

Liahona



COVER STORY:
Read the Book
of Mormon, pp. 2, 7

**Don't Let
Pornography Ruin
Your Life, pp. 18, 22**

**The Gift of the
Holy Ghost, p. F4**

Liahona



ON THE COVER

Front: Painting by Jeffrey Hein. Back: Photography by Welden C. Andersen, Craig Dimond, and Don O. Thorpe.



THE FRIEND COVER

Photograph by Marvin K. Gardner.



SEE "TIME FOR ETERNAL THINGS," P. 44

FOR ADULTS

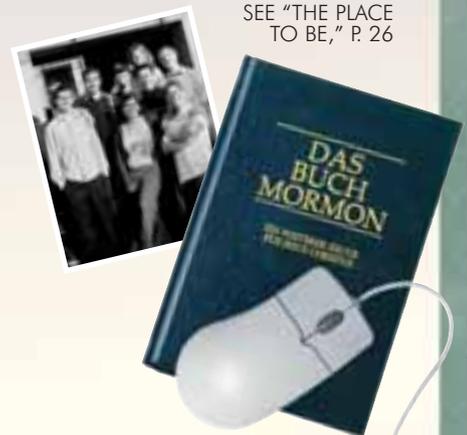
- 2 First Presidency Message: A Testimony Vibrant and True
President Gordon B. Hinckley
- 7 A Consistent Prophetic Call
- 8 Strengthening the Family: Within the Bonds of Matrimony
- 10 Messages from the Doctrine and Covenants: Family History Changed My Life *Elder Carlos A. Pérez*
- 12 I Found It!
- 18 Fighting Internet Filth *Mario Hipol*
- 25 Visiting Teaching Message: Rejoice in an Understanding of the Purpose of Life
- 30 The Quorums of the Seventy *Elder Earl C. Tingey*
- 34 Doctrine and Covenants Times at a Glance:
Chart 2—Sections 65–137
- 40 Latter-day Saint Voices
Unexpected Marriage Advice *Bart Benson*
I Felt Indescribable Joy *Hildo Rosillo Flores*
Twice Spared *Pamela M. Moody*
- 48 Comment

FOR YOUTH

- 16 599 Baptisms *Wilson Arley Ocampo*
- 22 Questions and Answers: Pornography Is Ruining My Life. What Can I Do?
- 26 The Place to Be *Janet Thomas*
- 33 Poster: Worth More Than Its Weight in Gold
- 39 Did You Know?
- 44 Time for Eternal Things *Adam C. Olson*

THE FRIEND: FOR CHILDREN

- F2 Come Listen to a Prophet's Voice: The Canary with the Best Song
President Thomas S. Monson
- F4 Sharing Time: The Gift of the Holy Ghost *Margaret Liffertb*
- F6 From the Life of President David O. McKay: Lessons from Dandy
- F8 Framing Jesus with Love *Jane McBride Choate*
- F10 The Power to Baptize and Confirm
- F11 Special Witness: Getting to Know Elder M. Russell Ballard
- F12 For Little Friends: Audrey Makes a Friend *Lurley Noe*
- F14 Making Friends: Hans Nieto of Guayaquil, Ecuador
Marvin K. Gardner



SEE "THE PLACE TO BE," P. 26

The First Presidency: Gordon B. Hinckley,
Thomas S. Monson, James E. Faust

Quorum of the Twelve: Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry,
Russell M. Nelson, Dallin H. Oaks, M. Russell Ballard,
Joseph B. Wirthlin, Richard G. Scott, Robert D. Hales,
Jeffrey R. Holland, Henry B. Eyring, Dieter F. Uchtdorf,
David A. Bednar

Editor: Jay E. Jensen

Advisers: Monte J. Brough, Gary J. Coleman

Managing Director: David L. Frischknecht

Planning and Editorial Director: Victor D. Cave

Graphics Director: Allan R. Loyborg

Magazines Editorial Director: Richard M. Romney

Managing Editor: Marvin K. Gardner

Editorial Staff: Collette Nebeker Aune, Susan Barrett,
Shanna Butler, Ryan Carr, Linda Stahle Cooper, LaRene
Porter Gaunt, Jennifer L. Greenwood, R. Val Johnson, Carrie
Kasten, Melvin Leavitt, Sally J. Odekirk, Adam C. Olson,
Judith M. Paller, Vivian Paulsen, Don L. Searle, Rebecca M.
Taylor, Roger Terry, Janet Thomas, Paul VanDenBerghe,
Julie Wardell, Kimberly Webb

Managing Art Director: M. M. Kawasaki

Art Director: Scott Van Kampen

Production Manager: Jane Ann Peters

Design and Production Staff: Howard G. Brown,
Thomas S. Child, Reginald J. Christensen, Kathleen
Howard, Denise Kirby, Tadd R. Peterson, Randall J. Pixton,
Kari A. Todd, Claudia E. Warner

Marketing Manager: Larry Hiller

Printing Director: Craig K. Sedgwick

Distribution Director: Kris T. Christensen

For subscriptions and prices outside the United States and
Canada, contact your local Church distribution center or
ward or branch leader.

Send manuscripts and queries to *Liahona*, Room 2420,
50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220,
USA; or e-mail: cur-liahona-imag@ldschurch.org.

The *Liahona* (a Book of Mormon term meaning "compass"
or "director") is published in Albanian, Armenian (East),
Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chinese, Croatian,
Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Fijian, Finnish,
French, German, Greek, Haitian, Hindi, Hungarian,
Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kiribati, Korean,
Latvian, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Marshallese, Mongolian,
Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian,
Samoan, Sinhala, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog,
Tahitian, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tongan, Ukrainian, Urdu,
and Vietnamese. (Frequency varies by language.)

© 2005 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
Printed in the United States of America.

Text and visual material in the *Liahona* may be copied for
incidental, noncommercial church or home use. Visual
material may not be copied if restrictions are indicated
in the credit line with the artwork. Copyright questions
should be addressed to Intellectual Property Office, 50 East
North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150, USA;
e-mail: cor-intellectualproperty@ldschurch.org.

The *Liahona* can be found in many languages on the
Internet at www.lds.org. For English, click on "Gospel
Library." For other languages, click on the world map.

For Readers in the United States and Canada:

August 2005 Vol. 29 No. 8. LIAHONA (USPS 311-480)
English (ISSN 1080-9554) is published monthly by The
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 East North
Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150. USA subscription
price is \$10.00 per year; Canada, \$16.00 plus applicable
taxes. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah, and
at additional mailing offices. Sixty days' notice required for
change of address. Include address label from a recent
issue; old and new address must be included. Send USA
and Canadian subscriptions to Salt Lake Distribution Center
at address below. Subscription help line: 1-800-537-5971.
Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard, American Express)
may be taken by phone. (Canada Poste Information:
Publication Agreement #40017431)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Salt Lake
Distribution Center, Church Magazines, PO Box 26368,
Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368.

Family Home Evening Ideas



*This page can help you use the
Liahona to enhance your
teaching in the classroom
as well as in the home.*

Empty and fill the jar again, this
time by putting the rocks in
first, then pouring the grain
in, making room for both the grain

"Within the Bonds of Matrimony,"

p. 8: Show a wedding picture, and
ask what "bonds of matrimony"
means. Read the "Bonds of Love" sec-
tion. What blessings of this bond are
mentioned in this article? Read or
sing "Love at Home" (*Hymns*, no.
294), and share the final quotation of
the article. Discuss ways your family
can work toward achieving the goal
of "love at home."

"Fighting Internet Filth,"

p. 18:
Read Mosiah 4:30, and discuss the
consequences of viewing inappropri-
ate material. Invite family members
to make a list of rules for using a
computer. Post the list next to the
computer.

"The Place to Be," p. 26: Use
the article to learn what an institute
outreach center is. Consider making
a family visit to a local institute.
Prayerfully consider inviting a young
single adult who is not enrolled in
institute to go with you.

"Time for Eternal Things," p. 44:
Fill a jar with grain (such as rice), and
then attempt to put several small
rocks in (more rocks than can fit).

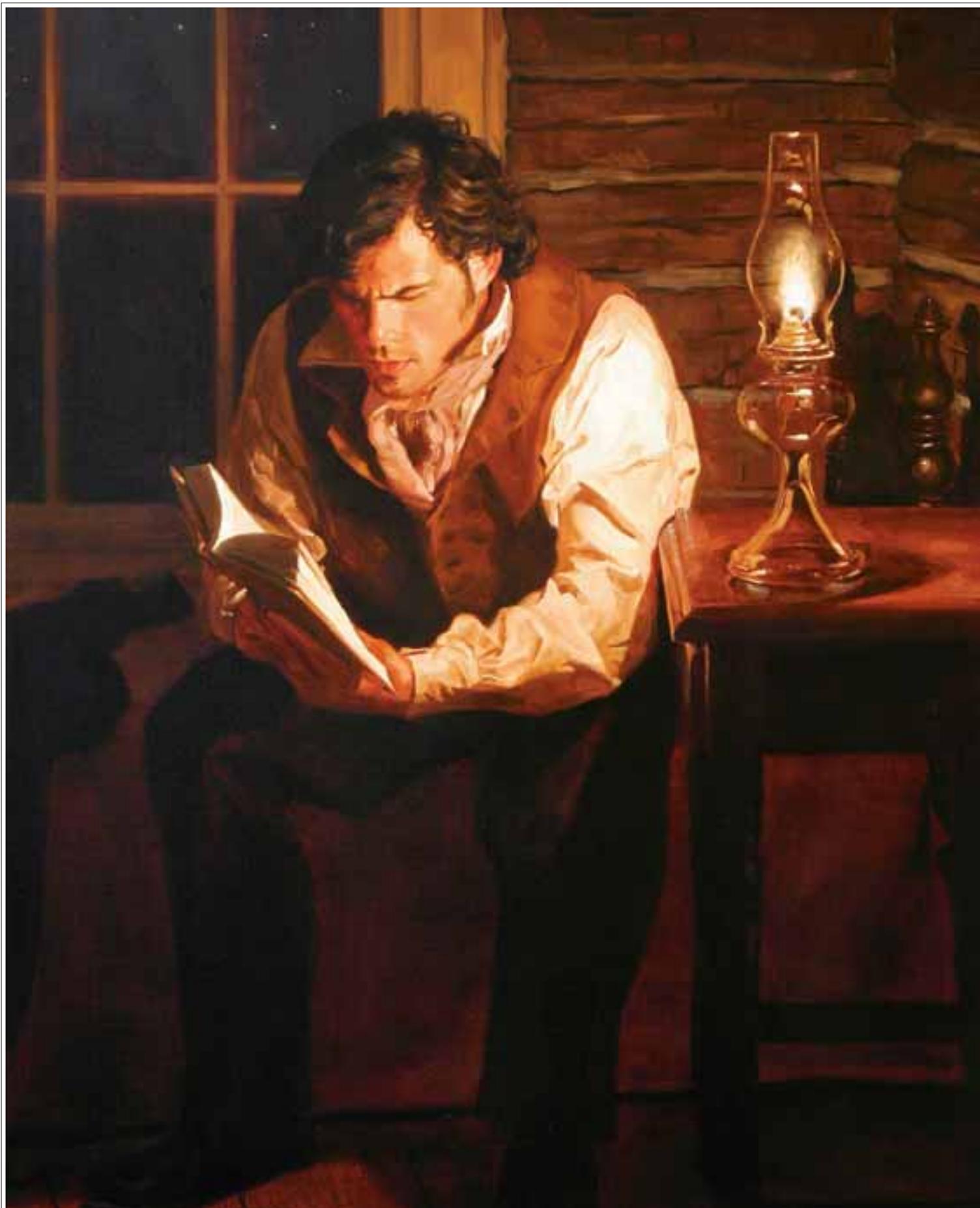
and all the rocks. Read the article, and
discuss what the rocks and grain could
represent. Why is it important to make
time for eternal things first?

"The Canary with the Best Song,"

p. F2: Read or tell in your own words
the story of Sister McKee and her
canaries. Invite family members to
draw a picture of Billie and write what
they learned about him. Then ask them
to share how they will apply ideas from
this story during the upcoming week.

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE

F= <i>The Friend</i>	Love, 8, 40, F2, F8
Ballard, M. Russell, F11	Marriage, 8, 40
Book of Mormon, 2, 7, 33	Missionary work, 16,
Church history, 34, 39	26, F14
Confirmation, F4, F10	Obedience, F6
Conversion, 2, 10, 16, 40	Plan of salvation, 25
Covenants, 8, F4	Pornography, 18, 22
Doctrine and Covenants,	Priesthood, 30, F10
10, 34, 39	Primary, F4
Family, 8, 12, 44	Priorities, 44
Family history, 10, 12, 16	Protection, 18, 40
Family home evening, 1	Repentance, 22
Fellowshipping, 26, F12	Scripture study, 2, 7, F14
Holy Ghost, F4, F10	Seventy, 30
Home teaching, 6	Single adults, 26
Institute, 26	Smith, Joseph, 25, 34
Internet, 18	Teaching, 1
Jesus Christ, F8	Temples, 10, 12, 16
Joy, 25, 40	Testimony, 2, 40
Leadership, 30, 39	Visiting teaching, 25



A Testimony Vibrant and True

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

We often sing in our congregations a favorite hymn, “An Angel from on High,” whose words were written more than a century and a half ago by Parley P. Pratt.¹ They represent his declaration of the miraculous coming forth of a remarkable book. Exactly 176 years ago this fall that book was first being set in type and run on a press in Palmyra, New York.

It is inspiring to learn how Parley Pratt came to know of the book about which he wrote the words of this hymn. In August of 1830, as a lay preacher, he was traveling from Ohio to eastern New York. At Newark, along the Erie Canal, he left the boat and walked 10 miles (16 km) into the country where he met a Baptist deacon by the name of Hamlin, who told him “of a book, a strange *book*, a VERY STRANGE BOOK! . . . This book, he said, purported to have been originally written on plates either of gold or brass, by a branch of the tribes of Israel; and to have been discovered and translated by a young man near Palmyra, in the State of New York, by the aid of visions, or the ministry of angels. I inquired of him how or where the book was to be obtained. He promised me the perusal of it,

at his house the next day. . . . Next morning I called at his house, where, for the first time, my eyes beheld the ‘BOOK OF MORMON’—that book of books . . . which was the principal means, in the hands of God, of directing the entire course of my future life.

“I opened it with eagerness, and read its title page. I then read the testimony of several witnesses in relation to the manner of its being found and translated. After this I commenced its contents by course. I read all day; eating was a burden, I had no desire for food; sleep was a burden when the night came, for I preferred reading to sleep.

“As I read, the spirit of the Lord was upon me, and I knew and comprehended that the book was true, as plainly and manifestly as a man comprehends and knows that he exists.”²

Parley Pratt was then 23 years of age. The reading of the Book of Mormon affected him so profoundly that he was soon baptized into the Church and became one of its most effective and powerful advocates. In the course of his ministry he traveled from coast to coast across what is now the United States, into Canada, and to England; he worked in the



Parley Pratt's experience with the Book of Mormon was not unique. Strong men and women were so deeply touched that in the years that followed not a few even gave their lives for the witness they carried in their hearts.

isles of the Pacific and was the first Latter-day Saint missionary to set foot on the soil of South America. In 1857, while serving a mission in Arkansas, he was shot in the back and killed by an assailant. He was buried in a rural area near the community of Alma, and today in that quiet place a large block of polished granite marks the site of his grave. Incised in its surface are the words of another of his great and prophetic hymns, setting forth his vision of the work in which he was engaged:

*The morning breaks, the shadows
flee;
Lo, Zion's standard is unfurled! . . .
The dawning of a brighter day
Majestic rises on the world.*

*The clouds of error disappear
Before the rays of truth divine; . . .
The glory bursting from afar
Wide o'er the nations soon will shine.³*

Parley Pratt's experience with the Book of Mormon was not unique. As the volumes of the first edition were circulated and read, strong men and women by the hundreds were so deeply touched that they gave up everything they owned, and in the years that followed not a few even gave their lives for the witness they carried in their hearts of the truth of this remarkable volume.

Today, a century and three-quarters after its first publication, the Book of Mormon is more widely read than at any time in its history. Whereas there were 5,000 copies in that first edition, about 5,000,000 are currently distributed each year, and the book or selections from the book are available in 106 languages.

Its appeal is as timeless as truth, as universal as mankind. It is the only book that contains within its covers a promise that by divine power the reader may know with certainty of its truth.

Its origin is miraculous; when the story of that origin is first told to one unfamiliar with it, it is almost unbelievable. But the book is here to be felt and handled and read. No one can dispute its presence. All efforts to account for its origin, other than the account given by Joseph Smith, have

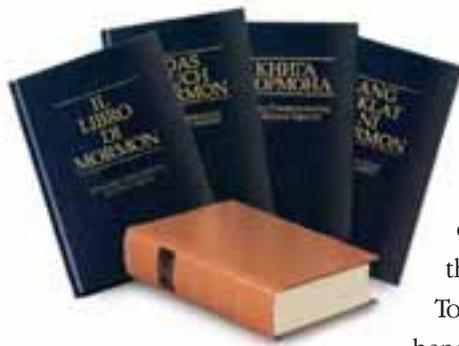
been shown to lack substance. It is a record of ancient America. It is a scripture of the New World, as certainly as the Bible is the scripture of the Old. Each of these volumes of scripture speaks of the other. Each carries with it the spirit of inspiration, the power to convince and to convert.

Together they become two witnesses, hand in hand, that Jesus is the Christ, the resurrected and living Son of the living God.

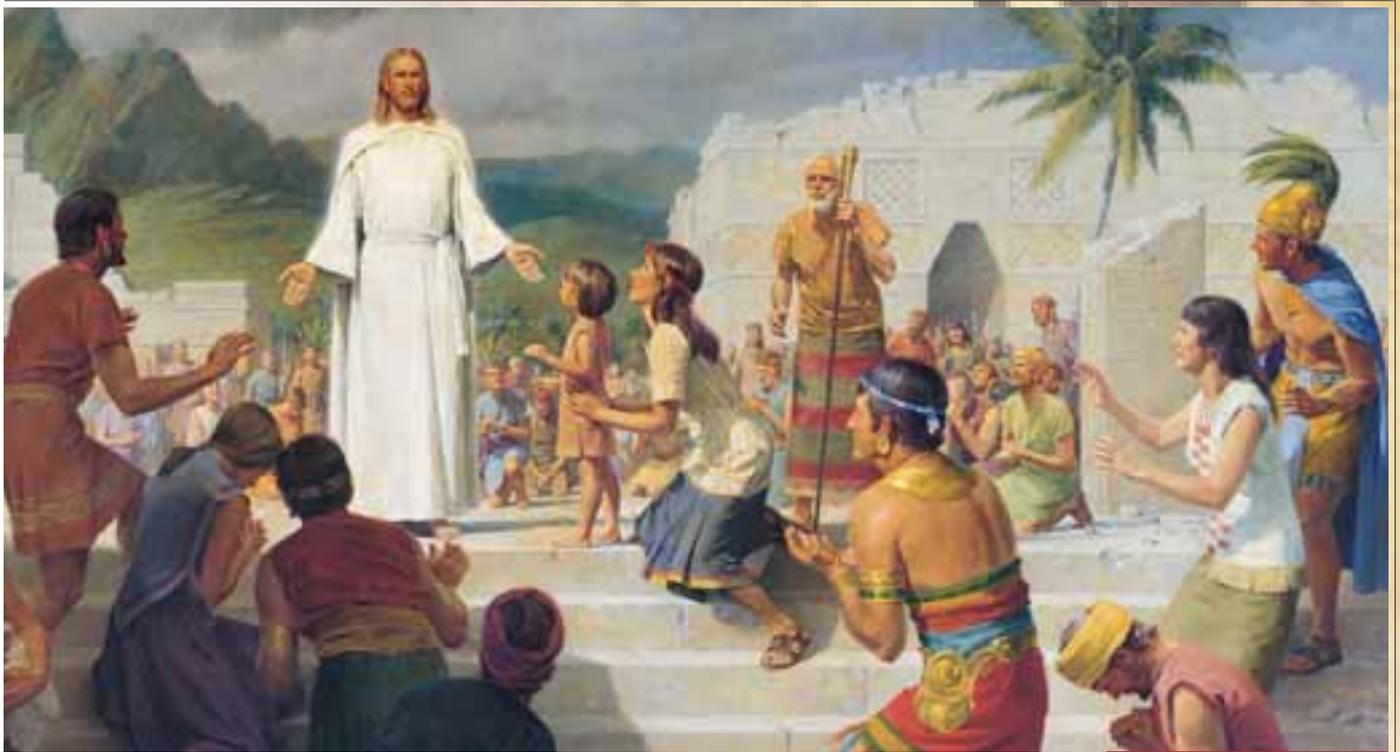
The Book of Mormon narrative is a chronicle of nations long since gone. But in its descriptions of the problems of today's society, it is as current as the morning newspaper and much more definitive, inspired, and inspiring concerning the solutions of those problems.

I know of no other writing which sets forth with such clarity the tragic consequences to societies that follow courses contrary to the commandments of God. Its pages trace the stories of two distinct civilizations that flourished on the Western Hemisphere. Each began as a small nation, its people walking in the fear of the Lord. But with prosperity came growing evils. The people succumbed to the wiles of ambitious and scheming leaders who oppressed them with burdensome taxes, who lulled them with hollow promises, who countenanced and even encouraged loose and lascivious living. These evil schemers led the people into terrible wars that resulted in the death of millions and the final and total extinction of two great civilizations in two different eras.

No other written testament so clearly illustrates the fact that when men and nations walk in the fear of God and in obedience to His commandments, they prosper and grow,



**Whereas there were
5,000 copies in that
first edition, about
5,000,000 are currently
distributed each year,
and the book or
selections from the
book are available
in 106 languages.**



but when they disregard Him and His word, there comes a decay that, unless arrested by righteousness, leads to impotence and death. The Book of Mormon is an affirmation of the Old Testament proverb: “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34).

The God of heaven spoke to these people of the Americas through prophets, telling them where true security could be found: “Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ” (Ether 2:12).

While the Book of Mormon speaks with power to the issues that affect our modern society, the great and stirring burden of its message is a testimony, vibrant and true, that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah, He who walked the dusty roads of Palestine healing the sick and teaching the doctrines of salvation; who died upon the cross of Calvary; who on the third day came forth from the tomb, appearing to many. Prior to His final

Ascension, He visited the people of this Western Hemisphere, concerning whom He earlier had said, “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd” (John 10:16).

For centuries the Bible stood alone as a written testimony of the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth. Now, at its side, stands a second and powerful witness which has come forth “to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that JESUS IS THE CHRIST, the ETERNAL GOD, manifesting himself unto all nations” (Book of Mormon title page).

As I indicated earlier, at this season exactly 176 years ago the first edition of the Book of Mormon, which had been translated “by the gift and power of God” (Book of Mormon title page) was being set in type and run on a small press in Palmyra, New York. Its publication preceded and was a forerunner to the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which took place on April 6, 1830.

We studied the Book of Mormon in

While the Book of Mormon speaks with power to the issues that affect our modern society, the great and stirring burden of its message is a testimony, vibrant and true, that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah.



Sunday School this past year. Nonetheless I offer a challenge to members of the Church throughout the world and to our friends everywhere to read or reread the Book of Mormon. If you will read a bit more than one and one-half chapters a day, you will be able to finish the book before the end of this year. Very near the end of its 239 chapters, you will find a challenge issued by the

prophet Moroni as he completed his record nearly 16 centuries ago. Said he:

“And I exhort you to remember these things; for the time speedily cometh that ye shall know that I lie not, for ye shall see me at the bar of God; and the Lord God will say unto you: Did I not declare my words unto you, which were written by this man, like as one crying from the dead, yea, even as one speaking out of the dust? . . .

“And God shall show unto you, that that which I have written is true” (Moroni 10:27, 29).

Without reservation I promise you that if each of you will observe this simple program, regardless of how many times you previously may have read the Book of Mormon, there will come into your lives and into your homes an added measure of the Spirit of the Lord, a strengthened resolution to walk in obedience to His commandments, and a stronger testimony of the living reality of the Son of God. ■

NOTES

1. See *Hymns*, no. 13.
2. *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*, ed. Parley P. Pratt Jr. (1938), 36–37.
3. “The Morning Breaks,” *Hymns*, no. 1.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

Consider having a previsit discussion with the head of the household about President Hinckley’s challenge to complete the Book of Mormon by the end of the year. Encourage the head of the household to discuss the challenge with family members before your home teaching visit.

After prayerfully considering this message, choose a teaching method that will encourage participation by family members.

Following are some examples:

1. Discuss the promises President Hinckley makes to those who complete the goal of reading or rereading the Book of Mormon.
2. Invite family members to share their favorite stories or

scriptures from the Book of Mormon. Discuss ways family members can enhance their understanding and study of the Book of Mormon. Testify of the blessings that come from regularly studying the Book of Mormon.

3. Show family members your marked copy of the Book of Mormon. Invite them to explain in their own words why the Book of Mormon is important. Tell them why it is important to you. Read together the story of Parley P. Pratt gaining a testimony of the truthfulness of the book. Bear your testimony of the Book of Mormon. You may want to consider showing portions of the Church-produced video *How Rare a Possession* (item no. 53144).



A Consistent Prophetic Call

Latter-day prophets have consistently testified of the power and impact of the Book of Mormon in the lives of Heavenly Father's children. Through the past half century, Church members have heard admonitions like these:

President David O. McKay (1873–1970):

"I testify to you that the Book of Mormon is truly the Word of God, that communication between earth and heaven has been opened up again, and that the true way of the Lord has been revealed to men on earth, showing the means by which all needful knowledge and blessings may be received by every true believer in Christ" ("Marks Pointing to Authenticity of Book of Mormon," *Instructor*, Oct. 1952, 318).

President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972): "No member of this Church can stand approved in the presence of God who has not seriously and carefully read the Book of Mormon" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1961, 18).

President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973): "It has always seemed to me that the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith in counsel to the brethren, impressing the value of the Book of Mormon, have greater significance than many of us attach to them. His statement was: 'I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book' (*History of the Church*, 4:461). . . .

"If one wants to get close to God, he can do it by

reading the Book of Mormon" (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee* [2000], 62).

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985): "[The Book of Mormon] is the word of God. It is a powerful second witness of Christ. And, certainly, all true believers who love the Redeemer will welcome additional evidence of his divinity.

"This inspiring book was never tampered with by unauthorized translators or biased theologians but comes to the world pure and directly from the historians and abridgers. The book is not on trial—its readers are" (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed.

Edward L. Kimball [1982], 133).

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994): "The Book of Mormon is studied in our Sunday School and seminary classes every fourth year. This four-year pattern, however, must not be followed by Church members in their personal and family study. We need to read daily from the pages of the book that will get a man 'nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.' (*History of the Church*, 4:461.)" ("Flooding the Earth with the Book of Mormon," *Ensign*, Nov. 1988, 4).

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95): "The Book of Mormon is the word of God. We invite you to read this wonderful record. It is the most remarkable volume in existence today. Read it carefully and prayerfully, and as you do, God will give you a testimony of its truthfulness as promised by Moroni (see Moroni 10:4)" (*The Teachings of Howard W. Hunter*, ed. Clyde J. Williams [1997], 54). ■





STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

WITHIN THE BONDS OF MATRIMONY

A continuing series giving insights for your study and use of "The Family: A Proclamation to the World."

"Marriage between man and woman is essential to [God's] eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity."¹

The Sacred Marriage Covenant

President Gordon B. Hinckley has taught: "The Church lays great stress on the sanctity of the home and teaches that children are a blessing from the Lord. There is no principle on which the Latter-day Saints lay greater emphasis than the sacredness of the marriage covenant."² Because we know that family



relationships can endure eternally, we understand the importance of marrying a righteous person in the right place and creating a home into which God can send His spirit children to be raised in righteousness.

Bonds of Love

The word *bond* has many meanings, including "a covenant," "a uniting force," and "an adhesive that combines, unites, and strengthens." The bonds of matrimony are bonds of love uniting two people in a covenant relationship that strengthens them and gives them a higher purpose. In this sense, these bonds *liberate* men and women

to reach their full eternal potential.

Such a covenant relationship is the foundation of a home in which children are welcome and where they can learn and grow in an atmosphere of love and security, without fear of abuse or abandonment.

Reared by a Father and a Mother

Church leaders have consistently affirmed that children are better off when born and reared in a family with both a mother and a father. The First Presidency made the following statement: “When a man and woman conceive a child out of wedlock, every effort should be made to encourage them to marry. When the probability of a successful marriage is unlikely due to age or other circumstances, unwed parents should be counseled to place the child for adoption through LDS Family Services to ensure that the baby will be sealed to temple-worthy parents.”³ Where LDS Family Services is not available, priesthood leaders should encourage adoption through a legally authorized agency.

Research by family scholars supports the Church’s position. A recent publication compares children of single or cohabiting parents with children of married parents. While single parents often succeed in rearing well-adjusted, responsible children, the report concludes that, taken as a whole, children who live with married parents are less likely to divorce or become unwed parents themselves, are less likely to experience poverty, tend to have higher grades, are more likely to attend college, and experience lower rates of unemployment. On average, children of married parents also experience better physical and mental health, have lower rates of substance abuse, experience less child abuse, and are less likely to commit suicide or engage in criminal behavior.⁴ A strong, loving marriage is often the best gift parents can give children.

Marriage between Man and Woman

Because of pressures on government to permit marriages between two men or two women, in July 2004



A strong, loving marriage is often the best gift parents can give children.

the Church released a statement in support of defining marriage as the lawful union of a man and a woman. This definition is far more than a question of civil rights. Protecting marriage is a matter of deep commitment to an institution established by God our Father. This commitment shapes the moral climate in which mothers and fathers rear their children.

If governments were to alter the moral climate by legitimizing same-sex marriages, gender confusion would increase, particularly among children, and this would further blur the line between good and evil (see Isaiah 5:20).

Love at Home

Marriage is indeed essential to God’s plan, but marriage alone is not the solution to all the problems families might encounter. Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: “Deliberate decisions must be made in order to achieve that desirable condition, ‘love at home,’ such as budgeting enough time at home to, among other things, express love to children by adding to their storehouse of happy memories. Singing that song is not enough;⁵ it must be matched by wise scheduling to benefit the family, which is often victimized by our busyness.”⁶

Other deliberate decisions husbands and wives can make include being faithful; overcoming personal weakness, including the tendency to criticize; and serving each other so that love deepens over time—ensuring that “love at home” is not just a trite phrase but a reality that each family can achieve. ■

NOTES

1. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liabona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
2. *Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley* (1997), 5.
3. First Presidency letter, June 26, 2002.
4. See Institute for American Values, *Why Marriage Matters: Twenty-One Conclusions from the Social Sciences* (2002).
5. See “Love at Home,” *Hymns*, no. 294.
6. *Notwithstanding My Weakness* (1981), 108.



Family History Changed My Life



BY ELDER CARLOS A. PÉREZ

Area Seventy
South America South Area

Many years ago, soon after I was baptized, I heard a sister testify in sacrament meeting of the feelings she had while doing family history work. Suddenly I began to cry like a child. At the time I didn't know what was happening to me. I later learned that the Lord was testifying to me through the Spirit that what the sister was saying was true and that I needed to do family history and temple work for my own ancestors.

Deep in my heart I felt the truthfulness of these inspired words written by the Prophet Joseph Smith: "Let me assure you that 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" (D&C 128:15). We will not be able to attain exaltation without our ancestors, nor will they be able to attain exaltation without us.

Later the Spirit prompted me to visit Aunt

Esther, whom I had not seen for a very long time. I found myself at her house without knowing why. During our conversation I talked to her about the family history work that Church members do. She got up and went to another part of the house. She brought back a box containing many papers she had been keeping but didn't know what to do with. When she opened the box and started to show me what was there, I was astonished to see documents with the names, birth dates, and death dates of many family members, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and others. How grateful I was to have the information I needed to begin doing family history work.

A year after my baptism my wife and I were sealed in the São Paulo Brazil Temple. We also performed baptismal ordinances for my maternal grandparents, and in the temple I sensed their approval.

My testimony of the wonderful work performed in our temples is very strong. In the temple, families are united for eternity, eternal bonds are strengthened, and family ties become closer than ever.

We will not be able to attain exaltation without our ancestors, nor will they be able to attain exaltation without us.



We now have a temple in Uruguay, and we can attend regularly. I have been able to experience again those same feelings I had 27 years ago that changed my life forever. I have learned that we need to consistently seek spiritual experiences that will prompt us to change our lives and will then produce great happiness.

These life-changing experiences can affect many who live around us—as well as those who lived before us. We have a great power and need to use it always.

The work begun many years ago by a young boy of 14 is the work of God on earth. The work performed in our temples is divine. I testify that we can know this as we are obedient to Heavenly Father and act upon the spiritual promptings we receive. ■

I Found It!

Whether we search for information about our family members in a cemetery, on an Internet site, or among faded old papers, the Lord will help us.

Ever since Grace Dywili Modiba and her mother and sisters were baptized in 1984, Grace was drawn to family history work.

“I gathered what I could from my aunts, uncles, and other relatives,” says Grace, a member of the Atteridgeville Ward, Pretoria South Africa Stake. “However, I became frustrated at every turn as I tried to find leads about my great-great-grandparents. The answer to my prayers began to unfold one Monday morning in 2001 when my mother called to tell me my cousin had passed away.

“We made arrangements to travel to the funeral, which was in the area where my parents were born. Since it is approximately 120 miles (200 km) north of Atteridgeville, near the border of Botswana, we had seldom visited that area.

“I left with my mum and two sisters on Friday, the day before the funeral. When we arrived at my aunt’s house late that night, we found the house filled with family members and friends. After finishing the arrangements

for the funeral, we were tired but there was no place for us to sleep. One of my cousins graciously invited us to stay at her place, if we didn’t mind a long walk. We agreed to go. It was a very dark night, but the road was quiet, safe, and peaceful. When we arrived, everyone quickly fell asleep.

“The next morning I was the first of the visitors to awaken, and I found my cousin already up and busy. She gave me water to wash with, and after I finished, I experienced a prompting that I should go outdoors.

“As I walked a few meters away from the house, I was surprised to see two tombstones in the yard. I slowly went to them and was astonished and thrilled to find that they were the tombstones of my great-great-grandparents. They had the names and dates I so urgently needed! I quickly ran back into the house and excitedly told my cousin of my discovery and how long I had been searching for these ancestors.

“Now, as I reflect on these events, I know that everything



happens for a purpose. I know that God lives and that Jesus is my Savior, and I am thankful to Them for leading me to this information.”

Experiences such as this are ongoing among those who diligently search for their family members. Elder Melvin J. Ballard (1873–1939) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles testified “that the spirit and influence of your dead will guide those who are interested in finding those records. If there

is anywhere on the earth anything concerning them, you will find it. . . . But you must begin to work.”¹

Following are experiences wherein the Lord prompted seekers to find records with the needed names, dates, or places.

A Cowboy Rides the Internet

LeAnn Coshman, director of the Santa Maria California Family History Center,

I was surprised to see two tombstones in the yard. They had the names and dates I so urgently needed!



I approached a disheveled cowboy looking quietly at the family history items on our display table at the county fair. When I asked if I could help, he said, “I don’t even know if my mom and dad are alive.”

writes: “Like most family historians, I have a few great stories of serendipitous experiences and of lost families found. But one stands out to me.

“We had a booth at our county fair, and a large banner proclaimed our purpose: ‘Family History Center, Families Are Forever.’ A disheveled cowboy quietly stood looking at the items on the display table. I approached him and asked if I could help him look for one of his ancestors. His shyness, combined with a significant speech impediment, made it a little difficult to communicate. He indicated he didn’t know anything about any of his ancestors and said, ‘I don’t even know if my mom and dad are alive.’ With that declaration, he gained my full attention. He told me he had left home under bad circumstances as a teenager. He had been ‘rodeoing’ ever since, but he had now ‘settled down some.’ He was married and had two children.

“I invited him to sit with me at one of the computers. I explained that we normally didn’t search for living people, but I offered to help him check the U.S. Social Security Death Index to see if his father had died. Since his father’s name was quite unusual, I felt it would be easy to identify him. When we didn’t find him, we were grateful because it meant he was probably still alive.

“After a bit of Internet sleuthing, I was able to obtain a little information about the cowboy’s father, including a current address and phone number. As he stared at the computer screen, he repeated several times, ‘I can’t believe this. That’s my dad.’ I tried to encourage him to call his father, but he said, ‘I can’t do that. My dad will never talk to me—maybe my mom, but not my dad.’ I printed out the information and handed it to him. I suggested that if he didn’t feel comfortable calling, he could write a letter. I offered the idea that regardless of the circumstances surrounding his leaving, he should ask for his parents’ forgiveness and tell them he missed them. I tried to encourage him by explaining that his parents would be anxious to learn about their grandchildren.

“As he walked away, I said a silent prayer for him. I had no expectation of ever learning the outcome; however, two days later the cowboy was back standing in the same spot. I hurried to him with my hand outstretched and said more than asked, ‘You called!’

“He said, ‘Yeah, and they showed up on my doorstep at 6:00 this morning!’

“He tried to express his gratitude but was having a hard time getting the words out. So I extended my hand once more and told him that he didn’t need to say a word, that I understood completely. He clung to my hand, not wanting to let go, and I moved forward to accept the hug I knew he wanted to give.

“I’m grateful to have played a part in helping this man find his parents. I have gained a fresh perspective of a familiar scripture: ‘He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers’ (Malachi 4:6).”

Finding a Dusty Paper

Angel Daniel Gatica of the Villa Elvira Ward, La Plata Argentina Villa Elvira Stake, tells of a time the Spirit guided him to find the records he needed:

“While visiting my family in central Argentina, my wife and I decided to visit one of my mother’s aunts. I knew that several of her now deceased brothers and sisters had lived in her home during the previous five years. I prayed that the Lord would prepare the way for me in my family history research.

“When we arrived, everything seemed frozen in time.

Not one trunk or suitcase had been removed from where her brothers and sisters had left them. All morning I tried to convince my aunt to permit me to go through them, but she was reluctant. After lunch she told me I could search through one. I prayed silently, seeking inspiration. I chose one. Then I opened it very carefully and began to take out one yellowed paper after another.

“Within a few minutes I found an old booklet with all the data of my great-uncle. I kept searching and found other papers with data about my aunt’s other siblings. It looked like the rest of the suitcase was filled with old magazines and newspaper clippings. I put everything back inside and closed it, but the Spirit prompted me to look again. Once again I opened the suitcase. I carefully turned it upside down and let the papers fall out in a stack.

“There, now on top of the pile of magazines and newspaper clippings, was an old but well-preserved document. I carefully opened it and read, ‘Birth certificate belonging to Guadalupe Sepúlveda.’ This was my maternal great-grandfather, who was born a century before my birth.

“I ran to my aunt and showed it to her. Having never seen it before, she took it and caressed it tenderly.

“‘My father held this in his hands,’ she whispered.

Then she pressed it against her heart and wept. When she gave it back to me, she promised I could have it after she passed away.

“Now all I lacked was the birth date of one of my great-uncles. I wondered if this large family would remain incomplete.

“My wife and I started to leave, thanking my aunt for her help. As we walked through the long hallway, I realized that I had forgotten something. I ran back and quickly opened the door. The force of the air that rushed in dislodged a small, old basket containing documents

that were just as they had been left years ago. I paused to look. ‘What is this paper?’ I wondered. Through the dust, I could see a date.

“With great care, I blew the dust off and unfolded the document. On this fragile and forgotten manuscript, there was, still legible, the birth date that I needed. At that moment, the Spirit penetrated so unmistakably into my heart that I could not contain my tears.

“‘Thanks, my son, for visiting me,’ said my elderly aunt.

“‘Thank you, Aunt, for letting me come into your home,’ I responded.

“I kissed her good-bye. It was the last opportunity I had to kiss

her in this life. Now thanks to my aunt’s help and the Lord’s inspiration, all of my maternal great-grandfather’s family have been sealed for eternity.”

And so family history and temple work roll on. One testimony of divine intervention after another is borne by those helped while diligently searching for the names, dates, and places of their family members. Indeed, the Lord does provide ways and means for us to find the information we need. As a result, all are blessed. ■



A *s I quickly opened the door, the air rushed in and dislodged an old basket. Through the dust, I could see a date on one paper.*

NOTE

1. In Bryant S. Hinckley, *Sermons and Missionary Services of Melvin Joseph Ballard* (1949), 230.

599 Baptisms

BY WILSON ARLEY OCAMPO

When I was 18 I was the first in my family to find the restored gospel. After my baptism I began to really understand how the gospel could help my family.

As a result of these feelings, I started to do family history and my love for my ancestors grew as I worked and exercised my faith to find them. My desire to find them was so strong that on several occasions I traveled to my ancestors' places of origin. Each trip brought new experiences, and my heart was turned to my ancestors (see Malachi 4:5–6).

Some time later I was called to serve as a family history consultant in my ward. My heart began to expand, and I began to love the ancestors of each person in my ward. As I searched parishes, archives, and libraries, I came to better understand the purpose of redeeming the dead.

Once I had my family history computer disk in my hands, I realized that the most important part of the work was still missing. I needed to go to the temple and provide my family beyond the veil with the ordinances that would enable them to be saved and join my family's generations for eternity.

I was able to go to the temple when I went on my mission to Cochabamba, Bolivia. I began preaching the gospel in October 2000. A few months later my companion

Inspired by a growing love for my ancestors, I did family history work for hundreds of them.

and I visited the temple with the youth from the ward where we were serving. I took my disk and was able to provide 599 names for ordinance work.

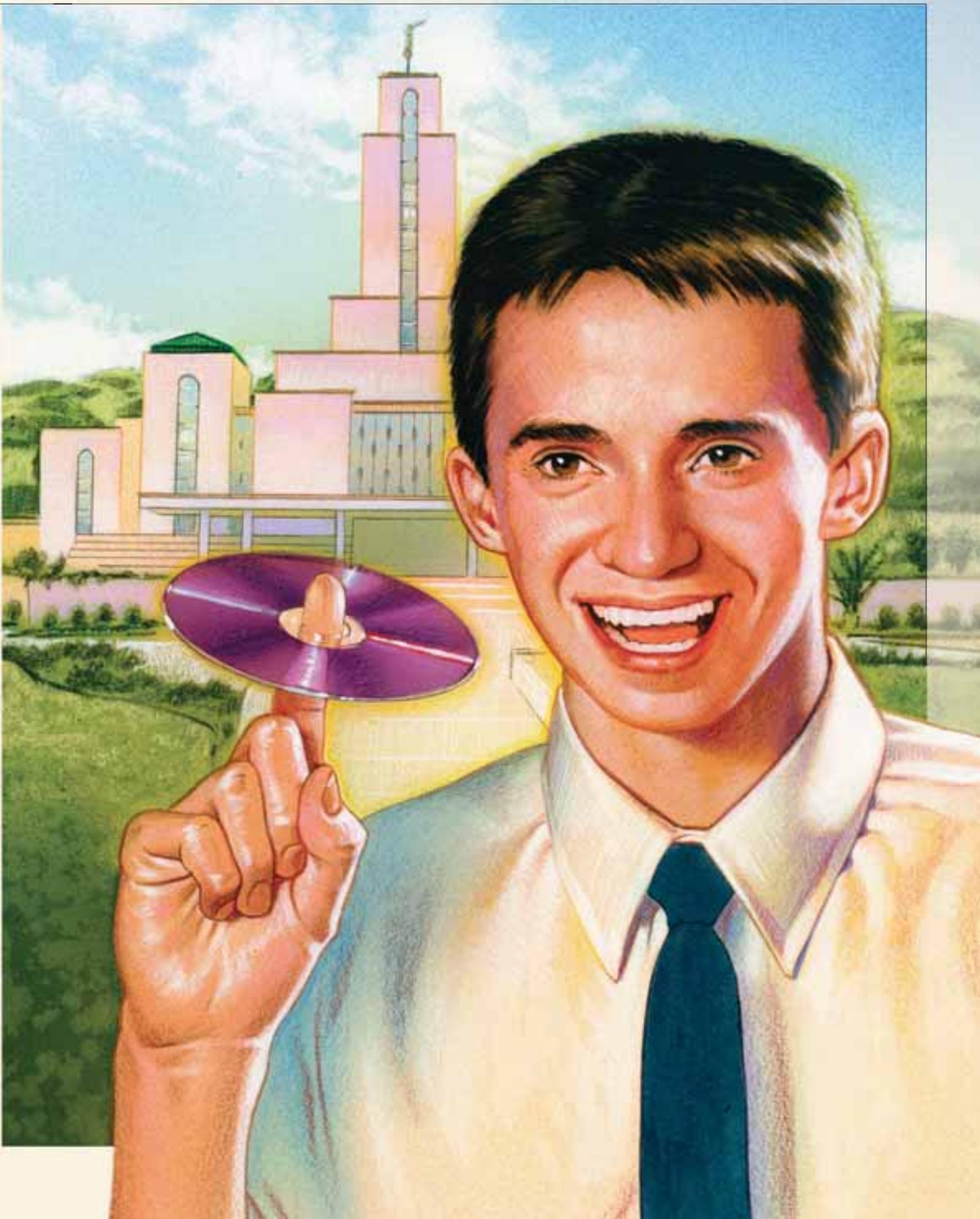
While I served as witness, my companion baptized the young people on behalf of my ancestors. What great joy I felt. The Spirit was with me, testifying of the truthfulness of what we were doing. I could feel my ancestors' happiness and gratitude.

But there were other ordinances that still needed to be done. Because there were so many names, I turned them over to the temple. But I kept the names of my great-grandparents and their children, and later that month my companion and I, with the help of other missionaries, performed the work for them.

I am grateful to my Heavenly Father because, although I was far from my country and perhaps thought that I would baptize only the living, I was also able to participate in the work of redeeming the dead.

I am still trying to bring more souls to Christ and encouraging others to seek out their ancestors. I love this work, and I know that it is true and that Jesus Christ lives and loves us. ■

Wilson Arley Ocampo is a member of the Envigado Ward, Medellín Colombia Belen Stake.



FIGHTING INTERNET FILTH

You don't have to be a computer expert to help protect your family when they're on the Web.

BY MARIO HIPOL

Our Church leaders have counseled us regularly to avoid pornographic, vulgar, or otherwise questionable material on the Internet. As parents, how can you and I protect our children? You may already be familiar with these helpful suggestions: Place computers in high-traffic rooms in your home, ensure that a responsible adult is nearby when your children are using the Internet, and teach your children to immediately log off whenever they see questionable material.

What follows are more techniques to help you further protect your family members as they use the Internet.

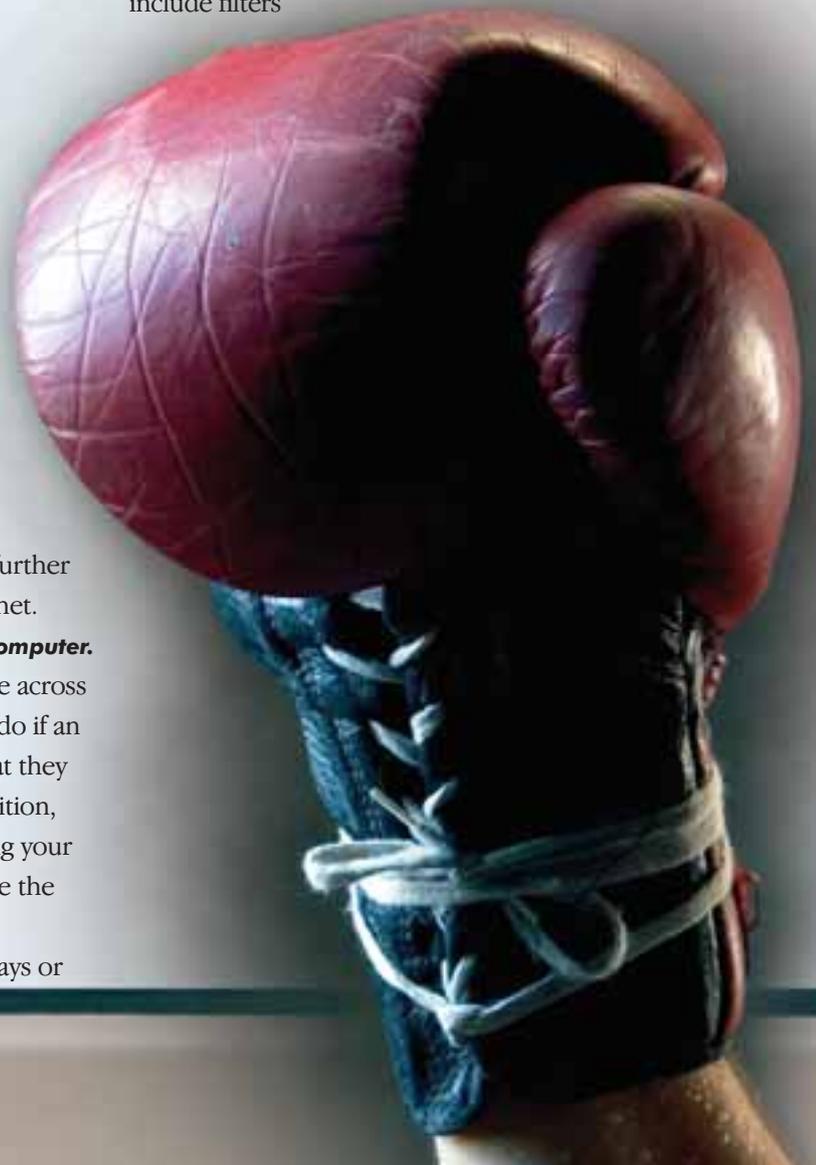
Monitor what sites have been visited on your computer. Teach your children to inform you when they come across an objectionable Web site, and train them what to do if an inappropriate site or image appears, explaining that they may actually have to shut the system down. In addition, monitor the Web sites they have visited by checking your browser's history. If you do not know how to locate the history, check your browser's online help.

In many cases you can specify the number of days or

the number of visited sites that you would like to track. Review the history at set intervals. The intervals should be short enough that you can go through the history effectively and thoroughly. You may also want to maintain a schedule for clearing out the history. An empty history at an unscheduled time may indicate a problem.

Use an Internet filtering tool. Internet filters are programs that "preview" text before it is sent to your computer. If the filter encounters an objectionable site, the computer user will be notified that the site is not appropriate or will be sent to another Web site. There are many methods of filtering, and no filters are foolproof. But they can help.

You can purchase and install a filter yourself or download a filter from the Internet. Some Internet service providers include filters



with their Internet service. You might re-search the filters that will best meet your needs by visiting reputable Web sites that review and recommend filters.

Filters must be used correctly and updated regularly to be of benefit. You should also monitor passwords to make sure your filter has not been compromised. Bear in mind that filters look for inappropriate text, not images. A filter cannot examine a photograph and determine whether it is objectionable.

You may also want to find out about your children's school and public library policies regarding filters and Internet use.

Teach your children to use favorites or bookmarks. Most browsers allow you to bookmark or designate a Web site as a favorite. This feature allows you to navigate quickly and easily to a Web site without having to remember its name or search for it each time. Creating a family favorites list is a good way to let the family help decide what is appropriate for viewing on the Internet.

Some operators of pornographic Web sites use common misspellings of popular sites or searches in their URLs—their Web page addresses. Using favorites or bookmarks rather than just surfing, doing a search, or typing in a URL can help Internet users avoid this problem.

Teach your children to use credible search engines. Many small search engines are revenue driven. Predators or pornography peddlers can actually purchase specific phrases so that their Web sites will be included in the results of an Internet search for that phrase, whether or not the site is related to the phrase. For example, a child searching for information about a popular toy can unintentionally access



a pornographic Web site. Therefore, it is best to use a large, well-known search engine.

However, any search on any search engine could turn up questionable material. You may want to teach your children to use sites such as online encyclopedias rather than immediately using a search engine. These encyclopedia sites often have other links pertinent to the topic being searched.

Use a pop-up blocker on the Internet.

Pop-up windows appear automatically on a computer screen and usually have nothing to do with the Web page a user is viewing. Some pop-up windows contain pornographic material or direct the user to offensive Web sites. Most major Internet service providers and some search engines provide free pop-up blockers for download. Some browsers have pop-up blockers already built in.

Teach your children to be cautious in downloading free software from the Internet.

Many seemingly harmless programs available for download on the Internet contain additional software that may be installed simultaneously with or without the user's consent. These programs are known as "adware" or "spyware"; sometimes you can see their icon in the lower right corner of your computer screen. Spyware can also become embedded into your computer via a virus.

Place your computer in a high-traffic room in your home, and ensure that a responsible adult is nearby.



Be sure your children understand what your family's standards are so they can monitor their own behavior when they are away from home.

Adware and spyware usually track your activity on the Internet and then send advertising banners or pop-up windows to your computer based on the Web sites you have visited. However, some spyware is maintained by sponsors who pay to have their Web pages sent to your computer, regardless of the sites you have visited. Because this type of software runs from its own program on your computer, it can't be caught by a pop-up blocker or by other tools you have in place for protection.

Spyware can capture keystrokes and send them to a central server, where the creators can see everything you type on your computer. They may be able to identify credit card numbers, passwords, e-mail addresses, and other personal information you type in, as well as scanning files on your hard drive.

Antivirus software will not remove these programs. But you can purchase software specifically designed to remove adware and spyware from your computer.

Teach your children not to use free peer-to-peer or chat-based programs to download material. Peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing or networking enables computer users to download or "share" music or media for little or no cost. Because copyright violations abound, most peer-to-peer file sharing is illegal, especially when computer users trade files with people

they don't know. And most Internet filters cannot block peer-to-peer file sharing.

Many common viruses and vulgar materials are spread through peer-to-peer file sharing. Deceptive individuals rename pornography and viruses with the names of popular songs, artists, and movies in an attempt to lure unsuspecting users to their material. Once that material is downloaded and opened on a computer, the computer user is subject to whatever the contents may be. There is no way to filter out files that have been altered to hide their true content.

Teach your children not to open spam e-mail. Unsolicited bulk e-mail, or spam, is a major source of pornography on the Internet. To avoid accessing pornography this way, instruct your family members to delete any e-mail from unknown senders rather than opening it. Do not try to unsubscribe from spam; you will likely get more of it because the sender will know that he or she has reached a valid e-mail address. Opening spam can cause you to get more spam and see things you don't want to see.

Discourage your children from visiting chat rooms. Chat rooms are a popular means by which children can communicate with other children around the world. But they can also be a favorite place for predators. Discourage your children from using chat rooms. Consider either removing the chat software from your computer or using a filter that blocks chatting.

If your children must visit a chat room, dictate the time of day and the length of time in which they are allowed to chat and make sure they visit a reputable chat room designed for children only, with a monitor who watches for

offensive content. And be sure to monitor the conversation yourself.

Teach your children never to give out their real name, age, school, password, or any other personal information. Even the most innocent-seeming visitor could be a predator assuming a false identity. Additionally, tell your children to avoid instant messaging or private messaging. Viruses, pornographic pictures, or other objectionable content can be sent through private messages.

You Can Make a Difference

Like any major means of communication, the Internet can be a powerful tool for good or ill. It is invaluable for gathering information and staying in touch with friends and loved ones. Your children likely use it often for school and entertainment purposes. And when they get older, they may find that Internet skills are essential for their jobs.

It is impractical to teach your children to avoid using the



YOUTH NEED PARENTAL DIRECTION

"Our youth . . . need the help of their parents in

resisting [temptation]. They need a tremendous amount of self-control. They need the strength of good friends. They need prayer to fortify them against this flood tide of filth.

"The problem of parental direction of sons and daughters is not new. It is perhaps more acute than it has ever been, but every generation has faced some aspect of it."

President Gordon B. Hinckley, "Great Shall Be the Peace of Thy Children," *Liahona*, Jan. 2001, 62; *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 51.

Internet. But as a parent, you have the responsibility to keep yourself up-to-date and to be vigilant in your efforts to prevent your children from being exposed to harmful material. Be sure your children understand what your family's standards are so they can monitor their own behavior on the Internet when they are away from home.

These suggestions for protecting your family are not comprehensive; there are many more things you can do. For example, you might want to consider taking an Internet class through a community education program, if such is offered in your area.

It is important not to let down your guard or to give up because you feel overwhelmed. Resources are available, and you can make a difference in what your family views on the Internet. ■

Mario Hipol is a member of the Anderson Ward, Anderson California Stake.

GLOSSARY

Browser: A program that allows users to navigate and view pages on the World Wide Web. Two common browsers are Explorer and Netscape, but there are many others.

Chat room: An online forum where users can communicate with each other in real time.

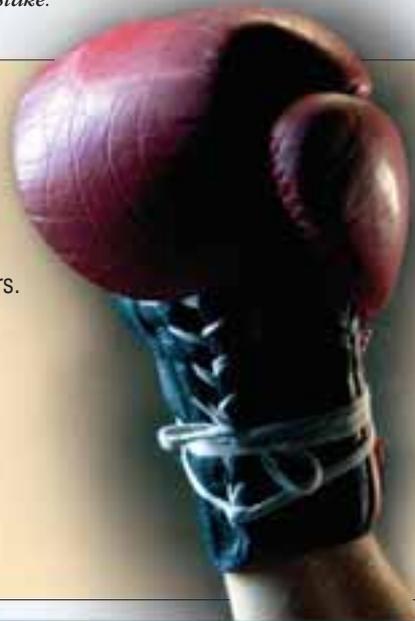
Instant messaging: Exchanging messages in real time between two or more computer users.

Internet service provider (ISP): The service you subscribe to for Internet access.

Search engine: An online service that enables you to find information in Web pages on the Internet by searching for specific words or phrases.

URL: Uniform resource locator, or the address of a Web page.

Virus: A program designed for malicious purposes to "infect" and disrupt the normal functioning of a computer.



Questions & Answers

“Pornography is ruining my life. But every time I try to quit looking at it, I fall again. What can I do?”

L I A H O N A

Pornography, like drugs, is addictive and may be too powerful to overcome alone. Somebody who will support you in changing this behavior needs to know about it. Your bishop or branch president, your parents, and LDS Family Services (see www.providentliving.org) can all help; they need to know what is going on before a habit of looking at pornography progresses and becomes an out-of-control addiction. They will be kind, patient, and understanding because they want what’s best for you.

Your bishop or branch president can help you overcome pornography. It will begin to lose its grasp on you as you talk to him about it. You can also ask him or another Melchizedek Priesthood holder for a blessing.

While others help you with this problem, there are some things you can do yourself:

- Find spiritual strength by praying and reading the scriptures daily, attending church and seminary, and keeping the

Pornography is powerfully addictive, so get some help in overcoming it. The Lord, your bishop or branch president, your parents, and a professional counselor can all help.

Replace this problem with positive and uplifting activities.

Do your best to consistently live the gospel. That will invite the Holy Ghost into your life and help you desire to do what is right.

Avoid situations where you will be tempted, and change your thoughts as soon as an unclean thought enters your mind.

commandments. Healing comes from the Savior, and it comes through His Atonement, which will apply in your life as you repent. Over time, consistent righteous living will convert you so that this temptation will no longer appeal to you.

- Avoid situations where you know you will be tempted. Don’t use the Internet alone. Throw away inappropriate videos or magazines. Turn off the television.

- You can’t simply avoid looking at pornography. You must avoid it *and* do something positive. You could play sports, read wholesome books, listen to good music, spend time on a hobby or interest, or be with your family and friends.

- Set goals to progress in the gospel. Overcome pornography so it won’t stop you from worthily enjoying blessings such as serving a mission, marrying in the temple, and if you are a young man, serving in the priesthood.

Despite your best efforts, at first the



temptation to look at pornography will keep coming up. When it does, immediately change your thoughts and the situation. Invite the Spirit by praying, singing a hymn, and reading the scriptures. If you pause to think about whether you will give in or resist, the problem will likely win.

If the temptation wins from time to time, don't lose hope! All is not lost. No matter how long it takes, you can overcome this problem with your best efforts and the help of the Lord and other people.

READERS

I too have had a problem with pornography. I have found some things that help me resist the temptation. When I read my scriptures and pray daily, the temptation is much less. If I am feeling weak, I will turn off my computer and do something else. Sometimes I have had to find people to be around to keep my mind off it. I work to find other things to think about because if I start thinking about pornography, it's much harder to avoid acting on those thoughts. It's hard work, but

the Lord will help you. He loves you, and He will forgive you as you work to repent.

Name withheld



If you really want to stay away from pornography, pray and fast for God's guidance. Whenever the temptation comes to mind,

read your scriptures and think of Christ and the words of the prophets.

Ejokeoghene Faith Imoh, 19, Mini-Okoro Ward, Port Harcourt Nigeria State



To stop looking at these abominations, deeply repent from the bottom of your heart. Pray, fast, and read the scriptures more, and ask help from Heavenly Father and local

leaders. The Lord will help you overcome because He loves the sinner but not the sin.

Rodrigo Barros Soares, 19, Nilo Wulff Ward,
Porto Alegre Brazil South Stake

First, don't give up hope! The Lord desires to help you. Pray for His guidance, and never forget He wants you to pray to Him no matter how deep in sin you get. Second, talk to your parents about your problem. They can help you avoid tempting situations. Then talk with your bishop. He loves you and can help you think of ways to overcome your temptations and get you onto the road of repentance.

Matt Smith, 18, Oak Forest Second Ward,
Layton Utah North Stake



Always remember that you are a son or daughter of our Father in Heaven. Make Him the center of your life so you will not fall into Satan's trap.

Enroll in seminary or institute; teachers can help you make good choices. The Church also provides us with good magazines to read.

Maria Veronica S. Peñafiel, 15, Bata Ward,
Bacolod Philippines North Stake



Stay away from the Internet as much as possible. That is where Satan will tempt you the most. Do not socialize with people who discuss pornography. That will tempt you to view it again.

Kyle Rushton, 13, Crescent Valley Ward,
Tacoma Washington Stake

Try blocking all porn sites from your computer. But if one accidentally pops up, turn off the computer



An important step in obtaining the cure for spiritual poison is to get on your knees and ask Heavenly Father to forgive you. Pray for the desire to do what is right. Pray for the courage to talk to your parents and the bishop. . . . Regardless of your fears, they will continue to love you. You don't have to do this alone. . . . Parents and leaders can provide valuable encouragement and support."

Elder David E. Sorensen of the Presidency of the Seventy, "You Can't Pet a Rattlesnake," *Liahona*, July 2001, 50; *Ensign*, May 2001, 41.

and study your scriptures until you stop thinking about it. Throw away anything that portrays pornography or anything close to it. Try to spend time with people who will encourage you not to look at pornography.

Lauren Semadeni, 17, Skyline Ward,
Queen Creek Arizona East Stake

Seek direction from your bishop. Together you can establish goals that will spiritually edify you. You will discover that the pleasures of the world are fleeting and the joys of the gospel are eternal.

Moisés Francisco da Silva, 18, Brazlândia Ward,
Brasília Brazil Taguatinga Stake



Pray to the Lord. He will not leave you without help, but you have to continue fighting the urge. Try not to stay up too late because the temptation will be stronger. Try to

read the scriptures every night before bed. If you're going to use the computer, have someone by your side.

Natalie Hill, 16, Harrogate Ward, York England Stake

Liahona and readers' answers are intended for help and perspective, not as pronouncements of Church doctrine.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Youth readers: Send your answer, along with your name, birth date, address, ward and stake (or branch and district), and a photograph to:

Questions & Answers 9/05

50 East North Temple Street, Floor 24

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

Or e-mail: cur-liahona-imag@ldschurch.org

Please respond by September 15, 2005.

QUESTION

"Why is life so hard? Will I ever get a break from trials? How can I endure?" ■

Rejoice in an Understanding of the Purpose of Life



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.

The Prophet Joseph Smith: “The great plan of salvation is a theme which ought to occupy our strict attention, and be regarded as one of heaven’s best gifts to mankind” (*History of the Church*, 2:23).

What Is God’s Plan for His Children?

Moses 1:39: “This is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “In the pre-mortal realm, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshiped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize his or her divine destiny as an heir of eternal life” (“The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liabona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102).

Abraham 3:24–25: “We will make an earth whereon these may dwell; and we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them.”

Elder Bruce C. Hafen of the Seventy:

“This earth is not our home. We are away at school, trying to master the lessons of ‘the great plan of happiness’ so we can return home. . . . Of necessity, the plan is full of thorns and tears—His and ours. But because He and we are so totally in this together, our being ‘at one’ with Him in overcoming all opposition will itself bring us ‘incomprehensible joy.’ Christ’s Atonement is at the very core of this plan” (“The Atonement: All for All,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2004, 98).

Elder Henry B. Eyring of

the Quorum of the Twelve

Apostles: “The purpose of God’s creations and of His giving us life is to allow us to have the learning experience necessary for us to come back to Him, to live with Him in eternal life. That is only possible if we have our natures changed through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, true repentance, and making and keeping the covenants He offers” (“Education for Real Life,” *Ensign*, Oct. 2002, 16).

How Can Rejoicing in God’s Plan Help Me through Trials?

Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “Trying to comprehend the trials and meaning of this life without understanding Heavenly Father’s

marvelously encompassing plan of salvation is like trying to understand a three-act play while seeing only the second act. Fortunately, our knowledge of the Savior, Jesus Christ, and His Atonement helps us to endure our trials and to see purpose in suffering and to trust God for what we cannot comprehend” (“Enduring Well,” *Liabona*, Apr. 1999, 10; *Ensign*, Apr. 1997, 7).

Susan W. Tanner, Young Women general president: “The Atonement of Jesus Christ is the only way we make it through our trials. After all we can do, we have to rely on His strength. . . . When we humbly seek Him, He answers our prayers” (“How Will They Know Unless We Teach Them So?” [address delivered at Young Women open house, fall 2003]). ■



The PLACE to Be



For young single adults in Europe, institute outreach centers are the best choice.

BY JANET THOMAS
Church Magazines

For Vishakha it all started in India.

That was where Vishakha Ram was invited to go to something called “institute” with a friend. She hesitated because she didn’t really think religion was her thing, but she finally agreed. On her first visit, she found a small class studying about preparing for an eternal marriage. Vishakha was amazed. “They were actually talking about these things. I grew up as a Hindu, and we don’t have the concept of eternal marriage. But in

this class it was interesting to me because everything was so pure and clear. It was just like looking at pearls. It was really beautiful.”

Vishakha didn't have the opportunity to join the Church in India because she went to Berlin, Germany, on a student exchange program. But she remembered the Church and the institute class she had found so interesting. When she arrived in Berlin, she called the missionaries, and they also took her to institute. She arrived just in time to see a great change take place at the Berlin institute. The Church had finished building a new institute addition adjoining the stake center. This shared building provides room for sports such as volleyball and basketball, a kitchen, a lounge, a library, and plenty of classrooms. The center would now support a new emphasis called institute outreach.

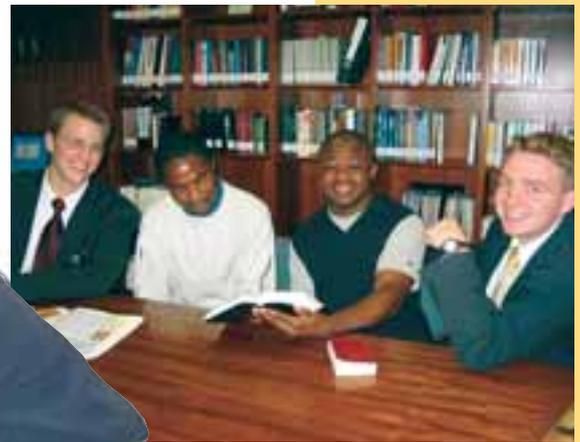
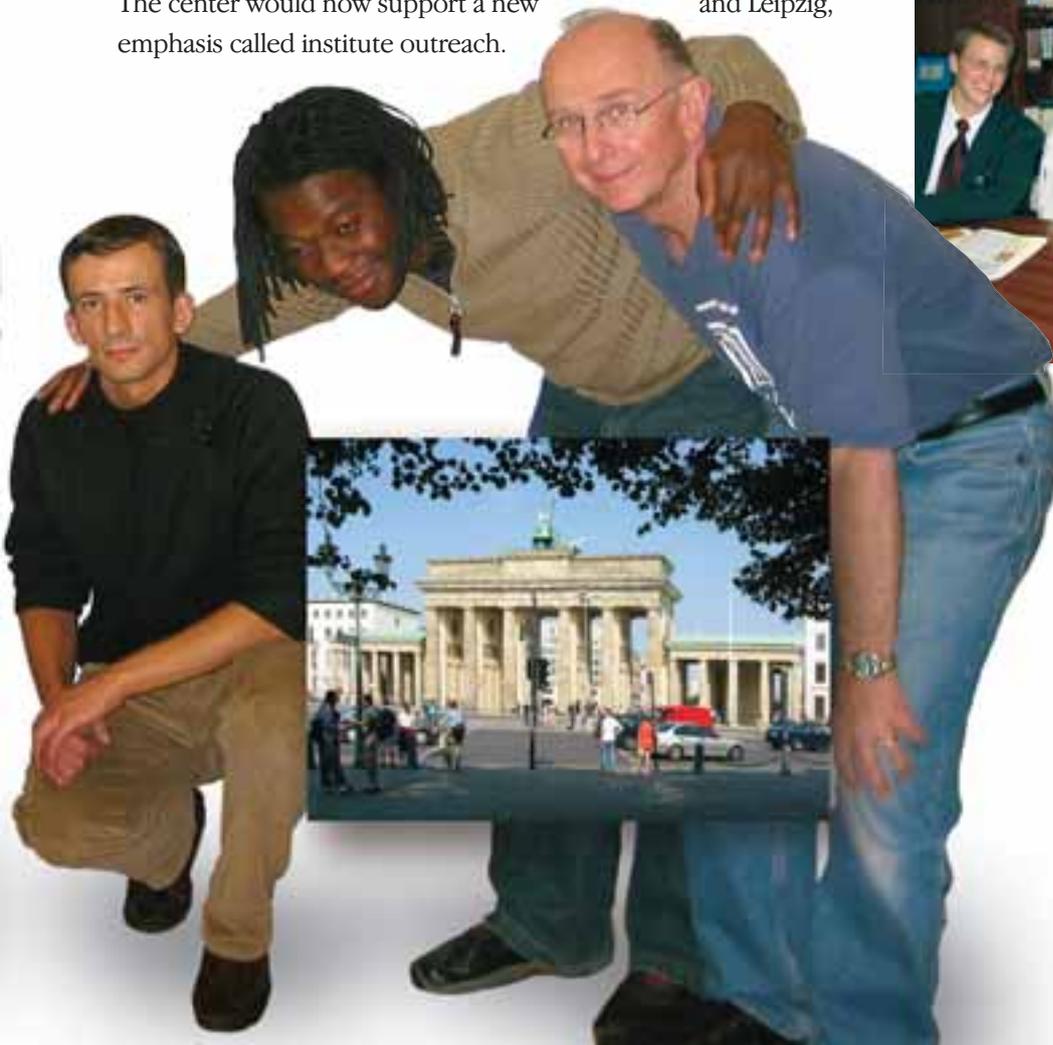
A Warm Welcome

A little over a year and a half ago, a grand experiment began in central Europe. The question was, How were Church members to support and strengthen active young single adults, reactivate those who had slipped into inactivity, and attract more of that age group to the Church as converts?

The answer: Reach out to young single adults; give them a place to feel comfortable, a place to socialize, and a place to be taught.

The first step was to make sure a suitable facility was available for a variety of activities and classes. Very quickly, four were opened. Called institute outreach centers, the four centers are located in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Berlin, Hamburg, and Leipzig,

Decorating for a dance at the Berlin institute are (from left) Reza Sorkhbiel, Christina Marinkovic, Vishakha Ram, Sister Parrz, Sister Siddoway, Miroslav Rimac, Sam Ali, and Elder Alexander. Below: Elder Abbott and Elder Frioux teaching. Bottom: Christina Marinkovic was drawn to the Church by institute activities.





7op: Classes at institute, such as this Church history class, help fill the hunger for knowledge about the Church. Above: Zula Tenges found the Church through the outreach center.

Germany. Another was added later in Düsseldorf, Germany. Fifteen others are being developed in Germany and Scandinavia. These centers are open either all day or all afternoon and evening. Young people can just drop in, come for classes and activities, use the library and computers to study, or get together to fix dinner so they won't have to travel all the way home and then turn around and come back

to class. For some, the distance is too great to make it home after school or work and then make it back for institute class or activities.

Institute outreach center describes both a place and what happens there. It is a friendly welcoming place where young single adults can come to learn, to find friends with the same beliefs, and to feel comfortable as they make their way back into full activity. It also serves as a place where missionaries can bring investigators who are in this age group.

Elder Karl and Sister Deanna Webb, the missionary couple called as area coordinators for the institute outreach centers, explain: "This is where young people can come for all kinds of activities, a place to be fellowshipped and feel the Spirit. It is a place to come to be reintegrated into the Church."

Changing Missionary Work

The *outreach* part of the institute outreach center is missionary work. A companionship

or two of missionaries plus a full-time missionary couple are assigned to each center. They are to focus their energies on the 18- to 30-year-olds—active, less-active, or nonmember. For that reason, the centers—which are a joint effort between the stakes and the Church Educational System—are in cities with universities and a large number of young people.

Just having somewhere specifically for young people has already made a difference for missionary work. Elder Webb tells of two missionaries who were on a university campus contacting young single adult students. They were turned down flat by the first 10 people they contacted. Then they changed their approach, mentioning the wonderful new center nearby for young single adults where there were all kinds of activities and classes. The missionaries reported having serious conversations with 28 of the next 30 people they contacted.

Zula Tenges is one young woman whom the missionary outreach touched. She came to Germany from Mongolia. She wanted to learn English and found a course offered at the institute. "The class was free," says Zula. "I was liking that. I met some elders, and they taught me about the Church. I wasn't really interested in religion, but I wanted to understand more about Christianity."

Zula, 21, from the Tiergarten Ward, was drawn into the activities and the friendship she found at the Berlin institute. "It was so cool at institute. I have so many friends. Many of them are now on missions. That was a great place to get to know the Church." Zula was baptized a little more than a year ago.

A 40-Year-Old Love Story

One of the advantages Christina Marinkovic, 23, from the Tiergarten Ward, sees in having a

full-time missionary couple in the center is the example these lifelong Church members are to the young single adults.

Christina was first brought to institute by her sister. “I wasn’t interested at first,” says Christina, “but I had a good feeling. It was good to see young people who make good decisions and do the right things. And they have fun. They have fun without alcohol. That was for me a little miracle. Now I am the same way.”

Christina has come to know Elder Thomas and Sister Marilyn Alexander, the missionary couple assigned to the center. “They make institute so much better. We can see a good example of how it is to be married for a long time. It’s good for me to see that a husband and wife can be happy for 40 years and in love with each other. They still flirt. It’s so sweet to see.”

Birgit Pless, 24, of the Dahlem Ward, agrees: “Institute is a beautiful place and has a great spirit. We have couple missionaries there who are wonderful. It is a relaxed and fun place.”

And it fills immediate needs. In Hamburg, one young man was struggling to become active again. He was unemployed, and the couple missionaries spent a lot of time helping him to do his résumé on the computer. He became comfortable with them and with being at the institute center and became fully active again.

A young man who had been stationed in Leipzig with the military found the outreach center and became a regular at class and activities. The military life was so different from his home life that he longed to be around those with his same ideals. “One particular evening,” says Elder Griffiths, “he arrived just as the activity at the center was breaking up. We asked him why he had bothered to come when it was so late. He replied, ‘I had to come. I needed it.’”

Back to Vishakha

Just a year and a half since her baptism, Vishakha, 26, from the Lankwitz Ward, was called as student council president at the institute. Now there are activities or classes nearly every night of the week at the Berlin outreach center. She is attending the Church history class

with 25 other students. For their institute, Vishakha says, “the class is mighty big.” She is excited to get some more activities going, more chances to go out to museums and concerts, more fun activities like playing games, maybe an evening to watch movies, and more testimony meetings. “So far,” says Vishakha, “there hasn’t been a dance course. We want to do that.”

The outreach centers are beginning to bear fruit. Young single adults are finding a refuge, a place that fulfills their needs. If they are the only members in their families, they can attend family home evening at the center. If they need someone to turn to for good advice, they can find a listening ear. If they want to have fun without worrying about having their standards challenged, they can find such activities at the center. And as they desire to learn more of the Lord and His Church, they can take classes.

The outreach centers are there to help in whatever way is needed. They become safe shelters from the storms of life, a place to find peace. ■

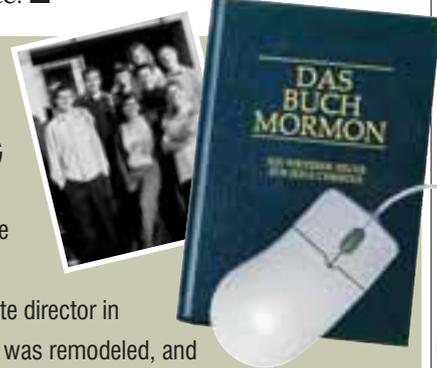
GROWING AND PROGRESSING

“We want to create a young single adult culture at the outreach centers,”

says Horst Gruse, institute director in Berlin. “The stake center was remodeled, and the institute was added on. The facility is available to serve nearly 120 young single adults in the stake.

“A missionary couple serve as leaders. We hold family home evening and classes on religion, leadership, marriage preparation, and scripture study. There are practical classes such as the teachings of the living prophets, English or other language classes, and mission preparation. We ask returned missionaries to teach them. And we have a stake sports center, dances, barbecues, service projects, and larger events such as concerts and lectures.

“We’ve seen a new enthusiasm for the work and a special focus on this outreach to the less active and nonmembers.”



THE QUORUMS OF THE SEVENTY

The seventh in a series of articles about priesthood quorums and their purposes.

BY ELDER EARL C. TINGEY

Of the Presidency of the Seventy

As a Latter-day Saint, you have likely heard General Authority and Area Seventies speak in local or general Church meetings, or you may have read articles written by these leaders in the Church magazines. But do you understand the manner in which the Quorums of the Seventy are organized or the functions Seventies serve?

First, some brief background: In February 1835 the Prophet Joseph Smith called the first Seventies in this dispensation. In the years that followed, the calling of the Seventies developed to meet the changing needs of the growing Church. In 1975 President Spencer W. Kimball reconstituted the First Quorum of the Seventy, and the following year, the 21 men who had been called as Assistants to the Twelve were ordained Seventies and made members of the First Quorum. Ten years later, in 1986, the seventies quorums in stakes throughout the Church were discontinued, and those serving as seventies returned to elders quorums or were ordained high priests.

Three years later, in 1989, the Second Quorum of the Seventy was organized.

Members of this quorum serve under a five-year call. Members of the First Quorum serve until they reach age 70, at which time they are designated as emeritus members. There may be occasional year-by-year extensions as determined by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Members of these two Quorums of the Seventy are General Authorities and are given assignments by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. They serve full time and may be assigned to supervise the Church anywhere in the world.

Duties of the Seventy

Latter-day revelations provide that the Seventy are “to preach the gospel, and to be especial witnesses [of Jesus Christ] . . . in all the world” (D&C 107:25). Furthermore, they “are to act in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Twelve . . . in building up the church and regulating all the affairs of the same in all nations” (D&C 107:34).

The unique and singular calling of the Seventy is clearly established in the revelations: “It is the duty of the [Twelve] to call upon the Seventy, when they need assistance, to fill the several calls for preaching and administering the gospel, instead of any others” (D&C 107:38).

The Seventy do not receive additional priesthood keys, but with each assignment



Members of the Quorums of the Seventy seek to act in their assignments in harmony and unity and “in all righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart.”

they receive from the First Presidency or the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, they are delegated authority to accomplish the assignment given.

The General Authority Seventies meet in regular quorum meetings. Those assigned at Church headquarters meet weekly. These quorum meetings may consist of doctrinal and Church history instruction and training and, from time to time, counsel from the Twelve Apostles and the Presidency of the Seventy.

Additional Quorums of the Seventy

In 1997 the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles organized the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Quorums of the Seventy. In 2004 the Sixth Quorum of the Seventy was organized, and in April 2005 the Seventh and Eighth Quorums of the Seventy were organized. There are currently 195 members of these six quorums. Members of these quorums are faithful brethren who live throughout the world. They are called Area Seventies, thus distinguishing them from General Authority Seventies.

Area Seventies live at home and serve on a Church-service

basis, much like a bishop or a stake president, for a designated number of years. They receive assignments similar to those received by General Authority Seventies, with the exception that they serve in their local areas rather than worldwide.

These six quorums are organized geographically. The Third Quorum includes Area Seventies located in Europe and Africa. The members of the Fourth Quorum live in Mexico, Central America, and the northern part of South America. The Fifth Quorum members are in the western parts of the United States and Canada, and the members of the Sixth Quorum live in the central, southern, and eastern parts of the United States and Canada and in the Caribbean. The Seventh Quorum members are located in Brazil and the southern areas of South America, and the Eighth Quorum members are located in Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific islands, and the Philippines.

Members of these six quorums meet in quorum meetings annually in Salt Lake City during April general conference and also annually somewhere in the designated geographical part of the Church where they live.

Members of the Quorums of the Seventy—shown here at general conference with members of the First Presidency, Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Presiding Bishopric—are called to be “especial witnesses” of Jesus Christ.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHOTO SERVICES



The Quorums of the Seventy are “to bear record of [His] name in all the world.”

The Presidency of the Seventy presides over these Quorums.

Seated (from left): Elders Earl C. Tingey, D. Todd Christofferson, David E. Sorensen, and Charles Didier. Standing: Elders Merrill J. Bateman, John H. Groberg, and Robert C. Oaks.

The revelations contain provisions for additional Quorums of the Seventy, “until seven times seventy, if the labor in the vineyard of necessity requires it” (D&C 107:96).

The Presidency of the Seventy

The Presidency of the Seventy presides over all members of these Quorums of the Seventy. The Presidency of the Seventy consists of seven members of the First or Second Quorum of the Seventy who are called by the First Presidency and are given authority to preside over the Seventy.

“To Bear Record of My Name”

Following the pattern established in the time of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the modern-day Quorums of the Seventy are

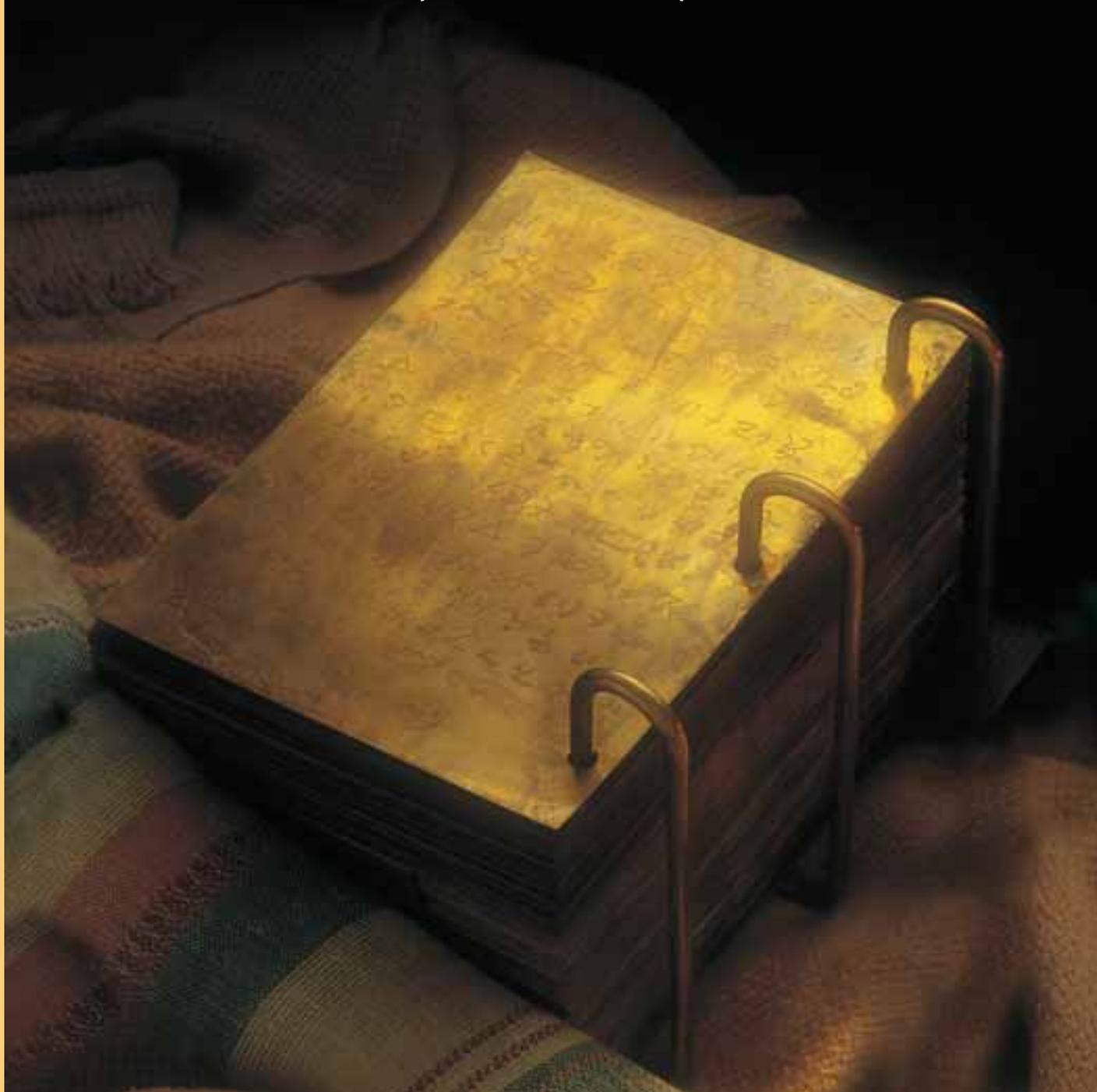
“instituted for traveling elders to bear record of my name in all the world, wherever . . . mine apostles, shall send them to prepare a way before my face” (D&C 124:139).

Members of the Quorums of the Seventy seek to act in their assignments in harmony and unity and “in all righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart, meekness and long suffering, and in faith, and virtue, and knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity” (D&C 107:30; see also v. 27).

The Seventy consider it a great privilege to serve under the direction of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. As a member of the Presidency of the Seventy, I am grateful for the inspired organization of this Church. ■

WORTH MORE THAN ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD

TREASURE THE BOOK OF MORMON. IT IS PRICELESS.
(SEE MORMON 8:14.)



IDEA BY DEREK GOODMAN; PHOTOGRAPH BY JED A. CLARK

DATE (A.D.)

OCT.

NOV.

DEC.

1832

FEB.

MAR.

APR.

JUNE

AUG.

SEPT.

OCT.

NOV.

DEC.

1833

FEB.

CHURCH HEADQUARTERS

Hiram, Ohio: Sept. 1831–Sept. 1832



NOV. 1831 Preparations were made to publish the revelations received by the Prophet and title them the Book of Commandments.

APR. 1832 The Prophet Joseph made a short visit to Missouri.

JAN. 1833 The School of the Prophets began meeting in Kirtland (see D&C 88).



DEC. 1831 Newel K. Whitney was called as bishop in Ohio (see D&C 72).

82–83

JUNE 1832 The Prophet arrived back in Ohio and continued his work of translating the Bible.

SEPT. 1832 The Prophet Joseph moved his family from Hiram back to Kirtland.

85

86–88

89

OCT.–NOV. 1832 The Prophet Joseph and Bishop Newel K. Whitney traveled to some eastern cities to take care of Church business (see D&C 84:114–15).

JAN. 1832 Joseph Smith was ordained President of the High Priesthood (see D&C 75).

MAR. 1832 A mob tarred and feathered the Prophet Joseph and Sidney Rigdon. The Prophet's family returned to Kirtland for a short time and then went back to Hiram.



65–66

1, 67–70, 133

71–72

73–75

76

77–81

99

84

NOV. 1832 Recent converts Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball arrived in Kirtland, Ohio, to meet the Prophet Joseph Smith.

SOME DATES ARE APPROXIMATE.

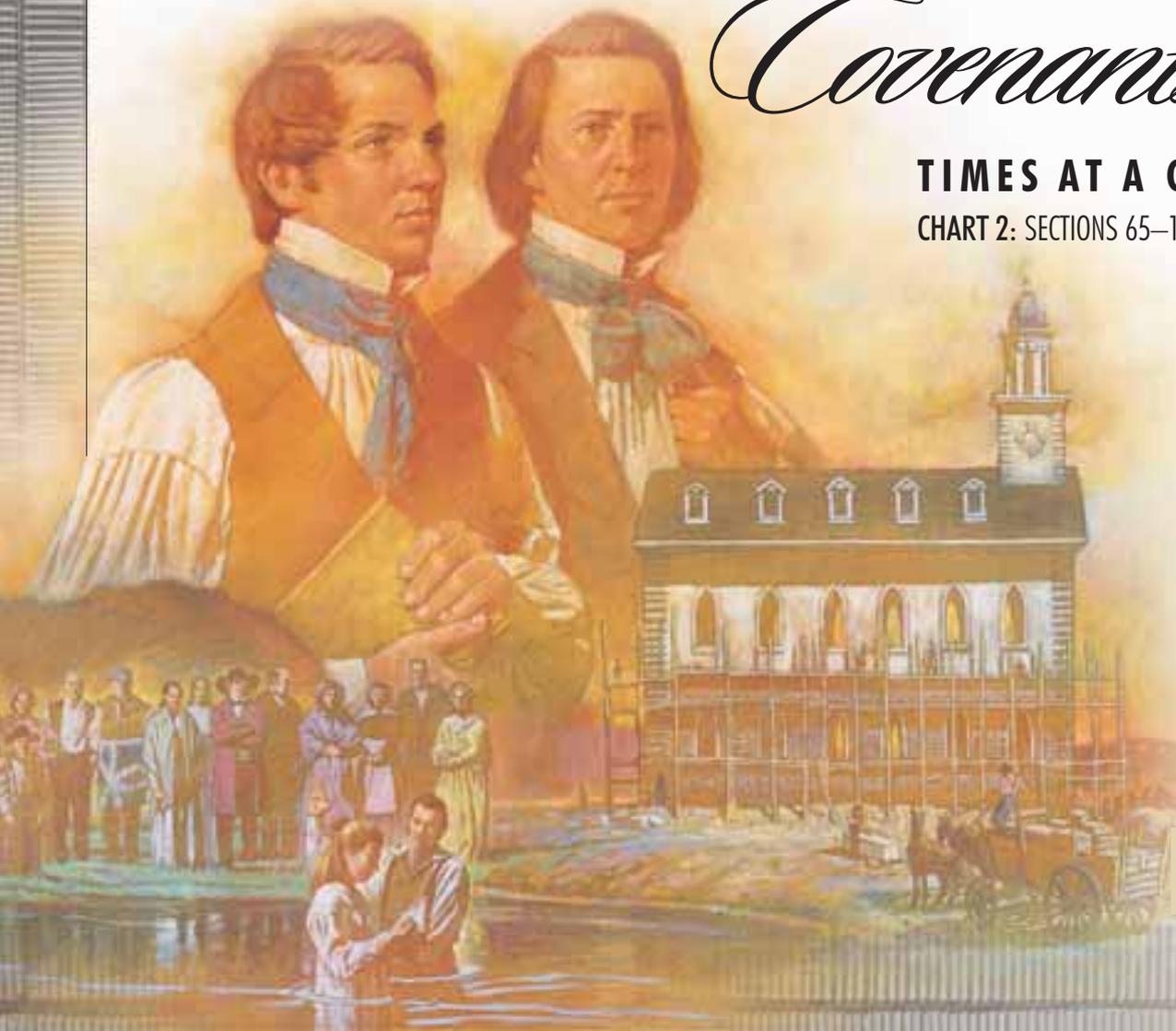
Doctrine and Covenants

TIMES AT A GLANCE

CHART 2: SECTIONS 65–137

See *Doctrine and Covenants* section headings for historical background and History of the Church references.

PEOPLE IN CHURCH HISTORY



Kirtland, Ohio, Second Period: Sept. 1832–Jan. 1838

OHIO

SUMMER 1833 A school for the elders was organized in Missouri.

JULY 1833 A mob destroyed the Church printing office in Missouri. Church leaders were forced to sign an agreement to leave Jackson County.



OCT.–DEC. 1833 In Missouri armed conflict broke out, and the Saints were driven from Jackson County (see D&C 100:13, 15; 101).

NOV. 1833–JUNE 1836 The Missouri Saints lived relatively peaceably in Clay County, Missouri.

JUNE 5, 1833 Construction began on the Kirtland Temple.



JULY 2, 1833 The Prophet Joseph and Sidney Rigdon finished the main translation of the Bible.

NEW YORK

97–98

100

101

DEC. 18, 1833 The Prophet Joseph ordained his father, Joseph Smith Sr., as the first Patriarch to the Church.

102–3

104

FEB. 17, 1834 The first high council of the Church was organized in Kirtland.

FEB.–MAY 1834 The Prophet and others asked for volunteers to join them in redeeming Zion (see D&C 103).

MISSOURI

MAY 1834 A group called Zion's Camp began a journey westward to Missouri. By the time they reached Missouri, they numbered more than 200.

105

JUNE 1834 In response to the Lord's command and to avoid bloodshed, Zion's Camp disbanded (see D&C 105).

106



Section number (see also circled numbers above), date the section was given, and situation that brought forth the revelation:

65. Oct. 1831 This section—designated by Joseph Smith as a prayer—was given during the period the Prophet was preparing to commence translation of the Bible.

66. Oct. 25, 1831 William E. McLellin, a recent convert, asked the Lord to reveal His will for him.

67. Nov. 1831 At the conferences regarding the publication of the revelations that had been given through the Prophet Joseph Smith, some of the brethren felt that the language in the revelations was inferior. The Lord's response was given through the Prophet.

68. Nov. 1831 Orson Hyde, Luke S. Johnson, Lyman E. Johnson, and William E. McLellin desired to know the mind of the Lord concerning them.

69. Nov. 1831 Oliver Cowdery had been appointed to carry the manuscripts for the Book of Commandments and some Church

funds to Independence, Missouri. Because the wilderness was often hazardous, John Whitmer was called as a traveling companion.

70. Nov. 12, 1831 At the conclusion of the conferences, the Lord gave stewardship of all official Church literature and its publication to the Prophet Joseph, Oliver Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon, William W. Phelps, John Whitmer, and Martin Harris.

71. Dec. 1, 1831 Ezra Booth had apostatized and wrote nine slanderous letters printed in the *Ohio Star*. The Prophet Joseph and Sidney Rigdon were commanded to go forth and preach to allay resulting unfriendly feelings against the Church.

72. Dec. 4, 1831 Several elders and members assembled to learn their duty and be taught.

73. Jan. 10, 1832 The elders of the Church desired to know what they should do while waiting for the next conference, to be held in Amherst, Ohio, on January 25, 1832.

74. Jan. 1832 This revelation was received during the translation of the Bible as an explanation of 1 Corinthians 7:14.

75. Jan. 25, 1832 At the conference in Amherst, the elders were eager to know how they were to bring people to a knowledge of their condition. Several missionaries were called to serve, mostly in the eastern United States.

76. Feb. 16, 1832 The Prophet Joseph and Sidney Rigdon were translating the Bible. When they came to John 5:29, the heavens were opened and they received this revelation known as “the Vision.”

77. Mar. 1832 During the translation of the book of Revelation, the brethren had many questions about the writings of John.

78. Mar. 1832 The Prophet Joseph instructed priesthood leaders concerning the law of consecration and establishing a storehouse for the poor.

79, 80. Mar. 1832 Jared Carter had come to Hiram, Ohio, to inquire of the Lord's will through the Prophet. He was called to serve a mission to the eastern countries. By contrast, Stephen Burnett and Eden Smith were called to serve a mission wherever they chose.



HEBER C. KIMBALL
1801–68



ORSON HYDE
1805–78



WILLIAM W. PHELPS
1792–1872



ELIZA R. SNOW
1804–87



MARY FIELDING SMITH
1801–52

LEFT: ILLUSTRATED BY ROBERT T. BARRETT; TOP (FROM LEFT): PHOTOGRAPH OF BOOK OF COMMANDMENTS BY ELDON K. LINSCHOTEN; JOSEPH SMITH IN NEWEL K. WHITNEY STORE, BY PAUL MANN, MAY NOT BE COPIED; THE PROPHET JOSEPH ATTACKED BY A MOB, BY SAM LAWLOR, MAY NOT BE COPIED; DETAIL FROM BUILDING THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE, BY WALTER RANE, SAINTS DRIVEN FROM JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, AND ZION'S CAMP, BY C. C. A. CHRISTENSEN, COURTESY OF BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART, MAY NOT BE COPIED; BOTTOM: ENGRAVINGS OF HEBER C. KIMBALL AND ORSON HYDE BY FREDERICK HAWKINS PIERCY

Kirtland, Ohio, Second Period: Sept. 1832–Jan. 1838

Far West, Missouri: Mar. 1838–Feb.



SUMMER 1836 Saints began to settle in Far West, Missouri.

MAR. 1838 The Prophet Joseph and his family settled in Far West, Missouri.

JULY 8, 1838 The Lord directed that the Twelve Apostles preach the gospel overseas (see D&C 118).

FEB. 1835 The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and the Quorum of the Seventy were organized (see D&C 107).

LATE 1835–EARLY 1836 The first Church hymnal was published.

JULY 1837–APR. 1838 The first missionaries in Great Britain baptized about 1,500 converts.



MAR. 27, 1836 The Kirtland Temple was dedicated amid great spiritual manifestations (see D&C 109).

APR. 3, 1836 Jesus Christ appeared in the Kirtland Temple to accept it, and then Moses, Elias, and Elijah appeared to restore priesthood keys (see D&C 110).

AUG.–OCT. 1838 Armed hostilities broke out between Church members and residents in Missouri. Many Church members gathered to Far West for protection.

JULY 1835 The Church purchased some Egyptian mummies and scrolls (see Abraham 1–5).

AUG. 17, 1835 In a solemn assembly the Saints accepted revelations to be published as the Doctrine and Covenants.

JAN. 1838 The Prophet Joseph and some Church leaders were forced to flee Kirtland.

APR. 1838 Several prominent leaders of the Church who had apostatized were excommunicated, and some became enemies of the Prophet.



81. Mar. 1832 This section was given in preparation for the formal organization of the First Presidency. Originally it was addressed to Jesse Gause, who, due to apostasy, was replaced by Frederick G. Williams.

82. Apr. 26, 1832 The Prophet Joseph had been commanded in section 78 to go to Zion and teach the leaders the law of consecration. He traveled to Zion and at a meeting was sustained as President of the High Priesthood, just as he had been in Ohio.

83. Apr. 30, 1832 During the brief visit to Zion, the Prophet taught concerning widows and children under the law of consecration.

84. Sept. 22–23, 1832 Elders were returning and reporting on their missions in the eastern states (see D&C 75).

85. Nov. 27, 1832 This section is an extract from a letter the Prophet wrote to William W. Phelps, who had been appointed to assist Bishop Edward Partridge in administering the law of consecration.

86. Dec. 6, 1832 During the translating and editing of the translation of the Bible, this revelation was given to the Prophet Joseph as an explanation of the parable of the wheat and the tares.

87. Dec. 25, 1832 The Prophet Joseph received this prophecy on war at a time when troubles among the nations and within

the United States itself were on the minds of the Saints.

88. Dec. 27–28, 1832 At a meeting of high priests, the Prophet Joseph gave instructions on how to receive revelation. Each of the brethren present in turn prayed to the Lord that they all might be of one heart and mind and receive His will. This revelation, known as “the Olive Leaf,” followed. Verses 127–141 were received on January 3, 1833.

89. Feb. 27, 1833 Widespread use of tobacco by the brethren attending the School of the Prophets and the filthy conditions that resulted

led the Prophet to inquire of the Lord. This revelation is known as “the Word of Wisdom.”

90. Mar. 8, 1833 This revelation was given as an answer to the prayers of the Prophet and the brethren and was a continuing step in establishing the First Presidency.

91. Mar. 9, 1833 The Bible that the Prophet used for the inspired translation contained the Apocrypha—writings not included in the current King James Version of the Bible. Upon the Prophet’s inquiry the Lord revealed that it was not necessary to translate them.

92. Mar. 15, 1833 Frederick G. Williams had been called as a member of the First Presidency. The Lord directed that Brother Williams should be part of the united firm.

93. May 6, 1833 The Prophet was working on the translation of the Old Testament.



WILLARD RICHARDS
1804–54



ZINA D. H. YOUNG
1821–1901



GEORGE A. SMITH
1817–75



BATHSHEBA W. SMITH
1822–1910



FREDERICK G. WILLIAMS
1787–1842

1839

1840

1841

1842

Nauvoo, Illinois: May 1839–Feb. 1846

APR. 1839 After months of imprisonment in Liberty Jail, the Prophet arrived in Illinois and began negotiating land purchases for the Saints.

OCT. 1838 The governor of Missouri ordered military action against the Saints. The militia laid siege to Far West. The Prophet and other Church leaders were betrayed into the hands of government officials.

121–23

NOV. 1838–FEB. 1839 Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball led thousands of Saints to refuge in Illinois.

JULY 1839 Many members fell ill with malaria. By the power of the priesthood, the Prophet Joseph Smith healed many.

AUG.–SEPT. 1839 The Apostles departed to preach the gospel in Great Britain.

JUNE 1840 British Saints began immigrating to Nauvoo.

AUG. 1840 The Prophet began teaching the doctrine of baptism for the dead.

124 125

JAN. 1841 The First Presidency issued a proclamation urging all Saints to gather to Nauvoo.

APR. 6, 1841 Having been commanded of the Lord to build a temple (see D&C 124), the Saints laid the cornerstones for the Nauvoo Temple.

APR.–JULY 1841 Most of the Apostles returned to Nauvoo, having baptized several thousand people in Great Britain.

OCT. 24, 1841 Orson Hyde dedicated the Holy Land for the return of the Jews.

127–28

MAR. 17, 1842 The Female Relief Society of Nauvoo was organized, with Emma Smith as president.

MAR.–MAY 1842 The Wentworth Letter (including the Articles of Faith) and the book of Abraham were published.

MAY 4, 1842 The Prophet began to administer the temple endowment to a few of the Saints.

NAUVOO Illinois

94. May 6, 1833 In a meeting a committee was appointed for raising funds to build a printing house and a place for the School of the Prophets to meet. Shortly after, this revelation was given.

95. June 1, 1833 Hyrum Smith, Jared Carter, and Reynolds Cahoon were the committee that had been appointed to gather funds for the Church's building projects. They issued a circular encouraging the Saints to fulfill the divine command given six months before to build the house of the Lord. Section 95 was given the same day the circular was issued.

96. June 4, 1833 In a meeting of high priests, the brethren were not able to decide who should be in charge of the lands that had been acquired by the Church. They determined to ask the Lord what to do. The Lord revealed that Bishop Newel K. Whitney should divide the land among the Saints.

97. Aug. 2, 1833 This revelation was an answer to letters from Oliver Cowdery and other brethren in Zion concerning a school for the elders.

98. Aug. 6, 1833 The Saints in Missouri had been experiencing severe persecutions. This

revelation was given in answer to their prayers.

99. Aug. 1832 A revelation given for John Murdock.

100. Oct. 12, 1833 While on a mission, the Prophet and Sidney Rigdon were worried about their families.

101. Dec. 16, 1833 The Prophet received news of the expulsion of the Saints from Jackson County, Missouri, and inquired of the Lord what to do.

102. Feb. 17, 1834 This section is the minutes of the organization of the first high council. The Prophet set forth the ancient pattern for Church councils that had been revealed to him in vision.

103. Feb. 24, 1834 The Saints in Missouri sent Parley P. Pratt and Lyman Wight to find out by what means the Saints' inheritance in Zion would be restored to them. This revelation authorized the Prophet to organize Zion's Camp.

104. Apr. 23, 1834 In order to stabilize the financial situation of the Church, the united firm was divided into individual stewardships.

105. June 22, 1834 Shortly before the arrival of Zion's Camp in Clay County, Missouri, the

governor rescinded the aid he had promised. Hence, the goal to restore the Saints to their inheritance was frustrated.

106. Nov. 25, 1834 This revelation concerning Warren A. Cowdery was given while the Prophet Joseph was preparing for a school of the elders.

107. Mar. 28, 1835 In preparation for their mission to the eastern states, the Twelve Apostles requested a written revelation from the Lord to guide their labors.

108. Dec. 26, 1835 Under the influence of the Spirit, Lyman R. Sherman, one of the seven Presidents of the Seventy, came to the Prophet to express his feelings and to receive a revelation teaching him his duty.

109. Mar. 27, 1836 This dedicatory prayer for the Kirtland Temple was given to the Prophet Joseph by revelation.

110. Apr. 3, 1836 In a meeting held one week after the Kirtland Temple was dedicated, the Prophet Joseph and Oliver Cowdery, separated from the congregation by a veil, offered silent prayer at the pulpit. When they finished, this glorious vision was given to them.

111. Aug. 6, 1836 Having heard of available



REYNOLDS CAHOON
1790–1861



MARY ANN YOUNG
1803–82



PARLEY P. PRATT
1807–57



SARAH M. GRANGER KIMBALL
1818–98



ELIZABETH ANN WHITNEY
1800–82

TOP (FROM LEFT): THE LORD APPEARS IN THE KIRTLAND TEMPLE, BY DEL PARSON; THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE GOSPEL IN ENGLAND, BY ROBERT T. BARRETT; JOSEPH SMITH IN LIBERTY JAIL, © GREG K. OLSEN, FROM THE VISIONS OF FAITH COLLECTION BY MILL POND PRESS, INC., VENICE, FLORIDA, MAY NOT BE COPIED; HEALING AT NAUVOO, BY GARY E. SMITH, MAY NOT BE COPIED; PAINTING BY KEN BAXTER, ORSON HYDE DEDICATES THE HOLY LAND FOR THE RETURN OF THE JEWS, BY CLARK KELLEY PRICE, MAY NOT BE COPIED; PAINTING OF FIRST RELIEF SOCIETY BY PAUL MANN; BOTTOM (FROM LEFT): ENGRAVING OF WILLARD RICHARDS BY FREDERICK HAWKINS PIERCY; ZINA DIANTHA HUNTINGTON YOUNG, BY JOHN WILLARD CLAWSON, COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF CHURCH HISTORY AND ART

Nauvoo, Illinois: May 1839–Feb. 1846

1843–44 Missionary work began in the islands of the Pacific.

129

130 131

132

JUNE 27, 1844 A mob killed the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum in Carthage, Illinois.

135



AUG. 8, 1844 Church members sustained the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as the governing body of the Church, with Brigham Young as President of the Quorum of the Twelve.



monies in Salem, Massachusetts, the Prophet Joseph, Sidney Rigdon, Hyrum Smith, and Oliver Cowdery went there hoping to alleviate the heavy debt hanging over the Church.

112. July 23, 1837 This section was given through the Prophet Joseph Smith to help Thomas B. Marsh, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, guide the Quorum of the Twelve.

113. Mar. 1838 Soon after the arrival of the Prophet in Far West, Missouri, Elias Higbee and other Church members inquired about particular passages of scripture from the book of Isaiah.

114. Apr. 17, 1838 David W. Patten was counseled to prepare for his mission with other members of the Twelve.

115. Apr. 26, 1838 This revelation given at Far West made known the will of God concerning the building up of that place, the construction of a temple there, and the full name of the Church.

116. May 19, 1838 This section is an extract from the journal of the Prophet Joseph regarding his visit to Adam-ondi-Ahman.

117. July 8, 1838 William Marks and Newel K. Whitney had not left Kirtland. Oliver Granger was dispatched with this revelation to instruct them what to do.

118. July 8, 1838 This revelation was given through the Prophet Joseph at Far West, Missouri, in response to the supplication, “Show us thy will, O Lord, concerning the Twelve” (see *History of the Church*, 3:46).

119. July 8, 1838 The financial troubles of the Church, its leaders, and the failure of the Saints to keep the law of consecration led to this revelation and the extension of the law of tithing to all members of the Church.

120. July 8, 1838 The brethren wished to know how to dispense the properties given through tithing.

121, 122, 123. Mar. 1839 The persecutions against and the sufferings of the Saints led the Prophet Joseph Smith to plead with the Lord in their behalf while he was in Liberty Jail.

124. Jan. 19, 1841 Once the Saints were gathered to Nauvoo, the Prophet Joseph sought guidance from the Lord and received direction, among other matters, to build a temple.

125. Mar. 1841 After plans for a temple in Nauvoo were declared, the question arose whether the Saints across the Mississippi River should move to Nauvoo.

126. July 9, 1841 Brigham Young had served abroad. This revelation relieved him of future travel abroad.

127, 128. Sept. 1, 6, 1842 Performance of ordinances for the dead without any organization or record keeping led to the instructions relative to baptisms for the dead in these two letters from the Prophet.

129. Feb. 9, 1843 Satan’s continued efforts to

DEC. 10, 1845 Temple endowments began in the dedicated parts of the Nauvoo Temple.

WINTER 1845–46 In fulfillment of the Prophet Joseph’s prophecy, the Saints made plans for a move to the Rocky Mountains.

FEB. 1846 The first groups of Saints left Nauvoo for the West.

SEPT. 1845 Antagonism against the Saints was renewed in Illinois.

MAY 1846 The Nauvoo Temple was publicly dedicated.

JUNE 1846 The first pioneer company arrived at the Missouri River.



deceive the Saints necessitated instructions on how to perceive if a being was from God or the devil.

130. Apr. 2, 1843 The Prophet Joseph corrected statements presented in a talk by Orson Hyde. Verses 18–23 are statements from a sermon by the Prophet.

131. May 16–17, 1843 The Prophet gave a variety of doctrinal statements while visiting some Saints. He proclaimed verses 1–4 while giving instruction on the priesthood.

132. July 12, 1843 This section came at the request of Hyrum Smith for a written revelation to convince Emma Smith of the truthfulness of the principles of eternal marriage.

133. Nov. 3, 1831 When the Book of Commandments was being planned, the Lord gave this revelation as an appendix to it.

134. Aug. 17, 1835 This section is a declaration on earthly laws, prepared to be included in the first publication of the Doctrine and Covenants in order that others would not misinterpret the Church’s position.

135. June 27, 1844 John Taylor wrote the circumstances surrounding the Prophet Joseph Smith’s Martyrdom.

136. Jan. 14, 1847 President Brigham Young needed to know how to organize the Saints for the trek westward. (This entry appears on chart 3.)

137. Jan. 21, 1836 At a meeting of Church leaders in the nearly completed Kirtland Temple, the initiatory ordinances of the endowment were administered. The participants received visions and revelations, including this one to the Prophet Joseph Smith.



NEWEL K. WHITNEY
1795–1850



BRIGHAM YOUNG
1801–77



JOHN TAYLOR
1808–87



WILFORD WOODRUFF
1807–98



LORENZO SNOW
1814–1901

Did You Know?

It Happened in August

August 12, 1850: The first 15 converts to the Church in Copenhagen, Denmark, were baptized by Elder Erastus



Erastus Snow

Snow of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

August 5, 1861: Latter-day Saint missionaries first arrived in the Netherlands.

August 1, 1970: The Ecuador Mission was organized. There are now three missions in Ecuador.



August 24, 1977: President Spencer W. Kimball dedicated Poland for the preaching of the gospel.

To Guide Us Today

Latter-day Saint William Fowler, a convert from England, wrote the lyrics to “We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet” (*Hymns*, no. 19). President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) noted that the hymn was first sung in a meeting while he was on his mission in England; he served from 1860 to 1863. Brother Fowler set the words to the tune of Caroline Norton’s “The Officer’s Funeral March.” She might be surprised to find that her music written for a fallen soldier now praises the living prophet of God.



Leadership Tip

When you serve in the Church, you have the blessing and the responsibility to call on Heavenly Father for guidance. Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said that in your calling “you have access to more than your natural capacities, and you do not work alone. The Lord will magnify what you say and what you do in the eyes of the people you serve. He will send the Holy Ghost to manifest to them that what you spoke was true. What you say and do will carry hope and give direction to people far beyond your natural abilities and your own understanding” (“Rise to Your Call,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 76–77).

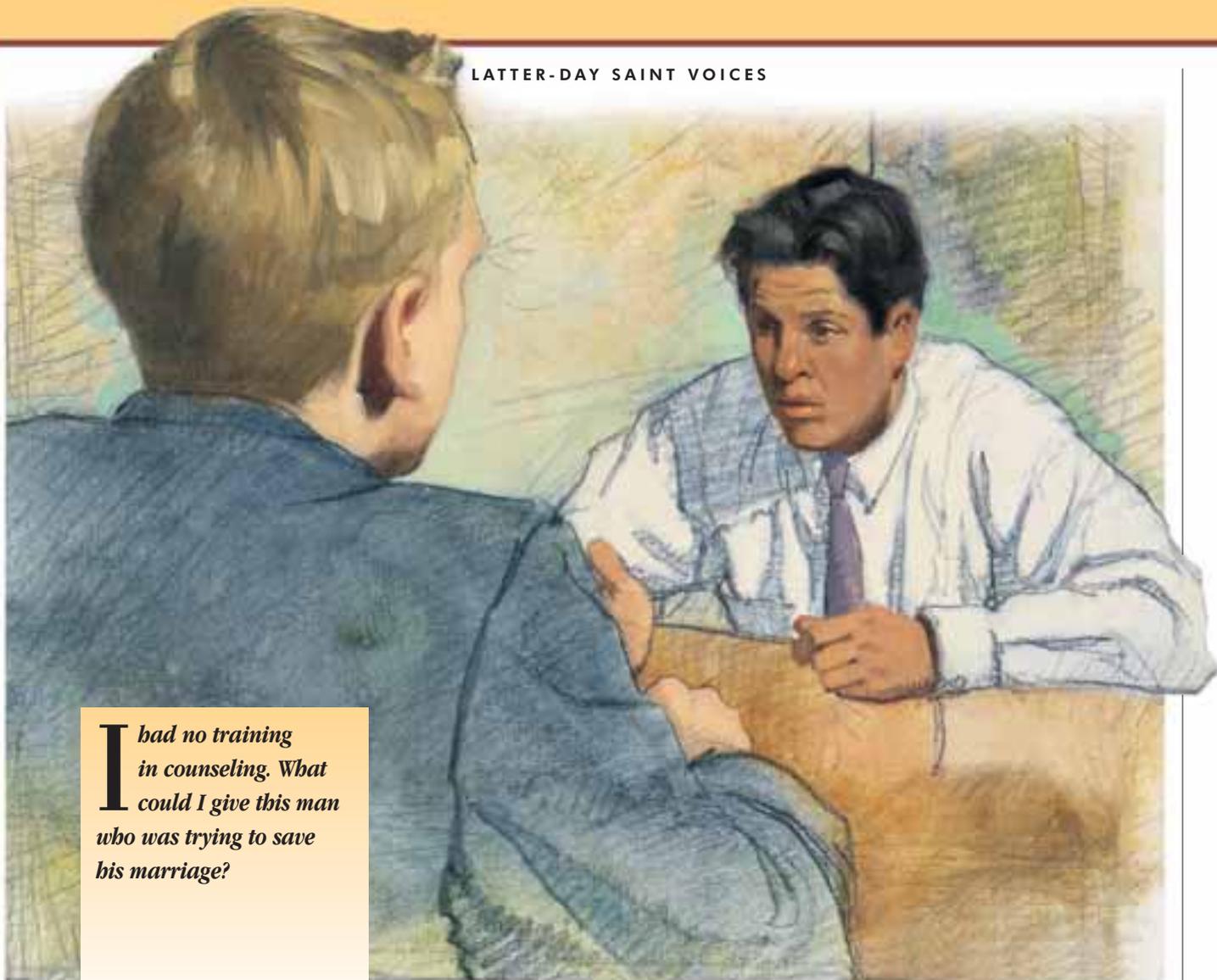
Test Your LDS IQ

The Doctrine and Covenants is full of wonderful revelations that direct how the Church functions and offer us greater insights into the gospel of Jesus Christ. See if you can match some of these well-known revelations with the sections where they are found.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Three degrees of glory | a. D&C 4 |
| 2. Eternal marriage | b. D&C 20 |
| 3. Oath and covenant of the priesthood | c. D&C 25 |
| 4. Qualifications for missionary work | d. D&C 76 |
| 5. Sacrament prayers | e. D&C 84 |
| 6. Call to Emma Smith to compile a hymnal | f. D&C 121 |
| 7. John Taylor’s account of the Martyrdom | g. D&C 132 |
| 8. Why many are called but few are chosen | h. D&C 135 |

ENGRAVING OF ERASTUS SNOW BY FREDERICK HAWKINS PIERCY; MAP OF ECUADOR BY NOVA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; ALL IS WELL, BY GLEN S. HOPKINSON, MAY NOT BE COPIED

Answers: 1d, 2g, 3e, 4a, 5b, 6c, 7b, 8f



I had no training in counseling. What could I give this man who was trying to save his marriage?

Unexpected Marriage Advice

By Bart Benson

Fernando gently closed the book and looked up into our faces. A tear trickled slowly down his cheek. Seated next to him but seeming far away, his wife, María, looked on with a mixture of horror and disgust. Finally, without wiping away the tear, Fernando spoke.

“Yes, Elder, I will accept baptism,” he spoke softly but with quiet confidence.

His wife stood abruptly, her chair teetering, then falling backward. Her

face twisted with rage, she pointed at her husband.

“How can you be such a fool? How can you abandon Jesus for the teachings of these gringos and their North American prophet? How can you turn from the Bible for these false scriptures? You are a fool, a wicked fool, and may God have mercy on your damned soul.” She turned and strode from the room.

Fernando sighed. “She is a good woman,” he explained in apology.

“She will come to understand—if not agree.”

Months later, his baptism behind him, Fernando walked into the chapel and took his usual seat on the back row. His expression was troubled. I watched him from the stand as I fulfilled my duties as branch president. More than once I caught him gazing intently at me.

After the meeting, as the congregation moved through the door to mingle in the humid sunshine of the Venezuelan Andes, Fernando asked if he could speak with me. He and his wife had fought again. He had tried to explain the joy he had found in the

growing sureness of his faith, but she had refused to listen. She had threatened to leave him and to take their daughter away. At the threat, he too had become angry. Bitter words led to tears, and the two of them had retreated to separate parts of their small apartment.

“What do I do?” he asked me.

I sat in my chair, trembling under the responsibility placed on my shoulders. I was 20 years old. I had never been married. Even my teenage attempts to form relationships had not lasted, leaving both lessons and a few scars. My own parents’ marriage had ended after 18 years. I had no training in counseling. What could I give this man who was trying to save his marriage and his family without sacrificing his faith?

I opened my mouth to spout some platitudes of comfort and hope, but instead an idea crowded them out and expressed itself. For once my broken Spanish was clear and unencumbered.

“My friend,” I began, “next time you and your wife begin to discuss your baptism and you start to feel anger and frustration, stop. Say no more for a moment. Then take your wife into your arms, and hold her tight. Tell her that you love her, you appreciate her, and nothing will take her place in your life.”

He looked at me blankly. Perhaps he had expected a lecture or some grand principle that would save his marriage. He waited, maybe expecting

me to continue, but I had nothing else to say.

“Yes, Presidente,” he said. He left my office solemnly without saying anything more.

A week passed, and once again Fernando walked into the chapel. But there was a lightness in his step. His head was up, his eyes were clear, and he smiled. Throughout the meeting he fidgeted like a small child. Afterward he came to my office.

“Presidente, Presidente!” he exclaimed in a quiet but excited voice. “You will not believe what happened. I did as you said. We talked again of my faith and my baptism. Again she criticized me and told me I was deceived. I wanted to yell and tell her she was wrong, but I remembered your words. I stopped, took a breath, and looked at her, trying to remember all the years of love we have shared and the love that I still feel. She must have felt something in my gaze, for she softened. I took her into my arms and held her. I whispered that I love her, that I appreciate her, and that nothing could take her place as my wife. We cried. Then, sitting close, we talked for many hours about all we have experienced—the good, the bad—and then I held her again. For the first time in many weeks we felt love. Thank you, Presidente.”

The next month I finished my mission and left to make the long trip back to the United States. I was happy to be going home, sad at leaving.

Fernando and I wrote, and he shared his hopes and disappointments. His wife had not come to believe as he did, but she had become more tolerant, less antagonistic. He said it was a start, and he spoke of her with great love. In time we lost contact. Now many years have passed. But the lesson of Fernando still inspires me. Love—not concepts, teachings, or rituals—has the power to soften hearts. ■

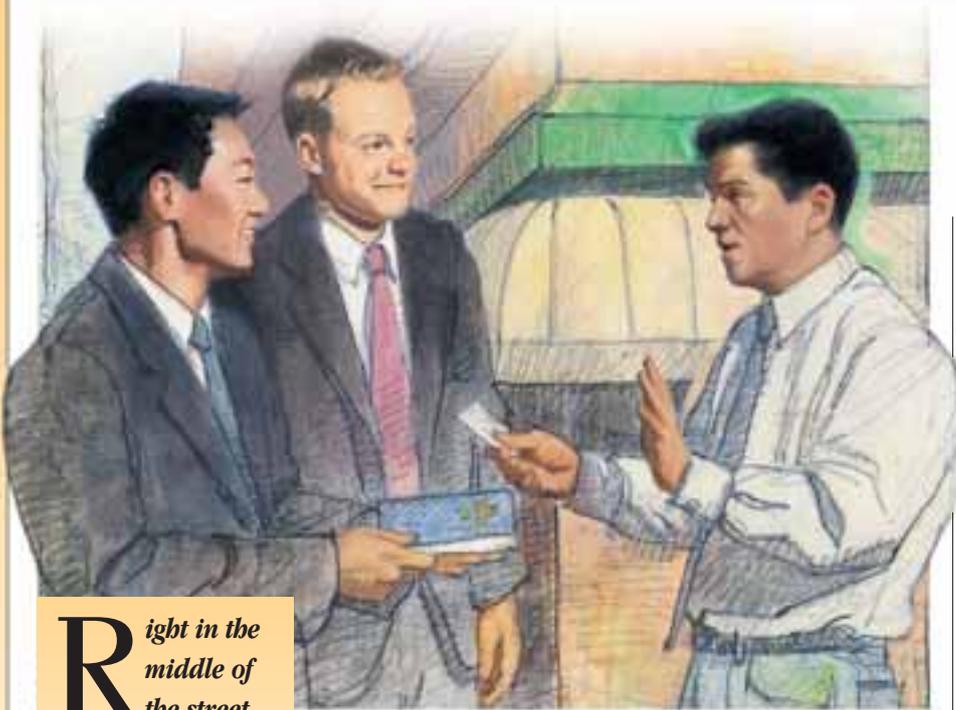
Bart Benson is a member of the Grace Second Ward, Grace Idaho Stake.

I Felt Indescribable Joy

By Hildo Rosillo Flores

By the time I was 30 years old, my life was falling apart. I had a drinking problem and didn’t know what to do about it. One Monday morning the editor in chief at the publication where I worked as a journalist called me in. He was blunt. I had to quit drinking if I wanted to keep my job.

I went out that day in search of news stories with his warning on my mind. Suddenly, right in the middle of the street, two missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints spoke to me. I had never heard of that church. I avoided a long conversation with them, but I did give them my business card.



Right in the middle of the street, two missionaries spoke to me. I avoided a long conversation but did give them my business card.

Two days later I was at my mother's house when she said, "Two young Americans are here to see you." I replied, "I don't have any American friends." She said, "They say they're missionaries." I said, "Well, have them come in. I'll talk with them." To my surprise, they were the missionaries I had met on Monday. They found me through my business card.

Once we were sitting across from each other in the living room, I decided to listen to their message. One of them took out a pamphlet and said that it contained the testimony of Joseph Smith. He gave it to me and challenged me to read it. I had barely finished accepting his challenge when the other missionary took out a book with a blue cover. He asked me, "Would you read the first

150 pages of this book?" I accepted his challenge also. As they left the house they said, "We'll be back on Friday to see if you've met your goals." This is how I started to learn the gospel.

After I had received all of the discussions, there was another challenge. One of the missionaries said, "Brother Rosillo, you need to have your own testimony." The other missionary added, "Ask God if Joseph Smith was a prophet and if the Book of Mormon is true. We promise you that the Lord will answer you. We'll be back next week."

The day before the missionaries were to come back, I decided to put the matter to the test. I went to get the Book of Mormon, which I had already finished reading. I went into the living room and knelt down. I was by myself, and everything was quiet. I began, "Father in Heaven, the missionaries have asked me to ask if Joseph Smith was a prophet and if the Book of Mormon is true. They feel I need to

have a testimony to be baptized. Was Joseph Smith a prophet? Is the Book of Mormon true?"

I stopped speaking. Immediately I felt indescribable joy. I wanted the feeling to last forever. I had received my answer. When the missionaries arrived, I shared my experience.

On September 11, 1971, I was baptized in the Piura River. Since then nearly 34 years of living gospel principles—including the Word of Wisdom—have passed with many blessings. But I still remember those two missionaries who spoke to me in the street and brought me out of the darkness and into the light. ■

Hildo Rosillo Flores is a member of Los Ficus Ward, Piura Perú Central Stake.

Twice Spared

By Pamela M. Moody

A gentle breeze stirred the leaves on the aspen trees in our yard. I sat on the steps and basked in the sun's warmth, marveling at how many changes could occur in a person's life in less than a year.

Almost a year before, instead of looking forward to general conference and the holidays, I was figuring out how I would be able to take care of my family during the busy season ahead. I would have to plan all the upcoming activities and responsibilities around my radiation and chemotherapy treatments. Caring for myself while trying to maintain a normal life for my family

and fulfill Church callings was difficult. I made it through cancer and everything else with Heavenly Father's help.

Leaving my quiet moment of reminiscence behind, I rose from the steps to clean the dog's run. I grabbed the shovel and the hose and let Hush Pup, our old dog, out of his run to soak up some sunshine.

Just then my husband, who had been in the backyard building a deck, came around the house. He smiled, took the shovel from my hands without a word, and began to help. I was shocked. My husband was trying to finish the deck before the cold

weather set in. He never left a project in the middle of the day. Grateful for the unexpected help, I started hosing down the other end of the run.

All of a sudden my husband began to scream. I looked up to see a swarm of wasps surrounding and attacking him. A calming voice in my mind said, "Spray him with water." I did. Even while he ran I kept aiming the stream of water at him. Although the water repelled the wasps, he was still stung seven times.

While we attended to his

left arm, where most of the stings were, a thought came to me. I had been spared! I'm allergic to bees. And due to the cancer, the lymph nodes had been removed from my left arm. If I had been stung, I would not have been able to fight the poisons from the stings and nobody would have been there to spray me with water.

A feeling of love and warmth filled my heart. I was so grateful my husband had listened to the promptings of the Holy Ghost. My life had been spared a second time. ■

Pamela M. Moody is a member of the Murray First Ward, Murray Utah Stake.



All of a sudden my husband began to scream. A swarm of wasps was attacking him.

TIME for ETERNAL THINGS

BY ADAM C. OLSON
Church Magazines

Nathan Yeung, a priest in the Victoria First (English) Branch, Hong Kong International District, spends about an hour a day at early-morning seminary, seven hours at school, another hour traveling to and from school, two to three hours per day doing homework, and another two to three hours a day practicing the piano, studying martial arts, playing on his school basketball team, or singing with a school choir. If he eats breakfast on the run and spends only an hour at dinner, that leaves about eight hours a day for everything else, including sleeping.

But this story isn't about Nathan and everything he's doing, because most of the youth in his branch are just as busy doing just as many interesting things.

Lesa Lai, a Laurel, keeps a similar schedule except school lasts a half hour longer, travel is one hour each way, and it's volleyball, soccer, or track—depending on the season. For Shan

Singh, a priest, it's rugby and serving as vice president of the student council.

It's the same story for Alice Andersen, Celestine Yeung, Musashi and Chihiro Howe, Chelsea and Casey Messick, and the other young men and young women in the district.

These youth are typical of many Latter-day Saint teenagers around the world who seem to balance on the circus high-wire while juggling Church activity, family time, school, jobs, and extracurricular activities. How do they pull off such a difficult act without falling into the trap of missing what is most important?

How Do They Do It?

That's the million-dollar question. "It's all about priorities," says Chelsea, a Laurel. "If you make time for the most important things, everything else falls into place."

Chelsea, Nathan, and their friends in the Hong Kong International District are learning



With so much going on, how do these LDS teens find time for the gospel when schedules are as crowded as the densely clustered skyscrapers of Hong Kong?





For Shan Singh (left), Nathan Yeung and his sisters, Celestine and Irene (left inset), and all of their seminary friends (below), making time for spiritual things is a priority.





that it's easier to find balance when your feet are firmly planted on a solid gospel foundation. They have recognized the importance of making personal time for the gospel. "That is the most important part of my day," says Nathan. "If I don't read and pray and go to seminary, my day is bad."

"Most of our friends at school aren't members," says Lesa. "So it's up to us to make personal time for church. I try to read my scriptures every day and listen to Church music."

Sometimes prioritizing means giving up something good to make time for something more important. "I had to give up my job because I was too busy," says Chelsea. The others have all run into similar situations.

Make Family a Priority

Along with the gospel, a top priority for these young men and women is family. "Family is important," says Casey, a teacher. "I know I can always turn to them for help. I can trust



To Casey and Chelsea Messick (left) and Alice Andersen and Lesa Lai (above), family support is important in handling busy loads, so they plan time to be with family members.



GOOD OR ESSENTIAL?

“When things of the world crowd in, all too

often the wrong things take highest priority. Then it is easy to forget the fundamental purpose of life. Satan has a powerful tool to use against good people. It is distraction. He would have good people fill life with ‘good things’ so there is no room for the essential ones. Have you unconsciously been caught in that trap?”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “First Things First,” Liahona, July 2001, 7; Ensign, May 2001, 7.

them. I know I can be with them forever.”

But sometimes finding time together is tough. “It’s not just my schedule,” Lesa notes. “We don’t get much time together because my siblings are gone a lot too, and my dad travels a lot.”

So with their families, these youth have had to find ways to *make* time for each other. “I used to go out a lot with friends on weekends, but now I try to save that time for my family. I see my friends on school days,” says Celestine, a Mia Maid. “And when my dad is home, we all try to accommodate his schedule.”

Each of the youth agrees that weekends are most often free for family time if carefully planned. “Especially Sunday,” Chelsea says. “Sunday is for family.”

“I try to make sure I have time for them whenever they’re planning something,” says Nathan. In addition, his family always tries to have dinner together. “And family home evening is important.”

“Family home evening helps keep us together,” Musashi, a teacher, agrees. “And we try to plan family activities on Saturday. It’s important to make time for family, because the goal is to be with them forever.”

Good Choices Bring Blessings

Balance is only one of the blessings that come from setting spiritual growth as a top priority.

“Making time for the gospel is good for the spiritual part of your life,” says Musashi. “It helps your testimony grow.”

It’s also important because it helps you set a good example, according to Shan. “Other people can tell when you’re living the way you should,” he says. “Sometimes I’ll get questions from my friends because of the way we live.”

“If I don’t read and pray and go to seminary,

I’m not prepared when missionary opportunities come,” says Nathan.

For Chelsea, it’s about remembering the real reason we’re here. “Doing things like praying and reading scriptures is a reminder that Jesus Christ should be the center of your life. Remembering that affects everything you do,” she says. “Otherwise, it’s easy to get so busy you forget why we came.”

When we remember to focus on the Savior, we realize that life isn’t about walking the high-wire while juggling different activities, but it’s about standing on solid ground. As Helaman said, “Remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; . . . which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall” (Helaman 5:12). ■

Living amid the hustle and bustle of a large city keeps young members of the Church busy, but it hasn’t kept them from building a solid spiritual foundation.





Thankful for the Prophet

I am so thankful for the prophet and that I can read his messages in the *Liabona*. These articles help me make good decisions so I can remain worthy of the Lord's blessings, and they help me be a good example to others.

*Allan Dublas Pamugas,
Aborlan Branch,
Narra Philippines District*

My Heart Began to Open

Before I was baptized, the missionaries gave me some copies of the *Liabona* to read. I still remember how I marveled at one of the articles I read, "Jesus the Christ: Our Master and More," by Elder Russell M. Nelson in the April 2000 issue. I realized then that I had a Savior, that He loved me, and that He was the only perfect example for me to follow.

I believe that from the moment I began to read this wonderful magazine, my heart began to open so I could accept the gospel.

I am immensely grateful to the Lord that today—as in Lehi's day—we have a *Liabona* to guide us.

*Roseana R. Santos,
Poções Branch,
Vitória da Conquista Brazil Stake*



Comfort and Strength

The *Liabona* magazine is a wonderful gift that the Lord has given the Saints in this dispensation. It brings us comfort and strength during our trials and helps us feel that we are not alone. I am really grateful for this compass today. I know that we have the truth and that as we follow the Savior we will be blessed.

*Sergio Sierra Moctezuma,
Las Joyas Ward,
San Luis Potosí Mexico Benito Juárez Stake*

A Miracle in My Life

The *Liabona* is a miracle in my life. The articles are a healing balm to my soul. They strengthen my testimony and faith and give me hope in difficult times. I particularly enjoyed "Timing," by Elder Dallin H. Oaks in October 2003, and "Realize Your Full Potential," by Elder Richard G. Scott in November 2003. Thank you for these messages and all the others that are a light in my life. I know the Spirit will touch the hearts of all those who read the magazine.

*Johanna Recalde,
Villa Elisa Ward,
Fernando de la Mora Paraguay
South Stake*

The Spirit Testified

Today I want to thank Heavenly Father because His Church is on the earth and because the *Liabona* magazine exists. I really liked the Gospel Classics article in the December 2003 issue—"The Divinity of Jesus Christ," by Elder Orson F. Whitney. When I read it, I felt the Spirit strongly and I knew that Elder Whitney's experiences were true. I know that Heavenly Father has a purpose for each of His children, that He loves us, and that He wants each of us to return to our heavenly home.

*Katherin Priscila Terceros Vidal,
Cala Cala Ward,
Cochabamba Bolivia Universidad Stake*

D&C Chart Correction

In "Doctrine and Covenants Times at a Glance" on page 16 of the January 2005 *Liabona*, under section 27, August 1830, the text should read, "Newel and Sally Knight desired to partake of the sacrament." Sally Coburn, who died in 1834, was the first wife of Newel Knight. He married Lydia Goldthwait in 1835.



the Friend



The Canary with the Best Song



President Monson teaches that the Lord looks not on appearance but on the heart.

BY PRESIDENT THOMAS S. MONSON
First Counselor in the First Presidency

Some years ago, I was called to serve as the bishop of a large ward. One evening, my telephone rang. I heard a voice say, “Bishop Monson, this is the hospital calling. Kathleen McKee, a member of your congregation, has just passed away. Your name is listed as the one to be notified of her death. Could you come to the hospital right away?”

Upon arriving there, I was presented with a key to the apartment in which Kathleen had lived. I entered her apartment, turned the light switch, and discovered a letter. It read:

“Bishop Monson,

“I think I shall not return from the hospital. In the kitchen are my three precious canaries. Two of them are beautiful, yellow-gold in color and perfectly marked. On their cages I have noted the names of friends to whom they are to be given. In the third cage is ‘Billie.’ He is my favorite. Billie looks a bit scrubby, and his yellow hue [color] is marred by gray on his wings. Will you and your family make a home for

him? He isn’t the prettiest, but his song is the best.”

Kathleen McKee had befriended many neighbors in need. She had brightened each life she touched. Kathleen was much like “Billie,” her prized yellow canary with gray on its wings. She was not blessed with beauty. Yet her song helped others to more willingly bear their burdens.

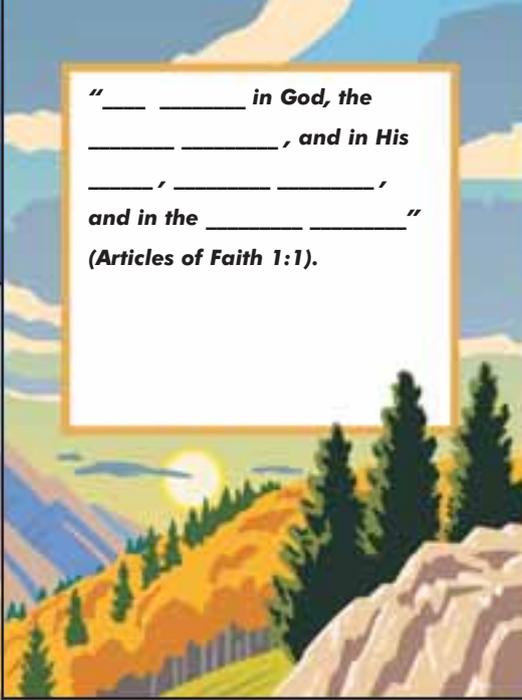
The world is filled with yellow canaries with gray on their wings. Some are young people who don’t know who they are, what they can be, or even what they want to be.

We are sons and daughters of God. True, we live in a world where moral character is [often considered] secondary to beauty or charm. But what are the inspired words of God? The counsel of the Lord to Samuel the prophet echoes in our ears: “The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

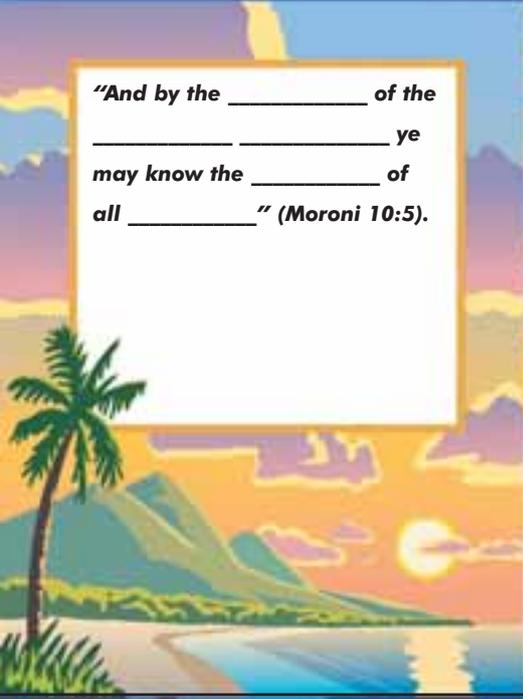
He calls you and me to serve Him here below. May we reflect our love of Him and of all mankind as we do so. ●

From “Yellow Canaries with Gray on Their Wings,” Ensign, Aug. 1987, 2–5.

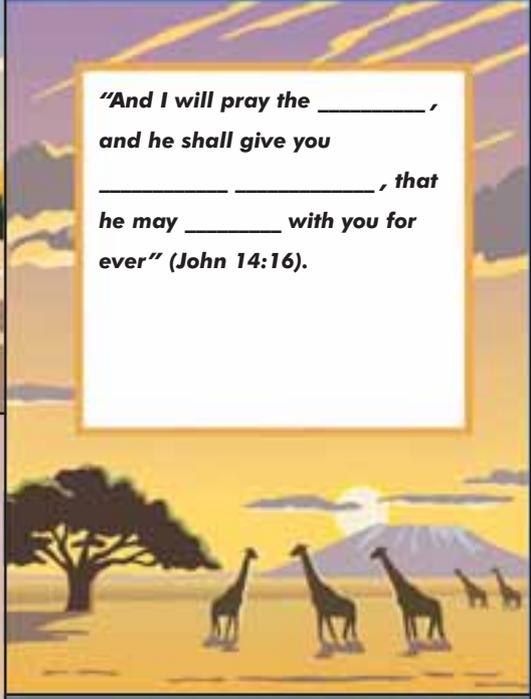




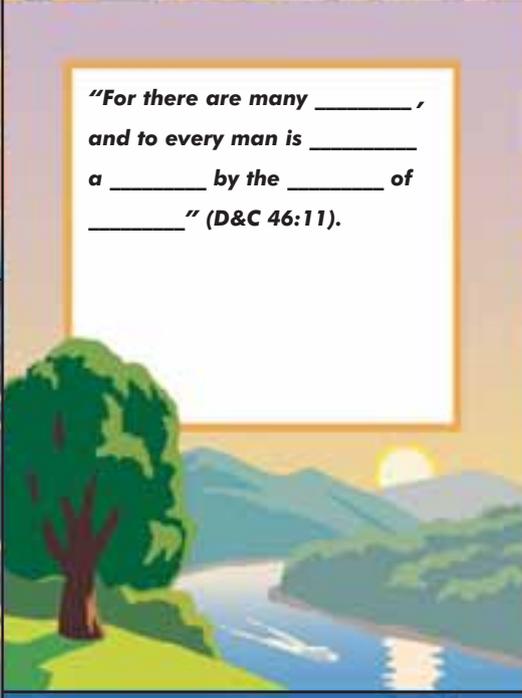
" _____ in God, the _____, and in His _____, _____, and in the _____" (Articles of Faith 1:1).



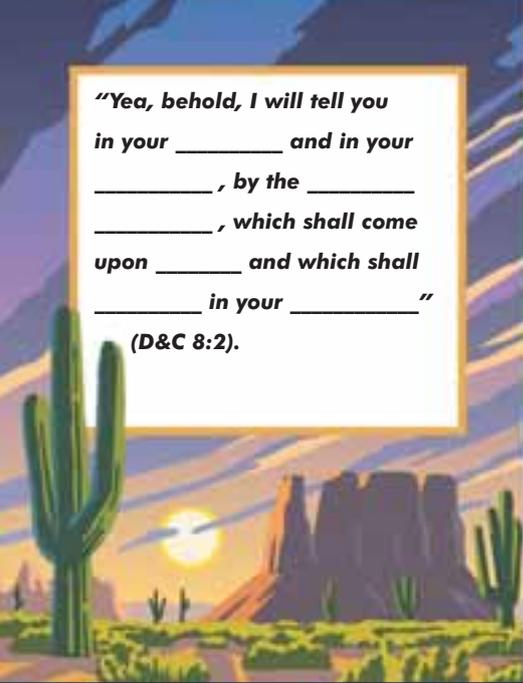
"And by the _____ of the _____ ye may know the _____ of all _____" (Moroni 10:5).



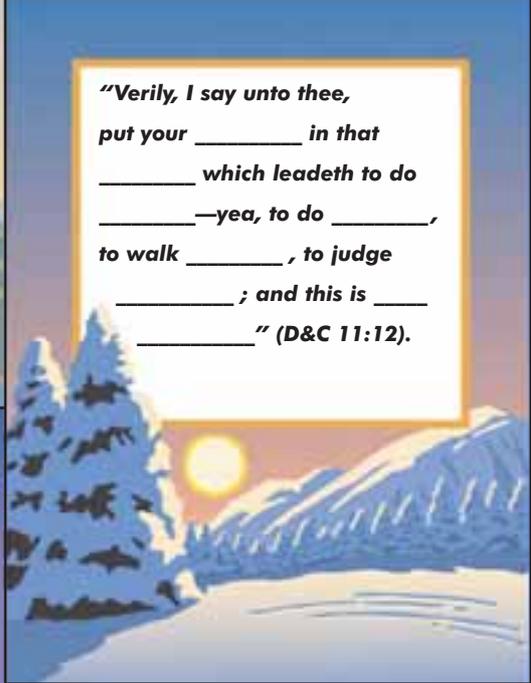
"And I will pray the _____, and he shall give you _____, that he may _____ with you for ever" (John 14:16).



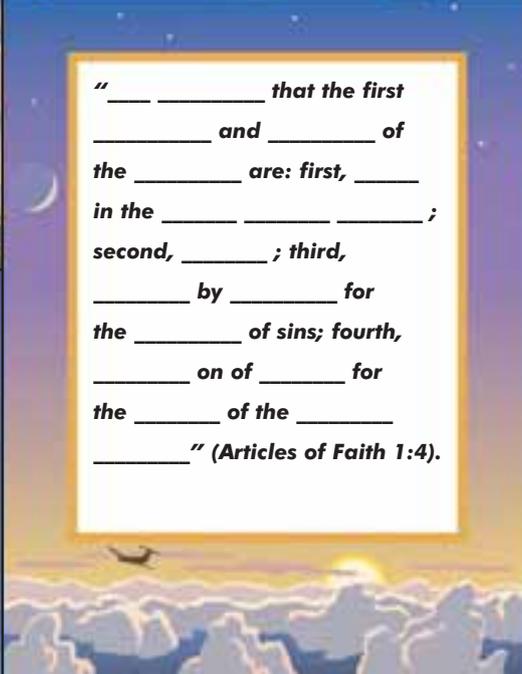
"For there are many _____, and to every man is _____ a _____ by the _____ of _____" (D&C 46:11).



"Yea, behold, I will tell you in your _____ and in your _____, by the _____, which shall come upon _____ and which shall _____ in your _____" (D&C 8:2).



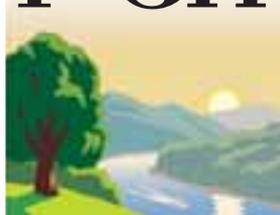
"Verily, I say unto thee, put your _____ in that _____ which leadeth to do _____—yea, to do _____, to walk _____, to judge _____; and this is _____" (D&C 11:12).



" _____ that the first _____ and _____ of the _____ are: first, _____ in the _____; second, _____; third, _____ by _____ for the _____ of sins; fourth, _____ on of _____ for the _____ of the _____" (Articles of Faith 1:4).

Note: If you do not wish to remove pages from the magazine, this activity may be copied, traced, or printed out from the Internet at www.lds.org. For English, click on "Gospel Library." For other languages, click on the world map.

The GIFT of the HOLY GHOST



“And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:5).

BY MARGARET LIFFERTH



What happens when you turn eight? That’s right! You can be baptized. A glorious part of your baptismal day or of a day soon after is to be confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That ordinance gives you the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead. Unlike Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost does not have a body of flesh and bone (see D&C 130:22). The Holy Ghost is a spirit personage who will speak to “you in your mind and in your heart” (D&C 8:2) and will show you “what ye should do” (2 Nephi 32:5).

The Holy Ghost will help you keep your baptismal covenant and guide you to choose the right. He bears witness of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ (see 3 Nephi 28:11). The Holy Ghost can give you comfort and guide you away from danger.

When you are baptized and when you take the sacrament, you promise to take the name of Jesus Christ upon you, to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments. Then Heavenly Father promises you that the Holy Ghost may always be with you (see D&C 20:77).

You will know the Holy Ghost is with you by the way you feel. President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) taught, “When you *do* good, you *feel* good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you” (“To the Children of the Church,” *Ensign*, May 1989, 82).

Truly, the Holy Ghost—who is also called the Spirit—is a wonderful gift from a loving Heavenly Father.

Gifts of the Holy Ghost

Use these gift cards to remind you of the gift of the Holy Ghost. Decorate a box or bag to look like a gift. Attach page F4 to heavy paper. Cut out the gift cards on the page; then put them in the box or bag. Every day this week, choose a card. Then look up the scripture, and fill in the blanks.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Put Gospel Art Picture Kit 602 (*The Gift of the Holy Ghost*) in a wrapped box or gift bag. Write the following clues on strips of paper: “I cannot be bought with money,” “I speak with a still, small voice,” “I teach the truth,” “I am a guide,” “I give comfort,” “I testify of Jesus Christ,” “I am a member of the Godhead.” Place the clues in a container. Have the pianist play as you pass the container. Stop the music; then let a child read a clue and try to guess the gift in the box. Explain that several clues may be necessary, and continue. Post and review all the clues to help the children understand the work of the Holy Ghost. Open the gift box, post the picture, and ask, “What steps do we take to be able to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost?” Review *Articles of Faith* 1:4.

2. On the board write the parts of the sacrament prayers (see D&C 20:77, 79) that explain the covenant we make: (1) “willing to take upon them the name of thy Son,” (2) “always remember him,” and (3) “keep his commandments which he has given them.” Divide the children into three groups, and give each group a line to memorize. Hold up one, two, or three fingers to signal to the groups to stand and recite their line. After a couple of recitations, switch parts. Then begin erasing words from the board. Repeat until the parts are learned. Explain that if we keep our part of the covenant, we “may always have his Spirit to be with [us].” Ahead of time invite four adults to prepare to tell scriptural or personal accounts of the influence of the Holy Ghost. Station the presenters around the room. Divide the children into four groups, and invite them to move from station to station to learn about the Holy Ghost. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

Lessons from Dandy

Every year Elder David O. McKay put his cow Bossie in a truck and took her up the canyon to graze on his farm. But one year Bossie disappeared before the family had moved her.

Father, I didn't tie Bossie up, and now she's gone! I was in the house for only a minute or two.

Don't worry. She's probably headed up the canyon.

Elder McKay and Lawrence found Bossie at the mouth of the canyon. Someone had tied her to a post.

Let's see if she can get up the canyon by herself. I'll leave this note on her halter:

"Please let me pass; I'm going to grass."

Bossie made it to the farm in the canyon in good time. From that year on, Elder McKay always let Bossie loose in the spring because he trusted her to go straight to the farm.

Elder McKay's horse Dandy wasn't as wise. He could escape any pen or corral by opening the latch or chewing off the lead rope.

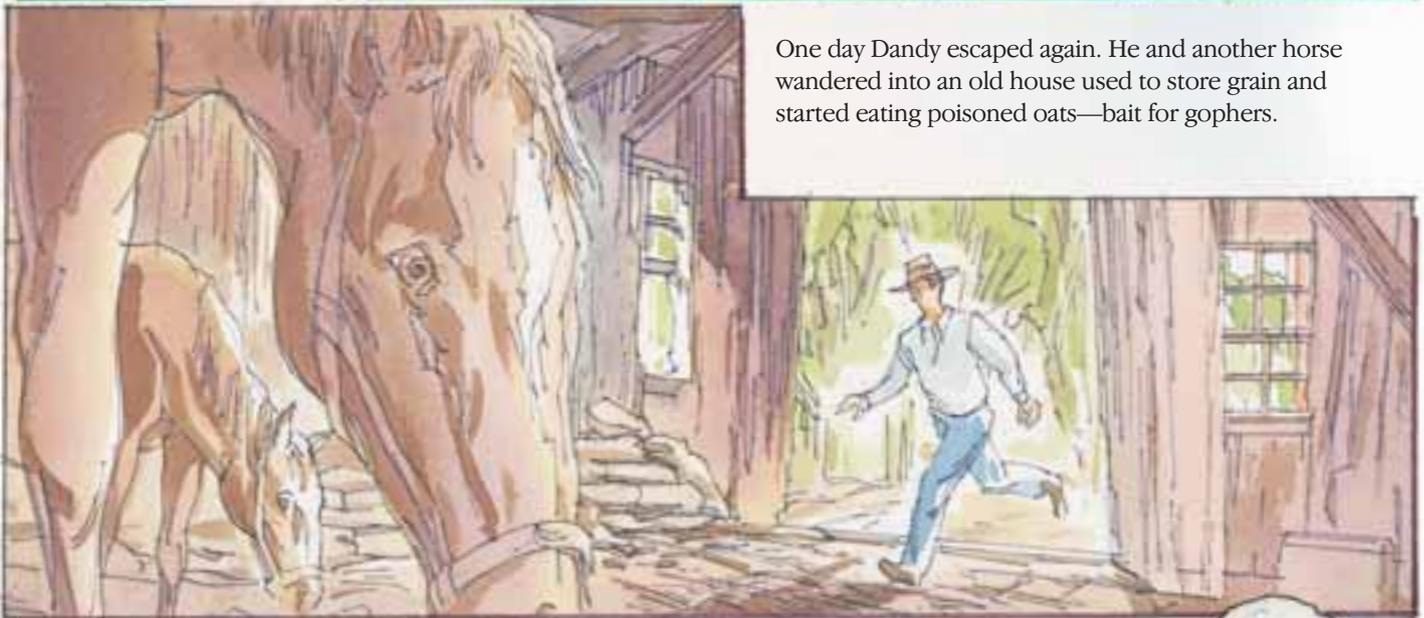
That horse has done it again.

Dandy wandered into the street and was hit by a car.
He survived but did not learn his lesson.



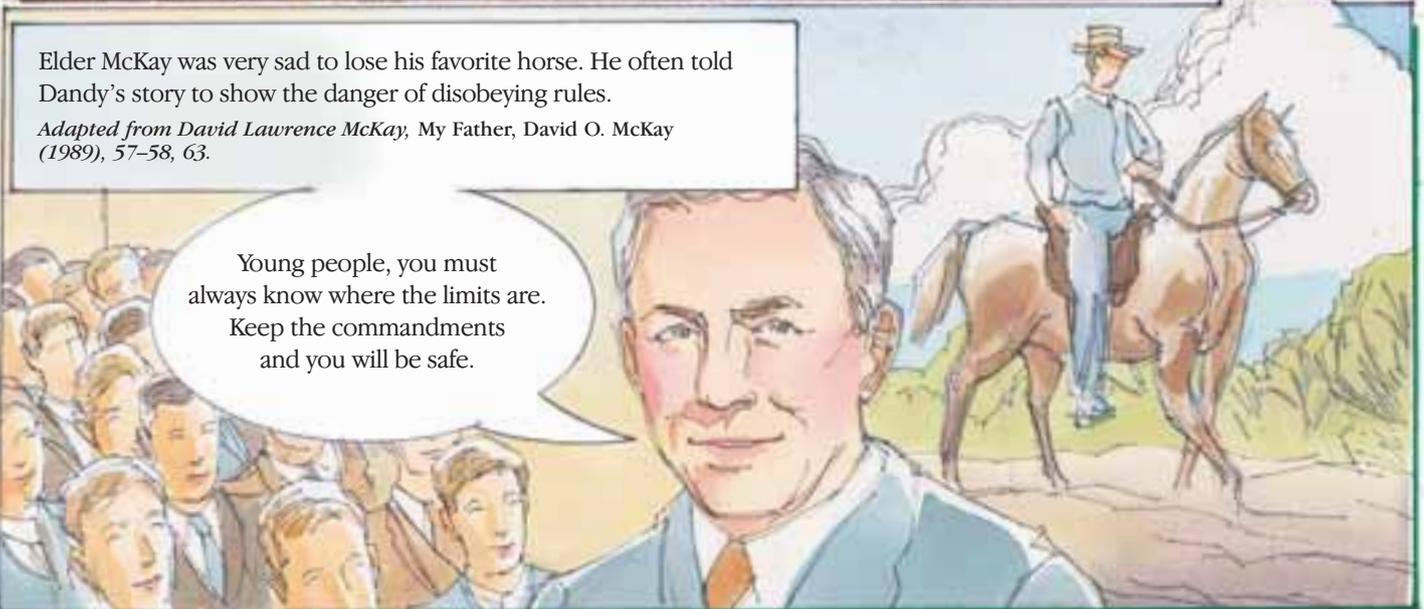
That should teach you not to go running off, Dandy!

One day Dandy escaped again. He and another horse wandered into an old house used to store grain and started eating poisoned oats—bait for gophers.



Elder McKay was very sad to lose his favorite horse. He often told Dandy's story to show the danger of disobeying rules.

Adapted from David Lawrence McKay, My Father, David O. McKay (1989), 57-58, 63.



Young people, you must always know where the limits are. Keep the commandments and you will be safe.

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God” (D&C 18:10).

Framing Jesus with Love

BY JANE McBRIDE CHOATE

Based on an experience of a family in the author’s ward

During Primary opening exercises, Sister Ashbourne, the Primary president, held up a painting of Jesus Christ.

Dustin liked that picture of Jesus. His family had the same picture in their home. It had a special place over the piano.

A white cardboard mat surrounded the picture. “We’d like everyone to sign his or her name on the mat,” Sister Ashbourne said. “That way we’ll frame Jesus with our love. We’ll take it to each classroom so all the children and teachers can sign it.”

Dustin struggled with his handwriting. A third grader, he was learning cursive writing, but a learning disability slowed his progress. His hand shook each time he had to write in cursive. He was nervous about the idea of signing the mat.

The Primary presidency brought the picture to Dustin’s class. Sister Beeker, his teacher, passed the mat to the children. Each one took a turn signing it. When it was Dustin’s turn, he hesitated.

“I don’t write very well,” he whispered to Sister Beeker.

“You can print your name if you feel more comfortable,” she said.

Dustin looked down at his feet. He didn’t want to admit that his printing was not much better than his cursive writing.

“Do you think Jesus cares how good your handwriting is?” Sister Beeker asked gently.

Dustin thought about it. He knew that Jesus loved everyone. “No,” he admitted.

His teacher nodded encouragingly. “That’s right. Do you know what Jesus does care about?”

Dustin shook his head.

“He cares that you’re here in church. He cares that you love Him and honor Him. He cares that you treat others kindly.” She handed the pen to Dustin.

Dustin smiled at Sister Beeker. “Thank you,” he said. He wrote his name the best he could and gave the mat back to his teacher.

The following week, Sister Ashbourne showed the painting in the mat and frame to the entire Primary. “We’ll hang it right here,” she said, pointing to the front wall of the room, “where we can see it every week.”

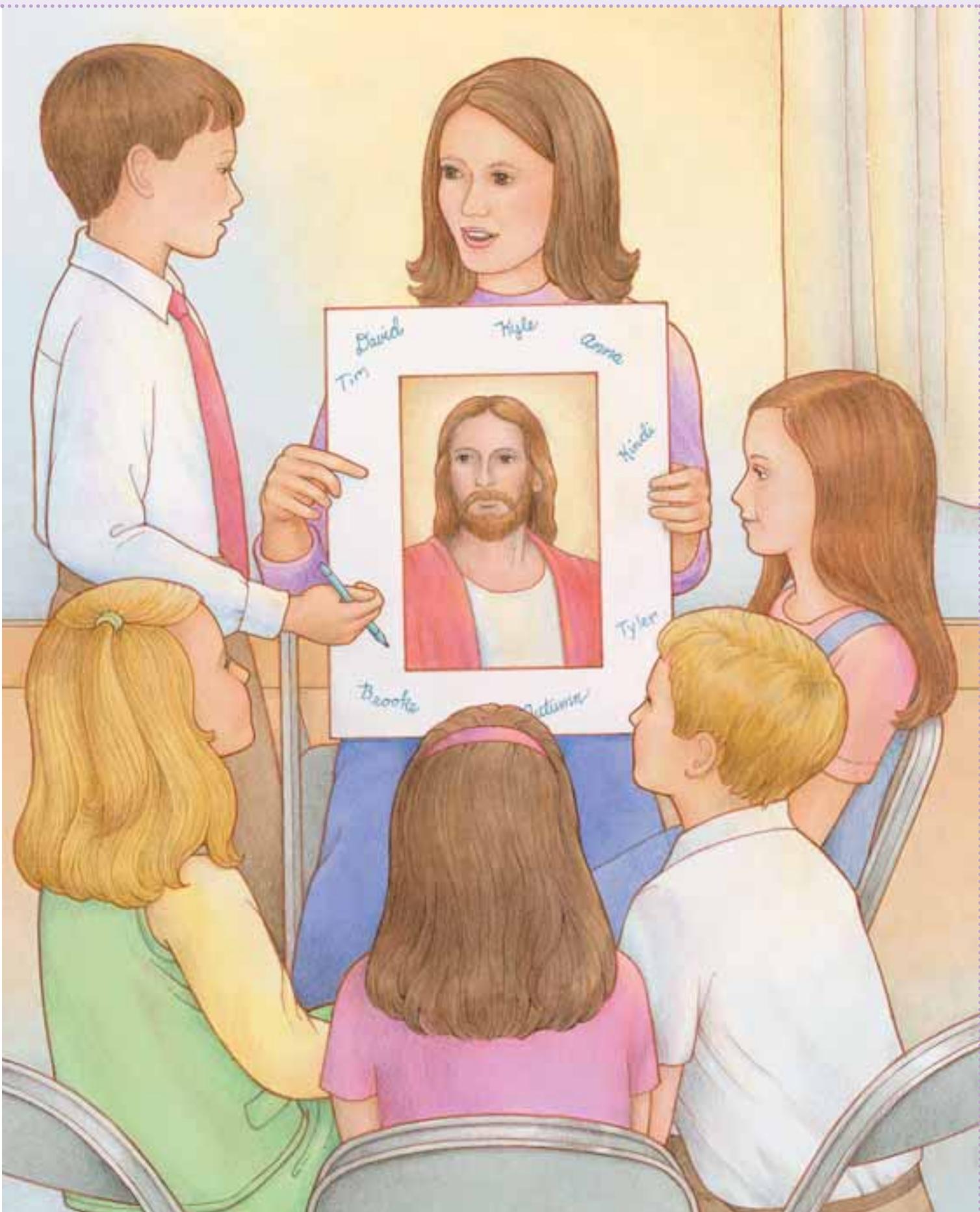
Dustin looked at Jesus’s face, which seemed to shine with love, and he felt a warm glow in his own heart. ●

Jane McBride Choate is a member of the Big Thompson Ward, Loveland Colorado Stake.



“Every one of our Father in Heaven’s children is great in His sight. If the Lord sees greatness in you, how then should you see yourself?”

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Youth of the Noble Birthright,” *Liahona*, Jan. 1999, 87; *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 74.



THE POWER TO BAPTIZE AND CONFIRM

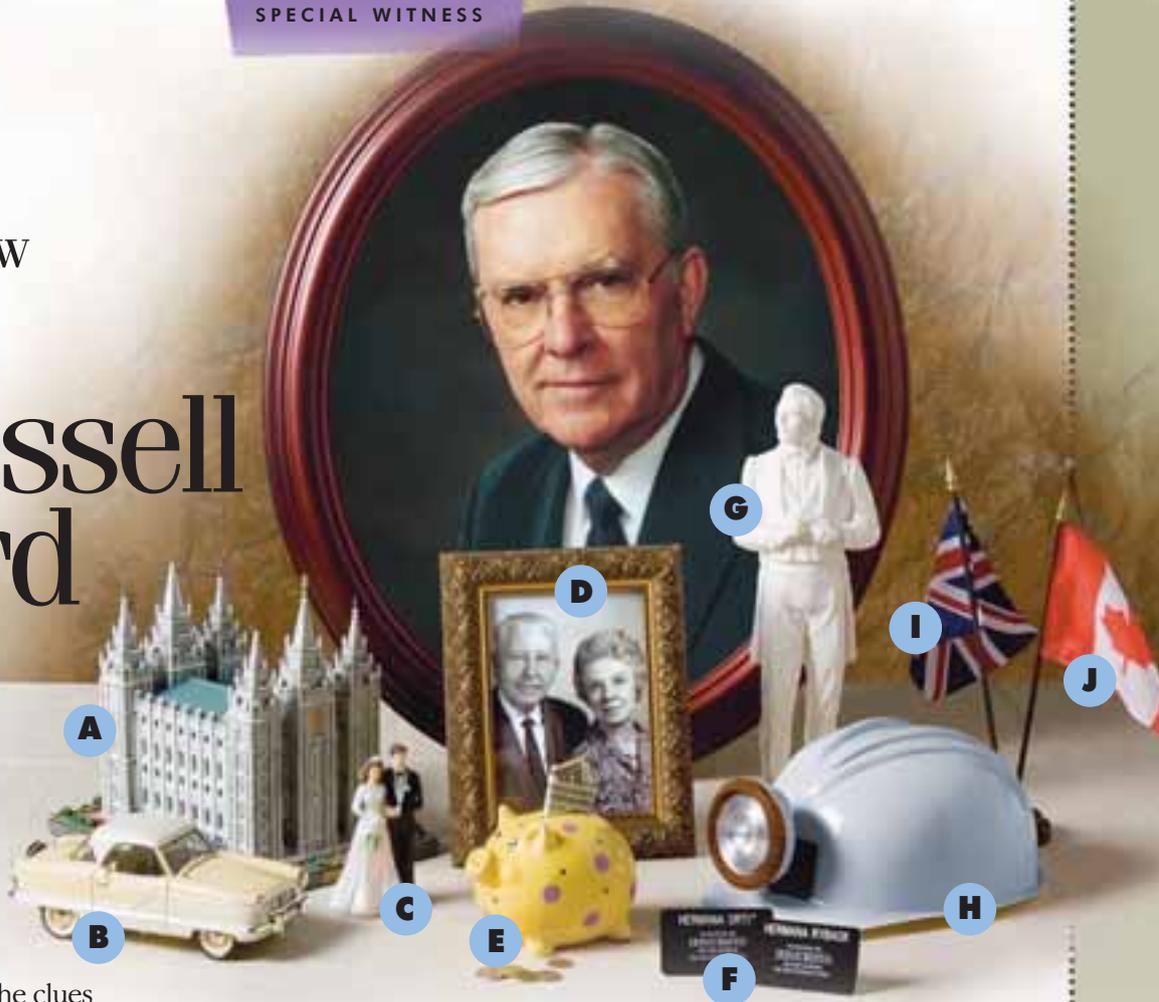
When Jesus Christ died in Jerusalem, there was a terrible storm in America. It destroyed many cities. Jesus appeared to the people in America and taught them the gospel. He gave Nephi and 11 other men the power and authority of the priesthood. Then He taught them the right way to baptize. Later the Savior laid His hands on the head of each of these men and “gave them power to give the Holy Ghost” to others.

(See 3 Nephi 18:36–37; see also 3 Nephi 8:5–11, 20–23; 11:8–11, 18, 21–26; 12:1; Moroni 2:1–3.)

Color the picture below that illustrates the Savior giving the power and authority to give the Holy Ghost to one of His disciples. You could use the picture to talk about the Savior appearing in America and giving the Nephite disciples the priesthood power and authority to baptize and confirm. ●



Getting to Know Elder M. Russell Ballard



To learn more about Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, match the lettered pictures above with the clues below.

- ___ 1. Elder Ballard says that while he was growing up, these people were his friends and they taught him to work hard.
- ___ 2. When he served as a missionary in this country, he was called to be a counselor to two mission presidents.
- ___ 3. He met his wife, Barbara, at a dance. "I kid her now that getting her to agree to marry me was the greatest sales job I ever did," Elder Ballard says. They were married here.
- ___ 4. In 1974 he was called to serve as a mission president in this country.
- ___ 5. This President of the Church is Elder Ballard's great-great-uncle.
- ___ 6. He loves spending time with his children. When his son Clark was younger, Elder Ballard would take him to Nevada to visit a mine. For safety, they wore these.
- ___ 7. One of his jobs as an adult was to sell these to people. Later he took over the company that his father had started.
- ___ 8. As a businessman, he advised people to save this whenever possible and to stay out of debt. "But never become so involved in business that you feel unable to accept a Church calling," he says.
- ___ 9. He has worked under President Gordon B. Hinckley's direction to "raise the bar"—the standards—for these members of the Church.
- ___ 10. When asked what has helped him prepare to be a Church leader, he says that this event "is the key to any man's success."

Adapted from Kathleen Lubeck, "Elder M. Russell Ballard: True to the Faith," Ensign, Mar. 1986, 6–11; "Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles," Ensign, Nov. 1985, 99–100; "Elder Melvin Russell Ballard, Jr., of the First Quorum of the Seventy," Ensign, May 1976, 134–35.

Audrey Makes a Friend

“And be ye kind one to another” (Ephesians 4:32).

BY LURLEY NOE

Based on an experience from the author’s family

Audrey felt wiggly. It seemed to her that sacrament meeting would never end. She twisted and knelt backwards on the bench. Mom made her turn around. She slid to the floor and sat under the bench. Dad picked her up and set her back in her seat. She made a face at Rebekah, her older sister. Rebekah put a finger to her lips and whispered, “Shh!”

Audrey frowned. She leaned forward and looked down the long row. Except for Audrey’s family, the only person on the bench was an old man. A cane rested against his leg. Audrey looked at the old man’s cane. It was smooth and shiny. She looked at his hands, resting quietly in his lap. Then she looked at his face. He seemed to be listening to the speaker, but when the other people laughed, his mouth did not even smile. Audrey thought his eyes looked sad.

She wanted to help. Slowly and quietly, Audrey slid off the bench. Softly and

reverently, she tiptoed over to the old man. Mom and Dad watched her go. She put her finger to her lips and smiled at them. Then she climbed onto the bench next to the old man.

He looked down. Audrey scooted closer to him and patted his wrinkled fingers. He opened his fingers and wrapped her little hand in his. Audrey leaned her head on the old man’s arm and gave his hand a gentle squeeze. “Be happy,” she wanted to tell him. She tipped her head to look up at his face. The old man smiled down at her and winked.

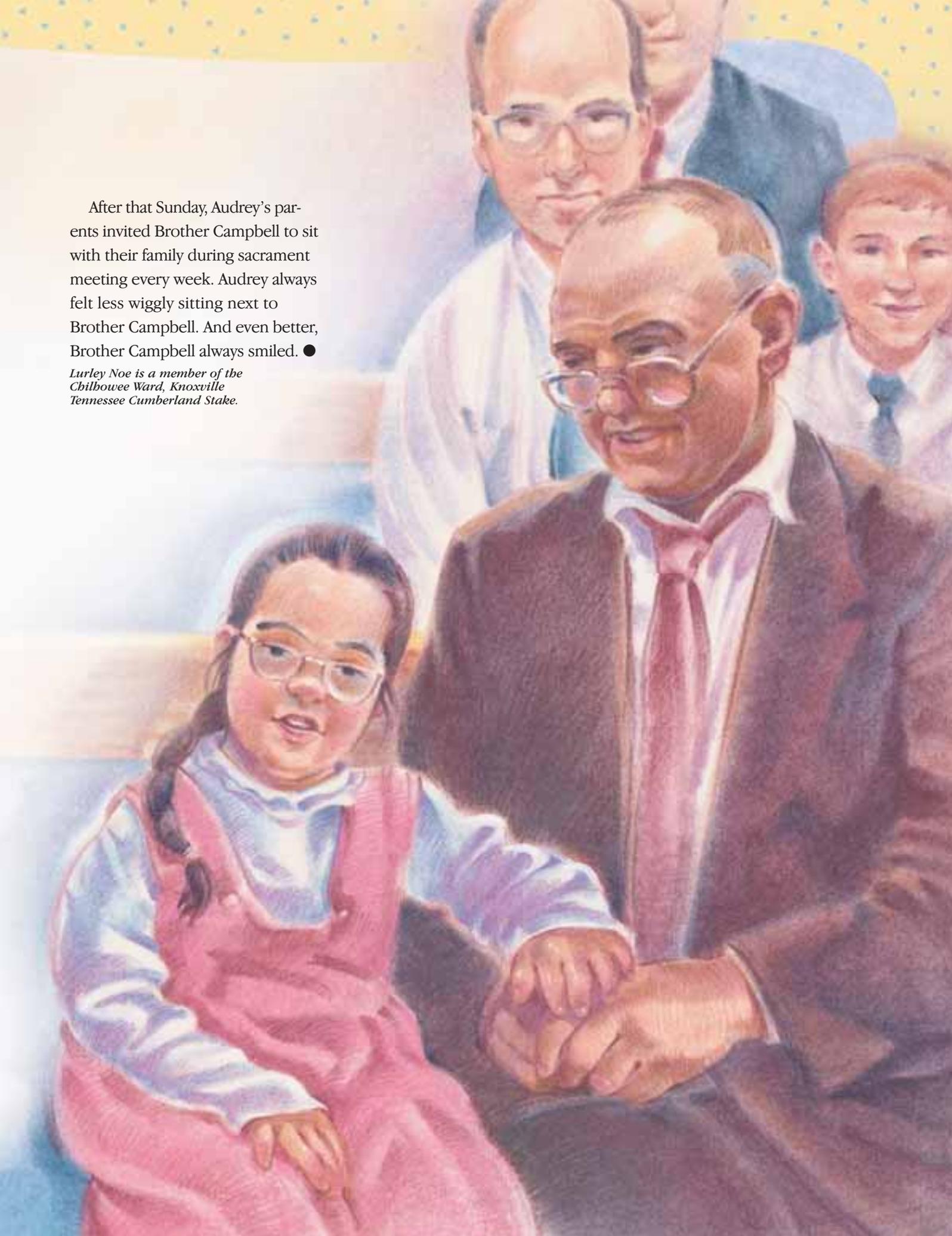
During the closing hymn, Audrey heard him singing. His voice was low and scratchy, but Audrey thought he didn’t sound sad. After the meeting, Audrey’s mom and dad came to shake hands with him.

“We’re Brother and Sister Noe,” Dad said, “and this is our daughter Audrey.”

“It’s nice to meet you. I am Brother Campbell,” he said.

After that Sunday, Audrey's parents invited Brother Campbell to sit with their family during sacrament meeting every week. Audrey always felt less wiggly sitting next to Brother Campbell. And even better, Brother Campbell always smiled. ●

*Lurley Noe is a member of the
Chilbouee Ward, Knoxville
Tennessee Cumberland Stake.*



Hans Nieto of Guayaquil, Ecuador

BY MARVIN K. GARDNER
Church Magazines

Hans Eduardo Nieto, a nine-year-old boy living in Guayaquil, Ecuador, has been a missionary since he was born.

Hans's family is made up of Hans and his mother. When he was born, his mother was

not a member of the Church. But the family she worked for as a housemaid were Latter-day Saints. They asked if they could take the baby to church to receive a blessing.

Although Hans's mother didn't want to go, she allowed them to take her baby for the blessing. Hans has attended church ever since. Wherever he and his mother lived, she found members to take him to church.

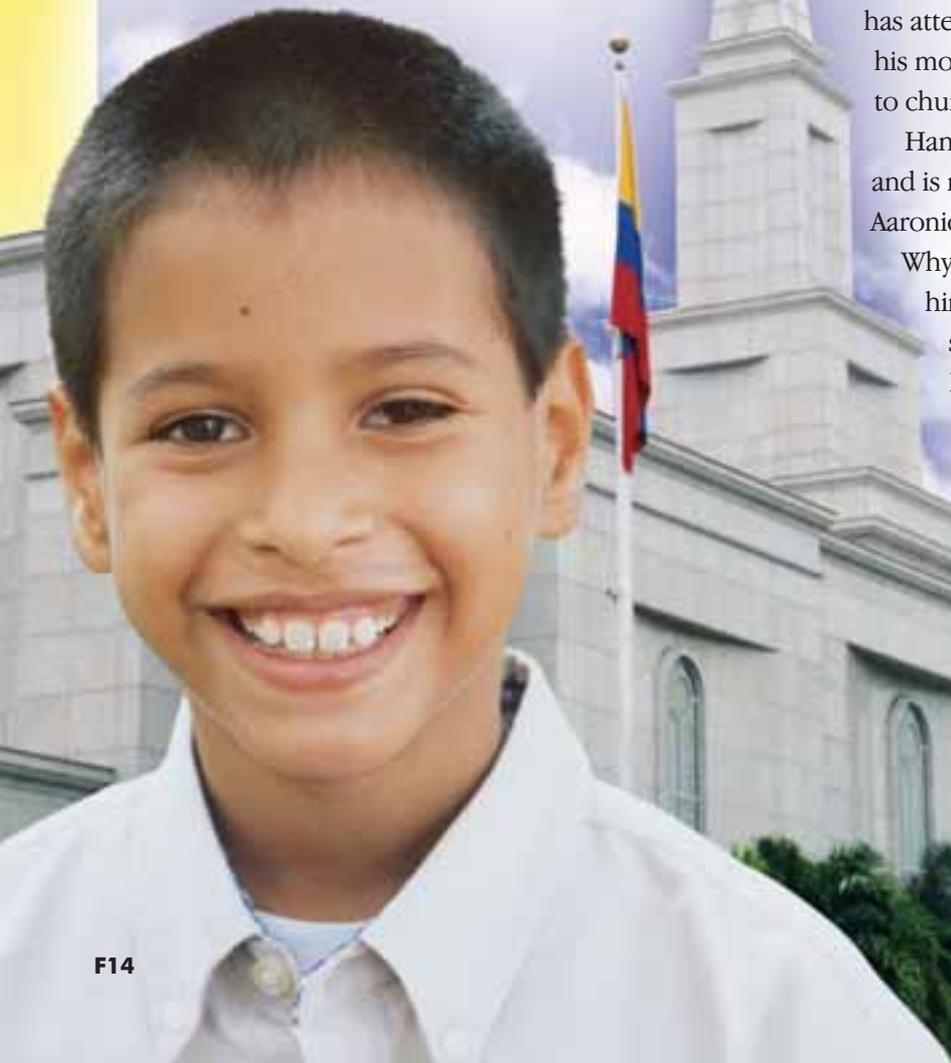
Hans was baptized when he was eight years old and is now preparing to become a deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood.

Why didn't Hans's mother ever go to church with him? "Because my past was very sad and dark," she says. "I didn't understand that Heavenly Father's love for me was so great. I didn't know He could forgive me for my mistakes.

But Hans was a light leading me to the truth."

Hans let his light shine brightly, even through hard times.

When he was six years old, he fell and broke his arm. That accident became a great blessing. His



mom was planning to move to the United States and leave Hans in Ecuador with her sister for a time. “But when he broke his arm,” she says, “I realized Heavenly Father was telling me not to leave my son. If I did, he wouldn’t be able to go to church.”

That’s when Hans’s mother, Antonia Yolanda Nieto, was baptized. Since that time, her testimony has continued to grow and she has received her endowment in the Guayaquil Ecuador Temple. Hans was the missionary who brought his mother to the light of the gospel.

She says he continues being a missionary to her. “The first thing he does every morning is read the scriptures for 30 minutes,” says Sister Nieto. “He reads the scriptures for another 30 minutes every night.” Sometimes she listens while he reads aloud. He also reads the *Amigos* section of the *Liabona* and can always tell you what the most recent message from the First Presidency is about.

Hans helps his mother with her Church calling—delivering copies of the *Liabona* to members in their ward. The bishop receives the magazines in a box, and Hans helps his mom get

them to the right people. “If they aren’t at church,” he says, “I give their *Liabona* to someone who knows them. Or I deliver it to them myself.”

Being an example for friends at school is another way Hans is a missionary. He plays soccer and basketball and is a good athlete.

And he tries to be a good sport. “When my friends and I are playing soccer, I offer them my water so they won’t be thirsty,” he says. Some of his friends and cousins have come to Church activities with him.

Hans attends a private school. Half of his tuition is paid by a scholarship he earns through good grades and good behavior. His mother pays the other half from money she earns working as a maid. “The Lord blesses us because we pay our tithing and fast offerings,” she says. Hans is planning to become an airplane pilot someday. “I would like to fly through the air,” he says.

He is looking forward to going to the temple when he is 12 to be baptized for the dead. His



Hans loves the feeling he gets when he visits the grounds of the Guayaquil Ecuador Temple (opposite page). He reads the *Liabona* with his mom (above) and sets an example of good sportsmanship on the soccer field (below). His mom says Hans has been “a light leading me to the truth.”



mother has been baptized for some of their ancestors. “She says it’s beautiful, and I want to experience it too,” Hans explains.

With all of his experiences as a member missionary, Hans hopes to let his light shine as a full-time missionary someday. “I know that there are many people waiting for the gospel,” he says. He is preparing “by obeying the commandments. And whenever a coin comes my way, I save it for my mission.” He is also preparing by going to Primary, where he loves singing songs and hymns.

“I feel my testimony in my heart, my mind, and my soul,” says Hans. He loves the Book of Mormon and has memorized the Articles of Faith and many other scriptures. “Sometimes I don’t think I can memorize them,” he says. “But I pray, and Heavenly Father helps me.” Hans recently memorized James 1:5–6, the verses that prompted Joseph Smith to pray in the Sacred Grove. “I memorize scriptures so I can always have them in my heart, especially when I have problems,” he says.

Bishop Eduardo E. Martillo of the Tarqui Ward, Guayaquil Ecuador Alborada Stake, remembers when Hans first bore his testimony in sacrament meeting. “We thought he was reading the scriptures because he



Bishop Eduardo E. Martillo (above) is helping Hans prepare to receive the Aaronic Priesthood. Hans lets his light shine brightly among his friends at school (below).

quoted them perfectly. But then we realized he knew them from memory. Hans is a good boy. He’s going to be a strong leader in the Church in Ecuador.”

With a happy smile on his face, Hans Nieto continues to let his light shine brightly. ●

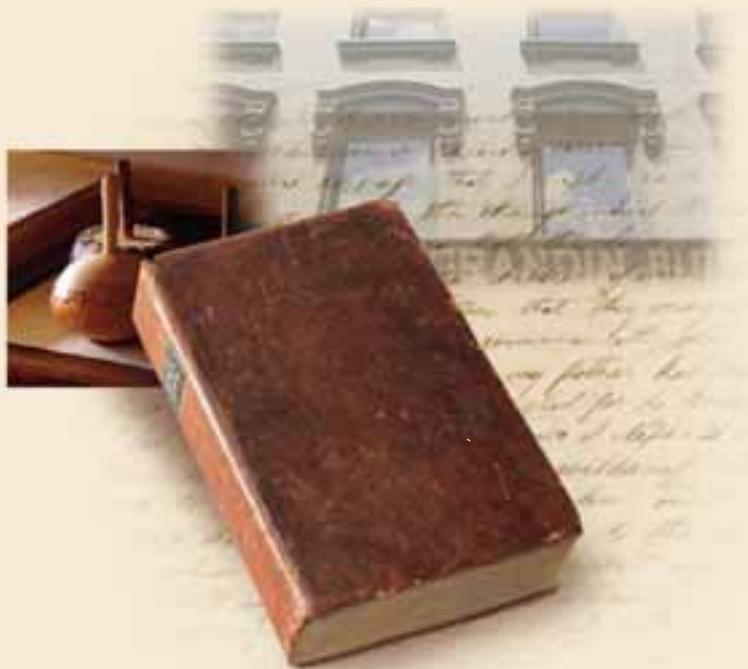




MAY NOT BE COPIED

Tell John I Died with My Face toward Zion, by Clark Kelley Price

James Steele shades the face of Mary Murray Murdoch, known lovingly as “Wee Granny.” Mary’s physical strength carried her only to Chimney Rock, Nebraska, but her spiritual strength was manifest in her request to have the Steeles tell her son John that she died facing Zion. That testimony still burns in the hearts of her posterity.



At this season exactly 176 years ago the first edition of the Book of Mormon, which had been translated 'by the gift and power of God' . . . was being set in type and run on a small press in Palmyra, New York. Its publication preceded and was a forerunner to the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which took place on April 6, 1830." See President Gordon B. Hinckley, "A Testimony Vibrant and True," p. 2.