

# OUR SPACE

## STANDARDS AND FRIENDS

**S**ince I have been in school, I have had friends who have not understood the moral standards of our religion. At first it was difficult, but over time they have become used to the idea of my being morally clean. I made a goal in my life to be clean and pure, and it has worked out well, both for me and for those who used to criticize me. Over time, respect, peace, and joy have become a part of our loving circle of friends.

Vitória M., Brazil

## FORGIVING MY FRIENDS

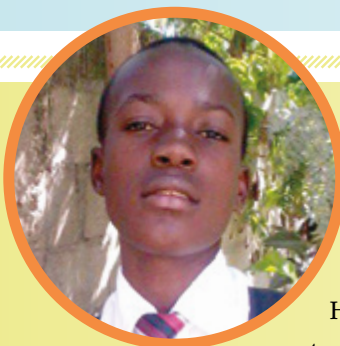
**A**s the only member of the Church in my peer group, I have experienced some instances when my friends offended me. Sometimes they judge and criticize my religion. I feel so alone, yet I am thankful I know the standards of the Church.

If my friends offend me, I try to humble myself and avoid contention, for I know contention is evil. When they start discussing some matters about the Church, I just testify of my belief in the gospel.

I always forgive my friends with or without their apology. Forgiving is not just about saying, "Apology accepted" or "It's OK," because forgiveness has a deep meaning: Jesus Christ atoned for our sins so that Heavenly Father can forgive us.

Even though my friends don't understand my faith now, I know that I can be God's instrument to teach them the gospel. I am helping them, and at the same time I am helping myself to grow spiritually and prepare to serve a mission.

Joshua V., Philippines



## ONE OF MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURES

**O**ur Heavenly Father uses "small and simple things" (Alma 37:6) to advance His work. Joseph Smith was

not a great person in the eyes of the

world, yet God used him to restore the Church. And it was

a very simple thing that led to the Restoration: a prayer.

Do not think you are too small to work in the Lord's vineyard. Being a good example can help your neighbor become a member of the Church. God does not need great personalities, just people who are faithful and obedient.

Ronick R., Haiti