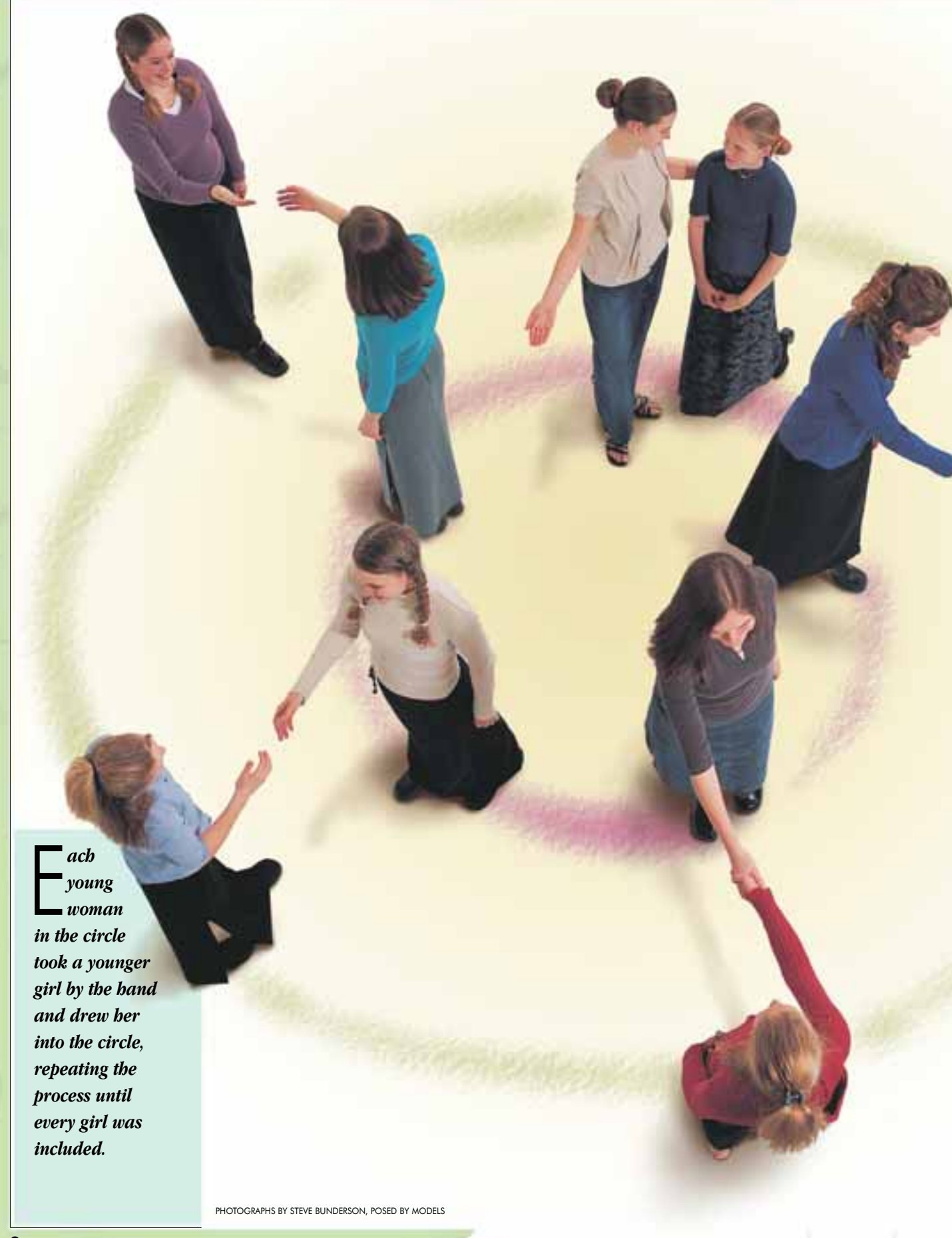
We left more filled with the Christmas spirit than when we entered. We kept to ourselves the mystery of that special card and the life it had gladdened and the heart it had touched. Heaven was nearby.

We need not wait for Christmas; we need not postpone till Thanksgiving Day our response to the Savior's tender admonition: "Go, and do thou likewise."¹³

As we follow in His footsteps, as we ponder His thoughts and His deeds, as we keep His commandments, we will be blessed. The grieving widow, the fatherless child, and the lonely of heart everywhere will be gladdened, comforted, and sustained through our service, and we will experience a deeper understanding of the words recorded in the Epistle of James: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."¹⁴ ■

NOTES

1. Jeremiah 8:22.
2. "Where Can I Turn for Peace?" *Hymns*, no. 129.
3. 1 Kings 17:12.
4. 1 Kings 17:13-16.
5. Luke 7:11-15.
6. See Luke 20:46-47.
7. 3 Nephi 24:5.
8. D&C 83:6.
9. "Make the World Brighter," *Deseret Sunday School Songs* (1909), no. 197.
10. Matthew 25:40.
11. *Thoughts for One Hundred Days* (1966), 222.
12. *History of the Church*, 4:567.
13. Luke 10:37.
14. James 1:27.



Each young woman in the circle took a younger girl by the hand and drew her into the circle, repeating the process until every girl was included.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE BUNDERSON, POSED BY MODELS

OPEN THE CIRCLE

BY JAN PINBOROUGH

A circle can include or exclude. We decide which.

As a Young Women leader, I had been to several New Beginnings programs. But when I went to New Beginnings with my own first daughter, I saw it through new eyes.

As we waited for the program to begin, I couldn't help wondering what the coming years would hold for my daughter: Would the young women in our ward accept her? Would they be her friends? Would her leaders love her?

Would they be her mentors in the challenging times ahead?

After the opening prayer, the older young women and their leaders joined hands in the middle of the room and started singing a beautiful song:

*Ours is a circle, a circle of friendship,
and just like a circle, it goes on and on
endless, eternal, this circle of friendship;
enter our circle, for here you belong.¹*

Then each 16- or 17-year-old young woman took a younger girl by the hand and drew her into the circle too. Again they sang the song, repeating the process until every girl was included.

In the weeks to come, I saw that this song was not an idle promise. It was a symbol for something real and wonderful. The young women in that ward didn't just *accept* my daughter; they *welcomed* her with open hearts. She was treated by the girls her age as an instant new friend, by the older classes as a treasured younger sister, by the leaders as a cherished daughter. How grateful I was—and still am—for those girls and leaders who opened their circle and made my daughter feel wanted, valued, and loved.

I wonder if our Heavenly Father watches us with similar parental concern: Will we open our circles to include each of His children?

Of course, we all know that circles can just as easily work to keep people out. Maybe you have moved into a new ward or school or class where the established members of the circle communicated the message of a children's rhyme: "Tick-tock, the game is locked, and nobody else can play." Most of us have known the painful experience of being kept on the outside fringe of a circle.

"It's Better to Be Nice"

How can we make sure that our circles include, rather than exclude? It starts with a very simple realization: kindness is one of the main characteristics we are here on earth to learn. I know a family of extremely talented

children. Academics, music—you name it; they do it well. Once when I was complimenting them, their mother said something I've never forgotten: "I've always taught my kids that it's fine to be smart, but it's better to be nice."

Thinking about it, I realized she was right. I admire her children's talents. But the real reason I value these children is that I can't imagine any of them putting down someone else to gain social advantage. They are as kind as anyone I know.

Maybe this is what the Lord values most too. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul's famous talk on charity: Though I am at the top of my class and know all my scripture mastery verses and am the star of my soccer team and organize a major service project and play several musical instruments, if I don't treat others kindly, all my accomplishments don't count for much (see 1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Keeping Competition in Its Place

One young woman had worked hard for years to excel in basketball, and she is the sort of person people love for her kindness. But when she was named to the all-state basketball team as a sophomore, something strange happened. Suddenly her teammates on her high school team stopped passing the ball to her.

Why? Possibly because it can be hard to include those we think of as rivals. Competition—vying for something



that is in short supply—is an enemy of inclusiveness. And, face it, life can be competitive. So when someone else wins an honor that you would have liked, it may be hard to be happy for him or her.

On the other hand, it may be tempting to exclude those we view as less competent and successful than we are. But no one belongs outside the circle of our Father's love—or ours.

Heavenly Father doesn't see life as a big competition between His children, with winners and losers—and neither should we. In fact, He has told us that He has intentionally given us each different gifts and abilities so we can share them with each other (see D&C 46:11-26).

When we feel secure in the Lord's love for us, we can



A TRUE FRIEND

"Our Savior, shortly before His Crucifixion, said to His disciples: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends' [John 15:13-14]. Having been so richly blessed by Christ's friendship, I pray that we will now be to others what He is to us: a true friend. At no time will we be more Christlike than when we are a friend. . . . I know that when we offer ourselves in friendship, we make a most significant contribution to God's work and to the happiness and progress of His children."

Elder Marlin K. Jensen of the Seventy, "Friendship: A Gospel Principle," *Liahona*, July 1999, 76.

see others as brothers and sisters, not as rivals who either challenge our success or don't measure up to it.

Taking the Lead

Circles have a natural resistance to change. The familiarity of a known group of friends can feel comfortable and comforting. It's nice when you know pretty much what to expect from the group and from each member of it. So accepting someone else into your circle can shake things up.

That's why it sometimes takes a leader to overcome a group's natural reluctance to include someone new. This kind of leadership doesn't require a calling from the bishop. Actually, it's a calling we all have, and it comes directly from the Lord: "Let every man esteem his brother as himself" (D&C 38:25; emphasis added).

This verse also contains the key to how to include others. Think about how you would like to be treated at church or at school and treat others the same way. Would you like to be left sitting on a row by yourself in your priesthood quorum? If not, take the lead and sit by the new deacon for as many weeks as it takes for him to know that you're glad he's there. Would you like to be invited to join a group that plays sports together? If so, invite someone new to join you.

In Our Hands

One brave little girl showed me how powerful one person who takes the lead in including others can be. It was her second week of third grade at a new school, and she saw another girl about her age crying during recess. This girl was going to be repeating a grade, and her last year's classmates were now her tormentors.

Immediately, my little friend walked over to the girl who had been teased. But even though she had no friends herself, she did not walk into that cruel circle empty-handed. From deep within her own kind heart, she had comfort to offer the crying girl. "Don't worry," she said. "I've missed a whole year of school, so my parents are holding me back too." Needless to say, those two will be friends forever.

A circle can be a terrible or a wonderful thing. Which it turns out to be is in our hands. ■

Jan Pinborough is a member of the East Mill Creek Fourth Ward, Salt Lake East Mill Creek Stake.

NOTE

1. "Circle of Friendship," *A Song of the Heart* (1978), 30.



Think about how you would like to be treated at church or at school and treat others the same way. The Lord said: "Let every man esteem his brother as himself."

Your Family History: Getting Started

BY PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER

Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Several years ago Sister Packer and I determined that we should get our records in order. However, under the pressure of Church responsibilities with my travels about the world, and the obligations with our large family and a home to keep up both indoors and outdoors, there just was not enough time. But we were restless about this family history responsibility, and finally we determined that somehow we would have to make more time in the day.

During the Christmas holidays when we had a little extra time, we started. Then as we moved back to a regular schedule after the holidays, we adopted the practice of getting up an hour or two earlier each day.

We gathered together everything we had, and in the course of a few weeks we were amazed at what we were able to accomplish. The thing that was most impressive, however, was the fact that we began to have experiences that told us somehow that we were being guided, that there were those beyond the veil who were interested in what we were doing. Things began to fall into place.

As I have traveled about the Church and paid particular attention to this subject, many testimonies have come to light. Others who assemble their records together are likewise having similar experiences. It was as though the Lord was waiting for us to begin.

We found things we had wondered about for a long time. It seemed as though they came to us almost too easily. More than this, things that we never dreamed existed began to show up. We began to learn by personal experience that this research into our families is an inspired work. We came to know that an inspiration will follow those who move into it. It is just a matter of getting started.

Once we started, we found the time. Somehow we were able to carry on all of the other responsibilities. There seemed to be an increased inspiration in our lives because of this work.

Paths Open When We Start

But the decision, the action, must begin with the individual. The Lord will not tamper with our agency. If we want a testimony of



If you don't know where to start, start with yourself. If you don't know what records to get, and how to get them, start with what you have.

family history and temple work, we must do something about that work. Here is an example of what can happen when you do.

I once attended a conference in the Hartford Connecticut Stake. An assignment had been made three months earlier to all members of the stake presidency to speak on this subject of family history work. One had been a counselor in the stake presidency but became stake patriarch at that conference. He told this interesting incident.

He had not been able to get started in family history work, although he was “converted” to it. He just didn’t know where to start. When he received the assignment to prepare a life history from his own records, he was unable to find anything about his childhood and youth except his birth certificate. He was one of 11 children born to Italian immigrants. He is the only member of his family in the Church.

In fulfilling the assignment he tried to put together everything he could find on his life. At least he was starting, but there just didn’t seem to be anywhere to go. He could get his own life story put together from his own memory and from what few records he had.

Then a very interesting thing happened. His aged mother, who was in a rest home, had a great yearning to return once more to her homeland in Italy. Finally, because she was obsessed with this desire, the doctors felt nothing would be gained by denying

her this request, and the family decided to grant their mother her dying wish. And for some reason they all decided that this brother (the only member of the family in the Church) should be the one to accompany his mother to Italy.

All at once, then, he found himself returning to the ancestral home. A door was opening! While in Italy he visited the parish church where his mother was baptized and

I *f we start where we are—each of us with ourselves, with such records as we have—and begin putting those in order, things will fall into place as they should.*



One man traveled to his ancestral home in Italy and met many relatives. He also found the parish church where his mother was baptized and the parish church where his father was baptized. He learned that the records went back 500 years.

also the parish church where his father was baptized. He met many relatives. He learned that the records in the parish go back for 500 years. He visited the town hall to look into the records and found people very cooperative there. The town clerk told him that the previous summer a seminarian and a nun had been there together looking for records of this brother's family name, and they had said they were collecting the family history of the family. He was given the name of the city where they lived, and he now could follow that lead. He learned also that there is a city in Italy bearing the family name.

But this is not all. When he came to Salt Lake City to general conference he returned by way of Colorado, where many of his family live. There, with very little persuasion, a family organization was effected and a family reunion was planned, which soon afterwards was held.

And then, as always happens, some of his relatives—his aunts and uncles, his brothers and sisters—began to provide the pictures and information about *his* life that he never knew existed. And, as always happens, he learned that this is a work of inspiration.

The Lord will bless you once you begin this work. This has been very evident to my family. Since the time we decided that we would start where we were, with what we had, many things have opened to us.

On one occasion I took to the Genealogical Society eight large volumes, manuscript family history work, consisting of 6,000 family group records of very professional family history work, all on the Packer family. All of it was compiled by Warren Packer, originally from Ohio, a schoolteacher, a Lutheran. He has spent 30 years doing this work, not really knowing why. There are two more volumes now added to the others. He senses now why he has been involved in this work over the years and very much has the spirit of the work.

We have had the opportunity, too, of locating and visiting the ancestral Packer home in England. Many of the large manor houses in England in recent years have been opened to the public. This one is not. It is about a 15-minute drive from the London England Temple, and it is built on the site of an ancient castle, with a moat around it. It stands just as it was finished in the early 1600s. The portraits of our ancestors are hanging where they were placed nearly 300





years ago. On the estate is a little chapel. In it is a stained glass window with the Packer coat of arms, put there in 1625.

Things began to emerge once we got to work. We still are not, by any means, experts in family history research. We are, however, dedicated to our family. And it is my testimony that if we start where we are—each of us with ourselves, with such records as we have—and begin putting those in order, things will fall into place as they should.

How to Begin

It is a matter of getting started. You may come to know the principle that Nephi knew when he said, “And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do” (1 Nephi 4:6).

If you don’t know where to start, start with *yourself*. If you don’t know what records to get, and how to get them, start with what you have.

There are two very simple instructions for those who are waiting for a place to begin. Here’s what you might do:

Get a cardboard box. Any kind of a box will do. Put it someplace where it is in the way, perhaps on the couch or on the counter in the kitchen—anywhere where it cannot go unnoticed. Then, over a period of a few weeks, collect and put into the box every record of your life, such as your birth certificate, your certificate of blessing, your certificate of baptism, your certificate of ordination, and your certificate of graduation. Collect diplomas, all of the photographs, honors, or awards, a diary if you have kept one, everything that you can find pertaining to *your* life; anything that is written, or registered, or recorded that testifies that you are alive and what you have done.

Don’t try to do this in a day. Take some time on it. Most of us have these things scattered around here and there. Some of them are in a box in the garage under that stack of newspapers; others are stored away in drawers, or in the attic, or one place or another. Perhaps some have been tucked in the leaves of the Bible or elsewhere.

Some very interesting things will start to happen once you show some interest in your own family history work. This is a firm principle.



F*ind a cardboard box and put it in the way and begin to put things in it, and as the things unfold you will sense something spiritual happening and not be too surprised at that.*

Gather all these papers together and put them in the box. Keep it there until you have collected everything you think you have. Then make some space on a table, or even on the floor, and sort out all that you have collected. Divide your life into three periods. The Church does it that way. All of our programming in the Church is divided into three general categories—children, youth, and adult.

Start with the childhood section and begin with your birth certificate. Put together every record in chronological order: the pictures, the record of your baptism, and so on, up to the time you were 12 years of age.

Next assemble all that which pertains to your youth, from 12 to 18, or up until the time you were married. Put all of that together in chronological order. Line up the records—the certificates, the photographs, and so on—and put them in another box or envelope. Do the same with the records on the rest of your life.

Once you have done this, you have what is necessary to complete your life story. Simply

take your birth certificate and begin writing: “I was born September 10, 1924, the son of Ira W. Packer and Emma Jensen Packer, at Brigham City, Utah. I was the tenth child and the fifth son in the family.”

It really won’t take you long to write, or dictate into a tape recorder, the account of your life, and it will have an accuracy because you have collected those records.

What then? After you’ve made the outline of your life history to date, what do you do with all of the materials you have collected?

That, of course, brings you to your book of remembrance. Simply paste them lightly on the pages so that they can be taken out if necessary from time to time, and you have your book of remembrance.

Once you begin this project, very interesting and inspiring things will happen. You cannot do this much without getting something of the spirit of it, and without talking about it, at least in your family circle. Some very interesting things will start to happen once you show

some interest in your own family history work. It is a firm principle. There are many, many testimonies about it. It will happen to you.

Aunt Clara will tell you that she has a picture of you with your great-grandfather. You know that cannot be so, because he died the year before you were born. But Aunt Clara produces the picture. There is your great-grandfather holding you as a tiny baby. As you check through the records you find that he died the year *after* you were born, an important detail in your family history.

That accurate data means something. The middle name written on the back of the picture means something too. You may not know it at the moment, but it is a key; the beginning of ordinance work in the temple for some of your ancestors.

You believe in the Resurrection. You must know that baptism for someone who is dead is quite as essential as baptism for someone who is living. There is no difference in the importance of it. One by one it must happen. They must do it here while living, or it must be done for them here after they die.

The whole New Testament centers on the Resurrection of the Lord. The message is that *all* are to be resurrected. Every scripture and every motivation that apply to missionary work have their application to ordinance work for the dead.

Now you have your own family history written, and you have your book of remembrance assembled. It sounds too easy—well it is, almost. But it does mean that you have to get started. Like Nephi,

you will be “led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which [you] should do” (1 Nephi 4:6).

So find a cardboard box and put it in the way and begin to put things in it, and as the things unfold you will sense something spiritual happening and not be too surprised at that.

As the Heart Turns

Family history work has the power to do something *for* the dead. It has an equal power to do something *to*

the living. Family history work of Church members has a refining, spiritualizing, tempering influence on those who are engaged in it. They understand that they are tying their family together, their living family here with those who have gone before.

Family history work in one sense would justify itself even if one were not successful in clearing names for temple work. The process of searching, the means of going after those names, would be worth all the effort you could invest. The reason: You cannot find names without knowing that they represent people. You begin to find out things about people. When we research our own lines we become interested in more than just names or the number of names going through the temple. Our interest turns our hearts to our fathers—we seek to find them and to know them and to serve them.

In doing so we store up treasures in heaven. ■

This article consists of extracts from President Packer's book The Holy Temple.

FAMILY HISTORY BASICS

BY PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER

Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

There are several basic component parts to family history and temple work. Over the years, they may be rearranged somewhat in emphasis, or the approach in programming Church participation may change somewhat. But the responsibilities stay about the same.

1. Each of us is to compile his or her own life history.
2. Each of us is to keep a book of remembrance.
3. As individuals and families we are each to seek out our kindred dead, beginning first with the four most recent generations on each line, and then going back as far as we can.
4. We are each to participate in other programs such as name extraction when asked to do so.
5. We are to organize our families and hold meetings and reunions.
6. If we have access to a temple, each of us should go to the temple as often as possible to do ordinance work—first for ourselves, then for our progenitors, then for all the names that have been gathered by means other than our own.



It's Just

H



BY JULI HOUSHOLDER

A strange disease took away my hair. How would I handle such a hard thing?

As a junior in high school, I thought that my dark blond, shoulder-length hair meant everything. My morning included nearly 30 minutes of trying various hairstyles until the right one looked nearly perfect. I did this every morning—until one day when my routine changed forever.

The day began like any day. I woke up, washed my face, and put my contacts in. Then I sleepily glanced in the mirror and caught sight of something terrible—a small bald spot on the top of my head. I looked closer and ran my fingers across it to make

sure my morning eyes were not fooling me. They weren't.

I began to panic, and in tears I searched for my mom. Together we discussed the possibility my hair got caught on something while I was sleeping. Or maybe I was not eating enough vegetables. But with no definite answers I finally parted my hair to somewhat hide the bald spot and rushed off to school.

From that day on, I continued to lose patches of hair. These spots varied from the size of a coin to the size of a fist. I went to numerous doctors who examined every part of my head. I also spent a lot of time on my knees in prayer, seeking comfort and strength to handle what the doctors would tell me.

Grateful for her health, Juli turned to the Lord for comfort and strength.



Before losing her hair, Juli loved to try out different styles. Then came the day when her hair fell out in bunches. Her brothers (opposite page) shaved their heads to lend her their support.



In September 2000 I found out I had an autoimmune disease known as alopecia areata. I can still hear my doctor’s voice when he explained this meant “total hair loss with no known cure.” Immediately my mind filled with thoughts of doubt, thoughts like “What’s next?” and “Why me?”

After seeing a specialist the next month, I shaved my almost-bald head. Without my hair, I felt like a completely different person. My sense of self plummeted, and it was almost impossible to drag myself to school. “What would everyone think? What would everyone say?” I wondered.

Scarves became my everyday hairstyle. Instead of spending a half hour every morning on my hair, I spent five minutes carefully tying a scarf around my bald head. The scarves were colorful and comfortable, but they weren’t my hair. At one point I tried wearing a wig the same color as my hair.

This only brought constant worry of it falling off in front of everyone at school. I went back to scarves.

School was a challenge. I knew my Heavenly Father loved me and I could count

on Him to be there when everyone else was turning away. But that was hard to remember when my peers gave me quick, odd glances. It was also hard when rumors began to spread, and I knew I was the topic of conversation. I didn’t understand why, of all times in my life, I had to deal with this during high school—a time when I wanted so much to be

accepted and liked by those around me.

I made it through my senior year only because of certain things I made myself remember as I walked the halls of my high school. Each morning I prayed and thanked the Lord for the blessing of being alive and for the beauty around me. I prayed for strength to endure the day ahead and to



remember I was loved by many. I also thanked my Heavenly Father for the things I was learning from this experience. It seems simple, but it made a difference. Whenever someone gave me a funny look or made a

cruel joke, I simply remembered my motto, "It's just hair. It really doesn't matter."

I knew I had no control over what was going to happen with my hair, but I also knew I had complete control over how I was going to face it. I could make it a blessing and an opportunity, or I could look at it as a punishment and simply give up.

It has been almost three years since the morning I found the small bald patch on my head. In that time I have had to shave my head five times because I still have small patches of hair. Each time I have shaved it with a little more enthusiasm and appreciation for life.

I know I couldn't have done it alone. The Lord has become the one I trust. He does not judge

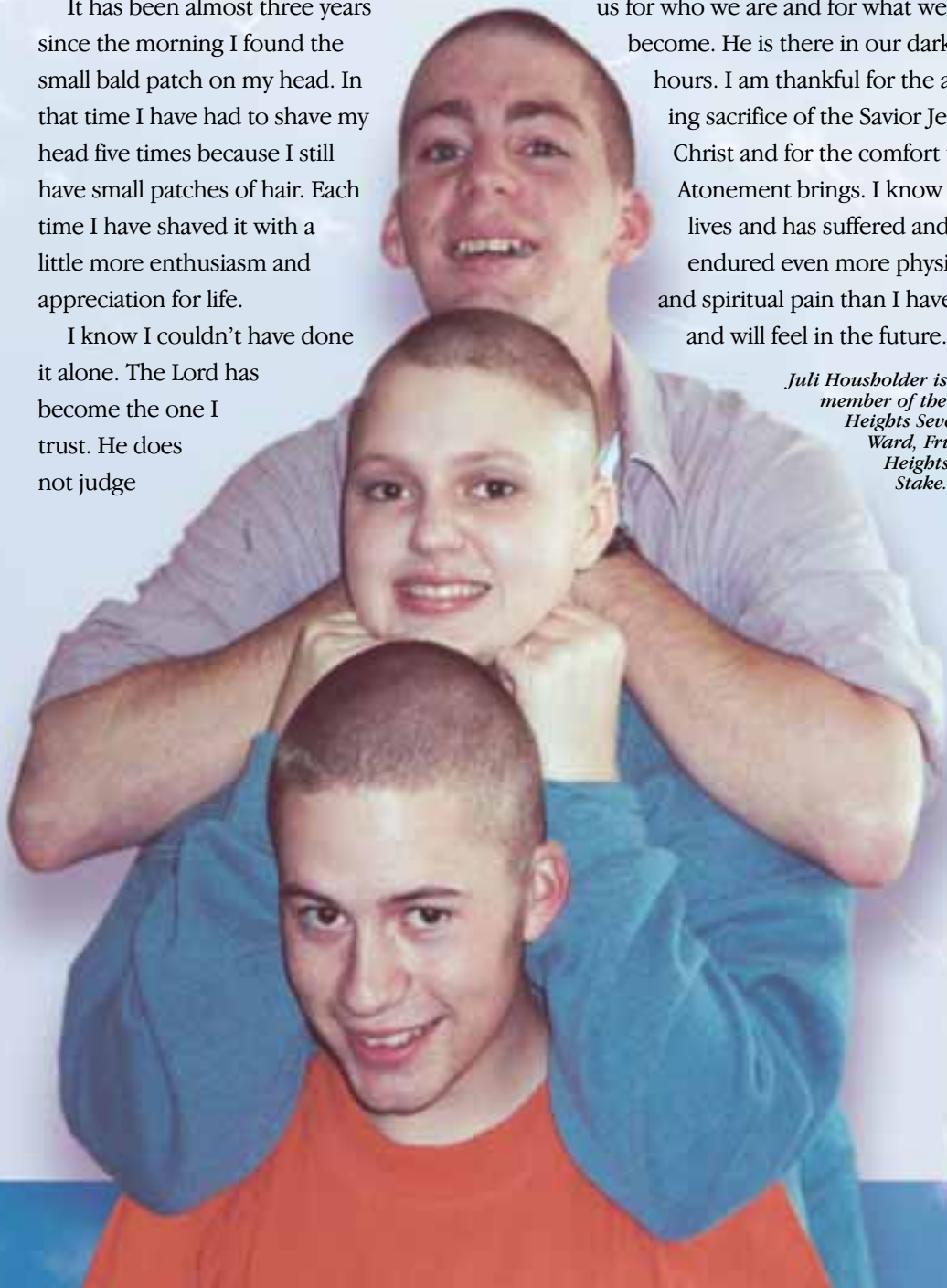
me or laugh at me; I know He loves me just as much without hair as He did when I had hair. I have also relied on the love and support of my family.

I know we are all children of God with divine potential. We are all here to learn and grow in different ways with different challenges. We have a Heavenly Father who loves us for who we are and for what we can become. He is there in our darkest hours. I am thankful for the atoning sacrifice of the Savior Jesus Christ and for the comfort the Atonement brings. I know He lives and has suffered and endured even more physical and spiritual pain than I have felt and will feel in the future. ■

Juli Housholder is a member of the Fruit Heights Seventh Ward, Fruit Heights Utah Stake.



Juli still has alopecia (below). She has to endure the heartbreak of having her hair grow in for a while, then fall out again. Learning how to deal with her disease has helped her trust in the Lord.



Questions & Answers

Why doesn't the Church make a list telling me exactly what I can and can't do?

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

L I A H O N A

Actually, the Lord *has* given us a list of things we should and shouldn't do. This list is called the Ten Commandments. And He has given us other direction, including the covenants we make at baptism and in the temple, to protect us from harm and to help us become as He is. Church leaders also give us specific counsel regarding what we should and shouldn't do. And they have prepared a wonderful resource called *For the Strength of Youth: Fulfilling Our Duty to God* (item no. 36550). This brochure gives specific guidelines on topics ranging from dress and appearance to Sabbath day observance. These guidelines can help you successfully navigate the troubled waters of the latter days.

Sometimes, however, the scriptures and the words of the living prophets don't address a particular situation you find yourself in. And what if the choice is not between right and wrong but between right and right? How do you make that decision?

There are several places we can go for guidelines from the Lord, including the words of the prophets, the scriptures, and For the Strength of Youth.

Life is far too complex for a list to cover every situation.

Part of life is to learn to use our agency, not to follow detailed instructions like a robot.

The Holy Ghost can guide us in the decisions we must make. The gift of the Holy Ghost is better than any list.

As we grow spiritually and learn to follow the Holy Ghost, making righteous decisions will become easier.

R E A D E R S



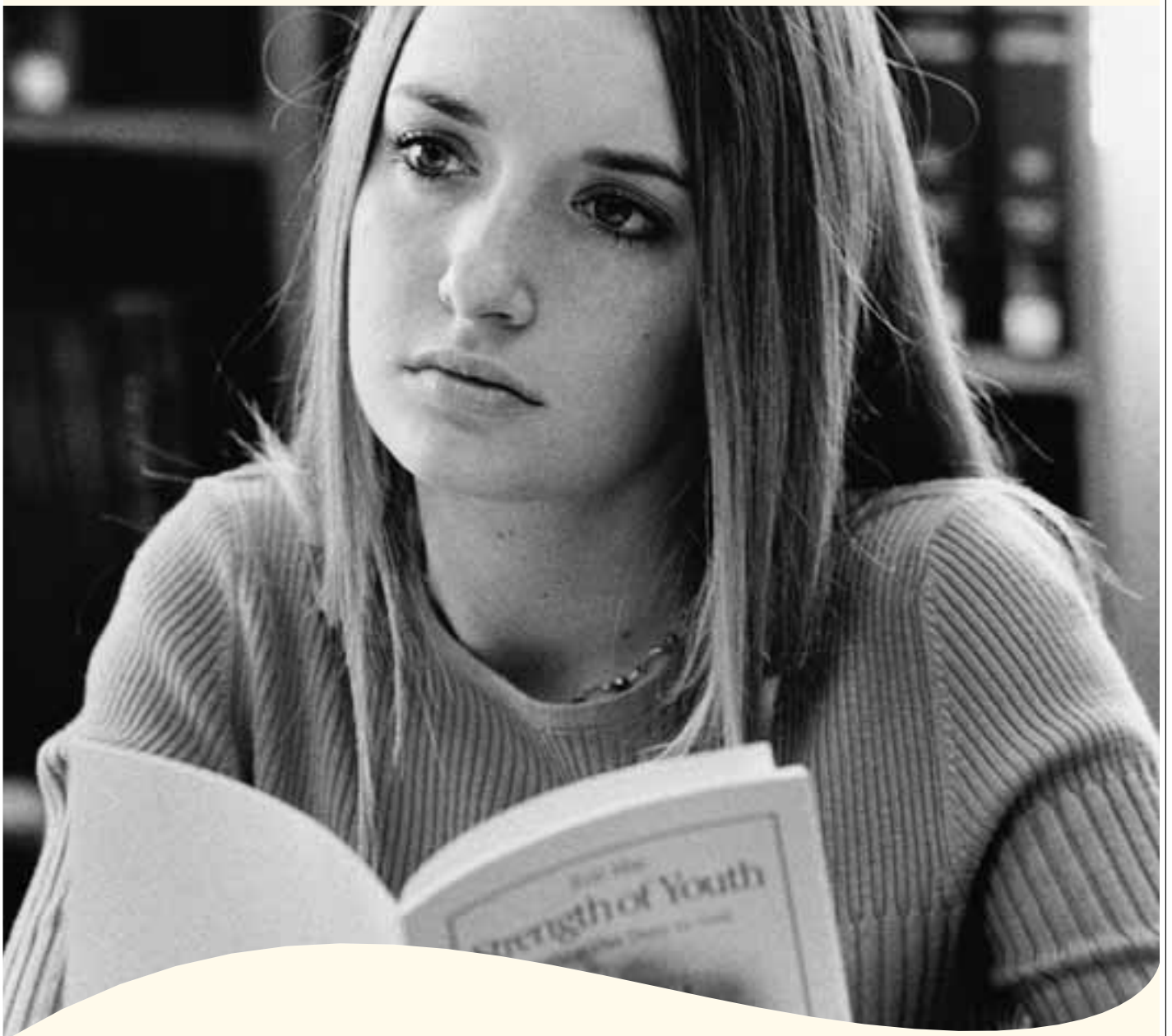
The beauty of the plan of salvation is that it allows us to find out for ourselves what is right. There is a wonderful guideline available to everyone, however; it is called For the Strength of Youth.

Brian Middleton, 17, El Dorado Ward, El Dorado California Stake



The Church does not give us a list of things we should or should not do because we have the Holy Ghost, who can teach and reveal to us what is good and right. We have agency to choose if we will obey. Second, Heavenly Father has given us commandments, scriptures, and words of Church leaders. Finally, we have our parents, and they have taught us what is right and will bring us happiness.

Sini Falatau, 20, Veitongo Ward, Nuku'alofa Tonga South Stake



My mission president explained the idea that doctrine leads to principles and principles lead to rules. If we study the doctrine and

understand the correct principles that flow from that doctrine, then we will understand the more detailed rules through the Spirit. If we always seek the guidance of the Spirit through prayer and scripture study, we will know with clarity what is right and what is wrong.

Elder Yudai Ito, 22, Japan Sapporo Mission



The Lord and His Church have already given us knowledge about what we should and shouldn't do through the Ten

Commandments (see Exodus 20) and the two great commandments (see Matthew 22:36–40). The only thing we need to do is keep the commandments of God.

Kate Mensah, 22, Cape Coast Second Ward, Cape Coast Ghana Stake



If a list did exist, it would be very long. It could never be complete because there are simply too many things we should and shouldn't do.

Also, Heavenly Father wants us to learn. Without straightforward answers to everything, we search for the answers. In other words, we seek knowledge and we learn.

Katrina Voigt, 14, Preston Branch, Rochester Minnesota Stake

LIAHONA

As many readers pointed out, life is far too complex for the Church to publish a comprehensive list covering every situation. Besides, the Lord has given us agency for a reason. We are not here on earth just to prove that we can follow detailed instructions like a computer or a robot. The Lord wants us to become as He is. This means we have to learn to make wise decisions. We need to learn to recognize and act on truth.

As members of the Lord's Church, we have been given a wonderful gift to help us make difficult decisions: the gift of the Holy Ghost. "I will impart unto you of my Spirit," the Lord explained, "which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy" (D&C 11:13). We don't need a list to tell us what to do; we need to listen to the whisperings of the Spirit.

Each of us can grow in our ability to follow the Spirit until we can choose wisely between right and wrong and can recognize subtle distinctions between two courses that may seem equally good. "That which is of God is light," the Lord teaches us, "and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day" (D&C 50:24). We are children of God, but He doesn't want us to remain children spiritually. He wants us to grow up, to progress, and ultimately to become even as He is (see 3 Nephi 27:27). ■



DO WHAT IS RIGHT

You are growing in spiritual discipline—that is, your ability to discern the promptings of the Spirit and your capacity to follow them. Over time, that capacity will increase and grow stronger until it becomes easier and easier to automatically do the right things. . . . While that spiritual discipline is developing, you must be very careful to avoid choices that would take you from the path of happiness."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Do What Is Right," *Liahona*, Mar. 2001, 11.

READERS



The scriptures tell us to "feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do" (2 Nephi 32:3).

Be diligent in study and worthy of

the Holy Ghost, and you will know the way to go.

Anna Vitalyevna Sursyakova, 20, Donetsk Kievsky

Branch, Donetsk Ukraine District



The Prophet Joseph Smith once said, "I teach them correct principles, and they govern themselves" (as quoted by John Taylor, in *Millennial Star*, 15 Nov. 1851, 339). In the Church we

are taught true principles. It is up to us to govern ourselves. We don't have to be told what to do most of the time. The Holy Ghost guides us. If we adhere to the Spirit's whisperings, blessings will follow.

Marneilo M. Dala, 19, Initao Ward, Cagayan de Oro

Philippines West Stake

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send us your answer to the question below, along with your name, age, and ward and stake (or branch and district). Please include a photograph of yourself. Mail your answer to arrive by 1 September 2003 to Questions and Answers 09/03, *Liahona*, Room 2420, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA; or e-mail to cur-liahona-imag@ldschurch.org.

QUESTION

I am a young woman with a friend who says he wants to be baptized, but I think he might be more interested in a serious relationship with me than in the gospel. I want him to join the Church, but I don't want him to do it for the wrong reasons. What should I do?

Prepare to Be Strong through Trials

Prayerfully select and read from this message the scriptures and teachings that meet the needs of the sisters you visit. Share your experiences and testimony. Invite those you teach to do the same.

Helaman 5:12: “It is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, . . . it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo.”

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “Our Father in Heaven does not wish us to cower. He does not want us to wallow in our misery. He expects us to square our shoulders, roll up our sleeves, and overcome our challenges.

“That kind of spirit—that blend of faith and hard work—is the spirit we should emulate as we seek to reach a safe harbor in our own lives. . . .

“Use your ingenuity, your strength, your might to resolve your challenges. Do all you can do and then leave the rest to the Lord” (“Finding a Safe Harbor,” *Liabona*, July 2000, 73).

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “Your trust in the Lord must be more powerful and enduring than

your confidence in your own personal feelings and experience.

“To exercise faith is to trust that the Lord knows what He is doing with you and that He can accomplish it for your eternal good even though you cannot understand how He can possibly do it. We are like infants in our understanding of eternal matters and their impact on us here in mortality. Yet at times we act as if we knew it all. When you pass through trials for His purposes, as you trust Him, exercise faith in Him, He will help you. That support will generally come step by step, a portion at a time. While you are passing through each phase, the pain and difficulty that comes from being enlarged will continue. If all matters were immediately resolved at your first petition, you could not grow” (“Trust in the Lord,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 17).

D&C 58:2: “Blessed is he

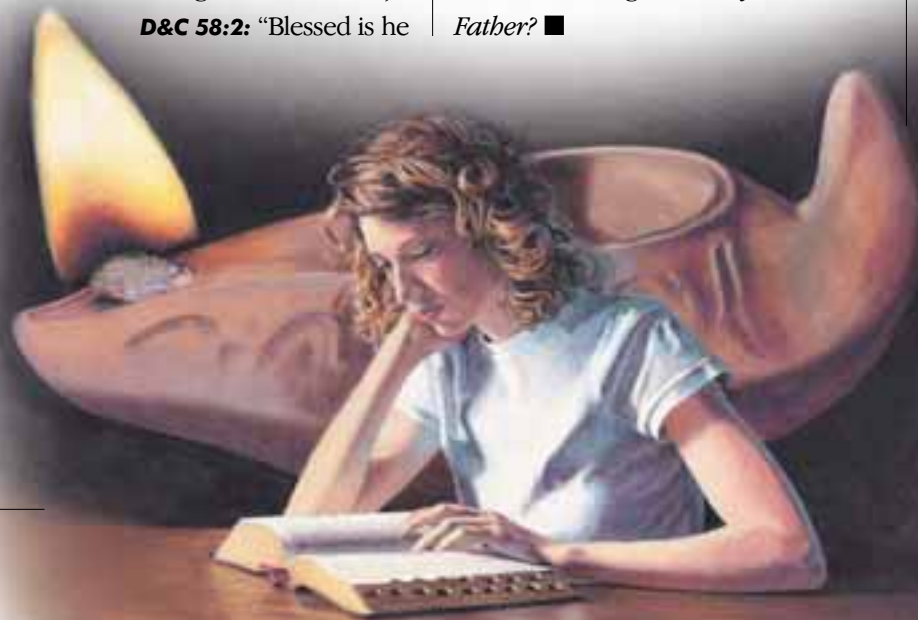
that keepeth my commandments . . . and he that is faithful in tribulation.”

Barbara W. Winder, former Relief Society general president: “In applying the parable of the ten virgins to our lives, our modern prophets have explained that the oil of preparation is accumulated drop by drop through daily righteous living.

“Consistently attending sacrament meetings adds oil to our lamps. So too will fasting, praying individually and as a family, visiting teaching, controlling our bodily appetites, teaching gospel principles, nourishing and nurturing, watching over one another, studying the scriptures. . . . Keeping the commandments and following the words of the prophet may be the greatest preparation we can make for any eventuality to come” (“Becoming a Prepared People,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 88).

- *In what ways can we increase our faith in the Lord? How will that faith support us in our tribulations?*

- *What actions are a result of trust in a loving Heavenly Father?* ■



TALK

My parents were pleased to invite the missionaries into our home just to talk. But that's when the miraculous changes in our family started.

ALL YOU WANT

BY DON CARLOS VIDAL

During April 1993 my father was buying groceries at a local store in the little town of Realicó, Argentina. Two young men approached him and asked if they could visit his family. My father agreed, and they soon came to our home.

I can still hear my little brother, Sebastián, running to my bedroom and whispering excitedly, “Come look! The missionaries are here!” We had seen them on the streets before, and I must confess we had made fun of them.

That day they shared the Book of Mormon with my parents. They stopped by two days later, and to their amazement my mother had read the whole book and had a list of questions. The missionaries were very excited, but my parents were not looking for a change of religion as much as they were interested in developing a friendship with the elders. “Talk all you want, but you will not get a convert out of this family” was my parents’ first reaction to the discussions. Still the missionaries continued to teach us with a lot of faith and patience.

On a cold night we offered to take the elders home after a discussion. On the way back to our house I asked my mother if she was really thinking of being baptized into this new religion. Her reply stunned me: “If I find it to be the truth, then I will get baptized.” I realized I should also know for myself if it was true.

When the commitment to obey the Word of Wisdom came up in the discussions, I thought it was the end. My mother had tried to stop smoking for 16 years without positive results, and my father sometimes drank alcohol at social events. I didn’t think we needed to change our lifestyle to please some strange religion. Still the missionaries asked us to pray to find out if the gospel had been restored and if Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. A miracle occurred because my mother was able to stop smoking. She knew God was trying to let her know the Church was true, and she was baptized.

I kept reading and praying, and once I had a testimony of the Book of Mormon, I entered the waters of baptism. A few weeks later my father made the same decision, and two years later so did my brother. Although I was only 13 years old when I joined the Church, I knew I had found the greatest treasure ever.

We were sealed as an eternal family in the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple, and we have discovered the joy the gospel brings to our lives. As I look back, I can see the Spirit of God working in our hearts and helping us come out of the darkness into the light.

I love my family. I love the gospel. I love being a missionary. And now when I knock on a door and people say, “Talk all you want, but you will not get a convert out of this family,” I smile and pray that the Spirit will touch them the way it touched my family 10 years ago. ■

Don Carlos Vidal is serving full time in the Oregon Eugene Mission.

My First Church Assignment



BY ELDER JOHN A. HARRIS
Area Authority Seventy

I developed an abiding love of family history as I discovered my roots in China, Great Britain, Latin America, and Switzerland.

A class on family history I attended shortly after my baptism made the Spirit of Elijah burn more brightly within me. I began to interview my grandparents, to fill in family group records, to complete pedigree charts, and to write my family history.

Just weeks after I was baptized at age 16, my branch president called me to attend a family history class. Because of that simple assignment, my entire life changed.

Growing up in Uruguay with the uncommon surname of Harris (inherited from my father, who was British), I already had a natural interest in family history because of my unique ancestry—which includes progenitors from Switzerland and China as well as Great Britain. The class made the Spirit of Elijah burn more brightly within me. I began to interview my grandparents, to fill in family group records, to complete pedigree charts, and to write my family history. Soon after completing the class I was called to serve as a family history instructor.

During the next few years I experienced spiritual direction several times while working on my family history, and since then I have learned that events like these are common when we are engaged in this great work.

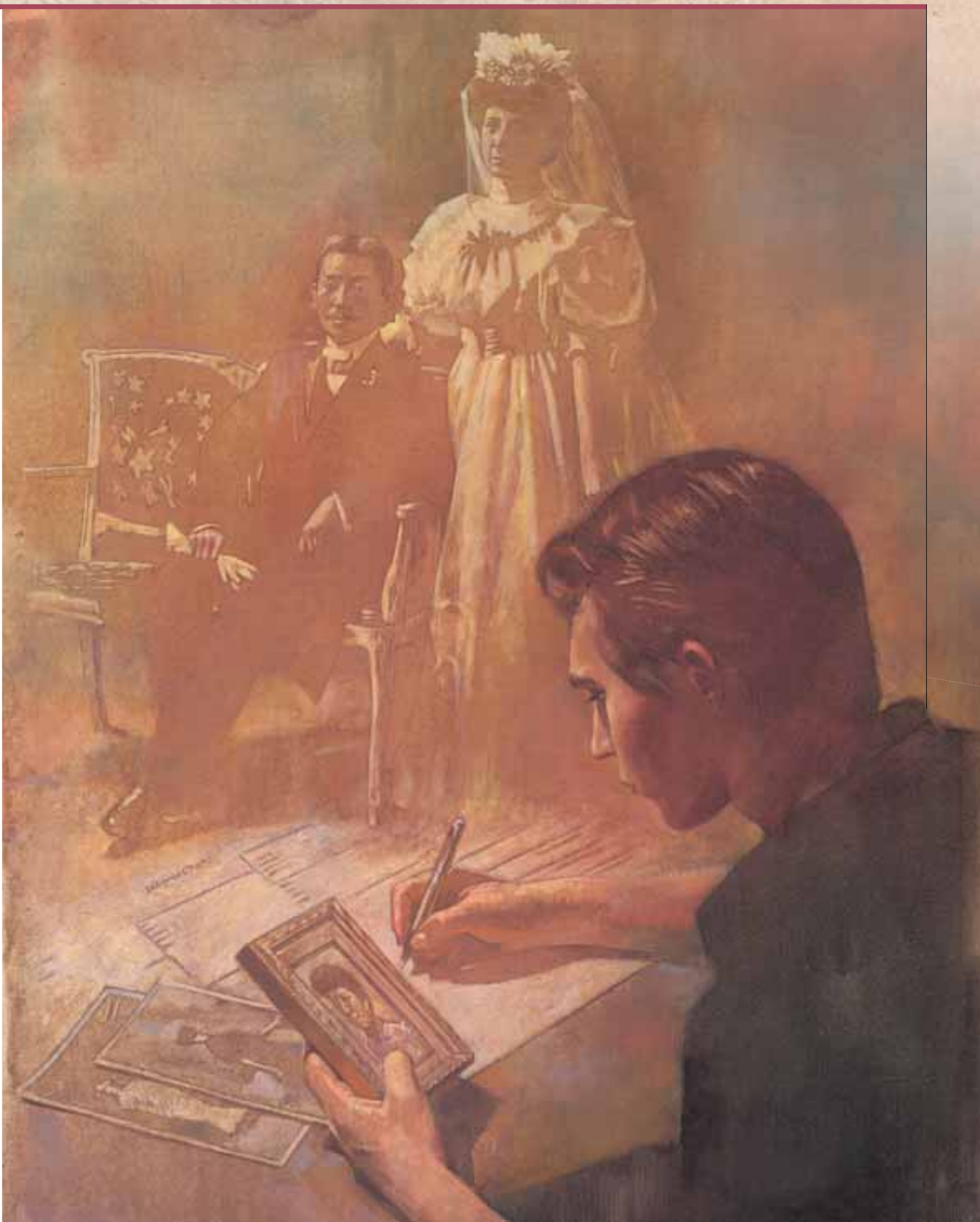
Archived Records in Uruguay

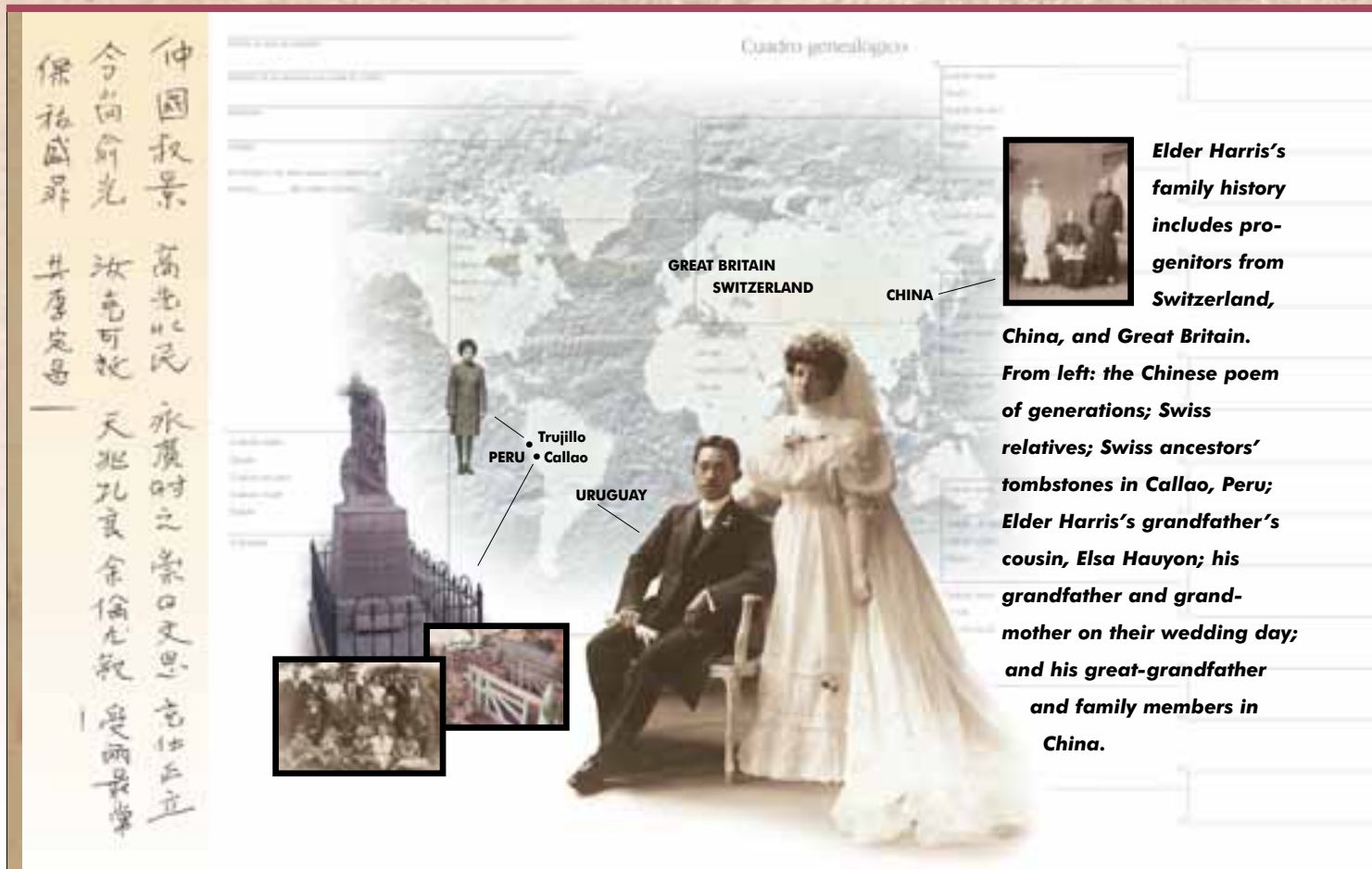
One of the most extraordinary experiences took place when I was 19 years old. I was released from serving as a counselor in my branch presidency so I could accept an assignment as chairman of family history for the mission. We were preparing for a visit from George H. Fudge of the Church's Genealogical Department in Salt Lake City; he was hoping to microfilm some of the vital records of Uruguay. I was asked to help make the arrangements.

That night I prayed fervently for the ability to do what I had been asked. Later I noticed a newspaper headline that read, "Genealogy in Uruguay." The story told about an upcoming meeting of Uruguayan genealogists. Then I saw that the newspaper was several days old. The meeting had already been held, but I decided to visit the address in the story anyway.

On the evening I decided to make my visit, I was also assigned to supervise a youth gathering and had to stay at the meetinghouse until 9:30 P.M. I didn't have the money for bus fare, so I walked to the place where the meeting had been held. By the time I reached the address, it was late. I rang the bell, hoping for the best, and a few minutes later a man opened the door.

I introduced myself, and the man graciously allowed me to come in. What he said next filled me with surprise: "I am glad you





仲國叔景
高北民
永廣時之崇口文思
高仕正立
今尚命光
汝克可說
天祀孔良余倫尤親
受兩最榮
保私感罪
其厚定焉



Elder Harris's family history includes progenitors from Switzerland,

China, and Great Britain.

From left: the Chinese poem of generations; Swiss relatives; Swiss ancestors' tombstones in Callao, Peru; Elder Harris's grandfather's cousin, Elsa Hauyon; his grandfather and grandmother on their wedding day; and his great-grandfather and family members in China.

came this late because I just arrived. Had you come a few minutes earlier you would have found an empty house.” I soon learned he was part of the only group of genealogists in Uruguay. I also found out that the newspaper had published the story about the meeting despite having been asked not to do so.

I was able to set up a meeting for Brother Fudge with this group of eminent genealogists. They opened the archives to him. At his request, some of the indexes of family history records in Uruguay were microfilmed. I believe these were the first records microfilmed by the Church in Uruguay.

A Chinese Poem of Generations

A second significant event occurred a few years later when I was called to serve a mission to Peru. My grandfather, who was not religious but was the man I respected most, did not want me to go. Mine was a Chinese family, and my grandfather was its patriarch. In effect, the family was our religion, and obeying and honoring our elders was our moral code. For weeks my grandfather did not talk to

me because of my intention to go on a mission. One week before I left, he offered me a present. He gave me the razor I used during my mission—a razor I still keep to this day. He was a loving man. In order to help him feel better about my mission, I told him I would do what I could to find his relatives living in Peru.

In the first three months of my mission, I met Guillermo “Willy” Hauyon, my grandfather’s nephew. I told Guillermo I had heard there was a Chinese poem in the family from which each generation took a word and incorporated it in their given names. To my surprise, he produced the poem and copied it for me. When I returned to Uruguay after my mission, I had my grandfather transcribe the poem in his own handwriting. Today it is a precious reminder of my grandfather and my heritage. The poem contains 48 Chinese characters and is used to mark generations; it has since proven invaluable in helping determine family relations.

A few months after finding the poem—while serving in the mission office—I traveled to Trujillo, Peru. There I met

Elsa Hauyon, who was then 82 years old. She turned out to be my grandfather's cousin, the only relative I have ever known who grew up with him in China. I spent hours talking to her, recording the names of my grandfather's brothers and sisters. I learned that there were 13 of them and not just the four my grandfather spoke of. With Elsa's help, I also traced our family back to the founder of my grandfather's hometown.

Swiss Ancestors in Peru

Another sacred family history event also occurred while I served as a missionary. Upon arriving in Peru, I was assigned to Callao, the port of Lima. It was most remarkable because, unbeknownst to me at the time, the tombs of my Swiss ancestors were in that very city. A relative eventually told me about the tombs, but I was unable to find them before being transferred to another city.

However, I believe the Lord wanted me to find my ancestors. While missionaries are seldom assigned to the same branch twice, I was. Almost a year later, I came back to Callao, and this time I discovered there were two adjacent cemeteries, one where my Schlupp ancestors are buried and the other where the records (dating back to 1820) for the family are stored. Searching through the records, I finally came across what I was looking for: "Elizabeth Schlupp, 57 years old, buried

THE REAL REASON



"Elijah came not only to stimulate research for ancestors. He also enabled families to be eternally linked beyond the bounds of mortality. Indeed, the opportunity for families to be sealed forever is the real reason for our research. The Lord declared through the Prophet Joseph Smith: 'These are principles in relation to the dead and the living that cannot be lightly passed over, as pertaining to our salvation. For their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation, . . . they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect' [D&C 128:15]."

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "A New Harvest Time," *Ensign*, May 1998, 34.

September 16, 1875; Ana Maria Schlupp Kruse, 66 years old, buried January 24, 1918." I had found my Swiss ancestors!

I was ecstatic. I was able to complete four generations of my family history at last. Of all the places I could have been assigned, the Lord had called me not once but twice to Callao—the place where I could locate my Swiss ancestors.

A Lasting Impression

All of these wonderful events happened during the six years after my baptism. When I look back on my youth, I realize how much my testimony of the Church and its divinity has been strengthened through family history work and the Spirit of Elijah. I can truly say I have felt the Lord's influence many times in turning my heart to my ancestors. That chord, struck by my branch president who was inspired to get me started at age 16 with family history, still resonates today in the most sacred experiences of my soul. ■

Elder John A. Harris is an Area Authority Seventy serving in the Utah South Area.



Clockwise from left: Elder Harris's grandmother in traditional Chinese dress; a Swiss ancestor's tombstone, forgotten under the trees of a Protestant cemetery in the city of Elder Harris's first missionary assignment; family photo of Chinese relatives, including Elsa Hauyon.



WEB OF FRI



BY ELDER RICHARD H. WINKEL
Of the Seventy

I'd like to talk to you about a beautiful place. The north coast of California in the United States is home to the world's tallest trees. A walk through a virgin, old-growth redwood forest can be one of the most awe-inspiring experiences you'll ever have. These trees sometimes live to be more than 2,000 years old and can reach heights of 300 feet (92 m) and more. The tallest redwood tree ever recorded was 367 feet (113 m) in height. That is about three-fourths again as tall as the Salt Lake Temple. The gigantic redwoods dwarf their other soft-wood and hardwood neighbors, thus becoming "the Mount Everest of all living things."

"Yea, all things which come of the earth, in the season thereof, are made for the benefit and the use of man, both to please the eye and to gladden the heart;

"Yea, for food and for raiment, for taste

and for smell, to strengthen the body and to enliven the soul.

"And it pleaseth God that he hath given all these things unto man; for unto this end were they made to be used, with judgment, not to excess, neither by extortion.

"And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things, and obey not his commandments" (D&C 59:18–21).

Taking Root

The coastal redwoods are truly lords of their realm and a most exquisite creation of our Father in Heaven. They reign over associated trees because of their overwhelming height and majestic beauty. However, there is another feature of these towering giants that is truly remarkable and somewhat unknown to most of us. Even though they grow up to heights of 300 feet (92 m) and can weigh more than one million pounds (460 tonnes),

As these roots extend out, they intertwine with the roots of their brother and sister redwoods. This web is the secret of their strength.



ENDSHIP

these trees have a very shallow root system. Their roots go down only 3 to 6 feet (1 to 2 m) but can spread out several hundred feet (more than 100 m). As these roots extend out, they intertwine with their brother and sister redwoods and other trees as well. This intertwining of roots creates a webbing effect. Most engineers would tell you this shallow root system still would be incapable of keeping the redwoods intact and protected against strong winds and floods. However, the interconnecting root systems are the secret of their strength and teach us a great lesson.

These magnificent giants simply could not make it alone. Without being connected to nearby trees, they would not survive.

New members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints cannot make it alone either. They might appear to be as independently strong as the redwoods, but they need us and we need them.

Supported, Sustained, and Loved

They need our love and support. Whether we know it or not, they are reaching out to us as the roots of the

redwood reach toward the Douglas fir, the Western hemlock, the Sitka spruce, and other species as well. We need to reach out to these new members and sustain them in their growth, for truly we are their brothers and sisters. Don't we all do better when we are supported, sustained, and loved by our families and friends? Even trees do better when they grow close together in groves. They grow taller, straighter, stronger, and produce better lumber.

I am thankful for the web of friendship that has nurtured me throughout my life, for having been born of goodly parents, for my brothers, sisters, and extended family. I am especially grateful for the love and support of my wife and children. I feel very fortunate to have had many good friends through the years, both in and out of the Church.

I know we have a kind and wise Heavenly Father and bear testimony of His Son, Jesus Christ, and of His atoning sacrifice, which touches each one of us. I also bear testimony that the Church is led by a great prophet today. I ask the Lord to bless us all that we might feel more connected and caring of one another. ■

Adapted from an October 1999 general conference address.



THE PARABLE OF THE Talents



BY ELDER RONALD A. RASBAND
Of the Seventy

What parent has not looked into the eyes of a newborn infant and wondered in amazement about the child's future? What parent has not asked questions such as "What kind of life will my child have? For what purposes has this child come to earth now? What must I do as a parent to help this infant fulfill those purposes?"

Every one of us has been blessed with many marvelous capabilities, and one of the great objectives of our journey through mortality is to improve upon them. The Savior powerfully taught this lesson in His parable of the talents.¹

Good and Faithful Servants

A few days before His Crucifixion, Jesus took His disciples to a place on the Mount of Olives overlooking the city of Jerusalem (see Matthew 24:1, 3) and gave what is known as the Olivet discourse. The sermon is contained in Matthew 24 and 25 (see also D&C 45:16–75; Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:5–55).

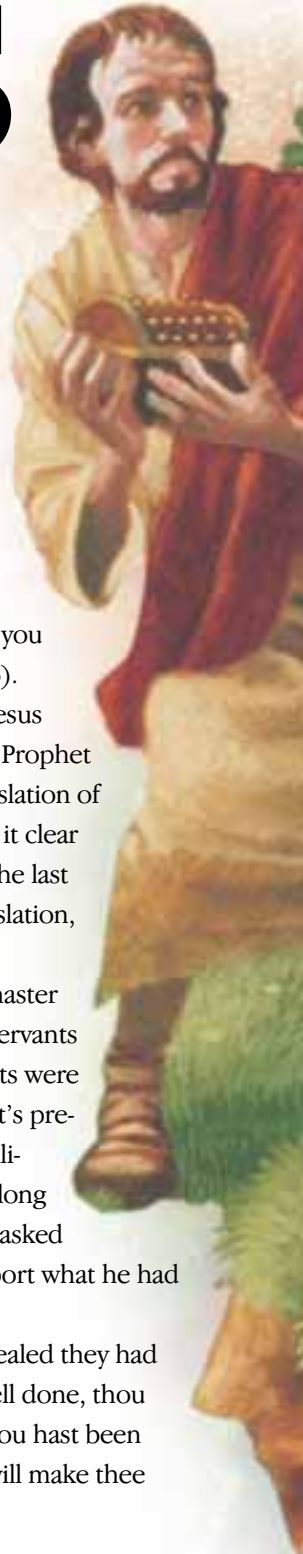
The quiet and panoramic setting was wonderfully suitable for the Savior to teach His disciples of the destruction of Jerusalem

and the signs of His Second Coming. As He spoke, His words distressed the disciples. Jesus tried to comfort them, saying, "Be not troubled, for, when all these things shall come to pass, ye may know that the promises which have been made unto you shall be fulfilled" (D&C 45:35).

As a part of this sermon Jesus gave several parables. In the Prophet Joseph Smith's inspired translation of the Bible, the Prophet made it clear that these parables refer to the last days (see Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 25:1).

Jesus told the story of a master who gave each of his three servants a sum of money. The amounts were set according to each servant's previously demonstrated capabilities. The man then left for a long time. When he returned, he asked each of these servants to report what he had done with the money.

The first two servants revealed they had doubled his investment. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee





Those who obtain other talents shall be given even more talents in abundance. But those who do not obtain other talents shall lose even the talents they had initially received.

ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord,” was the master’s reply (Matthew 25:21; see also v. 23).

The Other Servant

The third servant then came trembling before his master. He had already heard what the others had reported and knew that he could not give a similar report. “I was afraid,” the servant said, “and went and hid thy talent in the earth” (Matthew 25:25). The master was upset. “Thou wicked and slothful servant,” he said. Then he commanded, “Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents” (Matthew 25:26, 28).

The Savior then gave the interpretation of the parable: Those who obtain other talents receive more talents in abundance. But those who do not obtain other talents shall lose even the talents they had initially (see Matthew 25:28–29).

Obtaining Other Talents

Every person comes to earth as a unique individual. Similar threads may run in families, but each of us has a tapestry all our own. Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–85) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles wrote: “Each person in this life is endowed with those talents and capacities which his pre-earth life entitle him to receive. Some by obedience to law acquired one talent and some another.”²

The Lord made it clear that it is not good enough for us simply to return to Him the talents He has given us. We are to improve upon and add to our talents. He has promised that if we multiply our talents we will receive eternal joy.

In modern revelation the Lord affirmed the principles in this parable: “But with some I am not well pleased, for . . . they hide the talent which I have given unto them, because of the fear of man. . . . Thou shalt not idle away thy time, neither shalt thou bury thy talent that it may not be known” (D&C 60:2, 13).

Three Principles

Applying the teachings of the parable of the talents has been a challenge and a blessing in my life. The following principles have been a great help to me in my efforts with this process.

Seek earnestly to discover the talents the Lord has given you. The talents God has given us first become apparent in the interests we pursue. If you are wondering about your talents, make a list of the things you like to do. Include all the activities you enjoy from different dimensions of your life—spiritual, musical, dramatic, academic, athletic, and so on. Study and ponder your patriarchal blessing for insights and inspiration. Consult family members, trusted friends, teachers, and leaders; others often can see in us what we find difficult to see in ourselves.

I remember a wonderful Primary teacher who frequently invited me to read the scriptures in front of the class. She told me what a nice reading voice I had and how well I read. What she said and the way she encouraged me helped me gain confidence and realize a talent from the Lord at an early age.

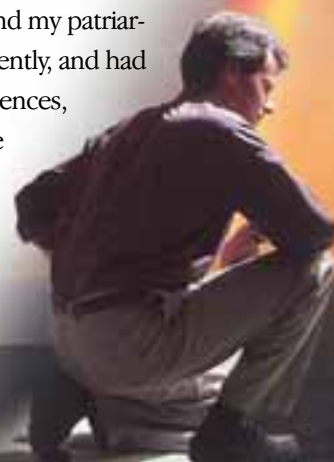
As a 19-year-old missionary, I yearned to know if I had been blessed with any helpful missionary-related talents. I felt a great desire to know how I could magnify whatever gifts I had so that I could

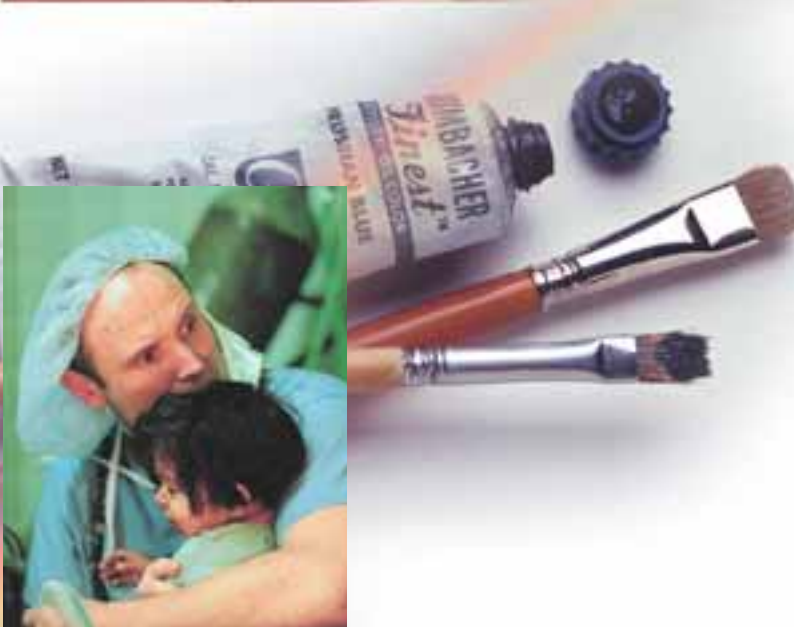
be a more effective servant of the Lord. As I studied the scriptures and my patriarchal blessing, prayed fervently, and had various missionary experiences, several of my talents were made known to me.

Use your talents to build up the kingdom of God. Our first priority



We should seek earnestly to discover the talents the Lord has given us, then use them to build up the kingdom of God.





in helping others is our family. Parents are in a unique and powerful position to encourage and support their children in developing their talents. We also have many opportunities to help others identify their talents. I am grateful for the many people who have helped me add to my talents. The successes in life of those we assist, sponsor, mentor, and lift as they pursue their own talents can bring us great joy and satisfaction.

Focusing on serving the Savior can guide us toward making proper decisions in our daily lives. This perspective prepares us to do whatever the Lord may ask of us at any time. President Gordon B. Hinckley exemplifies this important attitude: “My talents may not be great, but I can use them to bless the lives of others. I can be one who does his work with pride in that which comes from his hand and mind.”³

Acknowledge God’s hand in your success. We must never forget or stop acknowledging that all talents and abilities come from God. Some were given to us before our birth, while others have been acquired as we have developed. But in both cases, they are gifts from a benevolent Heavenly Father, whose gracious blessings are also the means for improving our talents and obtaining others. The Lord has said, “And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is his wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things” (D&C 59:21).

I am thankful for the knowledge He has given us—that we are His children and that we are to magnify and multiply our talents to our fullest potential. I know that if we will work hard and do our best, using our talents to bless others and build the kingdom of God, we will be brought back into His presence and hear Him say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:21). ■

NOTES


1. The Greek word for talent means “a balance.” In New Testament times, a talent was the largest weight (about 75 pounds or 34 kg) used for measuring the heaviness or value of metals such as gold or silver. A talent was not a coin but a sum of money (see Bible Dictionary, “Money,” 733–34, and “Weights and Measures,” 788).
2. *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. (1966–73), 1:688.
3. “Articles of Belief,” Bonneville International Corporation Management Seminar, 10 Feb. 1991.

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Show a picture of yourself when you were much younger, and ask family members to do the same. Read together the first two paragraphs of this article, and tell about some capabilities you have developed. Invite others to do the same.

2. Take turns reading paragraphs from the second, third, and fourth sections of this article. Tell of a time when you were afraid to share a talent, and invite others also to tell of such times. Discuss ways we can overcome these fears.

3. Have family members underline the three principles taught by Elder Rasband in the last section of this article. Discuss ideas from this article that could help them discover and improve upon their God-given gifts and use them to build up God’s kingdom. Express gratitude for the talents God has given you.



WORDS
OF
JESUS

Resurrection to Ascension

*“Ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth”
(Acts 1:8).*



The Savior’s words during His 40-day ministry to His disciples in Jerusalem provide a wonderful road map for us.

BY ELDER D. LEE TOBLER
Of the Seventy

As Jesus was taken from the cross and lovingly prepared for burial following the customs of the Jews, His disciples wanted to protect His body from intrusion or harm. They wrapped His body with fresh linen, and a great stone was rolled into place to seal the doorway of the tomb (see Matthew 27:57–60). Three days later Jesus emerged victorious over death from the tomb. For the next 40 days He taught and ministered to His disciples in what must have been an intensely powerful experience, preparing them for His Ascension into heaven.

The Savior’s words during these 40 days provide a wonderful road map for us as we contemplate His assured triumphal return to earth. The Lord gave at least three highly significant messages to His Jerusalem disciples: (1) His Resurrection was real and all are inheritors of that wonderful gift; (2) His Atonement was completed, but there would be requirements for us to fully partake of its blessings; and (3) His disciples were

responsible to carry the message of His gospel to the world.

The Reality of the Resurrection

To both believer and unbeliever, the evidence on the morning of the third day was compelling. The stone was rolled to the side. The dead Christ was no longer in the tomb. However, even with that evidence, the Lord chose to confirm His Resurrection in numerous glorious visitations. The first was to Mary Magdalene, who mourned outside the tomb. Two angels appeared to her and asked, “Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

“And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

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

“Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned

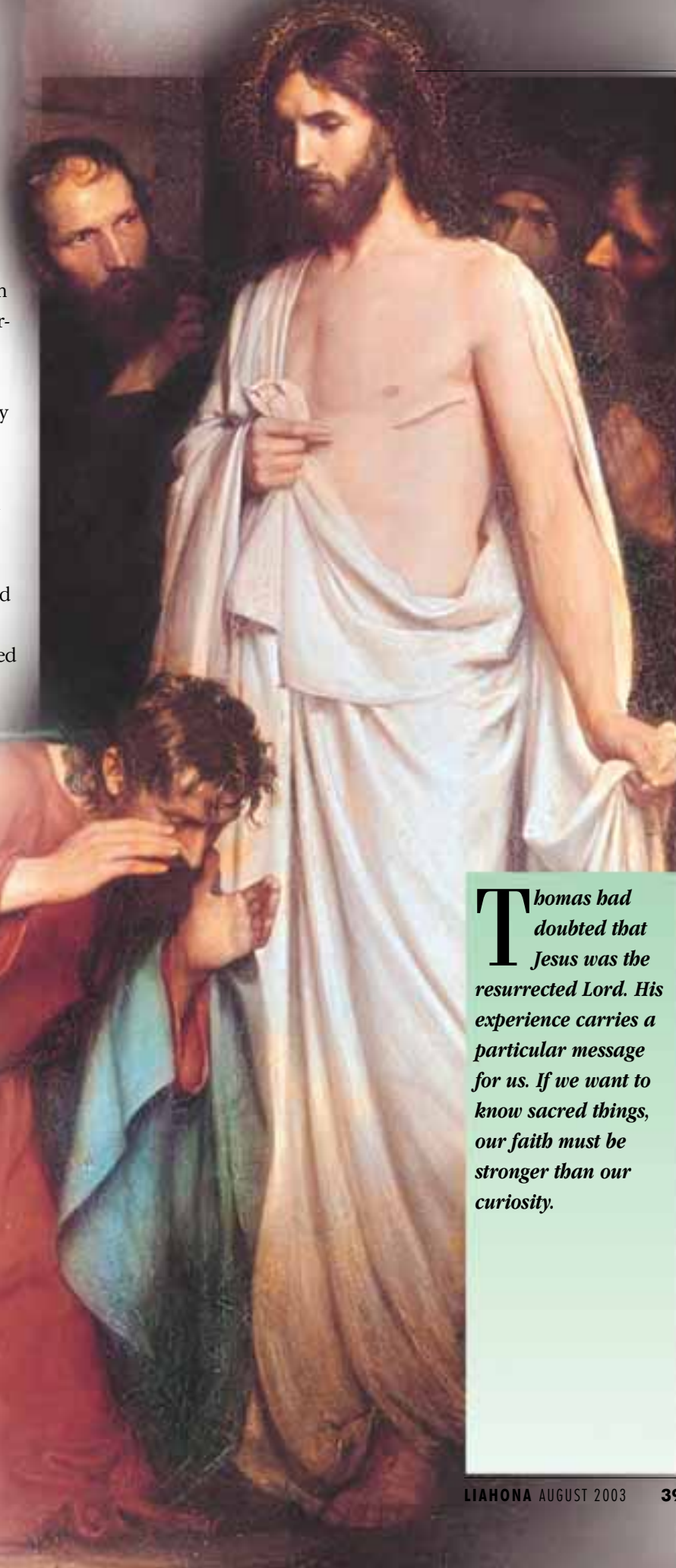
herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master” (John 20:13–16).

There is a great lesson to be learned from Mary Magdalene’s experience with the resurrected Lord. We learn that if we truly seek Him, if we truly want to know Him, we will find Him and know Him as He really is. Mary had become a disciple through conversion and had followed the Savior faithfully unto His death. By her own experience, she then knew that He was alive.

After this first confirmation of Christ’s Resurrection, others occurred. The risen Lord walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They spoke together of the rumored news of angels appearing and the Savior’s missing body. “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?” He asked the two disciples.

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” and His Resurrection (Luke 24:26–27). The Savior then appeared to Simon Peter and afterward to the 11 Apostles and others. “Peace be unto you,” He said. “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have” (Luke 24:36, 39).

While all these confirmations of His Resurrection are of great value, perhaps



Thomas had doubted that Jesus was the resurrected Lord. His experience carries a particular message for us. If we want to know sacred things, our faith must be stronger than our curiosity.

the most graphic is the Savior's appearance to Thomas and others eight days later. Thomas had doubted that Jesus was the resurrected Lord. "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands," Jesus invited, "and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God" (John 20:27–28). With this confirmation, Thomas was also given a gentle but clear reproof: "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (v. 29).

Thomas's experience carries a particular message for us. If we want to know sacred things and experience all of the rich blessings related to those sacred experiences, our faith must be stronger than our curiosity.

There were other remarkable confirmations of the Lord's Resurrection, including His appearance, teachings, and meal with seven of His disciples on the shores of Galilee. "Lovest thou me?" was His question to Peter (see John 21:15–17). "Follow thou me" (John 21:22) was His command. By the time of His Ascension, there were no doubters of His immortality among His faithful disciples.

His Completed Atonement

The Savior was eager to help His disciples understand that while the Resurrection would be universal for all of Heavenly Father's children, there was a difference between becoming immortal and inheriting eternal life. In John 14, the Savior had already explained the difference to them:

"In my Father's house are many [kingdoms]¹: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

"And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

"Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?"

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (vv. 2–6).

Thomas's question (see John 20:25) still lingers in the hearts of many of our Father's children, and the Savior's answer remains today the only answer: No son or daughter of our Heavenly Father will be able to return home to Him except by becoming a partaker of the Atonement of Christ. When the resurrected Lord taught the disciples in Galilee, He made it clear why all the world must hear the gospel: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Matthew further records the words of the Savior on this occasion:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20).

Therefore, we must conclude that partaking of Christ's Atonement for sin is conditional; it is dependent upon our being baptized and accepting His "way" and living His commandments. From the New Testament we learn that His way begins with a living faith in Jesus Christ as Redeemer of the world.

This kind of faith leads us to the covenant of baptism, when we take upon us His name and promise to keep His

commandments. Other covenants follow. We learn, as evidenced by His early disciples, that our lives must be consistent with our covenants. Only then will we receive that peaceful assurance from the Holy Ghost that we can become partakers of the Savior's Atonement. "John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost," Jesus told His disciples (Acts 1:5). In the end all ordinances must be validated by the Holy Spirit of Promise (see D&C 132:7). It is only when the Lord's Atonement is applied to us individually that we become free of our sins and worthy to enter the presence of our Heavenly Father.



After the Lord's question to Peter, Peter "saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."

Taking the Gospel Message to the World

On the shores of Galilee and on the Mount of Olives, the Savior gave the assignment or calling to His Apostles that they (and others whom they would call) should carry the message of resurrection and redemption to the world. The Lord first introduced the assignment with an inquiry, referring to the meal He proffered His disciples: “Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs” (John 21:15). Jesus asked him a second time and received a similar response. Then He asked “the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep” (v. 17).

These early disciples had to make a critical choice. Would fish and bread, or other earthly goods and materials, take priority over the matters of heart and soul that are required for those who seek eternal life? If they had let earthly things become top priority, it would have been difficult to accomplish the more critical task, that of teaching Heavenly Father’s children throughout the world—the spiritual feeding of His sheep.

Then just before His Ascension into heaven, the Lord repeated the call: “Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

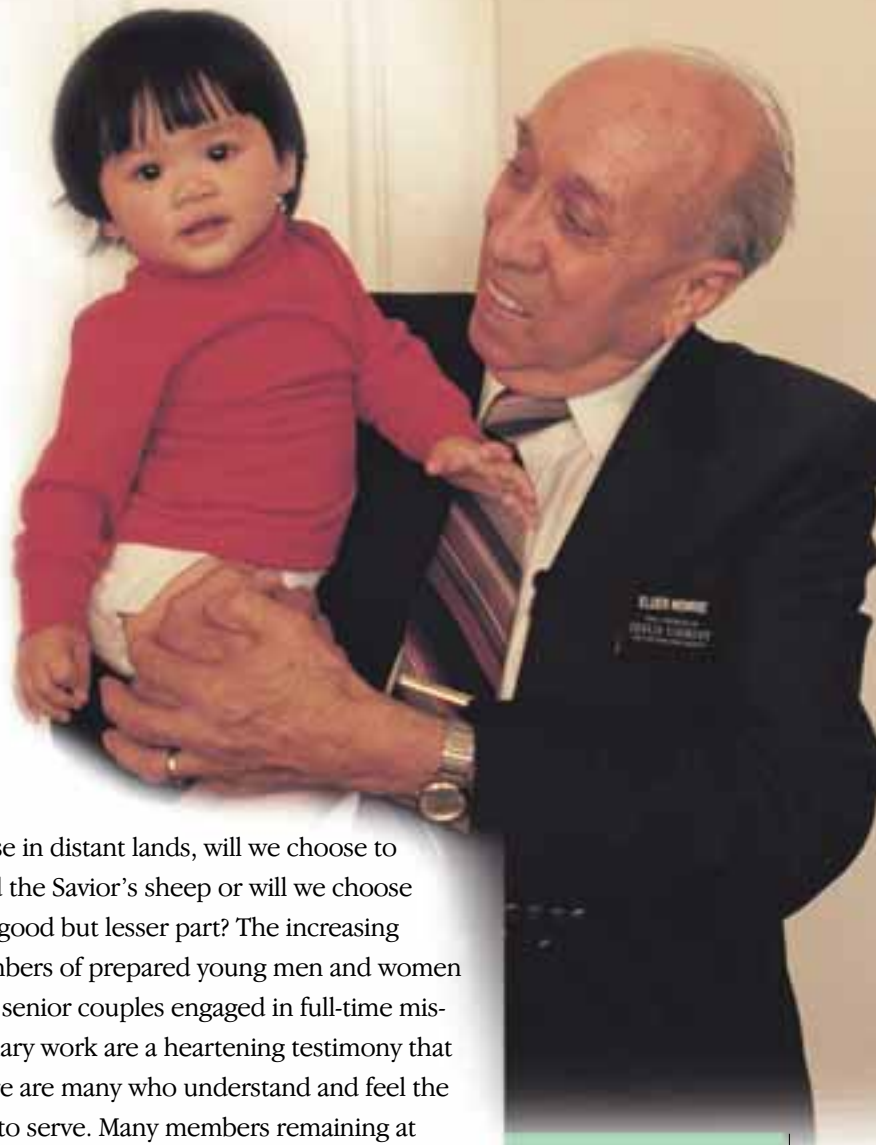
As members of the Church and disciples of Christ, we must come to terms with this challenge today. At a time when the prophets of God have called all members to be missionaries to neighbors, to family members, and to

those in distant lands, will we choose to feed the Savior’s sheep or will we choose the good but lesser part? The increasing numbers of prepared young men and women and senior couples engaged in full-time missionary work are a heartening testimony that there are many who understand and feel the call to serve. Many members remaining at home are increasingly joining the ranks of those who understand the need to teach the gospel at home as well as abroad. We are learning that disciples of Christ constantly look for ways to share this great message.

As we prepare for that future day when the Savior returns and reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords, these particular teachings take on increasing urgency. As we study the New Testament and pray for light and wisdom, we will be reassured of our divine origins. We will find great joy in the reality of resurrection, redemption, and exaltation through the Lord Jesus Christ. We will seek to carry the message to all, that our joy and their joy might be full and that we will all be able to partake of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ. ■

NOTE

1. See *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith (1976), 331.



At a time when the prophets of God have called all members to be missionaries to neighbors, to family members, and to those in distant lands, will we choose to feed the Savior’s sheep or will we choose the good but lesser part?

Because Sally Smiled

By Jennifer L. McQuade

Shortly after I moved into a new neighborhood, the local bishop sent a letter welcoming me to the ward and apologizing that my home teachers hadn't contacted me yet. Although I appreciated and saved his letter, I rarely attended church and didn't take the first step back to full activity until one Sunday morning several years later.

Feeling that I should go to church, I looked up the meetinghouse closest to me and headed off, alone and nervous. The parking lot was full. I pulled in, feeling like an out-of-place stranger labeled "less active." As I approached the back doors, a woman ahead of me struggled with an unwieldy baby carrier while shepherding another child alongside her. Despite her full load, she held the door open for me with a smile and said, "Hi, I'm Sally!" Caught off guard by her friendliness, I returned the greeting. Sally continued down the hall, leaving me glad I had come.

When the bishop announced the

Despite her full load, she held the door open for me with a smile and said, "Hi, I'm Sally!"

blessing of new babies during fast and testimony meeting, I was surprised to see my new friend give the baby to her husband to take to the front. Her newborn was being blessed that day, and she had still taken the time to greet me! I sheepishly reflected that if I had just had a new baby, welcoming an unknown

woman to church would be the last of my concerns.

Becoming active was a gradual process, but Sally and other thoughtful members continued to befriend me. Diligent visiting teachers set up appointment after appointment. Friendly ward members called to tell me about stake conference or



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIAN CALL

changes in the meeting schedule. Single adult leaders consistently invited me to activities, even when they knew my polite “Maybe I’ll come” really meant “Don’t plan on me.” And eventually their efforts were rewarded.

Although Sally’s simple greeting took no planning and very little time, her kind act helped open the door for me to enjoy the blessings of Church activity. Many years later I still reflect often upon the results of Sally’s smile. ■

Jennifer L. McQuade is a member of the Litbia Springs Ward, Powder Springs Georgia Stake.

Forsake Wrath

By Wanda Jo Cooke

Although the scriptures are meant for all of Heavenly Father’s children, they can speak to each of us in a very personal way when we ponder them and apply them to our particular challenges. I found this to be the case several years ago when I faced a painful situation.

My husband and I were experiencing a challenging time in our lives. He had recently lost his employment, so we were struggling financially as we tried to survive on my meager salary. Fortunately, our difficulties were tempered by the love we had for each other and by the love of some special friends in our ward.

Then things took a turn for the worse.

One day at work a coworker phoned for me to come to his office. I went, assuming he wanted to see me about some of the projects we were working on jointly. To my surprise, he proceeded to express strong disapproval for an action I had taken. Although I apologized, he continued to berate me, pointing out some of my personal characteristics he said he couldn’t tolerate. I was dumbfounded; I had great respect for this man’s abilities and had thought we had a cordial working relationship. Moreover, I could not understand why he felt he had the authority to chastise me when I was a couple of steps above him in the company structure.

His ranting continued until I was reduced to tears. After the whole experience, I still couldn’t understand what had made him so upset. Apparently his own life had become filled with misery, and I was the unlucky person on whom he unloaded his feelings.

When I reported this to my supervisor, I received little satisfaction. The whole experience left me feeling discouraged, alone, and vulnerable. My husband and I were already worried about his not being employed, and now I wondered what would happen to us if I lost my job.

When I arrived home that evening and explained to my husband what had happened, he opened the scriptures and read from Psalm 37, commenting that he now understood

why he had felt impressed to read it that day during his scripture study.

“Cease from anger, and forsake wrath,” the psalm states. “Fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. . . .

“The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow. . . .

“But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

“And the Lord shall help them” (Psalm 37:8, 14, 39–40).

Although I had read this psalm many times before, I was amazed at how much it seemed to apply to my circumstances. Had my husband not read this passage of scripture to me, I would likely have become angry and bitter because of my experience at work. However, the message Heavenly Father conveyed through the scriptures healed my heart as it taught me that I should be calm and free of bitterness. It gave me great hope to realize the many blessings I would receive if I heeded that message.

I returned to work the next day with joy and forgiveness in my heart and was better able to overlook the shortcomings of coworkers.

The spiritual growth that resulted from this experience has proven to be a valuable source of strength that I have drawn upon many times since. How grateful I am for both the universal and the personal nature of the scriptures! ■

Wanda Jo Cooke is a member of the Hixson Ward, Chattanooga Tennessee Stake.

“My Heavenly Father Loves Me”

By Ricardo Lopes de Mendonça

Like most parents-to-be, we anxiously awaited the birth of our first baby. We acquired clothing and furniture and chose two names—one for a boy and one for a girl.

We also chose a special song to sing to our baby throughout the pregnancy. The song we selected was “My Heavenly Father Loves Me” (*Children’s Songbook*, 228–29). We sang these words often, imagining how wonderful it would be to have a baby in our family:

*Whenever I hear the song of a bird
Or look at the blue, blue sky,
Whenever I feel the rain on
my face
Or the wind as it rushes by,
Whenever I touch a velvet rose
Or walk by our lilac tree,
I’m glad that I live in this
beautiful world
Heav’nly Father created for me.*

One morning my wife awoke covered with little red spots. We went to the doctor and learned that those little red spots were rubella. The doctor also gave us the disturbing news that since my wife was in the first trimester of her pregnancy, our



We chose a special song to sing throughout the pregnancy, and we sang it often, imagining how wonderful it would be to have a baby in our family.

baby ran a serious risk of being born deaf, blind, or disabled in other ways.

That night we paid special attention to the second verse of our song:

*He gave me my eyes that I
might see
The color of butterfly wings.
He gave me my ears that I
might hear
The magical sound of things.
He gave me my life, my mind,
my heart:
I thank him rev’rently
For all his creations, of which
I’m a part.
Yes, I know Heav’nly Father
loves me.*

We thought about the future and everything that could happen. It was

a time of much prayer and fasting to accept the will of our Heavenly Father. We had faith that the Lord would be with us, no matter what happened.

Our daughter, Alice, was born one month early. After her birth an endless array of tests began to determine the effects of the rubella. When nothing was found, someone spoke of a miracle. We, without a doubt, believe it was.

Alice is now seven years old, and she loves to sing her favorite song, “My Heavenly Father Loves Me.” We are eternally grateful, but we are also aware that difficult situations don’t always turn out this well and that trials are part of our mortal probation. But we have learned that if we

trust Him we have nothing to fear, for as the song teaches, "I know Heav'nly Father loves me." ■

Ricardo Lopes de Mendonça is a member of the Parque das Laranjeiras Ward, Sorocaba Brazil Trujillo Stake.

Lock the Back Door!

By Kelli Allen-Pratt

Early in our marriage we lived in Anchorage, Alaska. One night I awoke from a deep sleep and found myself consumed with an urgent thought. I woke my husband and asked if he had locked the sliding glass door in the back of the house. He said he had. I tried to put the thought out of my mind and go back to sleep. I kept telling myself I was just being paranoid, but the feeling that I needed to lock the door persisted. Sleep would not come. Finally, I had a distinct impression: "Kelli, go lock the back door!"

I pulled myself out of a

warm bed and walked downstairs. The glass door appeared to be locked. I started to walk away, but then I pulled on the door handle. The door slid open! The lock was set, but the door had not been closed tightly enough to engage the lock. I pulled the door closed, locked it securely, and went back to bed.

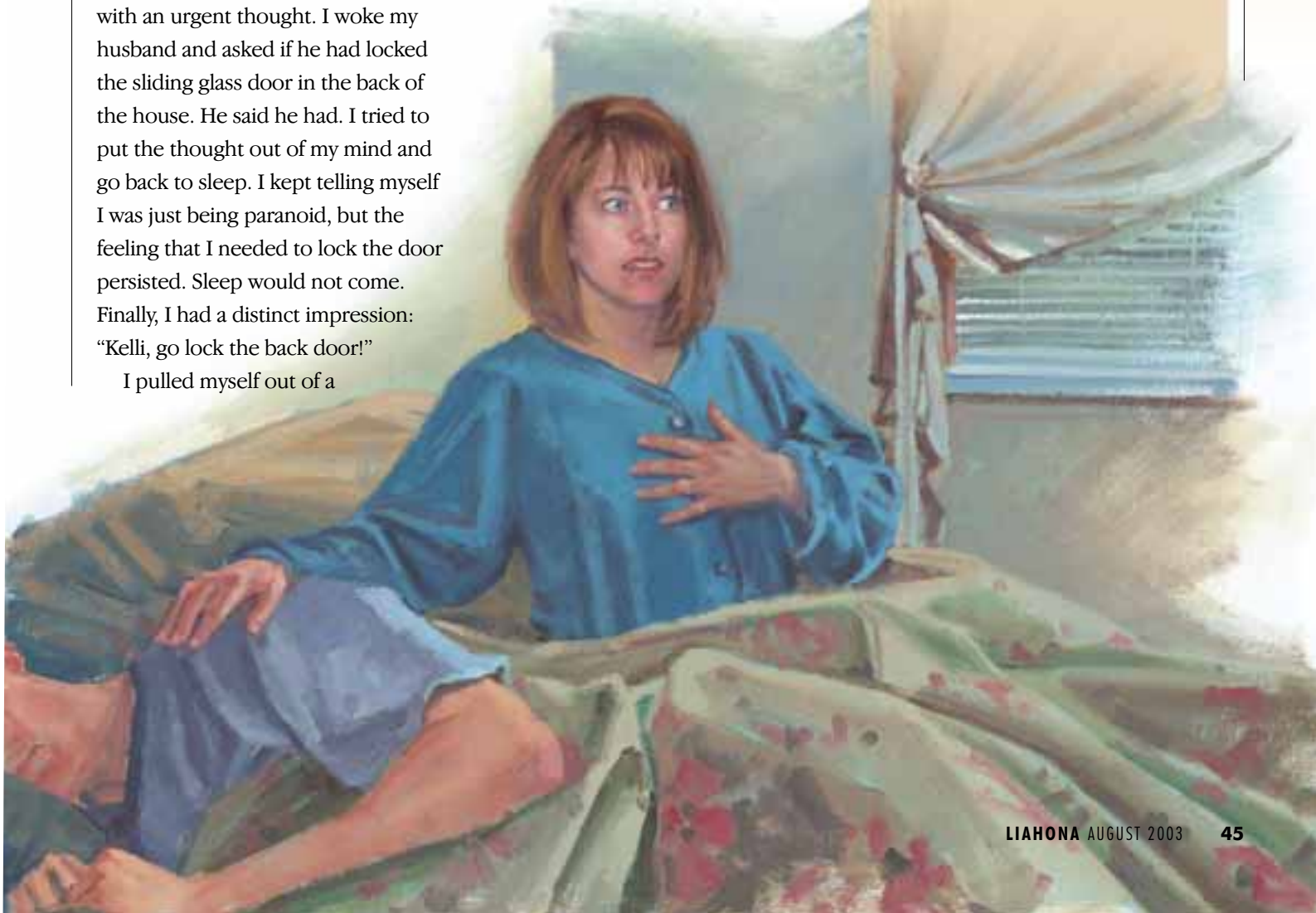
When morning came I gave little thought to my experience of the night before. But as I pulled the curtains open, something caught my eye. Large footprints in the snow led up to the door and then away again. The thought I had tried

so hard to toss aside had kept an intruder from entering our home.

How very grateful I am for the prompting of the Holy Ghost, which protected our family that cold winter night. It has forever changed the way I listen. ■

Kelli Allen-Pratt is a member of the Highland Third Ward, Highland Utah East Stake.

One night I awoke from a deep sleep and found myself consumed with an urgent thought: "Kelli, go lock the back door!"



Blessed by Seminary

By Juan Miguel Aguirre Encarnación

When I was 17, my friend July invited me to go to seminary in her ward in Lima, Peru. I had a passing interest in the Old Testament, so I agreed to go.

My friend's aunt, Sister Rosa de Arriaga, was the seminary teacher, and each day she started class by asking someone to pray. As I kept attending I not only gained a greater love for the scriptures, but I also learned to pray. Then one day Sister Rosa asked me to lead the class in prayer. The experience was unbelievable. My bosom began to burn, and a feeling of warmth radiated throughout my whole body. I felt like crying.

One Saturday I decided to attend a youth conference. I met a lot of young people and had a great time at the activity. When I showed up for a meeting later that afternoon in jeans and sneakers, I was surprised to see others wearing suits and ties. I felt uncomfortable, but one of the men smiled and signaled for me to come in. As I listened during the meeting, everything seemed very familiar to me.

Afterward, I went to Sister Rosa's house to tell her what had happened. Sister Rosa's son told me with a smile, "You won't be

able to dress like that tomorrow at the Sunday session."

The next day, I walked into the meeting wearing a tie for the first time in my life. I was impressed by the orderliness of the meeting and the friendliness others showed me. Once again I felt that warm feeling in my chest, and the feeling continued throughout the entire meeting. When the choir sang I felt like crying. It was such a wonderful feeling that I wanted to have it all the time.

One month after my first seminary class, the missionaries began teaching me the discussions, and on 28 April 1996 I was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. My mom and sisters were baptized six months later and my dad one month after that. On 31 January

1998 my whole family was sealed in the Lima Peru Temple.

Later I served full time in the Perú Lima North Mission. After my mission I taught in the Perú Missionary Training Center for three years. Wearing a tie—which had once seemed so unusual—became an everyday occurrence.

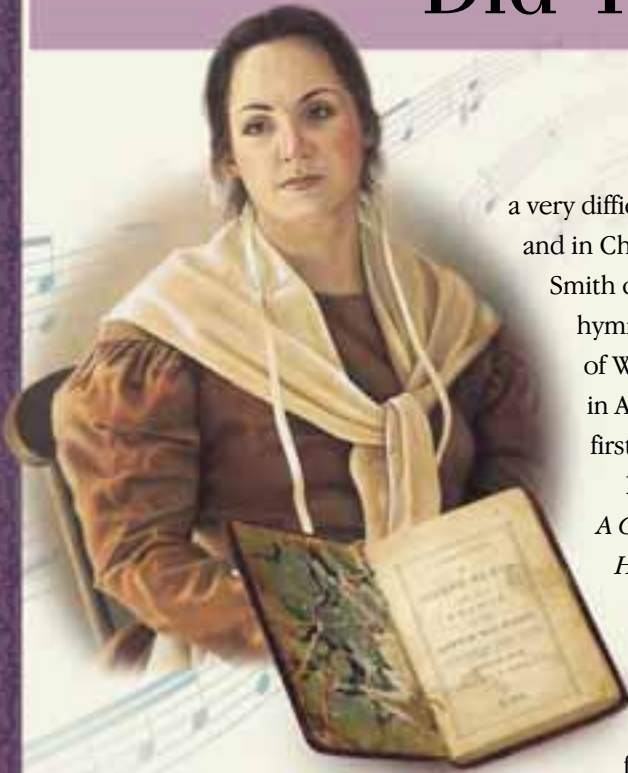
I will always be grateful to my friend July and to my seminary teacher, Sister Rosa, for their role in helping this chain of blessings come to me and my family. ■

Juan Miguel Aguirre Encarnación is a member of Los Laureles Ward, Lima Perú Chorrillos Stake.

When I showed up in jeans and sneakers, I was surprised to see others wearing suits and ties.



Did You Know?



“The Song of the Righteous”

Singing hymns has always been an important part of Latter-day Saint worship. In 1830 the Lord commanded Emma Smith “to make a selection of sacred hymns” (D&C 25:11). During the next five years—

a very difficult period in her own life and in Church history—Emma Smith collected and adapted hymns with the able assistance of William W. Phelps. Finally, in August 1835, the Church’s first hymnal was published.

Emma’s compilation, *A Collection of Sacred Hymns, for the Church of the Latter Day Saints*, contained 90 hymns.

Because the early Saints felt a need for new texts that expressed the doctrines and beliefs of the Restoration, 30 to 40 of those original 90 hymn texts were written by LDS authors. Twenty-six of the hymns in Emma’s hymnbook are still in our current English hymnbook.



Leadership Tip

If you want to develop interpersonal skills, try volunteering for something that will build your confidence. Join a school or community service organization or participate in an organized sport. Belonging to a group and participating in worthwhile activities can help you develop interpersonal skills that will serve you in other settings.



Art On-line

Exhibits in the Museum of Church History and Art are available at www.lds.org/museum. Take a virtual tour of the museum, or see a gallery of previous winners in the museum’s international art competitions.

The competition is held every three years. The current deadline is November 2005. To submit artwork, fill out an entry form and submit photos of your artwork on-line, or request an entry form via e-mail at churchmuseum@ldschurch.org. The Web site and entry forms are available in English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

It Happened in August

Following are significant events that happened in Church history during the month of August.

2 August 1831: During a ceremony in Jackson County, Missouri, Sidney Rigdon (right) dedicated the “Land of Zion” for the gathering of the Saints. The following day the Prophet Joseph



Smith dedicated a site for a future temple at Independence (top).

25 August 1878:

The first Primary, founded by Aurelia Spencer Rogers (left), was held in Farmington,

Utah. Less than two years later, on 19 June 1880, a Churchwide Primary organization was established, with Louie Bouton Felt as the first president.



Using the August 2003 *Liahona*

Discussion Ideas

• “Your Family History: Getting Started,” p. 12: President Boyd K. Packer suggests an easy way to get started on your family history. Discuss his ideas and make a plan for taking the first steps.

• “Web of Friendship,” p. 32: Elder Richard H. Winkel tells how giant redwood trees can survive strong winds by intertwining their roots with those of nearby trees. Members of the Church are like redwoods: we need the strength of those around us to stand tall. Discuss what you can do to help sustain members in your ward or branch.

• “The Parable of the Talents,” p. 34: Elder Ronald A. Rasband lists three principles regarding talents. Talk about these principles and how they apply to specific talents of members of your class or family.

• “Faith Lights the Way,” p. F2: President Gordon B. Hinckley compares a nighttime train trip with our journey through life. Discuss how faith lights the way for us just as the train’s headlight lights the way for an engineer.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG DIMOND, POSED BY MODEL

Test Your Knowledge

Do you know where these Book of Mormon events happened?

1. When King Mosiah fled with his group of Nephites, they joined the Mulekite people.

What is the name of the land where the Mulekites lived?

- Gidgiddonah
- Lehi-Nephi
- Zarahemla

2. What is the name of a body of water

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where Alma performed baptisms? A Nephite prophet later had the same name.

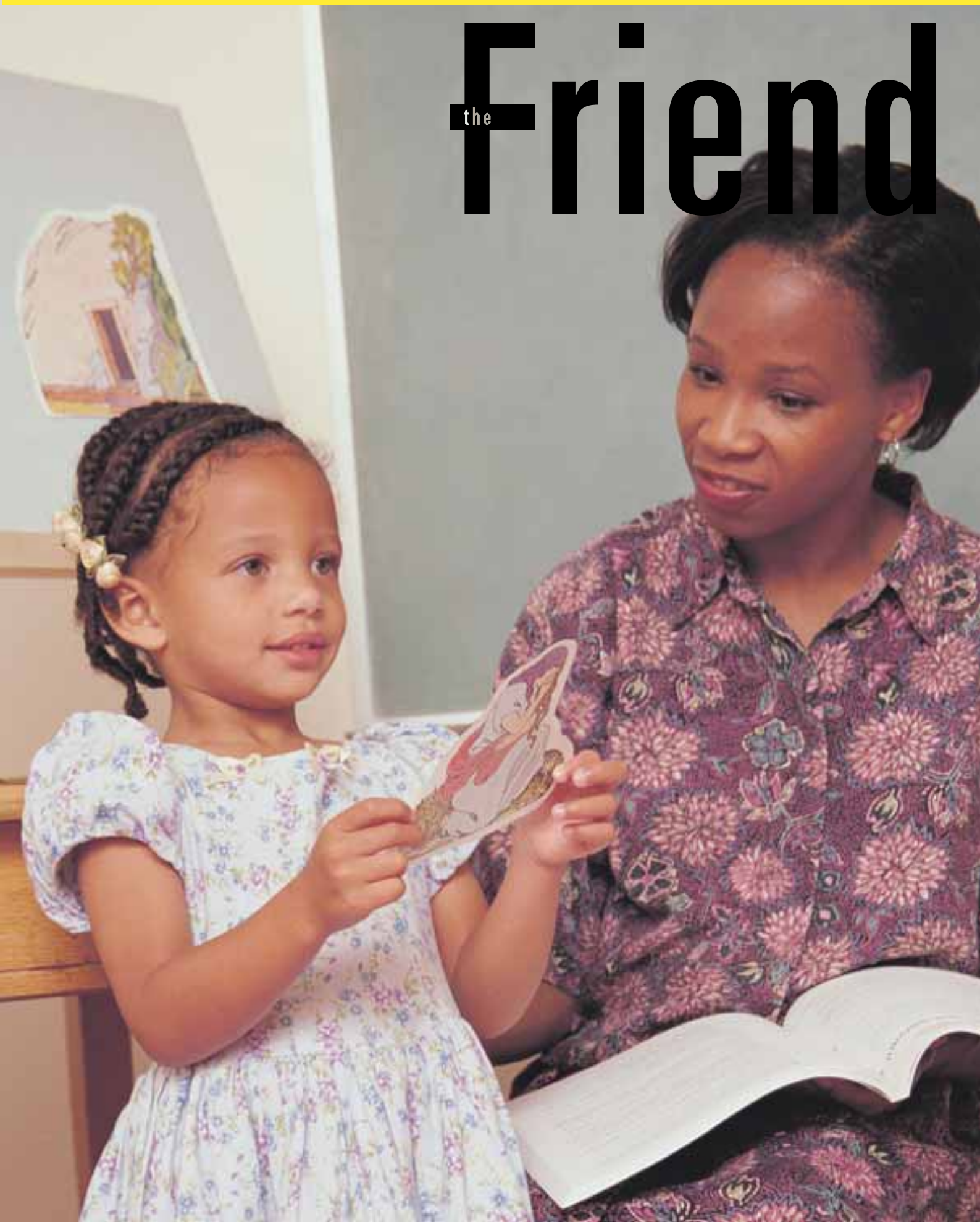
- Helaman
- Mormon
- Laman

3. Which land did the Nephites give to the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi for an inheritance?

- Bountiful
- Irreantum
- Jershon

Answers: 1. c (see *Omni* 1:12–14); 2. b (see *Mosiah* 18:7–10); 3. c (see *Alma* 27:21–22)

the Friend



Faith Lights the Way

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY



As a young man, President Gordon B. Hinckley rode trains that hurtled through narrow mountain passes at night. It helped him understand how the light of faith can guide us through dark times of discouragement.

As each man or woman walks the way of life there may come dark seasons of doubt, of discouragement, of disillusionment. A few see ahead by the light of faith, but many stumble along in the darkness and even become lost.

My call to you is a call to faith, that faith which “is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1), as Paul described it.

Long ago I worked for one of the railroads whose tracks threaded the passes through these western mountains. I frequently rode the trains. It was in the days when there were steam locomotives. Those great monsters of the rails were huge and fast and dangerous. I often wondered how the engineer dared the long journey through the night. Then I came to realize that it was not one long journey, but rather a constant continuation of a short journey. The engine had a powerful headlight that made bright the way for a

distance of 400 or 500 yards (350 to 450 m). The engineer saw only that distance, and that was enough, because it was constantly before him all through the night into the dawn of the new day.

The Lord has spoken of this process. He said: “That which doth not edify [teach] is not of God, and is darkness.

“That which is of God is light; and he that receiveth light, and continueth in God, receiveth more light; and that light groweth brighter and brighter until the perfect day” (D&C 50:23–24).

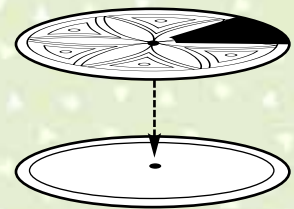
And so it is with our eternal journey. We take one step at a time. In doing so we reach toward the unknown, but faith lights the way. If we will cultivate that faith, we shall never walk in darkness. ●

From an April 2002 general conference address.



"I Can Learn" Wheel

1. Mount this page on heavy paper. Cut out the two circles and the window in the "I Can Learn" circle.
2. In the blank space on the circle with pictures, draw a picture of yourself and write something underneath it that you wish to learn in Primary about being a better example of a believer.
3. Line up the centers of the circles, punch a hole through both circles, and insert a fastener (see illustration).
4. Move the "I Can Learn" circle to read some of the things you can learn in Primary.



Illustration

NOTES

1. *Sharing Time with President Gordon B. Hinckley*, item no. 53331.
2. 1 Timothy 4:12.
3. James R. Moss, "Young John Taylor," *New Era*, Oct. 1980, 29.
4. "A Testimony Makes Me Feel Happy Inside," Primary open house, Apr. 2002, 8.
5. Pat Graham, "Happy Birthday, Primary," *Friend*, Aug./Sep. 1983, 34.

Example of the Believers

BY VICKI F. MATSUMORI

“There is no other name given whereby salvation cometh” (Mosiah 5:8).



After Jesus died, a great Apostle named Paul wrote to members of the Church about how we can be an example of the believers, or a better follower of the Savior. When we do what the Apostle Paul taught, we honor the Savior and His name and we are an example for other people of the Savior’s teachings. Paul wrote, “Let no man despise [look down on] thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

President Gordon B. Hinckley explained that when Paul says to be an example “in word,” he “is speaking here of language. . . . He is saying that coarse and lewd [wicked] words are incompatible with [against] one’s calling as a believer in Christ” (“Take Not the Name of God in Vain,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 47). He said that we should use the name of Heavenly Father reverently.

There are other ways to show we are believers in Christ. In 1878, Aurelia Spencer Rogers suggested that children meet weekly to learn about the Savior and about how to be good examples of believers. President John Taylor, then President of the Church, approved this idea, and the first Primary was organized.

Now, 125 years later, Sister Coleen K. Menlove, Primary general president, encourages children to “live the gospel, and receive . . . a testimony” (“A Testimony Makes Me Feel Happy Inside,” Primary open house, Apr. 2002, 8).

When you choose the right and follow the Savior, you are an example of the believers.

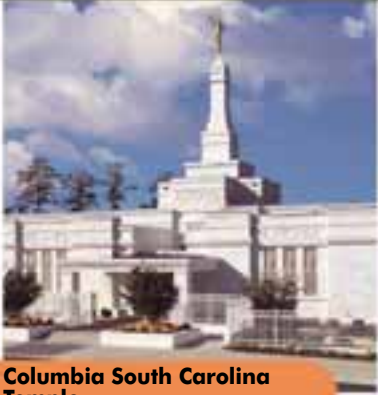
Sharing Time Ideas

1. Review D&C 107:4 to help the children understand how names show reverence for Deity and explain different aspects of the Savior’s mission. On the chalkboard, write these references: Job 19:25 (“redeemer”); Isaiah 9:6 (“Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”); Luke 2:11 (“Saviour,” “Christ the Lord”); John 1:29 (“Lamb of God”); John 1:49 (“King of Israel”); John 10:14 (“good shepherd”); Revelation 1:8 (“Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,” “Lord,” “Almighty”). Have the children locate and write the names of Deity by the reference. Discuss what it means to not take the Lord’s name in vain. Help the children memorize Exodus 20:7. Divide them into groups; write the scripture on a piece of paper for each group and cut the words apart. Have each group assemble the scripture.

2. Help the children understand that we honor Jesus Christ by thinking about Him during the sacrament. Use Luke 22:19–20; D&C 20:77, 79; and a picture of the Last Supper to discuss the events of the Last Supper. What do the bread and water of the sacrament help us remember? (The Savior’s sacrifice of His flesh and blood.) What do we promise? (To take upon us His name, to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments.) What does He promise us? (His Spirit as we choose the right.) Discuss ways we can focus our thoughts on the Savior during the sacrament. Take the children to visit the area where the sacrament is prepared and blessed, and invite young men of the Aaronic Priesthood to explain the importance of preparing, blessing, and passing the sacrament. Sing songs or hymns about the sacrament. ●

Temple Cards

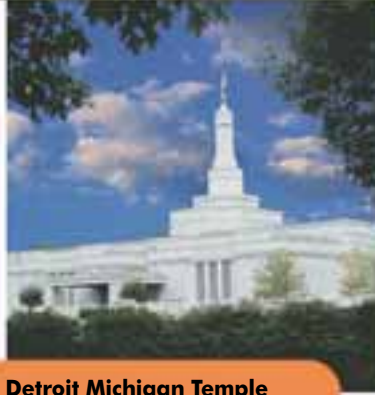
In 2003 each issue of *The Friend* contains Temple Cards. Remove the Temple Cards from the magazine, glue them to heavy paper, and cut them out. Collect the cards to remind you of the importance of temples.



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN DRESSLER

Columbia South Carolina Temple

Dedicated on 16 October 1999
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



PHOTOGRAPH BY GINA DENISE THORBERSON

Detroit Michigan Temple

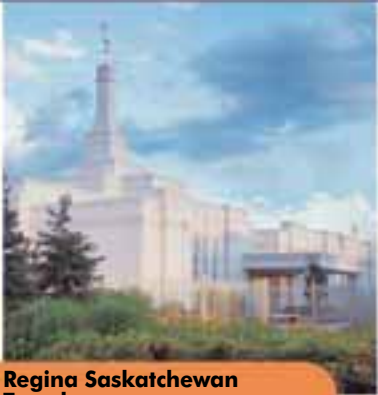
Dedicated on 23 October 1999
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT THOMPSON

Halifax Nova Scotia Temple

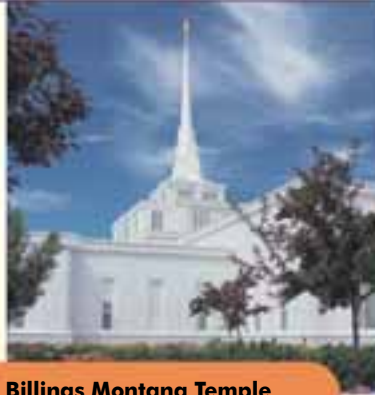
Dedicated on 14 November 1999
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



PHOTOGRAPH BY DON CRUICKSHANK

Regina Saskatchewan Temple

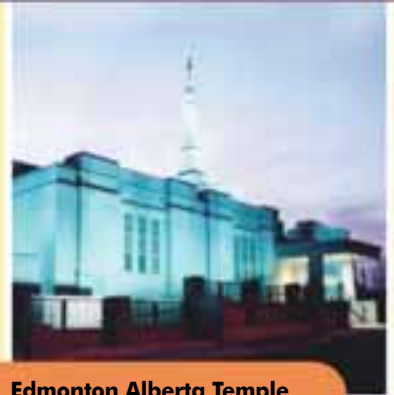
Dedicated on 14 November 1999
by President Boyd K. Packer



PHOTOGRAPH BY PHIL BELL PHOTOGRAPHY

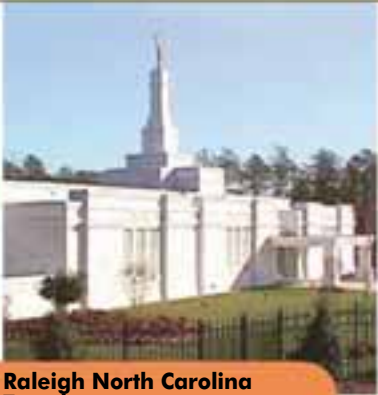
Billings Montana Temple

Dedicated on 20 November 1999
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



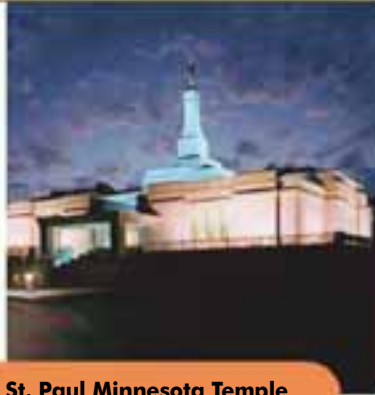
Edmonton Alberta Temple

Dedicated on 11 December 1999
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



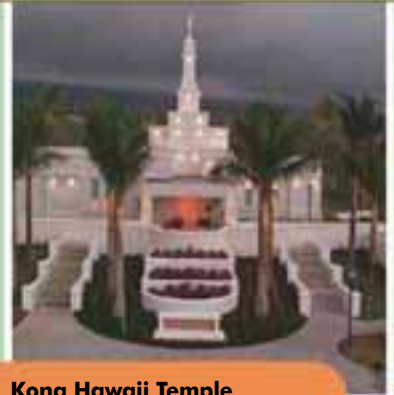
Raleigh North Carolina Temple

Dedicated on 18 December 1999
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



St. Paul Minnesota Temple

Dedicated on 9 January 2000
by President Gordon B. Hinckley



Kona Hawaii Temple

Dedicated on 23 January 2000
by President Gordon B. Hinckley

TAM HOI HOON OF HONG KONG

BY EMILY CHIEN AND TIFFANY E. LEWIS

As a very little boy, Tam Hoi Hoon loved to climb. He would climb streetlamps and even palm trees with his bare hands! His favorite class in preschool was gymnastics. At the time, the Tam family lived in Hawaii, where Brother Tam was studying at the university.

When his family moved back to Hong Kong, Hoi Hoon joined the Hong Kong Amateur Gymnastic Association. After joining the team, he won the 2001 Hong Kong Gymnastics Competition. Now age 10 and a member of the Aberdeen Ward, Hong Kong Island Stake, Hoi Hoon is setting an example through his gymnastics and his beliefs.

While gymnastics is fun for Hoi Hoon, it is also hard work. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, his parents take him by train an hour and a half to practices, then an hour and a half home. The practices are two or three hours long. Learning a new gymnastic move takes Hoi Hoon a month or two because he has to practice the move more than 500 times

before it is perfect! But Hoi Hoon likes the children he works out with, and he loves to perform. Hearing an audience clapping and shouting makes him happy.

Hoi Hoon's favorite gymnastic move is the backward somersault. He can do a somersault with two twists before landing!

Right: Hoi Hoon practices hard and sometimes he wins! Above: Hoi Hoon with his big brother, Kwan Lam (left), and his coach, Chen Yu Tien (right).





Above: The Tam family celebrates Hoi Hoon's and Kwan Lam's birthdays.
Right: Hoi Hoon with one of the coaches.

To do some of his moves he must be very brave.

In Chinese culture, parents give their children names with special meaning. This is true with the name Hoi Hoon. *Hoi* means "the sea," and *Hoon* means "wide and spacious." Hoi Hoon was given this special name because his father wanted him to be an understanding person whose capacity to care for and forgive others is as wide and deep as the sea.

Hoi Hoon works well with other people, so it is a good name for him. In gymnastics, he specializes in the men's four, where he performs with three other boys. His coach chose this event for him because it requires special cooperation with gymnasts of different ages.

Hoi Hoon is the middle child of three children in the Tam family. His brother, Kwan Lam, age 12, enjoys playing the piano,

singing, and swimming. His sister, Hiu Yau, age 4, likes to dance and read storybooks. "We are grateful to have three healthy and lovely children," says Sister Tam. "Each one of them is special."

The Tam children are good students, and the whole family stays busy during the week with schoolwork. When they have time to take a break, the family likes to go to the playground or ride bicycles near their home.

Hoi Hoon enjoys Primary, and he tries to be obedient to what he learns in his class. His favorite song is "I Am a Child of God." As a child of Heavenly Father, Hoi Hoon believes in setting a good example and keeping the commandments.

In July 2001, Hoi Hoon was invited by the Hong Kong government to perform with other prominent gymnasts in the Chinese Gymnastic Gold Medalist Show.



Then age 8, Hoi Hoon was the youngest participant.

All of the gymnasts were asked to attend a final rehearsal the Sunday before the performance. The Tam family knows it is important to keep the Sabbath day holy, so Brother Tam told Hoi Hoon's coach that Hoi Hoon would attend every other rehearsal—but not the one on Sunday. The coaches and officials were upset and thought about replacing Hoi Hoon with another boy. The Tam family would not change their minds, but they prayed every night in their family prayer that Hoi Hoon would be able to perform. In the end, the officials allowed him to be in the show. Even without the extra practice, Hoi Hoon did every movement perfectly. "I know that obeying the Lord is very important," Hoi Hoon says.

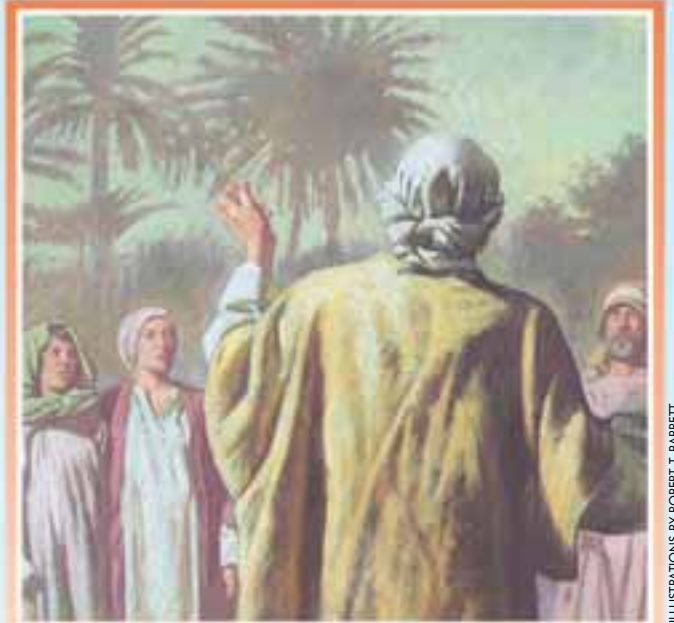
Hoi Hoon's coach, Chen Yu Tien, says there are several things that make Hoi Hoon a good gymnast: "He is willing to practice hard and to endure. His arms are strong and powerful, and he is enthusiastic." But he says what makes Hoi Hoon most successful in gymnastics and everything else he does is the love and support of his family.

Hoi Hoon agrees. "I know Papa and Mama love me very, very much. And they pray for me too," he says. With that knowledge, he almost can't help but live up to his name—in his family, in his sport, and in his life. ●

Emily Chien is a member of the Taipei Second Ward, Taipei Taiwan Central Stake. Tiffany E. Lewis is a member of the Miami Shores Ward, Fort Lauderdale Florida Stake.



SIMON AND THE PRIESTHOOD



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

Many people in Samaria heard and believed the gospel and were baptized. But they did not have the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:5, 12–16



Peter and John went to Samaria. They laid their hands on the people's heads and gave them the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:14–17



A man named Simon saw Peter and John give people the Holy Ghost, and Simon knew that the two Apostles had the power of the priesthood. He wanted the power of the priesthood too.

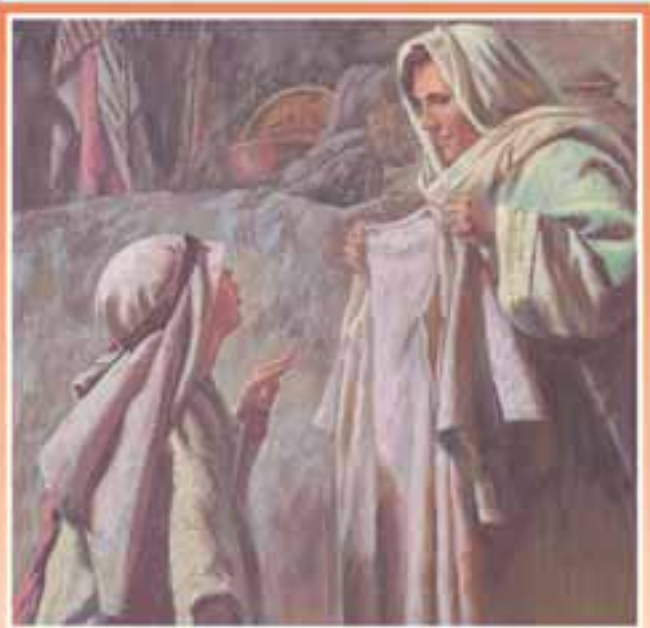
Acts 8:9, 18-19



He asked them if he could buy it. Peter told Simon that no one can buy the priesthood, that God gives it only to righteous men. Peter knew that Simon was not righteous and told him to repent.

Acts 8:18-24

PETER BRINGS TABITHA BACK TO LIFE



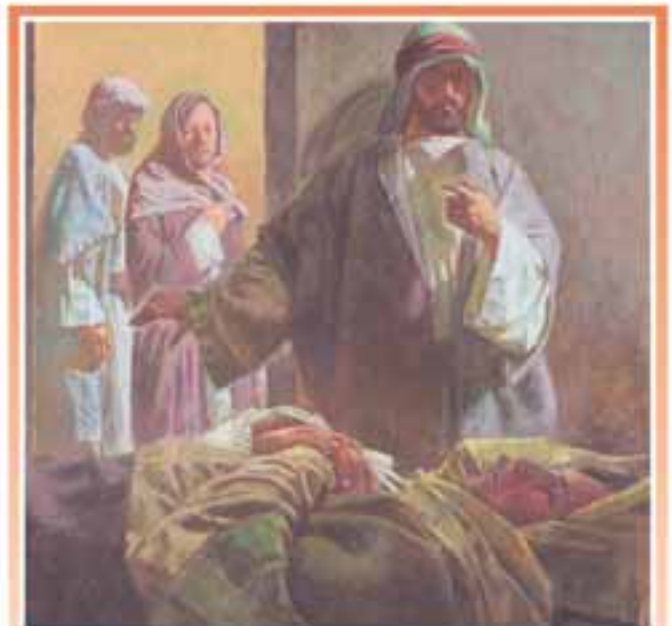
A good woman named Tabitha lived in the city of Joppa. She was a follower of Jesus Christ. She helped many people and did many good things.

Acts 9:36



One day she became sick and died.

Acts 9:37



Her friends sent for Peter to come. He asked Tabitha's friends to leave the room.

Acts 9:38–40



He knelt and prayed, then told her to stand up. She opened her eyes, saw Peter, then sat up.

Acts 9:40

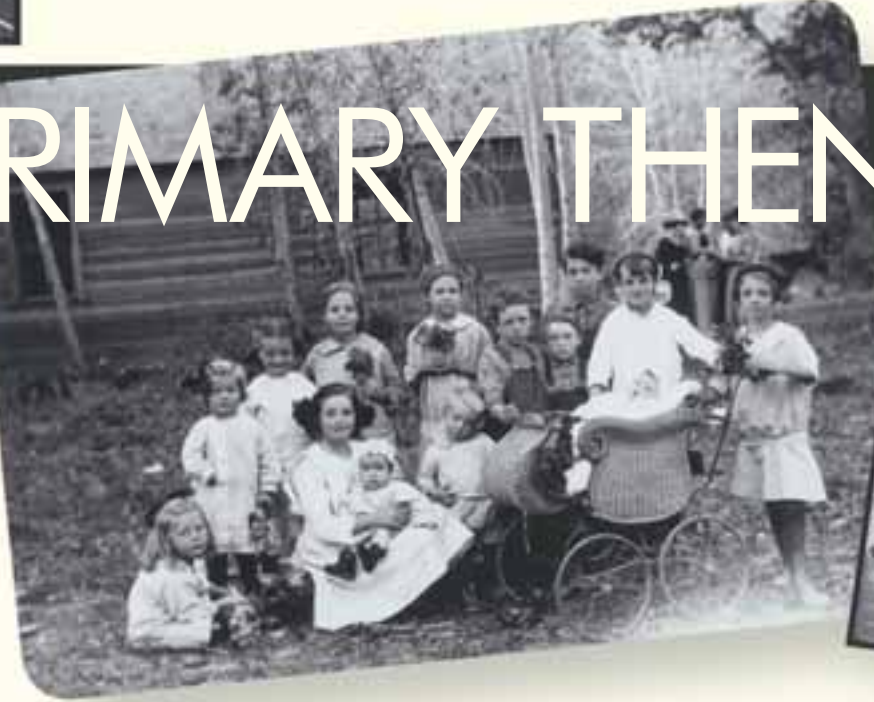


Peter helped her stand. Then her friends came back into the room and saw her alive. Peter had used the power and authority of the priesthood given to him by Jesus to perform the miracle of bringing Tabitha back to life. Many people in Joppa believed in Jesus Christ after they learned what had happened to Tabitha.

Acts 9:41-42



PRIMARY THEN AND



“Wherever in the world that you may be, Oh, come with me to Primary” (Children’s Songbook, 255).

BY CHRISTINE RAPPLEYE

Remember your first day of Primary? It was probably on a Sunday while your parents were in Sunday School, Relief Society, or priesthood meeting. How old were you? Where was Primary held? What did you learn? Did you sing songs and have a lesson?

The very first Primary meeting was held in Farmington, Utah, on 25 August 1878. Sister Aurelia Spencer Rogers wanted to help boys learn how to behave and become good men. She spoke with Sister Eliza R. Snow, the Relief Society general president, about starting a Primary in her ward. Sister Snow

received permission from Church President John Taylor for Sister Rogers to hold the first Primary. They decided girls should attend too.

A few days before the first meeting, Sister Rogers and her counselors visited every family in their ward to invite all the children ages 4 to 14 to Primary. There were 115 boys and 100 girls—that was a lot of children!

On the first day, 224 children came. The leaders taught songs and poems, recited Bible stories, and taught lessons on good behavior. Some boys had gone into gardens that did not belong to them, and

some girls had been seen hanging on to wagons. Primary leaders taught that these behaviors were wrong or dangerous.

After the first meeting, Sister Eliza R. Snow organized Primaries in several communities. Many met in one-room schoolhouses or ward buildings. Some had 50 or 60 children; others had more than 100. Imagine having that many children in your Primary class!

During the first few years, some of the Primaries made handwritten newspapers, some organized musical bands, and others had fund-raisers, such as fairs. The money from the fund-raisers helped needy children and other Church members and provided furniture for temples.

Later the Primary started a children’s hospital, published a

LEFT CENTER: PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE EDWARD ANDERSON; RIGHT AND PAGE 16: PHOTOGRAPHS BY CRAIG DIMOND, MARY MARC, AND MATTHEW REIER

NOW



magazine, and put on a radio program and a television show.

Over the years, Primaries were set up in many parts of the world. In some places, home Primaries were organized because ward or branch members lived too far from each other to meet at the church during the week.

In the early 1900s, Primaries were divided into classes by age groups,

and lessons were written for each group. In later years, 12- to 14-year-old boys and girls started attending Mutual. Other things changed in the years that followed. Now Primary is held on Sunday.

Today, millions of children attend Primary all over the world. And you are a part of this organization that started 125 years ago with one Primary class in Utah. ●

Why I Like Primary . . .



Primary is very fun and spiritual, especially when we sing with our soul and not only our voices. My favorite thing about Primary is that we have wonderful leaders. I have learned many things, especially to be kind to everyone. I don't think I would have turned out the way I am if it weren't for Primary.

Rochelle Leavitt, age 11, is a member of the Granite Hills Ward, El Cajon California Stake.



I like listening to stories about other Primary children like me. I have learned about keeping the Sabbath day holy and the right things to do on Sunday.

Jacob Kelly, age 7, is a member of the Baulkham Hills Ward, Sydney Australia Greenwich Stake.



I like to listen to the stories of Jesus' miracles—how He healed people, raised the dead, and fed the 5,000. In Primary I see all my friends. I like to come every Sunday!

Penka Petkova, age 10, is a member of the Geo Milev Branch, Sofia Bulgaria District.

In Primary I've learned that when we say prayers, we close our eyes and fold our arms and bow our heads, and we get blessings sent down to us.

Brandon Checketts, age 6, is a member of the North Logan 11th Ward, North Logan Utah Green Canyon Stake.



I love to draw and write at Primary. I also like the pictures that my teacher shows me. I learn to do good to others and to members of my family.

Petero Bola, age 8, is a member of the Toga Branch, Nausori Fiji Stake.

Singing is my favorite part of Primary. I have learned to be reverent and listen to the Holy Ghost.

Makiah Barnhart, age 6, is a member of the Williamsport Ward, Williamsport Pennsylvania Stake.



I like learning about the scriptures and painting pictures of Jesus. I've learned not to eat or drink things that may hurt me.

Eddy Emanuel Castillo, age 11, is a member of the Comalapa Branch, Chimaltenango Guatemala Stake.



In Primary, we learn about Jesus being our friend, about the temple, to listen to Mummy and Daddy, and to choose the right. Sometimes that's difficult, but Jesus helps me when I pray for help.

Naomi Mesotten, age 7, is a member of the Leuven Branch, Antwerp Belgium Stake.



I love my teachers and my friends in Primary. My favorite thing is giving a talk or saying the prayer. I have learned that Jesus died for me because He loves me.

Brooke Peterson, age 4, is a member of the Springfield Third Ward, Springfield Missouri South Stake. ●





The Five Prepared, by J. Kirk Richards

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps” (Matthew 25:1–4).



The grieving widow, the fatherless child, and the lonely of heart everywhere will be gladdened, comforted, and sustained through our service, and we will experience a deeper understanding of the words recorded in the Epistle of James: ‘Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.’”

See President Thomas S. Monson, “The Fatherless and the Widows—Beloved of God,” p. 2.