

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • FEBRUARY 2002

# LIAHONA



# LIAHONA



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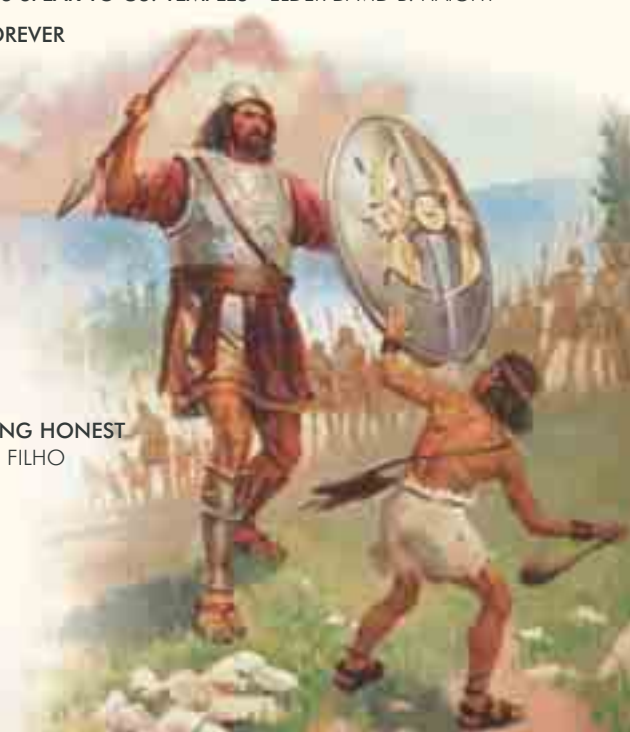
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**CHURCH GROWTH IN RUSSIA**

I live in Saratov, Russia, and have been a member of the Church for eight years. The first missionaries arrived here some nine years ago. When I was baptized with my parents in 1993, all we had was the Book of Mormon in Russian, a few missionaries for the entire city, and great faith in Jesus Christ. Today, however, we are rich in gospel blessings. We now have a district and many missionaries. Each week more people join the true Church.

We also have the *Liahona* (Russian). I especially enjoy the articles about Saints from all corners of the world and the messages from the First Presidency. These articles help me appreciate the beauty of the gospel. The *Liahona* is a faithful companion on a path that is not always easy.

*Marina Paltchikova,  
Saratovsky Tsentralny Branch,  
Saratov Russia District*

**PRIMARY LEADERS APPRECIATE MAGAZINE**

We're writing to send you our most sincere appreciation for the *Liahona* (Spanish). We have noted some changes recently and have no doubt that excellence is a priority for the magazine—not just in the presentation but in the content. We

have taken special note of the number of articles that say in a simple, fresh way things we often feel but which are difficult to express.

*Primary presidency and teachers,  
Los Laureles Ward,  
Ciudad Ojeda Venezuela Stake*



**ANSWERS FROM CONFERENCE MAGAZINES**

Every month I eagerly await the arrival of the *Liahona* (Chinese). I know that within it is the spiritual food I need. Whether it is through an article or an illustration, I often find the personal revelation I desire.

I most love to read the January and July general conference issues. Reading them reminds me that Heavenly Father knows my current difficulties and gives me timely answers.

I also love the pictures of temples around the world. Although my family circumstances do not permit me to attend the temple, I know I will one day.

Thanks for the *Liahona*. It is my monthly access to the word of God.

*Chen Wang Cheng-cheng,  
Taichung Third Ward,  
Taichung Taiwan Stake*

# OVERPOWERING THE GOLIATHS IN OUR LIVES

By President Gordon B. Hinckley



Some years ago I spoke to the young men of the Church about overcoming the Goliaths in their lives. I would like to apply that same theme to all of us, for few of us do not have at least one Goliath to contend with. As we study the Old Testament this year, we will come to realize that the story of David and Goliath is a wonderful example of what we can learn from the pages of this great book of scripture. I recount only a portion of the story, for I am confident you are already familiar with it. It is the story of David, the son of Jesse.

As you recall, the army of Israel under the leadership of King Saul was engaged in a deadly war with the army of the Philistines. One army poised on one hill, the other on an opposite hill, with a valley in between. Now, the Philistines had among their number a great giant of a man named Goliath of Gath. His height was six cubits and a span. If I have figured correctly, that would put him somewhere in the neighborhood of nine feet (three meters) tall. What a basketball center he might have made!

Clad in his armor, he came down to the valley and called out to the army of Israel:

“Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.

“If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will

we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us.

“ . . . I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together” (1 Samuel 17:8–10).

When Saul and the army of Israel looked at this giant and heard his chilling challenge, they were frightened because they had no one of their own of such stature.

Now, while all of this was going on, Jesse, David’s father, asked his young son to take some food to his three brothers in the army. When he arrived at the battleground, Goliath came out again, issuing the same challenge, which David heard. There was fear throughout the army of Israel. David, who was no more than a boy, said to the king (and I paraphrase his language): “King, why are you so afraid of this giant? I will go and fight him.”

Saul replied, “Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he [is] a man of war [trained] from his youth” (1 Samuel 17:33).

## DAVID ARMED WITH FAITH

David then persuaded Saul to let him try. He told the king of how he had fought with a lion and a bear to save his father’s sheep and concluded by saying that the Lord would deliver him out of the hand of the Philistine. Saul, possibly thinking that one more life lost would not be serious among



David, running toward the giant, "put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth."

the great losses they had already sustained, said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with thee” (1 Samuel 17:37).

Saul then placed armor on David until the boy could scarcely walk. David said to the king, “I cannot wear this,” and he took the armor off.

He then “took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had . . . ; and his sling was in his hand” (1 Samuel 17:40).

This stripling of a boy, with only a sling and five stones and without any armor other than the armor of faith, went down into the valley to face Goliath.

#### **GOLIATH ARMED WITH SWORD, SPEAR, AND SHIELD**

“And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

“And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?”

And Goliath swore at David, saying, “Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.”

Then David spoke these great words: “Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

“This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel” (see 1 Samuel 17:42–46).

That was brave talk for a boy who stood against a nine-foot (three-meter) giant.

In anger Goliath came at him. Then David, running toward the giant, “put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth” (1 Samuel 17:49).

#### **EVIL GIANTS IN OUR LIVES**

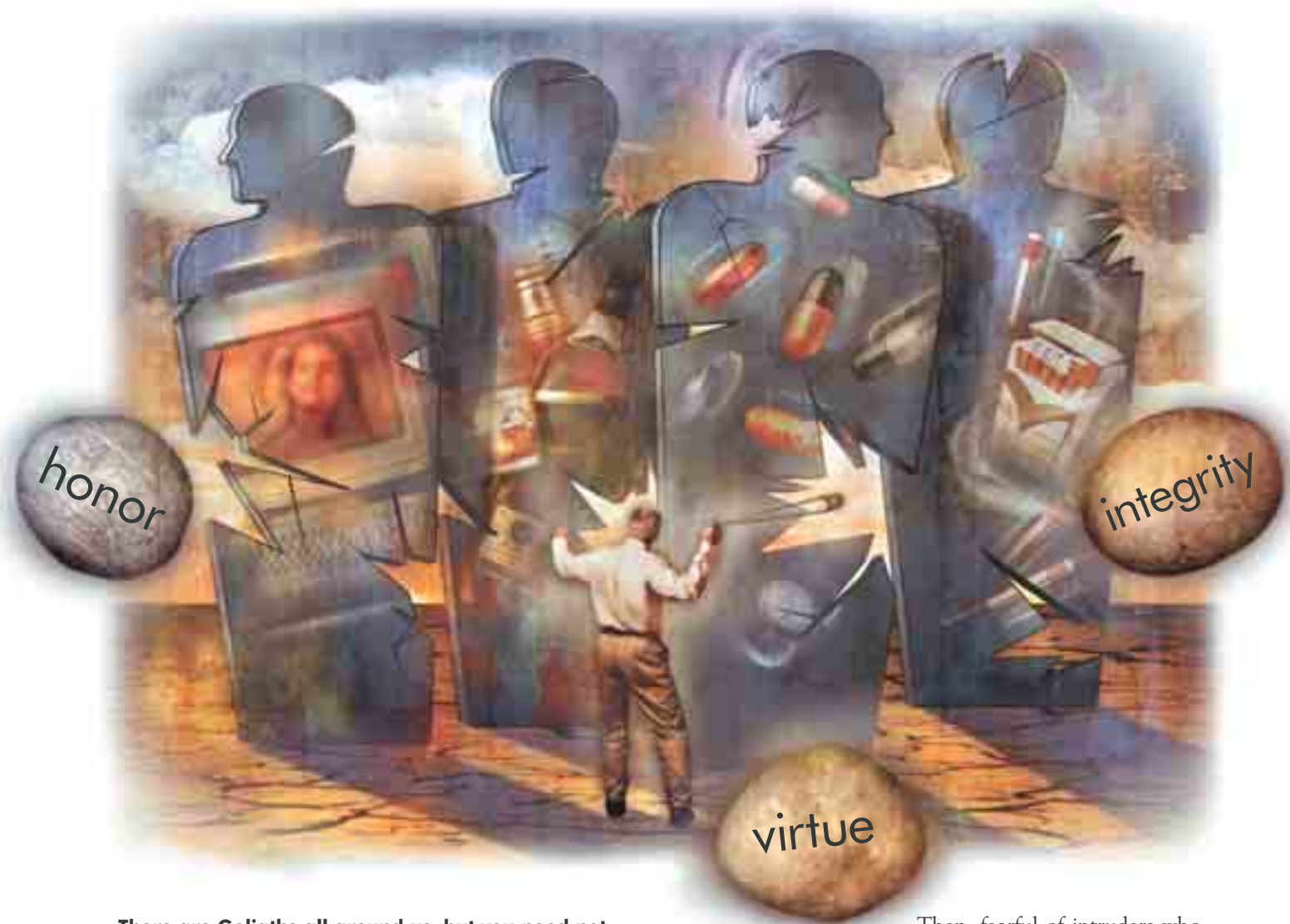
I would like to apply this story to our lives. There are Goliaths all around us, hulking giants with evil intent to destroy. These are not nine-foot-tall men, but they are people and institutions that control attractive but evil things that may challenge and weaken and destroy us. Included in these are beer and other liquors and tobacco. Those who market these products would like to enslave you into their use. There are illegal drugs of various kinds which, I am told, are relatively easy to obtain. For those who peddle them this is a multibillion-dollar industry, a giant web of evil.

There is pornography, seductive and interesting and inviting. It has become a giant industry, producing magazines, films, and other materials. It is available on the Internet and, if you allow, it will intrude into your home via your television. It is designed to take your money and lead you toward activities that utterly destroy.

The giants who are behind these efforts are formidable and skillful. They have gained vast experience in the war they are carrying on. They would like to ensnare you.

It is almost impossible to entirely avoid exposure to their products. You see these materials on all sides. But you need not fear if you have the slingshot of truth in your hands. You have been counseled and taught and advised. You have the stones of virtue and honor and integrity to use against these enemies who would like to conquer you. When they challenge you, you can hit them “between the eyes,” to use a figurative expression. You can triumph over them by disciplining yourself to avoid them. You can say to the whole lot of them as David said to Goliath, “Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”

Victory will be yours. There is not a person in this Church who needs to succumb to any of these forces. You are a child of God. You have His power within you to sustain you. You have the right to call upon God to protect you. Do not let Goliath frighten you. Stand your ground



**There are Goliaths all around us, but you need not fear if you have the slingshot of truth in your hands. You have the stones of virtue and honor and integrity to use against these enemies.**

and hold your place, and you will be triumphant. As the years pass, you will look back with satisfaction upon the battles you have won in your individual lives.

When temptation comes your way, name that boastful, deceitful giant “Goliath!” and do with it as David did to the Philistine of Gath. I humbly pray that God will bless each of you.

#### **GUARD YOUR HOMES**

Let me give you a parable. A man built a beautiful home and furnished it with the very best of carpets, furniture, appliances, all that money could buy. Within its walls he kept his fine automobiles and his expensive jewelry.

Then, fearful of intruders who might enter and rob him, he had installed expensive dead-bolt locks so that he had to use a key to get out as well as to get in. He put bars on the windows and doors and was like a prisoner looking out of his own home, as one might do out of a jail. He installed costly electronic surveillance devices to turn on lights and set off sirens should any unwelcome intruder enter. He landscaped largely without trees or shrubbery so there would be no place for a thief to hide. And he smugly said to himself, “Now I am secure.”

But what he did not realize is that neither bars nor dead bolts, neither lights nor sirens nor anything of the kind would have the slightest effect on intruders of another variety who could destroy his life and the lives of his family. He found himself to be his own prisoner, locked in a cell of despair and misery. He allowed the Goliaths of his life to overpower him.

I know it is an old subject and one that has been dealt

with much. But I repeat it again: *Guard your homes*. How foolish it seems to install bars and bolts and electronic devices against thieves and molesters while more insidious intruders stealthily enter and despoil.

Avoid pornography as you would a plague. I recall an assignment some years back to restore the blessings of a man who had been excommunicated from the Church because of his sin. He came to my office with his wife. I spoke with them individually. I asked him how it all began. He held a responsible position in the Church. He was likewise a professional man with high responsibility in the community.

His trouble began, he said, when he picked up a pornographic magazine to read on the plane. It intrigued him. It appealed to him. He found himself buying more of these things. Then he sought out movies which titillated him and excited him. Knowing his wife would be a party to none of this, he went alone. He found occasion to leave town and go to other cities where he could more easily indulge his desires. He then found excuses to stay late at his office and asked his secretary to stay with him. One thing led to another until he succumbed.

With tears rolling down his cheeks, he sat across the desk from me and cursed the day he had read that first magazine. He spoke of his love for the wife who had forgiven him and remained true to him. He spoke of his love for his children, who had been shamed and embarrassed by his actions. He told of the hell through which he had walked from the time of his excommunication. He spoke of his love for the Church and his desire to enjoy again its full blessings.

In the presence of his wife, I placed my hands upon his head and in the authority of the holy priesthood restored his priesthood, his temple endowment, his temple sealing, and all other blessings which he had formerly held. This strong man sobbed like a baby under my hands while his wife, with her hand in his, wept like a child.

At the conclusion of that blessing, they embraced one another and he asked her to forgive him. She said she had forgiven him and that she loved him and always would.

They were happy when they left, happier than they had been in years. And I was happy too. But I thought of the terrible price he had paid and of the price he had exacted of his family through his foolishness and transgression.

#### **GUARD AGAINST YOUR GOLIATHS**

Unfortunately, there is not always that kind of happy ending. In many cases there is divorce with bitterness and rancor. What was once love has turned to hate. Children's lives are blighted. Hopes become as ashes. So often there is only misery and loneliness and regret.

Brethren and sisters, keep your affections within marriage. Regard as your most precious possession in time or eternity the person with whom you joined hands over the altar in the house of the Lord and to whom you pledged your love and loyalty and affection for time and all eternity. Your companion, your children, and you yourself will then know and feel a security far greater than any that can be bought with hardware and gadgetry.

God bless you, that the watch-care of the Lord may be over you, that you may stay close to Him and be deserving of His preserving hand, that you may overpower the Goliaths in your lives. □

#### **IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS**

1. When David challenged Goliath on the battlefield, he spoke these great words: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied" (1 Samuel 17:45).
2. There are Goliaths around us, giants with evil intent to destroy our individual lives and those of our loved ones.
3. No one need succumb to these forces because each of us is a child of God and we have His power to sustain us.
4. We must always be on guard against potential Goliaths by staying close to the Lord through obedience to His teachings and example: "He suffered temptations but gave no heed unto them" (D&C 20:22).





# LATTER-DAY PROPHETS SPEAK ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT



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

“We have sufficient grounds to go on and prove from the Bible that the gospel has always been the same; the ordinances to fulfill its requirements, the same, and the officers to officiate, the same; and the signs and fruits resulting from the promises, the same: therefore, as Noah was a preacher of righteousness he must have been baptized and ordained to the priesthood by the laying on of the hands” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 264).



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

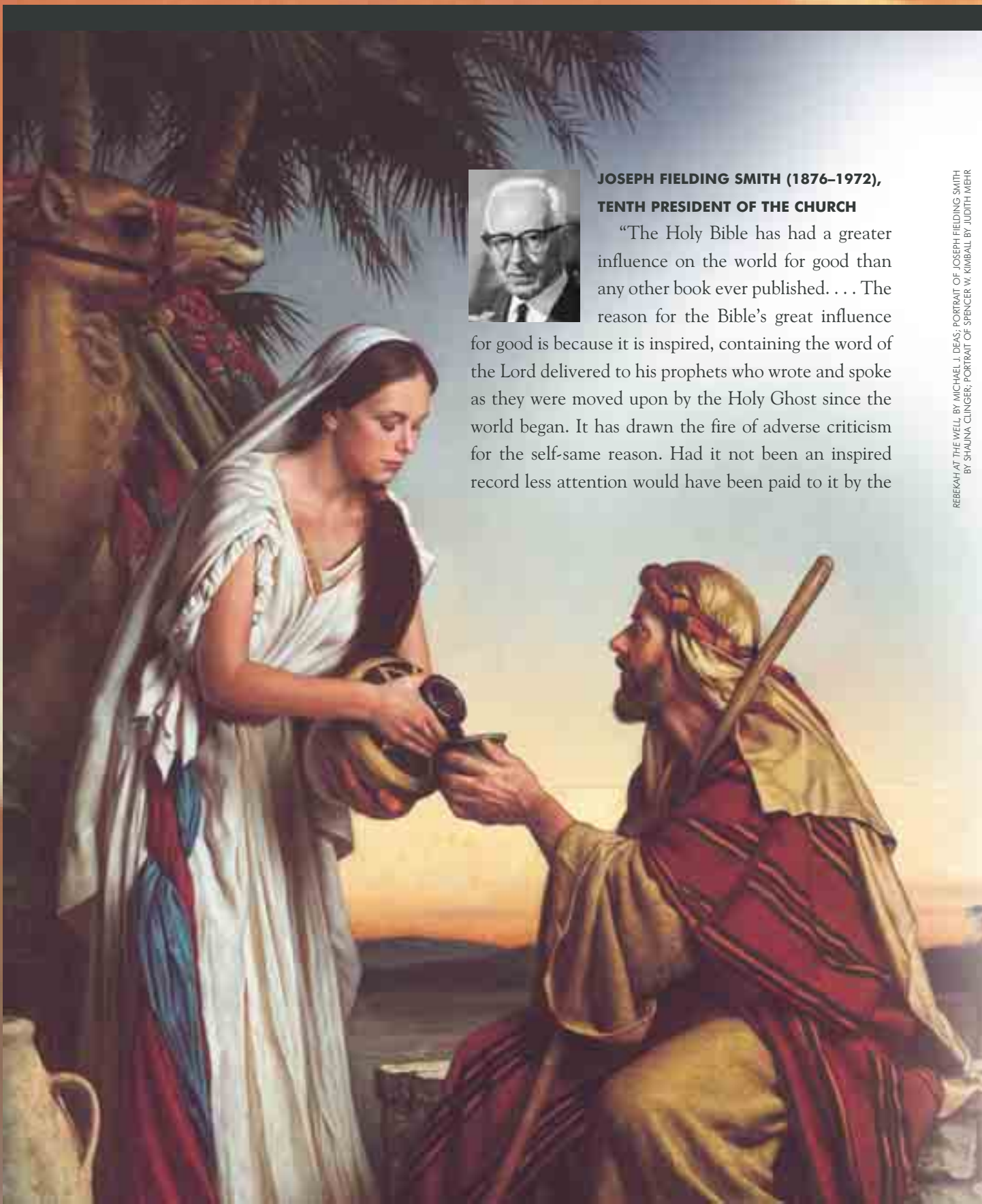
“We consider the Bible . . . as a guide . . . pointing to a certain destination. This is a true doctrine, which we boldly advance. If you will follow the doctrines, and be guided by the precepts of that book, it will direct you where you may see as you are

seen, where you may converse with Jesus Christ, have the visitation of angels, have dreams, visions, and revelations, and understand and know God for yourselves. Is it not a stay and a staff to you? Yes; it will prove to you that you are following in the footsteps of the ancients. You can see what they saw, understand what they enjoyed” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Brigham Young* [1997], 120).



**GEORGE ALBERT SMITH (1870–1951),  
EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“The Lord, when he placed our first parents on the earth, gave them instructions and from time to time he has sent his prophets to counsel their descendants. We have in the Old and the New Testament the teachings of the Lord, not of man, but the advice of our Heavenly Father intended to direct us along the pathway that will eventually terminate in the celestial kingdom. How wonderful it is to know that there is a pathway leading to a glorious kingdom” (in *Conference Report*, October 1937, 49).



**JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH (1876–1972),  
TENTH PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH**

“The Holy Bible has had a greater influence on the world for good than any other book ever published. . . . The reason for the Bible’s great influence for good is because it is inspired, containing the word of the Lord delivered to his prophets who wrote and spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost since the world began. It has drawn the fire of adverse criticism for the self-same reason. Had it not been an inspired record less attention would have been paid to it by the

REBEKAH AT THE WELL BY MICHAEL J. DEAS; PORTRAIT OF JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH BY SHAJNA CLINGER; PORTRAIT OF SPENCER W. KIMBALL BY JUDITH MEHR

opposing critics, who have drawn their inspiration from the author of evil, who in the very beginning swore in his wrath that he would endeavor to destroy the work of God" (*Seek Ye Earnestly*, compiled by Joseph Fielding Smith Jr. [1972], 363).



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

"From infancy I had enjoyed the simplified and pictured Bible stories, but the original Bible seemed so interminable in length, so difficult of understanding that I had avoided it until a challenge came to me [as a teenager attending stake conference. The speaker] gave a discourse on the value of reading the Bible. In conclusion she asked for a showing of hands of all who had read it through. The hands that were raised out of the large congregation were so few and so timid! . . . I was shocked into an unalterable determination to read the great book.

"As soon as I reached home after the meeting I began with the first verse of Genesis and continued faithfully every day with the reading.

"What a satisfaction it was to me [a year later] to realize I had read the Bible through from beginning to end! And what exultation of spirit! . . .

"I commend it to you" ("What I Read as a Boy," *Children's Friend*, November 1943, 508).



**EZRA TAFT BENSON (1899–1994),  
THIRTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE  
CHURCH**

"I love the Bible, both the Old and the New Testaments. It is a source of great truth. It teaches us about the life

and ministry of the Master. From its pages we learn of the hand of God in directing the affairs of His people from the very beginning of the earth's history. It would be difficult to [over]estimate the impact the Bible has had on the history of the world. Its pages have blessed the lives of generations" ("The Gift of Modern Revelation," *Ensign*, November 1986, 78).



**HOWARD W. HUNTER (1907–95),  
FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE  
CHURCH**

"Reading and studying the scriptures make us conscious of the many conditional promises made by the Lord to encourage obedience and righteous living. Israelite history is filled with examples of covenants, which constitute one of the central themes of the Old Testament—the promises of God made in exchange for the commitments of the prophets and the people. . . . If we choose to react like Joshua, and Abraham, and Rebekah and Rachel, our response will be, simply, to go and do the thing that the Lord has commanded" ("Commitment to God," *Ensign*, November 1982, 57–58).



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

"The standard works are all indispensable to our understanding of the things of God. The Bible provides the foundation of our faith: The Old Testament gives the word of Jehovah through His ancient prophets; the New Testament sets forth, in beautiful language, the matchless life and sacrifice of the Savior of mankind" ("The Order and Will of God," *Tambuli*, August 1989, 2). □

# Studying and Teaching the Old Testament



*All of us need better understanding of the eternal plan of happiness.  
The Old Testament has a great deal to offer as our teacher.*



**By Elder Henry B. Eyring**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

What every person wants is happiness. And what we will want for the rest of this life and for eternity is happiness. Many of us may not know much of what happiness is or

how to get it. And we may not understand much about misery or its causes. But we have had tastes of both happiness and misery. We know the difference, and we prefer happiness.

God's great plan of happiness leads away from misery. We do not need to be convinced that a plan of happiness is a good thing. But all of us need better understanding of what it takes to follow the plan, and most of us need increased confidence that we can. Because all of us want happiness today and always will, when we feel those needs being met, we will come back to those experiences, and we will begin to practice what will bring us the capacity to endure to the end.

You might well wonder whether the Old Testament is a likely text to help us find the way of happiness. Why would we spend so much time with books which seem so far removed from the circumstances and the challenges we face? A great teacher gave me a key to that puzzle.

## **READ 2 NEPHI 25–33**

President Marion G. Romney (1897–1988), a counselor in the First Presidency, spoke on this subject 23 years ago and entitled his talk “The Message of the Old Testament.” I have read it many times and know his words are true. He said, “I do not think that there is a more simple or clear and relevant explanation of the Old Testament message than the one written in chapters 25 through 33 of Second Nephi. It would seem to me that a careful, prayerful study of these chapters would be a requirement for anyone who wanted to understand and teach the message of the Old Testament. In these chapters Nephi sifted out the important from the unimportant. He also explained how these teachings are important to us who live in the latter days” (in *A Symposium on the Old Testament* [address to religious educators, Brigham Young University, 16 August 1979], 5).

President Romney then read these words from the 25th chapter of 2 Nephi:

“For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.

“And, notwithstanding we believe in Christ, we keep



the law of Moses, and look forward with steadfastness unto Christ, until the law shall be fulfilled.

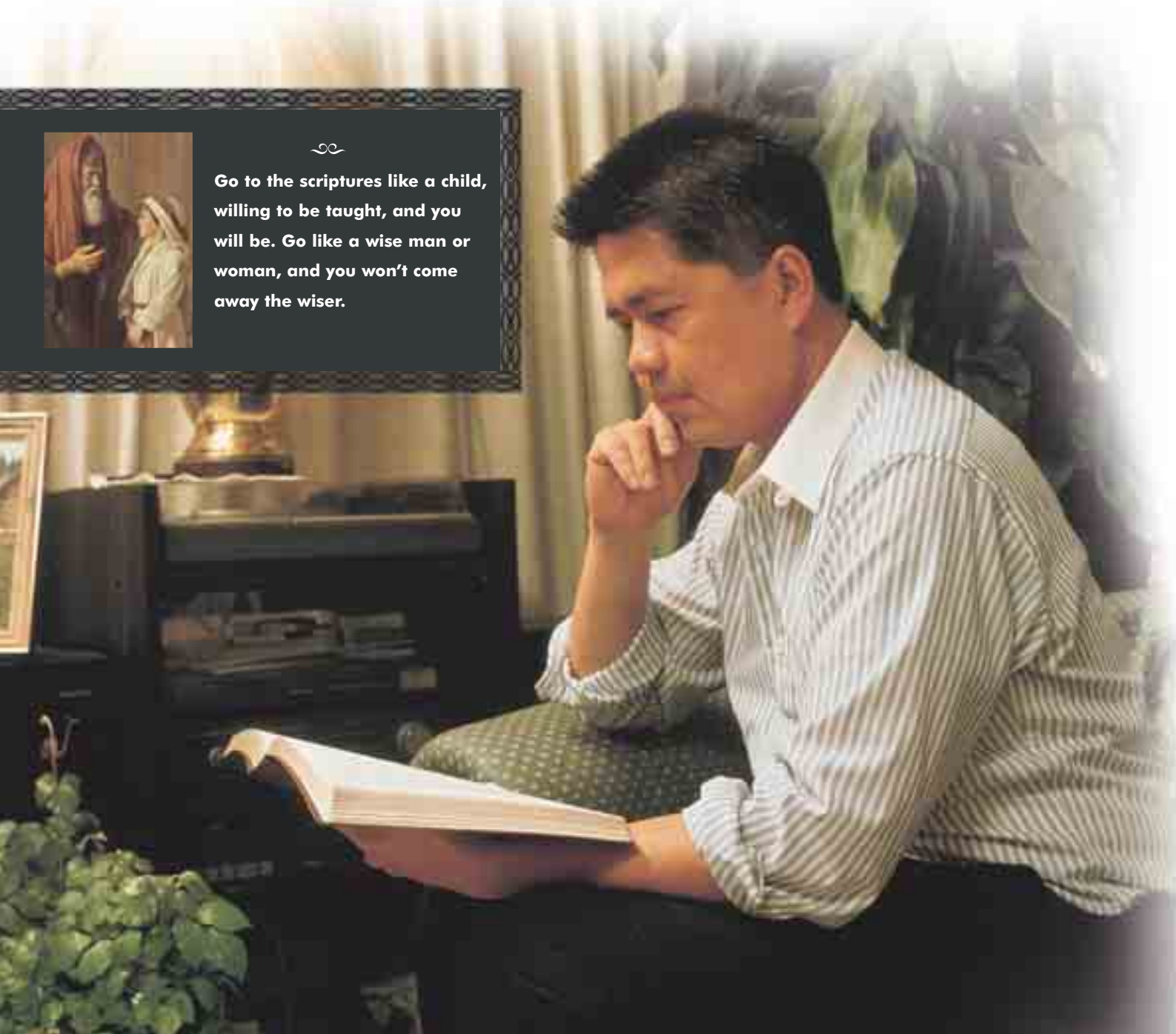
“For, for this end was the law given; wherefore the law hath become dead unto us, and we are made alive in Christ because of our faith; yet we keep the law because of the commandments” (2 Nephi 25:23–25).

If you study those nine short chapters of 2 Nephi

commended to you by President Romney—and my purpose and prayer is that you will—you will find in them a lament for those who choose not to receive the words of God offered through His prophets. I have two reasons for wanting you to read those laments. First, they will comfort you on those days when those around you seem not to receive the words God offers them through you. It



**Go to the scriptures like a child, willing to be taught, and you will be. Go like a wise man or woman, and you won't come away the wiser.**



helps to know that such great prophets as Nephi and Isaiah had such days, many of them. And second, Nephi gives the reason why his words would not be received. In his description of failure there is the shadow of the way to success. That is often true in stories of scriptural tragedy when they are written by prophets. And so the recurring cycles of spiritual decline and recovery in the Old Testament can be hopeful and instructive.

For example, in the 27th chapter, the 5th verse, Nephi laments over people whose hardness of heart he foresees in the day of the Gentiles:

“For behold, the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep. For behold, ye have closed your eyes, and ye have rejected the prophets; and your rulers, and the seers hath he covered because of your iniquity.”

Later, in the 29th chapter, verse 8, he even foresees those who will reject his own words, which he knows were given him by the Savior. He gives the rebuke he knows the Lord will give in that day, words only a seer could know:

“Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together the testimony of the two nations shall run together also.”

### RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD

Nephi’s words make clear both the difficulty of teaching the word of God and its importance. Those who do not receive the words of God, which we are to teach, will be judged by them. President Romney has offered us help in that sacred task of teaching. I confirm his promise.

First in your preparation to teach, you must go to search the scriptures and not to wrest them. President Romney taught that great difference in the way we can

approach the scriptures: “Searching them . . . as enjoined by Jesus is a far cry from hunting through them for the purpose of finding passages which can be pressed into service to support a predetermined conclusion” (“The Message of the Old Testament,” page 2). Go to the scriptures like a child, willing to be taught, and you will be. Go like a wise man or woman, and you won’t come away the wiser.

Second, you will be taught more easily as you approach the scriptures if you search with a question and with a determination to act on the answer. We can receive what seems to us new truth when we go back to the same scripture with new questions. I went to those chapters of 2 Nephi with this question: How can I study or teach from the Old Testament in a way that makes it more likely that my students or I will find happiness now while we are together, and later when they or I may face unknown trials alone?

As I studied 2 Nephi, I tried to follow both parts of this counsel. I read the chapters carefully, repeatedly, line by line, and word by word. I looked for patterns, truths that Nephi repeated, ideas he restated more than once. I found a pattern. I will share it with you in the hope that it will encourage you to search for yourself. What I found has been useful to me. It may be to you. My hope is that you will search the scriptures with a desire to be taught what you should do.

For me, there seemed to be a repeated message in the teaching of Nephi, which gave me an answer to my question. It is this: The words of God given by prophets will be received only by those with the spirit of prophecy, a gift of the Spirit, which both follows from and confirms the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Nephi makes clear first that what we need now and will need later is something he calls the spirit of prophecy. Here is the 4th verse of the 25th chapter of 2 Nephi:

“Wherefore, hearken, O my people, which are of the

house of Israel, and give ear unto my words; for because the words of Isaiah are not plain unto you, nevertheless they are plain unto all those that are filled with the spirit of prophecy.”

Then he speaks again of prophecy in the 26th verse, but here he makes clear its relation to the testimony of Jesus. We will find the words of prophets plain when we have the spirit of prophecy, and that will depend on our testimony of Jesus Christ. Notice how Nephi used that fact:

“And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.”

Then Nephi went on to teach that to receive the words of prophets we must obey them. It will not be enough for us to know that the words are true or even to understand them plainly. We must obey, or the conviction of truth will fade and the meaning will become obscure. Notice the 30th verse of the 28th chapter:

“For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.”

Then, as if Nephi knows how hard the road ahead may be for us, he describes what it will take to endure. It will take the courage and the fortitude that comes only to those whose testimony of Jesus Christ has led them to obey to the point that they are filled with hope and charity sufficient for the journey. Note the requirement and the promise in the 20th verse of the 31st chapter:

“Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press

forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.”

Nephi makes plain that the spirit of prophecy and the testimony of Jesus are gifts which must be sought in prayer. And it is clear that he does not exempt himself. Note what he says in the 4th and 5th verses of the 32nd chapter:

“Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.

“For behold, again I say unto you that if ye will enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, it will show unto you all things what ye should do.”

Then in the 8th and 9th verses Nephi extends the instruction to pray:

“And now, my beloved brethren, I perceive that ye ponder still in your hearts; and it grieveth me that I must speak concerning this thing. For if ye would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray, but teacheth him that he must not pray.

“But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul.”

Now, after warning us that we must pray, Nephi teaches us by his example. In the 4th verse of the 33rd chapter:

“And I know that the Lord God will consecrate my prayers for the gain of my people. And the words which I have written in weakness will be made strong unto them; for it persuadeth them to do good; it maketh known unto them of their fathers; and it speaketh of Jesus, and persuadeth them to believe in him, and to endure to the end, which is life eternal.”



For me, there emerged at least the beginning of an answer to my question.

You will remember that my question was: How can I study or teach from the Old Testament in a way that makes it more likely that my students or I will find happiness now while we are together, and later when they or I may face unknown trials alone? My answer: My students

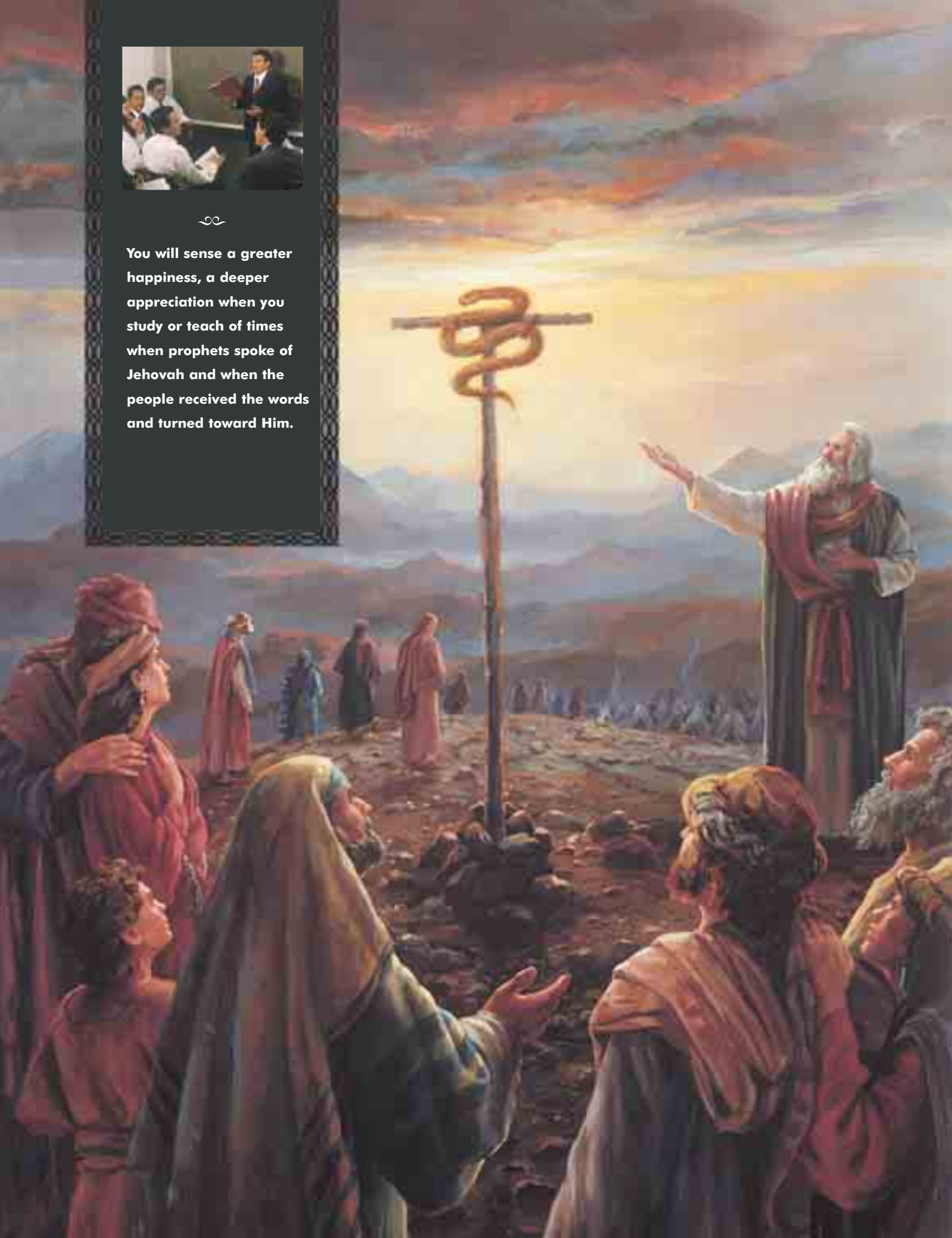
and I will receive the words of the prophets when they and I have the spirit of prophecy and the testimony of Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost will tell them and me what to do. When we obey, we will have more light given us. When we disobey, the light will in time be withdrawn. Prayer will be our ally. And even in this difficult life we can find peace, which living the gospel brings, and the



**Nephi makes plain that the spirit of prophecy and the testimony of Jesus are gifts which must be sought in prayer.**



You will sense a greater happiness, a deeper appreciation when you study or teach of times when prophets spoke of Jehovah and when the people received the words and turned toward Him.



hope of eternal life in the world to come—the greatest of all the gifts of God. That is how my students and I will find the happiness we seek, now and later.

I encourage you once again to go in search of answers to other questions. President Romney said that Nephi could teach us what is important in the Old Testament. For instance, Nephi teaches that God sends prophets to warn of destruction. He makes plain that it is love for the people and for God that leads him and other prophets to speak so bluntly of sin. He speaks of his own human struggles. Surely those themes are a beginning of the answer to the question you might ask, “What will be of most worth to my students and me in what we study from the Old Testament?”

#### **FOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDYING AND TEACHING THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Now let me give you the lessons I have learned from following the counsel of President Romney.

*First, I would be more eager to be taught.* I would listen to others, as if I believed the Spirit could teach me through their words. I would go to every class I could, expecting to learn from whoever was called to teach me. I would read and ponder the materials I was given. I would read the scriptures. I would plead in prayer to be taught from on high. Now there are practical limits to the time I could spend but no limits on how determined to be taught I could be.

*Second, I would think more often and more carefully about the Savior and His mission.* So much of the Old Testament can be taught as dramatic stories, fascinating customs, and beautiful literary forms. But I will sense a greater happiness, a deeper appreciation when I study or teach of times when prophets spoke of Jehovah and when the people received the words and turned toward Him. I would sense sorrow when the people turned away from the promised Savior of mankind and toward misery. I can make you a promise if you do that: The Spirit will come

and you will sense less of the sordid wickedness of the people, of their abominations, and more of the love of their God, who warned them against iniquity and idolatry, who begged them to come to Him, and who, even in their wickedness and misery, kept reaching after them.

*Third, I would put more effort into coming to know prophets as personally as I could.* I would read in the book of Abraham and the book of Moses not only for doctrines but to know their hearts. I would try to feel what Job felt and what Jeremiah felt. I would work and pray to know the character and the trials of the prophets. I can make you a promise because I have tried it. I have tried to be with Nephi at the end of his ministry. I read those chapters in 2 Nephi over and over. I did it to learn how to teach the Old Testament. But I got more. I came to love him as I had never done before. When I see him in some future time and place, he will see more affection in my eyes, and more admiration.

*And last, I would more carefully invite the Holy Ghost as my companion.* Others wouldn't see much of what I do, since so much would be in private, but they would sense the change in me as the Spirit softened my nature. They would notice it in my being a little more patient, a little more interested in them, a little less likely to argue or belittle, a little more likely to smile. And they would notice not only that I seemed more happy but that they are more happy when they are around me. The Holy Ghost will teach us all things we should do to please God and thus take happiness with us.

I bless you that you might, in this year of studying and teaching the Old Testament, be drawn closer to Him. I bless you that you may have assurance that the Savior loves you and is concerned for you, that in the years ahead you may taste the sweet fruit of knowing that He appreciates your efforts to study and teach from the Old Testament. □

*From an address given to Church Educational System educators at Brigham Young University on 10 August 1999.*



# “For Such a

By the Relief Society General Presidency

We have been given the tools we need to fortify ourselves, our homes, and our families “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

**N**ot long ago a Relief Society instructor asked her class members to share something they were worried about. Some were concerned about their children, others about failing health, and yet others about financial stress or other difficulties.

After a number of sisters had participated in the discussion, a young woman in her early 20s raised her hand and said: “I have lived in this ward all my life, and these women have been my teachers and are now my great friends. When I see all of the challenges they have had in their lives, I can’t help but wonder if I will make it and if I will be able to deal with the challenges that come my way. Am I going to make it?”

Though our lives are different, we can each expect to face challenges and to encounter disappointment and even disillusionment. Where are the answers to our challenges and concerns to be found?

Sister Mary Ellen W. Smoot, Relief Society general president, has

declared that “in this monumental time in history . . . , everyone wants to find answers that will make a difference in their lives. As Relief Society sisters, we can help all of God’s children to see that answers are found where they always have been: in scriptures, in prophets’ teachings, and in obedience to both” (*Sweet Is the Work* [2000], 56).

Indeed, help with our challenges, our worries, our everyday problems, and our concerns can be found in obedience to teachings of prophets ancient and modern. Is it any wonder, then, that Nephi read the writings of Isaiah to his family? “I did liken all scriptures unto us, that it might be for our profit and learning,” he explained (1 Nephi 19:23). Because there is safety in likening teachings of prophets unto ourselves, we, the Relief Society general presidency, desire all sisters in the Church to prayerfully search the scriptures and the counsel of latter-day leaders and to apply those truths in their lives.

LEFT INSET: QUEEN ESTHER, BY MINERVA K. TEICHERT; PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVE BUNDERSON, EXCEPT AS NOTED

# Time as This”

To aid sisters in this gospel study, a new format for the Visiting Teaching Messages found in each nonconference issue of the *Liahona* is being introduced this month (see this issue, page 24). Each message for this year is based on the Relief Society declaration (see Mary

Ellen W. Smoot, “Rejoice, Daughters of Zion,” *Liahona*, January 2000, 111–13). Each message will include relevant scriptures, selected statements from Church leaders, and questions designed to prompt a discussion about the topic. As Relief Society sisters worldwide visit

with one another, they will have the opportunity to consider a topic of importance to every sister and then to discuss it based upon what they

**To aid sisters in their gospel study, a new Visiting Teaching Message format is being introduced this month.**





learn from the scriptures and the teachings of inspired servants of God.

#### **WHY VISITING TEACHING?**

Why do we go visiting teaching? Since people are so busy today, requiring a visit may sometimes seem challenging.

The answer to this question is simple. When we desired “to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people,” we were baptized. Through baptism, we also indicated that we were “willing to bear one another’s burdens” and “to mourn with those that mourn; . . . comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and . . . stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places” (Mosiah 18:8–9).

Visiting teaching is a way to help us care for and about each other. It is a way for us to develop the characteristics of a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a way to make sure that no one in the Lord’s kingdom is alone.

President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) said that Relief Society “is of the first importance. It has not only to deal with the necessities of the poor, the sick and the needy, but a part of its duty—and the larger part, too—is to look after the spiritual welfare and salvation of the mothers and daughters of Zion” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* [1998], 185).

Through visiting teaching, we provide both spiritual and temporal watch-care. Sharing a message as a central part of that watch-care—especially a message grounded in the scriptures and teachings from Church leaders—can bring the Spirit of the Lord into the lives and homes of those we visit.

#### **USING THE VISITING TEACHING MESSAGES**

The four components of the new Visiting Teaching Message format—the basic topic; related scriptures; teachings from prophets, apostles, and other Church leaders; and questions for discussion—can work together to provide a visiting teaching experience that will help us teach and strengthen one another.

Without question the most effective teaching is accomplished when both the teacher and the learner are involved and when they learn from each other (see D&C 50:22). Sisters will be nourished by the good word of God, and our testimonies will be strengthened as we discuss what we feel when we read the scriptures and the words of Church leaders and when we apply these teachings to our everyday lives.

Rather than reading others’ stories and experiences related to the topic, we can, when appropriate, share our own experiences and discuss how these insights apply in our lives. We

can invite those we visit to do the same. We can ask the discussion questions of ourselves and, if appropriate, of those we teach.

#### **POWER IN THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Have you ever felt a particular scripture speak directly to your heart and help answer a current problem or question? Have you ever felt the Spirit as you learned a precious truth from the scriptures or a Church leader? Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said that “the scriptures not only witness the truth about Christ and

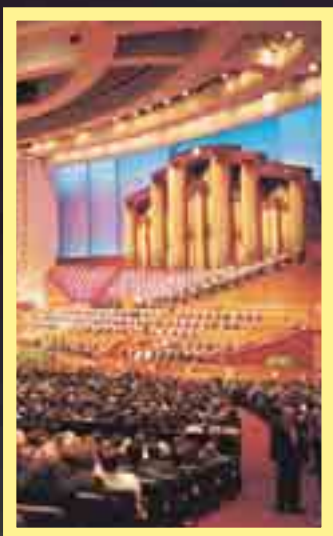
his relevance for mankind, but are, in a sense, like a songbook. There are many melodies that need to be sung and heard. . . . Only through personal involvement with the scriptures can we find the particular scriptural songs to meet our needs. . . . We must—ourselves—open the songbook and hear the music” (*A Time to Choose* [1972], 52).

**Without question the most effective teaching is accomplished when both the teacher and the learner are involved and when they learn from each other.**

As we share our feelings and insights about the counsel found in the Visiting Teaching Messages, we will find ways to apply in our lives the words of latter-day prophets and Church leaders and prophets of old. The scriptures are constant and eternal. The same is true of teachings from our modern prophets, for as the Lord declared, “Whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same” (D&C 1:38).

As sisters study the scriptures and the teachings from Church leaders, we are convinced several things will happen.





First and most importantly, the Spirit will come into the homes of our sisters with even greater power. We can have experiences such as the Savior's disciples had when they asked, "Did not our heart burn within us, . . . while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32).

Second, our understanding of our relationship with Deity will increase, for it is impossible to study holy writ on a regular basis without coming to understand more clearly who we are. We will be reminded that "because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called . . . his daughters" (Mosiah 5:7).

Third, as mothers, grandmothers, wives, sisters, daughters, and aunts are strengthened, families will be strengthened. As we feel the Spirit and come to see that gospel study increases our ability to receive personal revelation, we will better know how to bring up our "children in light and truth" (D&C 93:40).

Fourth, we will find solutions to our own and our families' problems, because as we "feast upon the words of Christ," they will tell us all things that we should do (2 Nephi 32:3). We are not alone. The Lord will guide us if we seek Him diligently.

Fifth, we will feel greater peace and strength and comfort, for the Lord has promised to be on our right hand and on our left, and He has promised that His Spirit will be in

our hearts and His angels will be round about us to bear us up (see D&C 84:88).

Sixth, our testimony of the Savior and our understanding of the power of the Atonement will increase. We will "come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, . . . that by his grace [we] may be perfect in Christ. . . . Then are [we] sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ" (Moroni 10:32–33).

Seventh, sisters will stay on the path that leads back to our Heavenly Father, where we may be raised to "dwell at the right hand of God, in a state of never-ending happiness" (Alma 28:12).

As Relief Society visiting teachers study and testify of gospel truths, the cumulative outcome of this worldwide gospel study will be glorious. Through the word of the Lord, every sister, every family, and ultimately every person will be fortified.

#### **THE CHALLENGE**

This new message format represents a marvelous opportunity to re-adjust our understanding of visiting teaching. May we all use this opportunity of personal contact with the sisters of the Church to build caring relationships and teach the word of the Lord. As He said, "These words are not of men, . . . but of me; . . . for they are given by



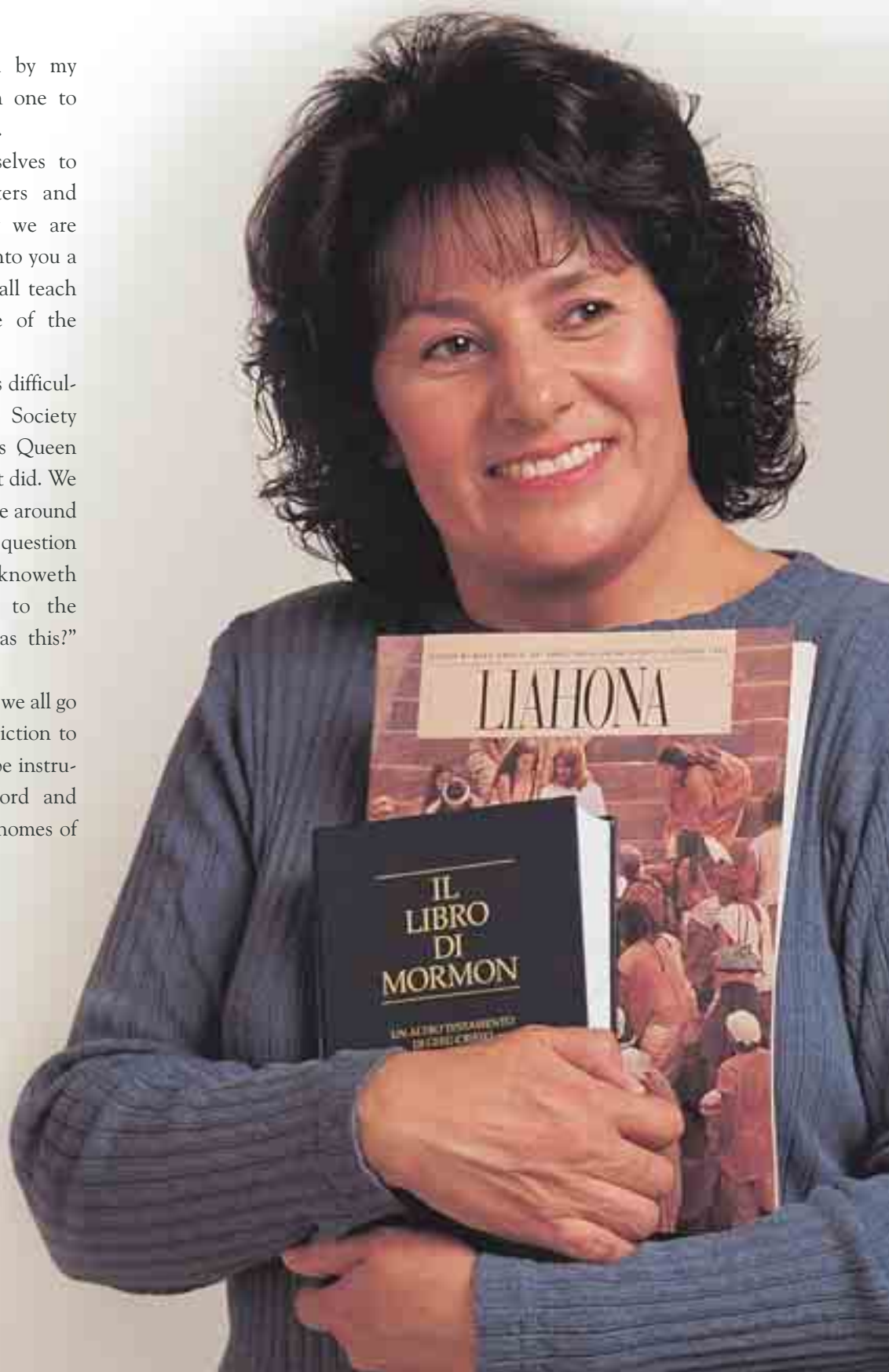
my Spirit unto you, and by my power you can read them one to another” (D&C 18:34–35).

May we recommit ourselves to teach and edify our sisters and rejoice in the opportunity we are blessed with: “And I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom” (D&C 88:77).

How will we endure life’s difficulties, as the young Relief Society sister asked? We will do as Queen Esther in the Old Testament did. We will seek the support of those around us and take comfort in the question asked of Esther: “Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (see Esther 4:13–16).

As visiting teachers, may we all go forward with renewed conviction to care for each other and to be instruments in bringing the word and Spirit of the Lord into the homes of our sisters. □

**As Relief Society visiting teachers study and testify of gospel truths, the cumulative outcome of this worldwide gospel study will be glorious. Through the word of the Lord, every sister, every family, and ultimately every person will be fortified.**



## UNDERSTANDING OUR DIVINE NATURE

**R**ead the following with the sisters you visit, and discuss the questions, the scriptures, and the teachings from our Church leaders. Share your experiences and testimony, and invite those you teach to do the same.

### **PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST, SECOND COUNSELOR IN THE FIRST PRESIDENCY**

“The new declaration of the Relief Society begins, ‘We are beloved spirit daughters of God.’ To be a daughter of God means that you are the offspring of Deity, literal descendants of a Divine Father, inheriting godly attributes and potential. To be a daughter of God also means that you have been born again, changed from a ‘carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness’ [Mosiah 27:25]. . . . Being a daughter of God means that if you seek it, you can find your true identity. You will know who you are” (“What It Means to Be a Daughter of God,” *Liahona*, January 2000, 120, 123).

### **MOSIAH 5:7**

“Because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed

through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters.”

### **D&C 138:38–39**

President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) saw in vision Jesus Christ’s visit to the spirit world while His body lay in the tomb: “Among the great and mighty ones who were assembled in this vast congregation of the righteous were Father Adam, the Ancient of Days and father of all,

“And our glorious Mother Eve, with many of her faithful daughters who had lived through the ages and worshiped the true and living God.”

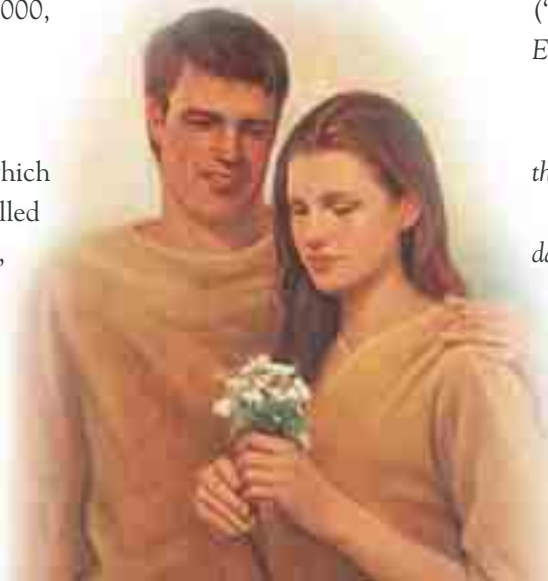
### **PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY**

“Woman is God’s supreme creation. Only after the earth had been formed . . . and after man had been placed on the earth, was woman created; and only then was the work pronounced complete and good.

“Of all the creations of the Almighty, there is none more beautiful, none more inspiring than a lovely daughter of God who walks in virtue with an understanding of why she should do so, who honors and respects her body as a thing sacred and divine, who cultivates her mind and constantly enlarges the horizon of her understanding, who nurtures her spirit with everlasting truth” (“Our Responsibility to Our Young Women,” *Ensign*, September 1988, 11).

“Live up to the great and magnificent inheritance which the Lord God, your Father in Heaven, has provided for you. Rise above the dust of the world. Know that you are daughters of God, children with a divine birthright. Walk in the sun with your heads high, knowing that you are loved and honored, that you are a part of his kingdom, and that there is for you a great work to be done which cannot be left to others” (“Live Up to Your Inheritance,” *Ensign*, November 1983, 84).

- What could cause you to forget that you are a daughter of God?
- How does knowing you are a daughter of God with divine potential affect the decisions you make? How does this knowledge influence the way you relate to God, your family, and others? □





#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# What Can We Do When People Are Talking about Inappropriate Topics at School?

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

## LIAHONA'S ANSWER

Your response to inappropriate talk will not be the same in each instance. You must take into account the people who are speaking inappropriately, your relationship with them, and even what is being said.

There are many kinds of inappropriate speech, including gossip, sarcasm, lying, vulgar stories, and profanity. Sometimes, among friends, all that's needed is a gentle reminder. And sometimes, even when the offender is a total stranger, you may feel compelled to speak up, particularly if he or she is saying something cruel or untrue about someone else or is taking the Lord's name in vain.

## READERS' ANSWERS

In school I often retreated to a place where I could focus more on the things of God and on my academic work. In most cases, the library offered the best place of retreat. Remember, you cannot please God without upsetting Satan.



*Lorenzo Nii Ashie Myers,  
Cape Coast Second Ward,  
Cape Coast Ghana Stake*

I teach 12- to 16-year-olds and have to hear swearing almost daily. My own students respect my opinion most of the time. If a curse slips off their lips, they usually apologize immediately.

I teach them from the beginning of school to respect others. I point out that they should think about what they are actually saying and whether they really mean it or want to say it.



*Hans Roth,  
Wettingen Ward,  
Zürich Switzerland Stake*

My friends used to tell vulgar stories during break. At first I would just leave, but then I decided to be more forthright. I told them there were many good things to think and talk about. I explained that I didn't want my mind filled with unprofitable things.

They all ignored my request to



## “Avoid Evil Talk”

**“Avoid evil talk. Do not take the name of the Lord in vain. . . .**

**It is not a mark of manhood [or womanhood] to carelessly use the name of the Almighty or His Beloved Son in a vain and flippant way, as many are prone to do.**

**“Choose your friends carefully. It is they who will lead you in one direction or the other. Everybody wants friends. Everybody needs friends. No one wishes to be without them. But never lose sight of the fact that it is your friends who will lead you along the paths that you will follow.**

**“While you should be friendly with all people, select with great care those whom you wish to have close to you. They will be your safeguards in situations where you may vacillate between choices, and you in turn may save them.”**

**—President Gordon B. Hinckley (“A Prophet’s Counsel and Prayer for Youth,” *Liahona*, April 2001, 36–37)**

But if the students who are talking in an offensive way are not well known to you and you try to change their behavior by speaking up, they may see you as presumptuous. This approach might damage any chance you have to build a relationship with them—a relationship that might include sharing the gospel. In these circumstances, your best alternative may be to walk away from the conversation and try to set a good example without being judgmental.

If, on the other hand, these students are friends or classmates who know you fairly well, you may be able to express in a tactful way that their conversation is offensive to you. This approach may lead them to ask about your standards.

In most cases, how you express your feelings will greatly influence how they are received. Once when President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) was in the hospital, “he was being wheeled down the hall and into the operating room by a young orderly. The young man accidentally smashed his finger between the metal door frame and the metal frame of the bed on which lay the already-sedated prophet. When this mishap occurred, the young man, in pain, . . . took in vain the name of the Savior. The prophet stirred, opened his eyes, and gently rebuked the orderly, saying, ‘Young man, don’t say that; He’s my best friend!’” (Robert E. Wells, “Be a Friend, a Servant, a Son of the Savior,” *Ensign*, November 1982, 69). How could anyone feel offended by such a rebuke?

Perhaps the most useful counsel is to seek the Spirit’s guidance. Pray about how to deal with inappropriate speech. But be prepared to obey. Sometimes the right answer may not be the easy answer or the answer you desire. □

*You can make the QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS section helpful by answering the question below. Please mail your answer to arrive no later than 1 April 2002. Send it to QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 04/02, Liahona, Floor 24, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA; or e-mail to CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org. Your answer may be typed or clearly written in your own language. For your answer to be considered, it must include your full name, age, home address, and ward and stake (or branch and district). Please include a photograph of yourself; this photograph will not be returned. A representative selection of answers will be published.*

**QUESTION:** *My friends have a hard time understanding why I live the law of chastity. What can I say that will help them understand the Lord’s teachings about this sensitive topic?*

stop—except for my friend Ivette. Whenever others made inappropriate comments, she would say, “Go somewhere else.” Sometimes she went with me. Later she met with the full-time missionaries.



*Suamny Milagros Cedano de Franco,  
Villa Canales Branch,  
Guatemala City Guatemala  
Villa Hermosa Stake*

Once during a study session, I *couldn't* keep my mouth shut. I asked in a friendly way if my classmates could change the subject. When they refused, I left. I had to do this at every break. Later, they did show some consideration and even some interest. I told them what the Church means to me. Now my classmates do not discuss inappropriate subjects in my presence.



*Berendina Jantje Wachtmeester,  
Apeldoorn Ward,  
Apeldoorn Netherlands Stake*

When the Prophet Joseph Smith was in jail and having to listen to the guards talk about horrible things, he spoke with such power those men asked his forgiveness. He had the courage to do what was right.



*Giuliana Oliveira Giustiana,  
Barão Geraldo Ward,  
Campinas Brazil Castelo Stake*

We must reach out with love and talk to our friends about the teachings of the gospel. By doing this, we can help lead their thoughts away from inappropriate things.



*Pouono Lameko,  
Fasitoo Uta Ward,  
Upolu Samoa Faleasi'u Stake*

Our years in school offer great opportunities to let our light of example shine (see Matthew 5:16). When our friends and classmates speak in a vulgar manner, we can gently redirect the conversation. Some may mock our beliefs, but others may be searching for an example to follow.

*Federico Malara,  
Alessandria Branch,  
Vercelli Italy District*

We can ask our classmates to change the subject. If they don't, we can walk away and find people who want to talk about edifying things. It is not as important for us to have a lot of friends at school as it is to keep gospel standards.



*Caterina Trujillo,  
Coconut Creek Ward,  
Pompano Beach Florida Stake*

If people talk about improper things, I ask myself what Jesus Christ would have me do. Then I bear my testimony to them about the blessings

of living the gospel. I know we are blessed when we are not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



*Sery Jean Claude Appolinaire,  
Toit Rouge Ward,  
Abidjan Ivory Coast Stake*

High school was hard because of the language and behavior of my classmates. I would often go out into the hall so I wouldn't have to hear inappropriate conversations. I fasted and asked Heavenly Father to touch their hearts so my classmates would respect me. And eventually that is what happened. When somebody would talk about inappropriate things, my friends would say, “Hey, Jezabel's here.” They began to respect my standards, and I was able to give a copy of the Book of Mormon to two of them.




*Jezabel Dana Álvarez,  
Mayoraz Ward,  
Santa Fe Argentina  
North Stake*

The prophet has counseled us not to have a “holier-than-thou” attitude toward those of other faiths. In most discussions there are positive expressions we can build on to share gospel truth.



*Kenny Richard Ojulari,  
Ademulegun Branch,  
Nigeria Lagos Mission □*

# More Than



I sat in the living room one Saturday with my scriptures opened to section 20 in the Doctrine and Covenants. As I read slowly through the sacrament prayers in verses 77 and 79, I underlined words that could be difficult to pronounce—*sanctify*, *remembrance*, *commandments*.

I was one of the older priests in the ward, and giving these prayers had become almost second nature for me. I always tried to read the words slowly and clearly to help maintain a reverent spirit during the sacrament. But when our priests quorum adviser asked me to help Matt, our newest quorum member, prepare to bless the sacrament for the first time, I wondered if he would be able to make it through the prayer.

I had known Matt ever since my family moved next door to him when I was nine years old. Matt, who has Down syndrome, was about my age, and we became friends. Through the years, as we got older, I was excited to see Matt receive the Aaronic Priesthood, play on Church basketball teams, and participate in Scouting and other

# Words

By Peter B. Gardner

activities. But because Matt had difficulty pronouncing words, I wondered if he would be able to perform this priesthood responsibility.

When Matt arrived at my house to practice the prayers with me, he had a wide smile on his face.

“Peter, guess what,” he said enthusiastically. “My brother is coming home next week. I’m excited.”

“That’s great, Matt,” I said, realizing that his first experience blessing the sacrament would be in the same meeting as his brother’s mission report. All of his relatives would be there. I knew this would be an important day for Matt and his family, and I wanted everything to go well.

As we struggled through the words of the prayers, I was impressed with Matt’s determination to learn how to perform this priesthood duty. We read the prayers several times, concentrating on the words I had underlined. When we finished, Matt had made considerable improvement and was able to read through both prayers. Still, I wondered if those who did not know him well would be able to understand the words.

A week later, as we sat together at the sacrament table, I had an uneasy feeling in my stomach. Members of Matt’s immediate and extended family looked up at him from their seats near the front of the chapel. Their eyes were excited, encouraging. Matt beamed back at them and didn’t seem nearly as nervous as I felt. We had practiced the prayers again the day before, and I had explained the process of breaking the bread and handing the trays to the deacons. He had seemed to understand everything, but I was concerned I might have left something out or he might not remember all the details.

When it came time for the sacrament hymn, we stood to break the bread. Matt solemnly broke it into even pieces and spread them across the tray. He kept an eye on me to know when to sit.

“It’s time to kneel now,” I whispered to Matt when the hymn was finished. We knelt, and then Matt carefully and deliberately read each word of the blessing on the bread. Despite our best efforts, I realized as he spoke that most in the congregation would not understand his words. And yet, as Matt read the prayer, I felt the Spirit come over me, witnessing of the importance of this sacred ordinance. When Matt finished, we stood and handed the trays to the deacons to pass to the congregation.

After we sat down, I looked out over the audience—full of Matt’s family and ward friends. I saw tears in the eyes of many as they partook of the sacrament that Sunday. I realized that although the words may not have been clear to everyone, all had felt the Spirit and had been moved by Matt’s desire to serve.

Matt, now an elder, continues to find ways to serve others. He directs the music and chooses someone to offer the prayer in priesthood meeting opening exercises, he has served as an assistant Scoutmaster and a stake missionary, and he attends the temple regularly.

Whenever I open my scriptures to Doctrine and Covenants 20, I am reminded of Matt’s determination to serve, despite his disability. Matt’s example of service to the Savior has helped me and many others to do as the sacrament prayers remind us—and “always remember him” (D&C 20:77). □

*Peter B. Gardner is a member of the Lakeview First Ward, Orem Utah Lakeview Stake.*

# “YOU WILL BE TRIUMPHANT”



Referring to the story of David and Goliath, President Gordon B. Hinckley warns that each of us will face Goliaths in life. These giants may come in the form of the world’s growing evils, or they may be purely personal challenges and difficulties. Like David, however, we are not alone in facing the trials of mortality. God is merciful, and if we have faith in Him, as David did, He will shower us with His blessings. ♡ Whatever we are trying to

conquer, we can—as the following stories illustrate—ask for the Lord’s help. “You are a child of God,” President Hinckley writes. “You have His power within you to sustain you. You have the right to call upon God to protect you. . . . Stand your ground and hold your place, and you will be triumphant. As the years pass, you will look back with satisfaction upon the battles you have won in your individual lives” (see this issue, page 5).

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## With or without Piranhas

By Ramiro Ruiz Ceja

While serving in the Bolivia Cochabamba Mission, my companion and I were assigned to labor in Villamontes (now part of the Bolivia Santa Cruz Mission). This remote village lies in the south-eastern corner of Bolivia. The closest town is 90 kilometers away. Because Villamontes did not have a baptismal font, we performed baptisms in the nearby Pilcomayo River.

Our labors were meeting with

some success, and we were having quite a few baptisms in the river. It seemed a good location until we began to hear rumors about piranhas. Standing waist-deep in water infested with carnivorous fish did not sound like something we wanted to do, but we didn’t have another place to perform these important ordinances. We ignored the rumors until a Church member actually caught one of the fish and showed it to us. The piranha’s

sharp teeth alarmed us. Still, the Lord’s work must go forward, and we trusted in Him to protect us.

We needed His protection at our next baptism because seasonal rains had caused the river to rise to treacherous levels, clogging it with

**The Lord’s work must go forward, and we trusted in Him to protect us as we performed baptisms in the Pilcomayo River.**





logs, sticks, and other debris. We were convinced we had to find another place to baptize.

After days of looking, we finally decided to perform a baptism in a member's cistern—a small water tank. The cistern was so small we wondered if two people would fit into it. But both the convert and the priesthood holder climbed in, and the convert was baptized by immersion.

We had another baptism the following week, and the cistern was no longer available. So we performed the baptism in a small cement tub. Again both the convert and the priesthood holder stepped into the tiny makeshift font. The boy being baptized had to kneel down to be immersed.

After that baptism, we started thinking about where we could have future baptisms. The problem was urgent because three more people were scheduled for baptism the following Sunday. Fortunately, a district conference was going to be held in Yacuiba, and the meetinghouse there had a baptismal font. We traveled there for the baptismal service.

At the service, our mission president told us that because of the growth of the Church in Villamontes, that small village would receive a baptismal font. We were overjoyed.

Our experiences in Villamontes taught us that when we work hard, the Lord always provides a way for us

to accomplish what He has asked. The Lord's work will always move forward, with or without piranhas.

*Ramiro Ruiz Ceja is a member of the College 44th Ward, Ricks College Third Stake.*

## Something I Had to Do

By **Thaiz Martins Leal**

**O**n an evening in November 1999, when our family home evening was finished and we were going to bed, my mother said, "Don't forget that next Sunday is fast Sunday, OK?"

I asked her if we were going to fast as a family for a specific purpose.

"I don't know yet," she replied.

Suddenly, I felt impressed to fast and pray to prepare to receive my patriarchal blessing.

At 10:00 P.M. I had not been able to go to sleep, so I went to my parents' room. I felt there was something I had to do that night. My mother told me to read for a while and she would turn out my light later. I went back to my room, picked up a school textbook, and started to read. I found some information I needed for a school assignment that was due the next day, information I had not found in my other books.

When I finished the assignment, it was about 11:00 P.M. I placed the book and the assignment on the desk

and went to bed. But even though my body and mind were tired, my spirit was uneasy. I lifted my head a little and noticed that the very wrinkled first page of a First Presidency Message was sticking out from a pile of books. I retrieved the November 1995 *A Liahona* (Portuguese) and started reading "Serving the Lord and Resisting the Devil" by President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. The last section of the message was entitled "Fasting and Prayer."

After finishing the article, I promised myself I would pray and fast about my patriarchal blessing. Then I placed the magazine on the desk and again tried to sleep—but to no avail. So I picked up *A Liahona* again and turned the page. "My Miracle" was the title of the very next article. I was touched when I realized this article was a young woman's experience of receiving her patriarchal blessing. She said it is necessary to pray and fast in order to prepare ourselves spiritually for a patriarchal blessing.

I had spoken to my bishop before about receiving my blessing, and he felt I should wait. After I read the young woman's message, I understood the reason for his reply. I had not fasted or even prayed about this matter. After finishing the article, I knelt and prayed fervently to my Heavenly Father. For the first time in

my life, I felt the presence of the Holy Ghost. After this prayer, I put the magazine away and was able to sleep.

I prayed and waited anxiously all week. On Sunday I fasted, and I went to see the bishop. After hearing about my experience, he said, "I think you're ready for your patriarchal blessing." It made me very happy to know that the Lord wanted me to learn about fasting and prayer—and to prepare spiritually for my blessing.

I know the Lord loves us. He gives us patriarchal blessings to guide us.

*Thaiz Martins Leal is a member of the Portão Ward, Curitiba Brazil Portão Stake.*

## He Helped Us Start Over Again

By Gemma Omandac Taying

My family and I were baptized in General Santos, Philippines, on 5 February 1995. At that time I was a freshman in high school, and I had a good life. My parents provided me with many nice things, and I was studying in a private school. My father worked at a pineapple plantation, and my mother managed our chain-saw business.

There were seven in our family. Even though we lived far from the meetinghouse, we were always there for Sunday services and other activities.

One day my father took a day off work to help my mother with her



**A coconut tree our chain-saw operator was cutting fell on an expensive jeep. The owner was angry and demanded complete payment, but we didn't have that much money.**

job; she had to go to school with my brother and sister and me to pay our tuition. On that day somebody hired our chain-saw operator to cut down some coconut trees. My father had to supervise the job.

While we were at school, one of the coconut trees that was being cut fell on a very expensive jeep. My mother went quickly to the place where it had happened. The owner of the jeep was very angry and demanded complete payment for the ruined jeep. My mother felt as though the whole world had fallen on her. We didn't have that much money. My

father requested an early retirement, but his retirement benefits were not enough to cover the damages. The chain-saw operator was arrested. Our chain saws were taken away—as were our house, land, and belongings. In a moment, everything we owned was gone. My father decided to go away, leaving our family to face the consequences alone.

It was a very hard time for all of us, but we didn't lose our faith and hope. The day my mother had to go to court, we fasted and prayed. Fasting and prayer brought her comfort.

We had nothing left, not even a roof over our heads, but the Lord helped us. Indeed, He helped us through our bishop, who took us to his home to live with his family. Later another member offered his property for us to stay on until we could recover.

When the new school year was about to begin, I prayed that my brother, sister, and I could study again. Through prayer, faith, and hope, we were able to go back to the school where we had enrolled before, even though we did not have any money. I felt the love of our Heavenly Father then more than at any other time in my life.

In a difficult situation, Heavenly Father will help us if we stay faithful, prayerful, and obedient. He helped my family start all over again and kept us going. I know that if we continue to obey the commandments, we will continue to be blessed.

*Gemma Omandac Taying is a member of the Polomolok Ward, General Santos Philippines Stake.*

## “When I Am Weak, Then Am I Strong”

**By Garry Prudencio Fabros**

**M**y physical disability has made my life difficult and sometimes discouraging. My early teen years were especially trying because I encountered some unpleasant prejudices. In May 1989, when I was 13 years old, a high school in our town rejected my application simply because of my physical handicap, which confines me to a wheelchair. Then, in my first year of secondary school, one of my teachers gave me

a disappointing grade. I felt it was because of my physical disability.

At the time I didn't know how to accept these kinds of unpleasant events in my life, nor did I know how to thank Heavenly Father for the lessons they teach me. But through prayer and scripture study, I have discovered that I can be grateful even with these afflictions and, at the same time, be good to those people who reject and discourage me.

As I read the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7–10, I found that he compared his own adversity to “the messenger of Satan to buffet” him. He prayed that the Lord would remove his affliction, but instead he was told, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Over the years, I have felt my Savior's encouragement; it has made me realize His great sufficiency over my physical weakness.

On 27 March 1993 I graduated from high school with an honorable mention. Our mayor offered me a job at the city hall. While working, I was able to finish my career course in journalism.

Dealing with my physical disability and afflictions will never be easy. But I know that through my faith and determination and the Lord's inspiration I may be able to say, like the Apostle Paul, “When

I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

*Garry Prudencio Fabros is a member of the Mandaluyong First Ward, Makati Philippines Stake.*

## I Asked God to Touch My Mother's Heart

**By Adilson José Horta**

**O**ne day in October 1992 as I was coming home from my school in Cape Verde, I noticed two young men dressed in white shirts and ties. I decided to speak to them. As we talked, I could feel great love emanating from them. They told me their names and the name of their church: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Then they invited me to become acquainted with their families by showing me photographs. They also expressed an interest in coming to my house and meeting my family.

When they came to my house, my mother was courteous, but she was not interested in their message. Still, I liked the discussions immensely; each one seemed better than the last. The testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the news of the restored gospel were the most marvelous messages I had ever heard. They truly changed my heart. Eventually, the missionaries mentioned baptism. My mother was not pleased with my

desire to join the Church and would not permit me to be baptized.

I continued to investigate the Church and to attend every Church meeting and activity. But I was also obedient to my mother. Many times the elders explained to her the importance of my being baptized, but she would not change her mind.

One day in sacrament meeting, a sister missionary spoke on the subject of prayer. Her words touched my heart deeply, and later at home I meditated on what she had said. Prompted by the Holy Ghost, I decided to pray. I went up on the porch of our house and prayed out loud, opening my heart to my Father in Heaven. I fervently told Him of my desire to join His Church and asked Him to touch

my mother's heart so she would let me be baptized.

It was a prayer I will never forget. Then I went into the house and opened the subject of baptism with my mother. Without a single objection, she responded, "If this is your desire, you may be baptized." My heart was filled with happiness and praise to God. I knew without a doubt He had heard and answered my prayer.

I was baptized on 13 February 1993 on the island of São Tiago, Cape Verde. A little over a year later, after many more fervent prayers, I

**After praying, I went into the house and opened the subject of baptism with my mother.**

baptized two members of my family, my Aunt Edna and my Aunt Ana. In June 1994 I received one of the greatest blessings of my life when I baptized my mother.

Our Father in Heaven is loving and kind. And He always answers our prayers in the way He knows is best for us. □

*Adilson José Horta is a member of the Praia First Branch, Praia Cape Verde District.*





# Harold B. Lee

## *Master Teacher*

By Breck England

From the example of the eleventh President of the Church, we learn to turn to the Lord and the scriptures for answers.

In April 1970 President Harold B. Lee watched with the rest of the world as *Apollo 13*, crippled by an accidental explosion, attempted to return from space carrying three astronauts. “The whole world, it seemed, prayed for one significant result: the safe return to earth of three brave men,” President Lee observed, and then he drew an important gospel lesson. “The safety of those three now depended . . . upon the implicit obedience . . . to every instruction from the technicians . . . or the [spacecraft] could have missed the earth by thousands of miles.”

A master teacher, President Lee drew a parallel between this dramatic event and the importance of listening to and obeying our Heavenly Father in order to return to His presence. President Lee said, “Only if you are willing to listen and obey, as did the astronauts on [*Apollo 13*], can you and all your households be guided to ultimate safety and security in the Lord’s own way.”<sup>1</sup> This emphasis on following the strait and narrow path as a means to eternal life was one of President Lee’s significant themes; guiding others along that path was his life’s work.

As the eleventh President of the Church, President Lee served for only 17 months—from July 1972 to December 1973—but his influence extended far beyond that short span. He supervised the initial Church general welfare program in the 1930s, served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for 31 years, and directed a massive correlation effort in the 1960s designed to bring under the priesthood all Church departments, auxiliaries,

and agencies. The intent of the correlation effort was to strengthen and support the family and the home in working toward the divine goal of eternal life. Through it all, he became renowned as a student of the scriptures and a teacher of the gospel.

The teachings of Harold B. Lee are the Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society curriculum for the year 2002, the third in the series *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*.

### **LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT**

Harold Bingham Lee was born on 28 March 1899 in Clifton, Idaho, the son of Samuel Marion and Louisa Emeline Bingham Lee. Clifton was a farming community with one store and a dirt road in a valley blessed with clean air and pure water. Perhaps the peace of this land helped the young boy attune his ear to the still, small voice that would guide him throughout his life. He tended the family garden and orchard, milked cows, and learned to play the piano.<sup>2</sup>

Because his father was a bishop, young Harold witnessed Church welfare at work. “Then as now, the bishop was responsible for the care of those in need,” wrote President Gordon B. Hinckley, a longtime friend. “Bishop Lee ran his own storehouse, the commodities coming from his own pantry. In the night, the family would see him take a sack of flour, they knew not where, because confidences concerning those in trouble were to be strictly observed.”<sup>3</sup>



Young Harold learned what it meant to listen to the voice of the Lord from an experience he had with his father. “I think maybe I was around ten or eleven years of age . . . , trying to spend the day busying myself until my father was ready to go home. Over the fence from our place were some tumbledown sheds that would attract a curious boy, and I was adventurous. I started to climb through the fence, and I heard a voice . . . calling me by name and saying, ‘Don’t go over there!’ I turned to look at my father to see if he were talking to me, but he was way up at the other end of the field. There was no person in sight. I realized then, as a child, that there were persons beyond my sight, for I had definitely heard a voice. Since then, when I hear or read stories of the Prophet Joseph Smith, I too have known what it means to hear a voice.”<sup>4</sup>



**Left: Young Harold learns to hear and obey the Lord’s voice. Above: Harold B. Lee at about age 5 (left) and in his 30s (right), while serving as Salt Lake City commissioner.**

This experience with the watch-care of the Holy Spirit impressed Harold that safe passage to Heavenly Father’s kingdom depends on our willingness to hear and obey that voice. “I have learned something of what the Spirit has taught,” he later reflected, “and I know now that . . . security can come to Israel only when they keep the commandments, when they live so that they can enjoy the companionship, the direction, the comfort, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit of the Lord.”<sup>5</sup>

Harold went to high school at the Oneida Academy operated by the Church in Preston, Idaho, 24 kilometers from Clifton. Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) from nearby Whitney, who became the thirteenth President of the Church, was a classmate. Here Harold played the trombone in the school band. After graduation, he studied at the Albion State Normal School in Albion, Idaho, to become a schoolteacher, began teaching at age 17, and at 18 became principal of the district school in Oxford, Idaho. At 21 he served in the Western States Mission, where he presided over the Denver Conference. While laboring there, he met Fern Lucinda Tanner, a missionary from Salt Lake City who “was regarded by her associates as bright, beautiful, and as a scripturalist of unusual ability.”<sup>6</sup> Upon his return from his mission, he courted her, eventually selling his trombone to buy her an engagement ring. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on 14 November 1923. Soon two daughters were born, Maurine and Helen.





**Above left:** The Lee family in 1941, when Harold B. Lee was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (from left): Sister Fern Tanner Lee, daughters Helen and Maurine, and Elder Lee. **Above right:** Harold B. Lee with his second wife, Freda Joan Jensen Lee.

The family made their home in Salt Lake City, where Brother Lee taught school and worked odd jobs. “I sold Nash automobiles one summer,” he recalled, “and later worked for the grocery department of ZCMI, and for the Bennett Gas and Oil Company.”<sup>7</sup> Finally he became a salesman for the Foundation Press, a publisher of inspirational books. He resigned from school teaching to manage sales throughout the western United States.

In the early 1930s, Harold B. Lee served as a Salt Lake City commissioner. He gained a reputation as an efficient and economical administrator, cutting expenditures while improving public services his first year in office.<sup>8</sup>

#### **WORKING FOR THE SAINTS**

Called as president of the Pioneer Stake in Salt Lake City at the age of 31, President Lee became the youngest stake president at that time. It was 1930. A worldwide economic depression had begun, and more than 4,800 of the 7,300 members of the Pioneer Stake required assistance. President Lee spent long hours seeking the Lord’s help to know what to do. Harkening to the voice of inspiration, he set up a stake storehouse modeled after his father’s ward storehouse in Clifton. He did more, providing

the unemployed with work projects such as caring for a large stake garden and building a stake gymnasium.<sup>9</sup>

Impressed with President Lee’s leadership and faced with economic desperation throughout the Church, the First Presidency asked him one morning in 1935 to lead a new welfare movement to, as he recalled, “help to put the Church in a position where it could take care of its own needy.”

He immediately turned to the Lord for direction. “After that morning I rode in my car . . . up to the head of City Creek Canyon into what was then called Rotary Park; and there, all by myself, I offered one of the most humble prayers of my life. . . .

“As I kneeled down, my petition was, ‘What kind of an organization should be set up in order to accomplish what the Presidency has assigned?’ And there came to me on that glorious morning one of the most heavenly realizations of the power of the priesthood of God. It was as though something were saying to me, ‘There is no new organization necessary to take care of the needs of this people. All that is necessary is to put the priesthood of God to work. There is nothing else that you need as a substitute.’”<sup>10</sup>

Soon stake farms were established, factories and



storehouses built, and needy Church members put to work under the direction of the priesthood—all a direct result of the understanding communicated through the Spirit to Harold B. Lee.

#### A WITNESS FOR CHRIST

On 6 April 1941, after six years leading the welfare program, Harold B. Lee was called as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Speaking of the “deep gospel sermons” he gave as an Apostle, his daughter Helen recalls that “he was not flowery; he was direct.

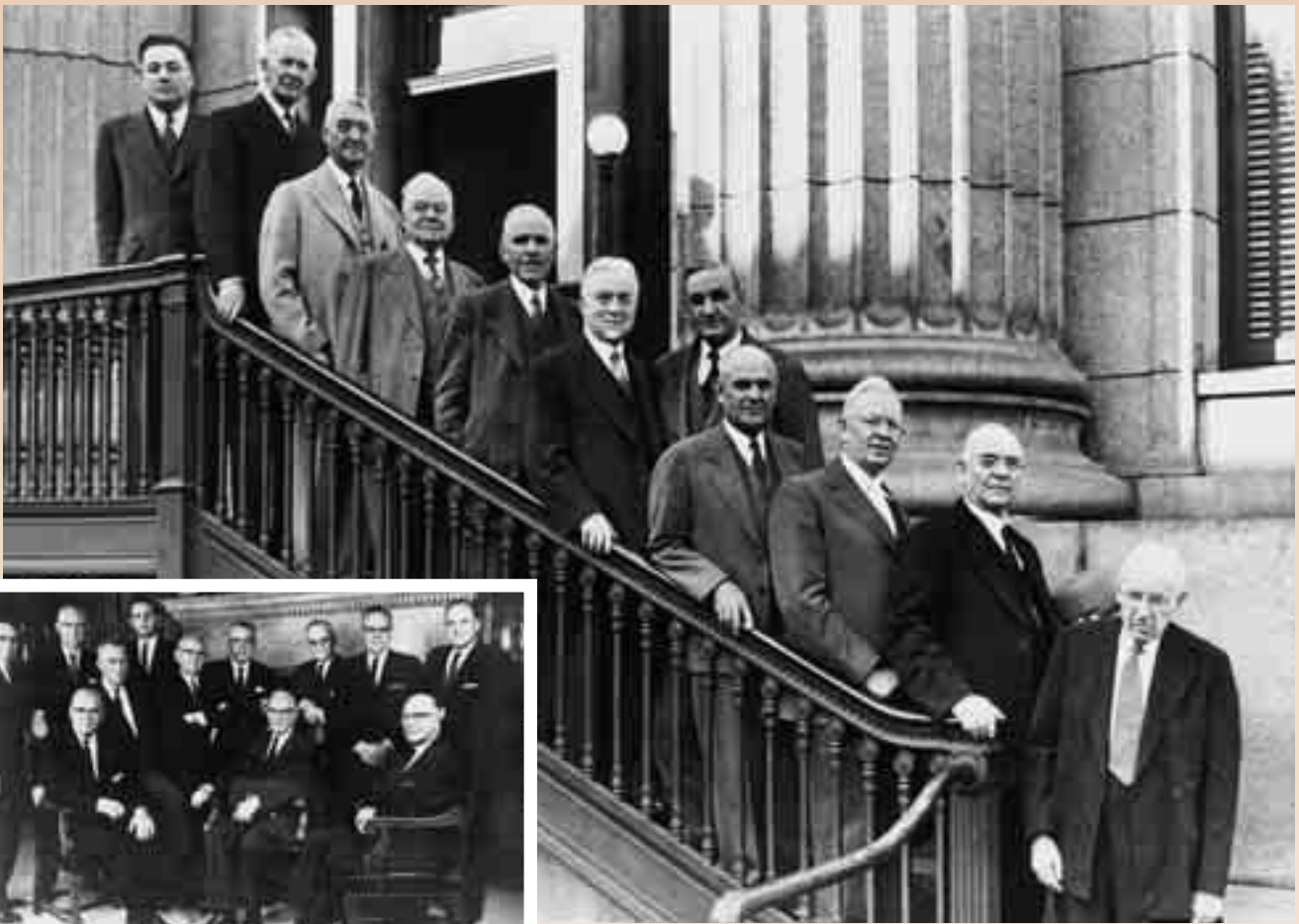
**Top: Bishops’ Storehouse of the Pioneer and Salt Lake Stakes in about 1933. Harold B. Lee served as president of the Pioneer Stake. Inset: Elder Lee (left) tours Beehive Clothing Mills with Church President George Albert Smith; Elder Marion G. Romney, an Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; and others in 1949. Below: Harold B. Lee set up a stake storehouse modeled after his father’s ward storehouse.**

Obedience and the scriptures were hallmarks. He had amazing transparency; he allowed us to look into his heart, to know what his feelings were. He shared himself. His sermons were a beautiful combination of scriptures and stories to illustrate his text. He never talked about the insignificant.”<sup>11</sup>

In the scriptures he found the resources he needed to guide others. “All that we teach in this Church,” he taught, “ought to be couched in the scriptures. . . . We ought to choose our texts from the scriptures. If we want to measure truth, we should measure it by the four standard works, regardless of who writes it.”<sup>12</sup>

For years as an Apostle, Elder Lee met with newly called missionaries in the upper room of the Salt Lake Temple to answer their questions. Thousands recall these meetings and his reliance on





the scriptures. At the end of these sessions, he would say, “I want you to notice that all the answers I have given have been given from out of the scriptures. I wouldn’t dare attempt to make an answer to your questions anywhere else but from the scriptures or from the statements of a President of the Church.”<sup>13</sup>

#### LEADING THE FAMILY

At home Harold B. Lee lived by the advice he became known for in later years: “*The most important of the Lord’s work you will ever do will be within the walls of your own homes.*”<sup>14</sup> When his daughters asked him gospel questions, he responded, “Get out your scriptures, girls, and let’s see what the Lord says about it.” He would then teach them directly from the scriptures. Daughter Helen Lee Goates remembers: “I came to understand later that he was . . . giving us a wonderful

**Top: Members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 1942: Harold B. Lee, Sylvester Q. Cannon, Albert E. Bowen, Charles A. Callis, Joseph F. Merrill, John A. Widtsoe, Richard R. Lyman, Steven L Richards, Joseph Fielding Smith, George F. Richards, and Rudger Clawson. Missing: George Albert Smith. Inset: In 1965 (from left): Gordon B. Hinckley, Delbert L. Stapley, Ezra Taft Benson, Mark E. Petersen, Thomas S. Monson, Spencer W. Kimball, Harold B. Lee, Joseph Fielding Smith, Marion G. Romney, Richard L. Evans, LeGrand Richards, and Howard W. Hunter.**

opportunity to learn important lessons. In so doing, he taught us that the scriptures were where we turn first for our answers.”<sup>15</sup>

Of family prayers Helen remembers, “Our nightly ritual would begin with the four of us kneeling together

in prayer in the living room, and then Daddy would take one of us in each of his arms and carry us to our bed so we wouldn't have to walk across the cold floor."<sup>16</sup>

To a great extent the serenity of the Lee home was the result of Fern Tanner Lee's dedication. Daughter Helen recalls: "Father was active, a decision maker. Mother felt she should maintain peace. He was very public, so she made an oasis from all that at home. Here he found peace and rest from cares. There was a spirit of love and quietness largely due to Mother's influence. She was very spiritual and had a sense of genteel living, warmth, love, and tranquility." But there was plenty of fun too. "Father memorized piano marches. We children marched around the living room while he played 'Midnight Fire Alarm,' and we'd watch the piano shake as he played with great gusto."<sup>17</sup>

### **STRENGTHENING THE PRIESTHOOD**

In the 1960s President David O. McKay directed Elder Lee to conduct a great "correlation" of Church programs around the simple principles of obedience to God and the sacredness of home and family. The correlation effort touched every member and prepared the Church for both explosive worldwide growth and the increasing erosion of family life—two of the greatest challenges facing the Church in our times. "Said in a very generalized way," Elder Lee observed, "correlation means . . . to place the priesthood of God where the Lord said it was to be—as the center and core of the Church and kingdom of God—and to see that the Latter-day Saint homes also have their place in the divine plan of saving souls."<sup>18</sup>

The correlation program led by Elder Lee produced a new priesthood home teaching program, new scripture-centered curriculum, closer supervision of youth programs by the priesthood, and new Church magazines under the direction of general priesthood authorities.



**President Lee, First Counselor in the First Presidency, at general conference with Church President Joseph Fielding Smith (center) and President N. Eldon Tanner, Second Counselor in the First Presidency (left).**

The priesthood quorums and auxiliaries of the Church were directed to focus on strengthening the individuals and families of the Church. In 1965 homes were fortified by a revitalized family home evening program, which was first established in 1915.

### **LEARNING FROM TRIALS**

Elder Lee accomplished this monumental labor at a time of great personal sorrow. His own beloved family was struck by death when his wife was taken in September 1962. A few years later, while he was on assignment in the Pacific, his daughter Maurine died suddenly at the age of 40. In his general conference address after the death of his daughter, he said: "As I advance in years, I begin to understand in some small measure how the Master must have felt [in Gethsemane]. In the loneliness of a distant hotel room 2,500 miles [4,000 kilometers] away, you, too, may one day cry out from the depths of your soul . . . : 'O dear God, don't let her die! I need her; her family needs her.'" But it was not to be, and Elder Lee reflected, "God grant that you and I may learn obedience to God's will, if necessary by the things which we suffer."<sup>19</sup>

These trials brought Elder Harold B. Lee closer to the Lord. "Don't be afraid of the testing and trials of life," he taught at an area conference in Munich, Germany, years later. "Sometimes when you are going through the most severe tests, you will be nearer to God than you have any idea."<sup>20</sup> On 17 June 1963 Elder Lee married Freda Joan Jensen.



**The First Presidency in 1972: President N. Eldon Tanner, First Counselor; President Harold B. Lee; and President Marion G. Romney, Second Counselor.**

#### **TESTIFYING AS CHURCH PRESIDENT**

In 1970 Elder Harold B. Lee became First Counselor to President Joseph Fielding Smith, and on 7 July 1972 he became President of the Church. When asked what would be his message to the Church as President, he answered characteristically: “Keep the commandments of God, for therein lies the safety of the Church and the safety of the individual. . . . There could be nothing that I could say that would be a more powerful or important message today.”<sup>21</sup>

In his correlation work and then as President of the Church, he taught that every effort put forth in the Church must help bring to pass the “eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). We must “keep our eyes ever fixed upon

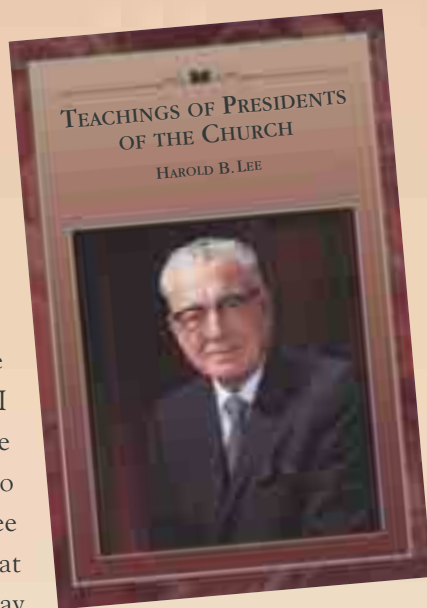
that goal,” he said.<sup>22</sup> To this end he gave tremendous emphasis to priesthood missionary service worldwide. “The Gospel of Jesus Christ was not intended just for a continent or a segment of the earth,” he said. “The gospel is intended for every soul that walks the earth[;] they are all the children of God.”<sup>23</sup>

President Lee took seriously and personally the goal to bring the light of the gospel to all. Marjorie Pay Hinckley, wife of President Gordon B. Hinckley, remembers an occasion when she and her husband were with President and Sister Lee in England: “It had been a full day: two sessions of a conference and a fireside at night. When we got back to the hotel about 9:30, we were bone-weary and hungry. We went into the hotel

dining room to get a little something to eat. The day was over—we could relax. At least, that is what I thought. The next thing I knew, the waitress had her pencil poised to write down our order. President Lee looked up at her and said, ‘What church do you belong to?’ The day was not over for him. He had embarked on a proselyting exercise. Before the meal was over he had learned all about this young woman. She had lost her husband and was lonely and afraid. She had promised to see the missionaries and learn more. It was a beautiful thing to see the president of the Church practice what he had been preaching all that day.”<sup>24</sup>

As President of the Church, President Lee took his message and testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ across the continents, traveling thousands of kilometers in the British Isles, Europe, México, and the Middle East. He presided over the first area conferences in México City and Munich, Germany. He visited Jerusalem and delighted in walking in the footsteps of the Savior. “In 1972 we walked together in the Holy Land . . .,” recalled President Hinckley. “On that sacred occasion, when moonlight filtered through the leaves of the olive trees [at the Garden Tomb meeting], he whom we sustained as prophet spoke in humble, quiet testimony. We felt something of heaven and I saw that night President Harold B. Lee as a man of true humility, with the faith of a child, standing in the stature of a prophet who bore witness of the living reality of the Lord Jesus Christ.”<sup>25</sup>

After only 538 days as President of the Church, President Lee died from sudden heart failure at age 74. His passing stunned the Latter-day Saints, who had anticipated that he would enjoy a long administration. Many, like President Boyd K. Packer, now Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, struggled with the loss of



**In 2002 Melchizedek Priesthood brethren and Relief Society sisters will study the teachings of President Harold B. Lee.**

President Lee: “I can confess sleepless nights as I have prayed and wondered and pondered over ‘why?’ Why, I thought, when we needed President Lee the most, he who was familiar and conversant as no man ever had been with the programs of the Church, was he taken from us? But the peace was there immediately. There is no question, the Lord is in charge.”<sup>26</sup>

President Lee’s life was one constantly marked by seeking and heeding the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. As the Lord’s prophet, he had pleaded with the Saints and all others to do the same—to follow the instructions of the Lord as the astronauts on the crippled *Apollo 13* followed the instructions of their flight controllers.

All Latter-day Saint families will be blessed as they ponder the principles and doctrines of the gospel as presented in the new personal study guide *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee*. Using the scriptures as his standard, this prophet of God taught with power of “the wondrously conceived plan upon obedience to which the salvation of every soul depends.”<sup>27</sup> □

*Breck England is a member of the Canyon Park Ward, Bountiful Utah Central Stake.*

#### NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee* (2000), 2.
2. See L. Brent Goates, *Harold B. Lee: Prophet and Seer* (1985), 37, 46.
3. As quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, xiv.
4. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 47.
5. In Conference Report, April 1943, 129.
6. Gordon B. Hinckley, as quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, xv.
7. As quoted in Goates, *Harold B. Lee*, 86.
8. See Goates, *Harold B. Lee*, 106–14.



9. See Goates, *Harold B. Lee*, 94, 97–102.
10. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 165–66.
11. Interview with Helen Lee Goates, Salt Lake City, Utah, 9 December 1998.
12. “Using the Scriptures in Our Church Assignments,” *Improvement Era*, January 1969, 13.
13. *The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, edited by Clyde J. Williams (1996), 153–54.
14. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 134.
15. As quoted in Goates, *Harold B. Lee*, 122.
16. As quoted in Goates, *Harold B. Lee*, 117.
17. Interview with Helen Lee Goates.
18. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 149.
19. In Conference Report, October 1965, 130–31.
20. In Conference Report, Munich Germany Area Conference, 1973, 114.
21. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 35.
22. *The Teachings of Harold B. Lee*, 564.
23. As quoted in J. M. Heslop, “President Harold B. Lee: Directs Church; Led by the Spirit,” *Church News*, 15 July 1972, 4.
24. As quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 153.
25. As quoted in Goates, *Harold B. Lee*, 601.
26. “That All May Be Edified” (1982), 130.
27. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 2.

## Learn to Talk to God

“The most important thing you can do is to learn to talk to God. Talk to Him as you would talk to your father, for He is your Father, and He wants you to talk to Him. He wants you to cultivate ears to listen, when He gives you the impressions of the Spirit to tell you what to do. If you learn to give heed to the sudden ideas which come to your minds, you will find those things coming through in the very hour of your need. If you will cultivate an ear to hear these promptings, you will have learned to walk by the spirit of revelation.”

—President Harold B. Lee (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee* [2000], 55)

# MAN OF MY

He was perfect—except for his bad habits and attitudes. And I just knew I could change him—if he would only give me a chance.

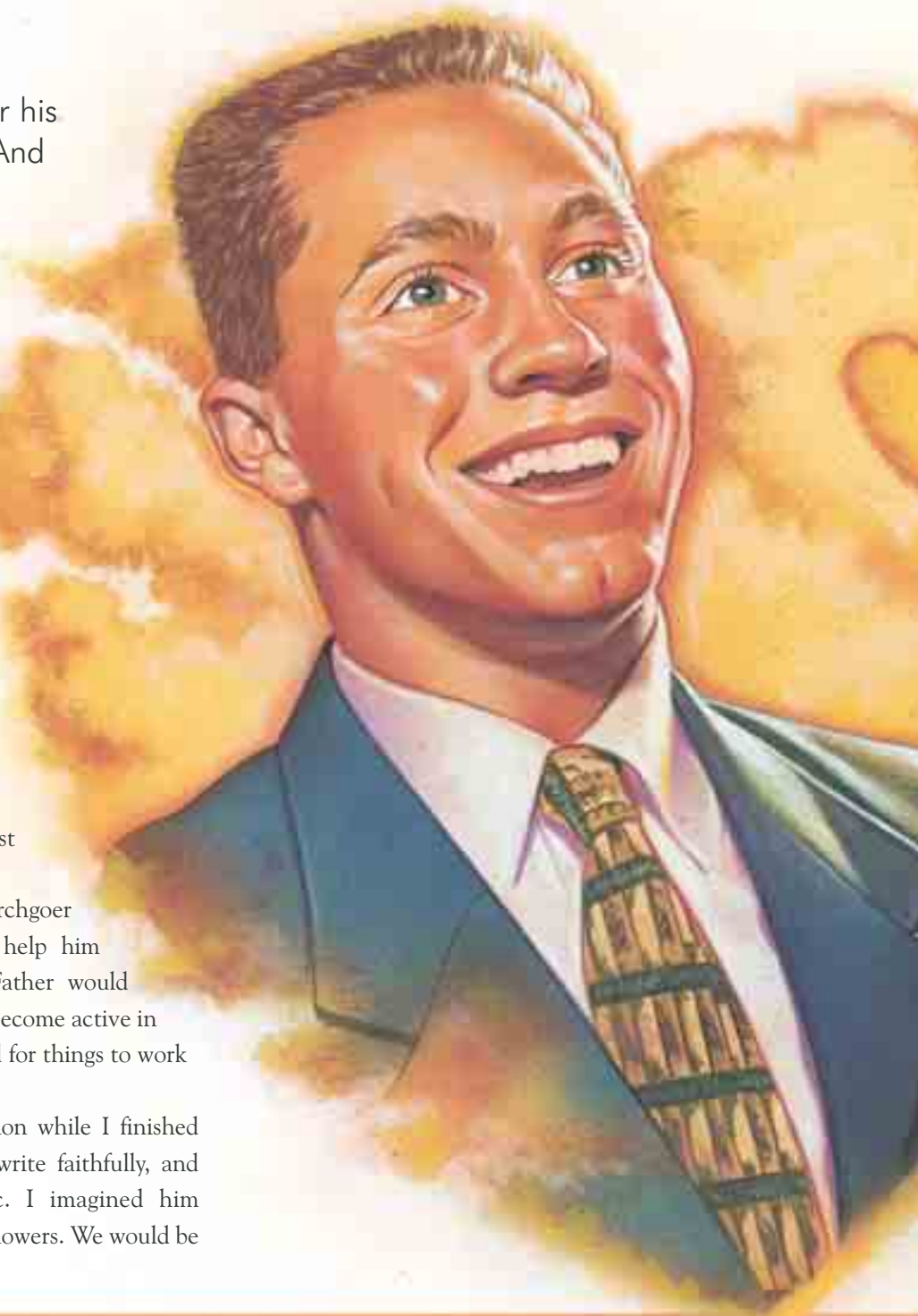
**By Lara Bangerter**

ILLUSTRATION BY ROGER MOTZKUS

Steve was tall, handsome, age 17, and a senior in high school. I was two years younger and thought I was madly in love with him. He liked me too, and I thought that was great. We didn't date because I wasn't old enough; we didn't go to the same school either. But he did call me on the phone, and I did get to see him at stake dances twice a month. I envisioned a romance that would last forever.

Steve wasn't the most active churchgoer around, but I just knew I could help him change. I prayed that Heavenly Father would inspire me about how to help Steve become active in the Church. But most of all, I prayed for things to work out between us.

I imagined him going on a mission while I finished high school. I dreamed we would write faithfully, and everything would be so romantic. I imagined him returning home, surprising me with flowers. We would be





# DREAMS

so in love. He would be ready to go to college and excel. We would be married in the temple. Life would be bliss. I wanted it more than anything.

Then, after three months of this fantasy romance, Steve showed up at a dance with alcohol on his breath. This development didn't fit my dream. He told me I didn't understand him at all. The phone calls stopped.

All I could do was cry and pray. I did a lot of both. For months I prayed that Heavenly Father would inspire Steve to give me another chance. *I will be more tolerant, I thought. I will be more understanding. With me he will change.*

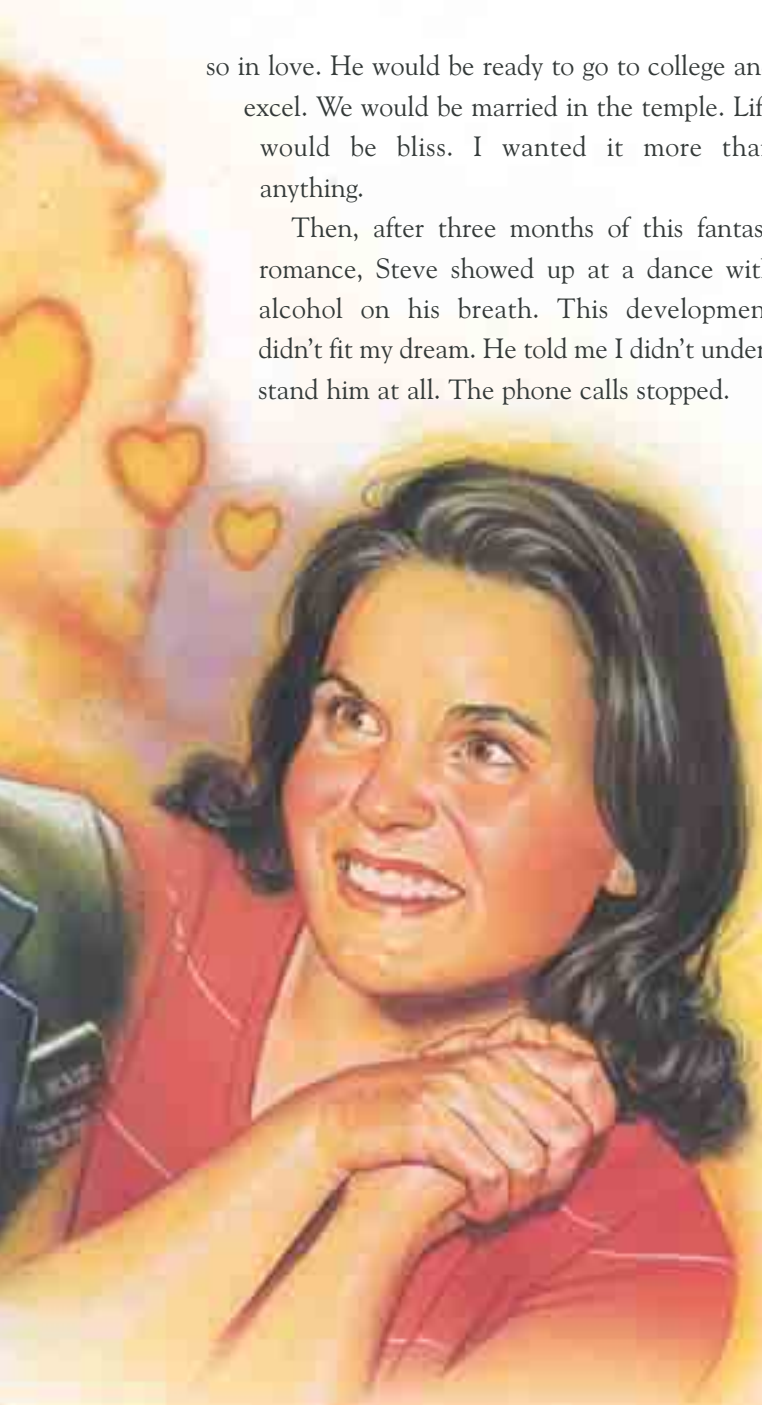
*No one is perfect, I told myself. He just needs more time to grow up.* My prayers were pleading and demanding. I didn't even come close to listening to the Spirit to understand the will of my Heavenly Father.

Fortunately, Steve never did show an interest in me again. Later, while I was still in high school, I heard that Steve's girlfriend was pregnant. They got married, but now they are divorced. I'm sorry for Steve, but I'm also thankful my prayers at age 15 weren't answered the way I wanted them to be. I'm grateful my life has gone the way it has—without him.

Since then I have served a mission and graduated from college. I was married in the temple to a returned missionary who is 100 times more wonderful than any man I ever imagined in my teenage dreams. And unlike Steve or some of the other young men I dated, my husband didn't need to change the way he was living to make me happy. He was just right the way he was.

Today, I thank my Heavenly Father for what I thought were unanswered prayers. At age 15 I thought I was asking for a good thing—now I know better. I'm so thankful for a loving Heavenly Father who knew better and did not answer those prayers the way I wanted, even though I felt hurt at the time. He made my dreams come true in a much grander way than I ever imagined. □

*Lara Bangerter is a member of the Garden First Ward, Pleasant Grove Utah Garden Stake.*



# Using the February 2002 *Liahona*

## LESSON IDEAS

■ “Overpowering the Goliaths in Our Lives,” page 2: President Gordon B. Hinckley warns of Goliaths in our lives—evils in the world that seek to pull us down and destroy us. What weapons can you use to triumph over these Goliaths?

■ “Studying and Teaching the Old Testament,” page 10: Elder Henry B. Eyring suggests that we read carefully 2 Nephi 25–33 as preparation for teaching and studying the Old Testament. How will you use his four suggestions to get the most out of your study of the Old Testament?

■ “More Than Words,” page 28: When you listen to the sacrament prayers, do you pay attention to the words? Do you also pay attention to the beautiful spirit that accompanies this sacred ordinance? Do you ponder the purpose of the sacrament?

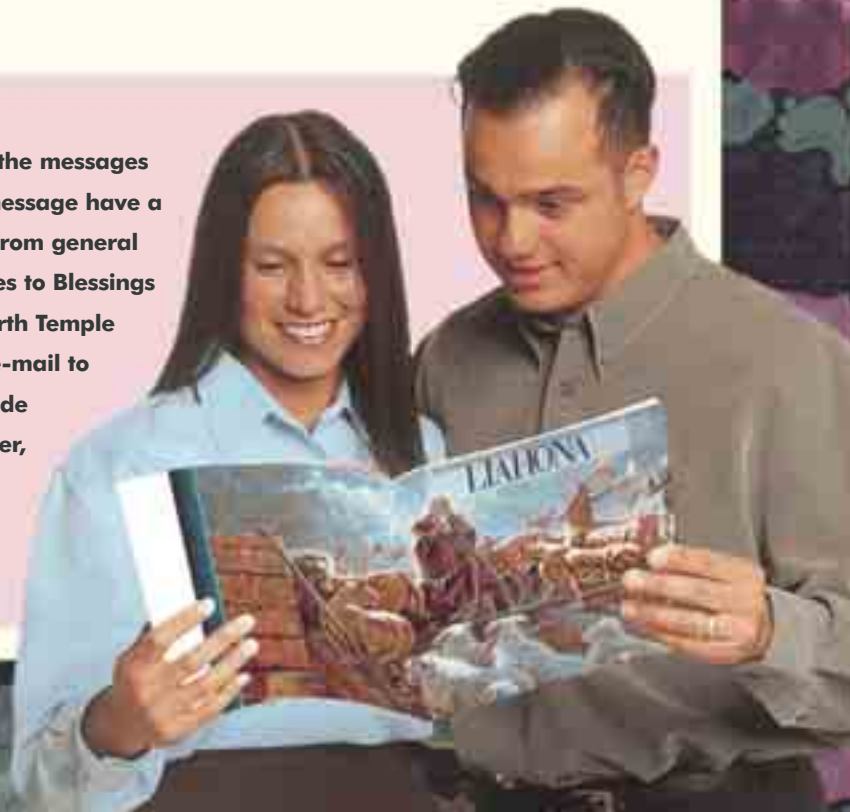
■ “Making a New Friend,” page F10: What can you do to be a better friend to your family members?

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CRAIG DIMOND

## BLESSINGS FROM CONFERENCE

Last month’s issue of the *Liahona* contained the messages given in general conference. Did a particular message have a great impact in your life? How did you benefit from general conference? Send ideas, stories, and experiences to Blessings from Conference, *Liahona*, Floor 24, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA; or e-mail to [CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org](mailto:CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org). Please include your complete name, address, telephone number, and ward and stake (or branch and district).



# The Friend

FOR CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ■ FEBRUARY 2002



# TEMPLES



**By Elder David B. Haight**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Temples are the most sacred places of worship on earth. Each one is literally a house of the Lord—a place where He and His Spirit may dwell, where

He may come or send others to confer priesthood blessings and to give revelation to His people.

Elder John A. Widtsoe (1872–1952) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles wrote, “I believe that the busy person on the farm, in the shop, in the office, or in the household, who has his worries and troubles, can solve his problems better and more quickly in the house of the Lord than anywhere else . . . , for at the most unexpected moments, in or out of the temple will come to him, as a revelation, the solution of the problems that vex his life” (“Temple Worship,” *Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine*, April 1921, 63–64).

Temples built especially to the Lord have been erected in all ages. Moses built a tabernacle, a sort of portable temple, in the wilderness for the children of Israel. Solomon built a magnificent temple in Jerusalem. The Nephites built sacred temples. Joseph Smith (1805–44) built houses of the Lord in Kirtland and Nauvoo, and later prophets have built temples throughout the world. These have all been built under the direction and revelation of God.

The Jewish people have looked forward to the return to the earth of the prophet Elijah, as promised by the prophet Malachi. Each year faithful Jews observe a

Passover feast at which they leave a door open so that Elijah might come in and celebrate with them.

“It was . . . on the third day of April, 1836,” said President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972), “that the [Jewish people], in their homes at the [Passover] feast, opened their doors for Elijah to enter. [However,] on that very day Elijah did enter—not in the home of the Jews . . . , but he appeared in the House of the Lord” (in Conference Report, April 1936, 75).

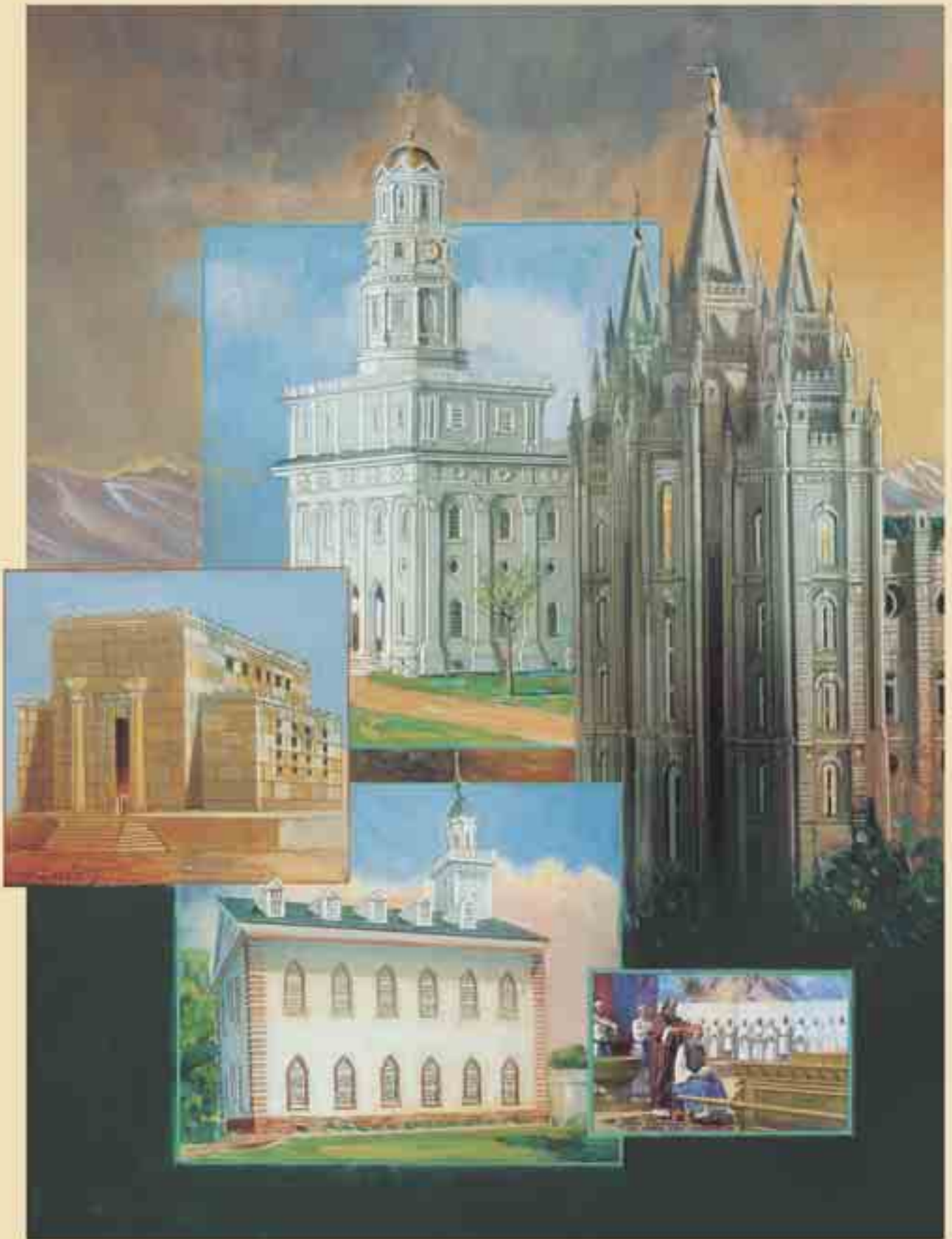
At Kirtland, the Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph: “And inasmuch as my people build a house unto me in the name of the Lord, and do not suffer any unclean thing to come into it, . . . my glory shall rest upon it;

“ . . . and my presence shall be there, for I will come into it, and all the pure in heart that shall come into it shall see God” (D&C 97:15–16).

It is true that some have actually seen the Savior there, but other meanings of the word *see* show us that the scripture also means that we can come to know Him and understand His work better when we are in the temple.

The Prophet Joseph said that the main object of the gathering of the Jews, or the people of God in any age of the world, “was to build unto the Lord a house whereby He could reveal unto His people the ordinances of His house and the glories of His kingdom, and teach the people the way of salvation” (see *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, selected by Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 307–8). □

*Adapted from an October 1990 general conference address.*



# TOGETHER FOREVER

By Vicki F. Matsumori

**“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).**



Julie was sad. Grandma was in the hospital, and Mother had gone to visit her.

“What’s wrong, Julie?” Angie, her older sister, asked.

“Is Grandma going to get better?” Julie wondered.

“I don’t know,” Angie replied.

“Why aren’t you upset? Don’t you love Grandma?” Julie asked.

“Of course I love her,” Angie said. “But even if she dies, we can be together forever.”

“I thought being together forever meant none of us would ever die,” Julie said.

Angie smiled. “Being together forever means we can be together as a family in Heavenly Father’s kingdom.” Julie sighed. “I don’t understand.”

“Next month Mark and I are going to be married,” Angie explained. “Do you know where?”

“In the temple,” Julie answered. “You’ve been planning it for months.”

“Actually, I’ve planned on being married in the temple for as long as I can remember,” Angie explained. “In the temple we will be sealed together as an eternal family unit. Because Grandma and Grandpa were sealed in the temple and Mom and Dad were sealed in the temple, we are all sealed together as a family even after this life.”

“And that’s all there is to it?” Julie asked.

“We also have to try to live as an eternal family now. We need to live the gospel, love one another, and help each other.”

“I’m glad you are my sister forever,” Julie said.

“So am I,” Angie responded.

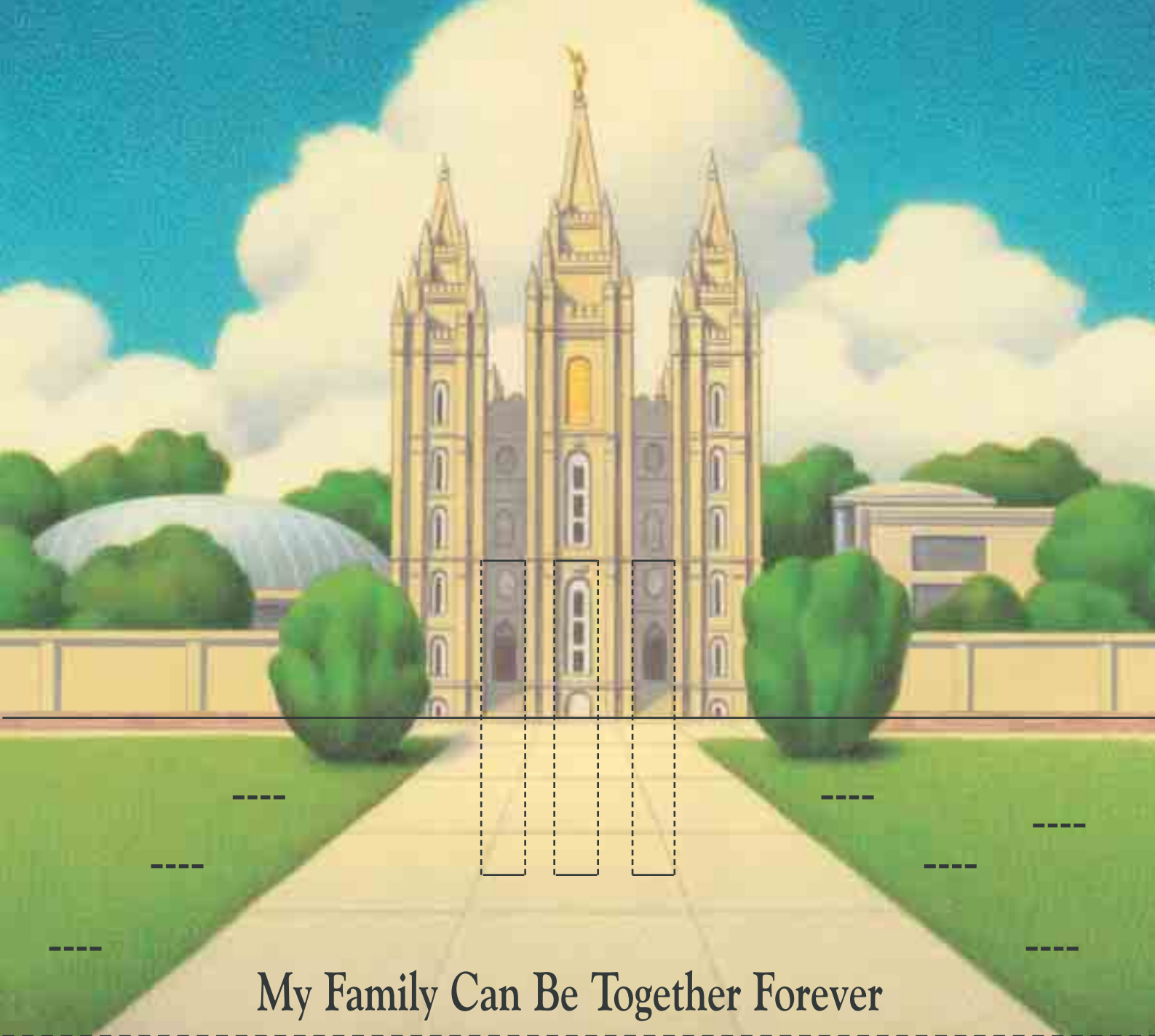
## Instructions

Remove page 5 from the magazine, and glue it onto heavy paper. Cut off the temple background section along the dotted line. Cut slits along the dotted lines in the temple and in front of the temple. Fold the background piece along the solid line. Fold out the three tabs created by the slits. Cut out the family figures, and glue them to the tabs (see illustration). Cut out the shrubs. On the blank shrub, write something you will do to prepare to go to the temple one day. Put the shrubs into the slits on the temple grounds. They will remind you of things your family can do to be a forever family.

## Sharing Time Ideas

1. Divide the children into five groups. Have each group read one of the following scripture passages: (1) Moses 5:2, 12; (2) 1 Nephi 1:13; 2:1–4; (3) Mosiah 27:11–16; (4) Helaman 5:12–14; (5) Alma 56:47–48. Have the groups discuss how the parents in these scriptures helped their children. Have each group illustrate and present its scripture. Sing songs or hymns that relate to each scripture. Help the children understand and memorize “Honour thy father and thy mother” (Exodus 20:12).

2. Explain that children can help their families be together forever by being understanding. Talk about Solomon, who asked God for an understanding heart (see 1 Kings 3:5, 9–12). Discuss what it means to have an understanding heart. Cut out several paper hearts, and write a situation on each one. For example: (1) Your brother has hurt his arm; (2) Your mother is late making dinner because she helped a neighbor; (3) Your friend wants you to play, but you see your father working in the yard. Explain to the children that they have understanding hearts, and ask what they would do in each situation. Sing a song or hymn about families. Help the children make cards to take to their families. On the front, write, “I can have an understanding heart by . . .” Have the children write or draw inside the cards what they can do to be more understanding. □



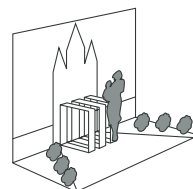
## My Family Can Be Together Forever



Be kind

Study the scriptures

Follow the prophet

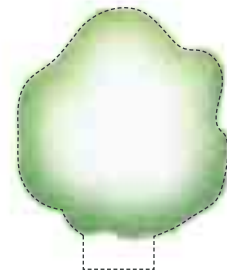


Illustration

Serve others

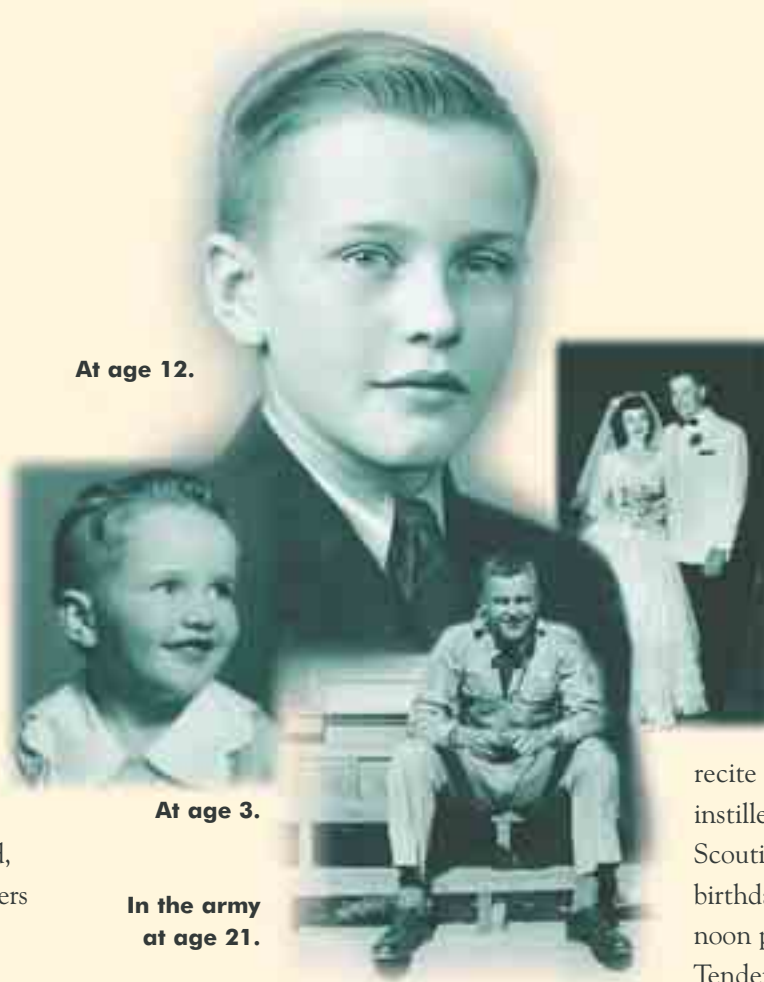
Pray together

Have family home evening



# Elder Earl M. Monson of the Seventy

From an interview by Janet Peterson



**At age 12.**

**On his wedding day with his wife, Donna.**

I have visited Primaries in the Pacific Islands and in other parts of the world as well. The same gospel concepts are taught in Primaries everywhere. I marvel that wherever I go in the world, there are kind, loving teachers and leaders in Primary.

**At age 3.**

**In the army at age 21.**

Of course, music is a wonderful part of Primary. It teaches truths that are easily remembered. My wife and I have heard “I Am a Child of God” sung in about 15 different languages. We have the same spiritual feeling and joy whenever we hear children sing it, no matter what language they speak. Primary is a wonderful organization.

When I was young, I had to hurry home from school on Tuesday afternoons in order to get to Primary on time. It was held during the week then. I remember one

particular teacher, Sister Rawlings. She helped our class learn the last five articles of faith so we could

recite them all. She also instilled in me a love for Scouting. On my 12th birthday, I spent the afternoon passing off the Tenderfoot requirements so I

could be a Scout. Sister Rawlings had prepared me well, and I passed. She gave me a Boy Scout pocketknife that I treasured for years.

Primary also played a big part in helping me develop a testimony of the gospel. Many of my teachers encouraged me and helped me understand what I needed to do to gain a testimony. It was a gradual process. I finally realized I could not live off Mother’s or Dad’s testimony forever. I took the advice my Primary teachers had



given me and read the Book of Mormon, prayed about it, and found out for myself it is true.

When I was 20, I went into the army. In basic training, I was exposed to many things I had been warned against. I was very grateful for the teachings I had received at home and in Primary. They were a lifesaver for me. I saw some young men who changed their way of life in the army and who chose not to follow God's teachings. After basic training, one of these young men talked to me privately. He was sobbing because he had picked up a lot of bad habits, and now he had to go home and he didn't want to face his parents. I was grateful I had been prepared to face those challenges and had remained faithful to the truths I had been taught.

When I was nine years old, my father, Charles Monson, was called as a bishop. He served as bishop until I was 19 years old. I had many marvelous experiences watching him serve and seeing him do so much and still be a wonderful father.

When I was 29 years old, I was called to serve as a bishop. It seemed like a hard thing to do, but I remembered my father's example. I also remembered my Primary teachers telling me how Nephi had received the difficult assignment to go back to Jerusalem and get the brass plates from Laban. He didn't make excuses. Instead he relied on the Lord and said, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them" (1 Nephi 3:7). I knew if I relied on the Lord, as Nephi had, I could accept the calling I had just received.

Before being called as a General Authority, I was director of the Temples and Special Projects Division in

the Physical Facilities Department of the Church. For many years, I met monthly with President Gordon B. Hinckley to receive his instructions. Even when he was serving as a counselor in the First Presidency, he was responsible for temples. I want you to know that he really is a prophet. If Moses or Brigham Young had been in those meetings instead of President Hinckley, I couldn't have been any more convinced that the man I



**Elder and Sister Monson with their family.**

had been with was a prophet of God. I have watched through the years how many times he has given inspired leadership. No one but the prophet could have laid the groundwork and prepared for the building of new temples all over the world. There are things he did long ago that were inspired preparation.

President Hinckley said the temple is a place where people learn a way of life. It teaches us the values and characteristics we should have. It ought to be the goal of every child not only to be married there, but to then attend there as often as possible. Going to the temple helps us to live our lives well and to understand who we are—children of our Heavenly Father. □

# CREATION PRESENTATION

## Jesus Christ's Creations

By Leslie Hartssock

Who made the birds that fly in the sky?

Jesus made the birds and the sky.

Who made the stars that twinkle at night?

Jesus made the stars and the night.

Who made the raindrops that fall to the earth?

Jesus made the raindrops and the earth.

Who made the trees where the apples grow?

Jesus made the trees and the apples.

Who made the oceans where the fish swim?

Jesus made the oceans and the fish.

Jesus Christ is Lord of the earth.

We praise Him and thank Him for all He does for us.

### Instructions

1. Glue these two pages onto lightweight cardboard.
2. Cut out the scenery below on the dotted lines, including the scenery window. (Save the picture of Jesus Christ for step 4.) Fold along the solid lines so the scenery will stand up.
3. Cut out the other six pictures.
4. Glue a flat, wooden stick to the back of each picture.
5. As someone reads "Jesus Christ's Creations," hold the correct picture in the scenery window. □





# MAKING A NEW FRIEND

By Angie Bergstrom

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROGER MOTZKUS



Mom brushed my hair softly and finished parting it before she caught my gaze in the mirror.

“You look awfully grumpy this morning,” Mom said cheerily to my reflection.

“That’s because I *am* grumpy,” I replied, scrunching up my face so my lower lip stuck out in a frown.

Mom turned me around and knelt in front of me, looking me in the eye. “You *will* make friends in this ward. Don’t worry!”

“But, Mom, I liked our *old* ward! I liked my *old* friends! Why did we have to move anyway?” I felt tears sting my eyes.

“Because of Daddy’s job!” a voice piped in helpfully.

My younger sister, Alison, peeked into the bathroom from the hallway. She smiled her biggest smile—so big it showed the gaps where she was missing her two front teeth and made her eyes disappear into little half-moons. I scowled at her.

“That’s right,” Mom said to her. Alison beamed.

“But I don’t have any friends here!” I said to Mom, ignoring my sister.

“You’ve still got me!” Alison said. I looked at her and saw that she was grinning at me.

“Great.” I rolled my eyes.

She frowned for a few seconds and then said, “We’re *best* friends!” She ran off laughing before I could shout back at her that we were *not*.

Later that day as I looked at the people in sacrament

meeting, I didn’t know even one person in this new ward. My family had been here for only a few days. *Please, Heavenly Father, I prayed, can’t I make just one new friend today?*

I was nervous when sacrament meeting ended and my parents took us to our Primary classes. During class I sat alone and didn’t say anything.

When my class got up to go to the Primary room for sharing time, I was scared. I clutched my scriptures tightly as I walked down the hall. The Primary room was bright and cheery, and there were lots of children there. The pianist was playing a song I had learned in my old ward. I felt a little better.

But as I looked around, I realized I couldn’t find my class. I didn’t know where they had gone, and I didn’t have anyone to sit by. I glanced around the room again, biting my lower lip nervously and holding my scriptures tightly against my chest.

Then, from the corner of the room, a little girl started grinning and waving her hands at me. She was pointing to a seat next to her. I smiled back at her and rolled my eyes. She smiled her biggest smile—so big it showed the gaps where she was missing her two front teeth and made her eyes disappear into little half-moons.

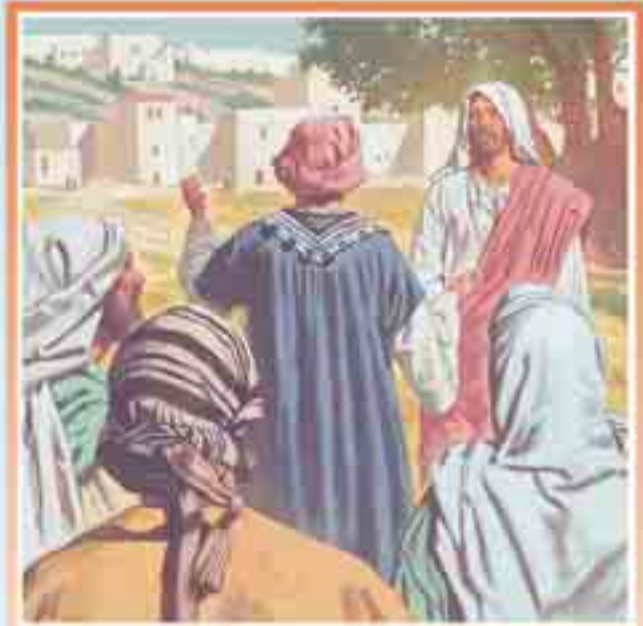
This little girl had rescued me. She was the friend Heavenly Father had sent for me. She immediately made me feel welcome when I sat down—as though I had known her for years.

That day I decided that sisters *are* best friends. □

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



# THE BOY WITH AN EVIL SPIRIT



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROBERT T. BARRETT

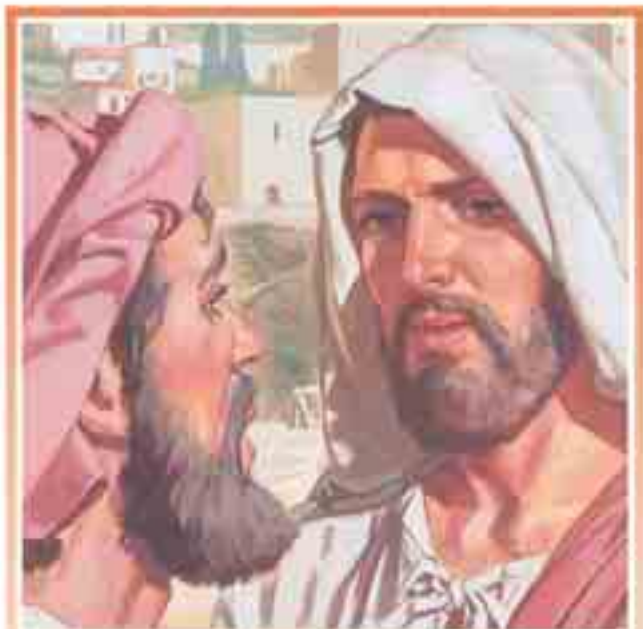
One day when some people came to Jesus and His disciples, one of them asked the Savior to help his son. The man had already asked the disciples to heal his son, but they could not. The son had an evil spirit in him that made him hurt himself.

*Mark 9:14-18*



Jesus had the man get his son. When the boy came, the evil spirit made him fall to the ground.

*Mark 9:19-20*



When the Savior asked how long the evil spirit had been in the boy, He was told it had been in him since he was a child.

*Mark 9:21*



Jesus said He could heal the son if the father had faith. The father began to cry. He said he had faith.

*Mark 9:23–24*



Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the boy and to never go into him again. The evil spirit was angry. It hurt the boy again. Then it obeyed Jesus and came out of the boy.

*Mark 9:25–26*



The boy was so quiet that many people said he was dead. But Jesus took his hand and helped him stand up. He was healed. The evil spirit was gone.

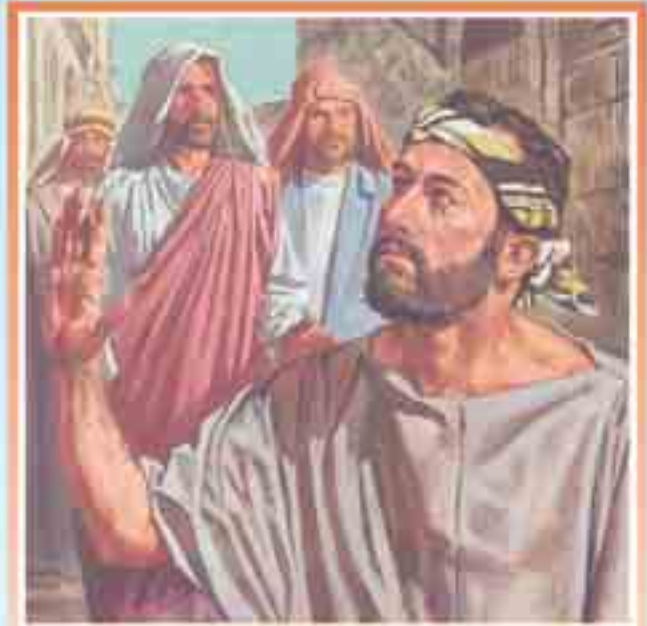
*Mark 9:26–27*



Later the disciples asked Jesus about the boy. They did not know why they had not been able to make the evil spirit go out of him. Jesus told them they needed more faith to make the evil spirit go out. He said they should have fasted and prayed for more faith.

*Matthew 17:20–21; Mark 9:28–29*

# JESUS HEALS A BLIND MAN



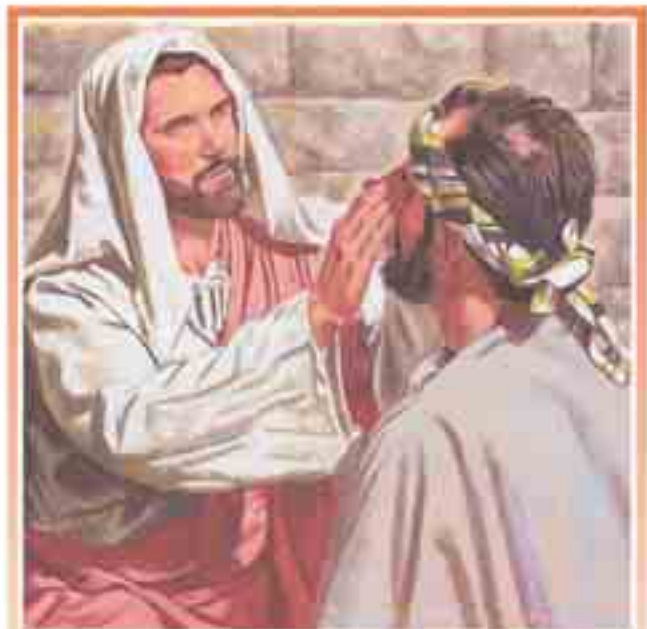
One day while Jesus was walking with His disciples, they saw a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked if he was blind because he had sinned or because his parents had sinned.

*John 9:1-2*



The Savior said that neither the man nor his parents had sinned, but that the man was blind so Jesus could heal him. Then people could see God's power.

*John 9:3-5*



Jesus made clay out of the dirt and put it on the blind man's eyes. Then He told the man to wash his eyes.

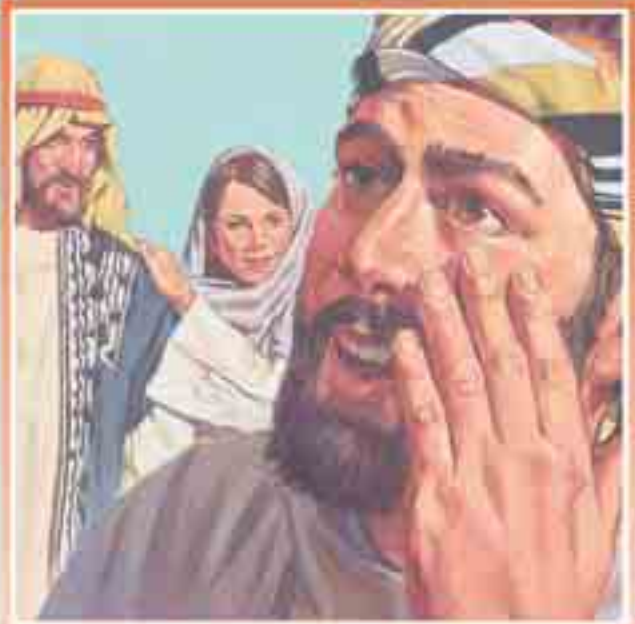
*John 9:6-7*





As soon as the man washed the clay from his eyes, he could see!

*John 9:7*



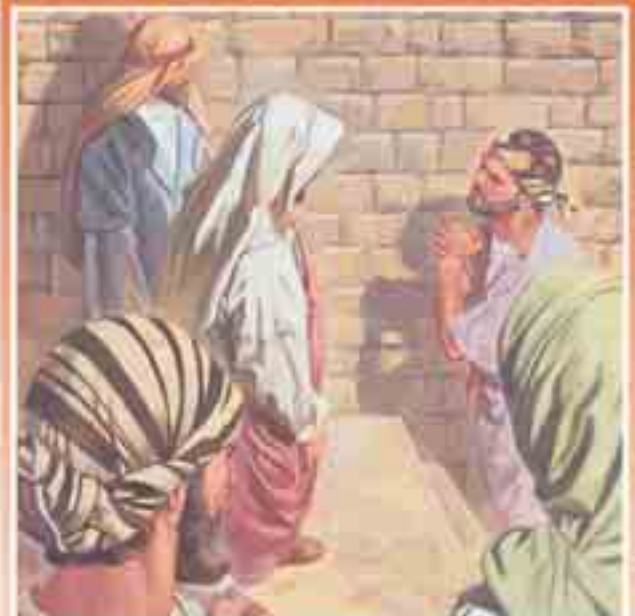
When his neighbors saw him, they were not sure who he was. Then they wondered how he had been healed. The man told them who he was and how Jesus had healed him.

*John 9:8–11*



Next, the man told the Pharisees that Jesus had healed him. Some of them thought Jesus must be a righteous man. Some of them thought He was a sinner. When the man said Jesus was righteous, they were angry and threw the man out.

*John 9:13–16, 28–34*



Jesus found the man and asked him if he had faith. The man said yes, and he worshiped Jesus.

*John 9:35–38*

TRYING TO BE LIKE JESUS

# Being Honest

By Rudinei Antonio Fernandes Filho

ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT SNOW

I have always learned in Primary and at home that we should be honest. We should not keep what does not belong to us, we should return change when we receive too much at the store, and we should always tell the truth even though we may be punished.

One day when I was nine, I was waiting on the school patio for my mother and I saw a wallet on a bench. There was money in it.

I thought about what I should do. My mother works very hard to take care of my two sisters and me, but things weren't going very well at home. I thought about what I could buy.

Then I started to worry about the person who had lost the money and how much she would miss it. I sat down and waited because I knew she would come to look for it.

After some time, a very upset woman appeared and asked, "Have you found a wallet?"

I answered, "Is this it?"

Her joy was so great she hugged me. She thanked me again and again.

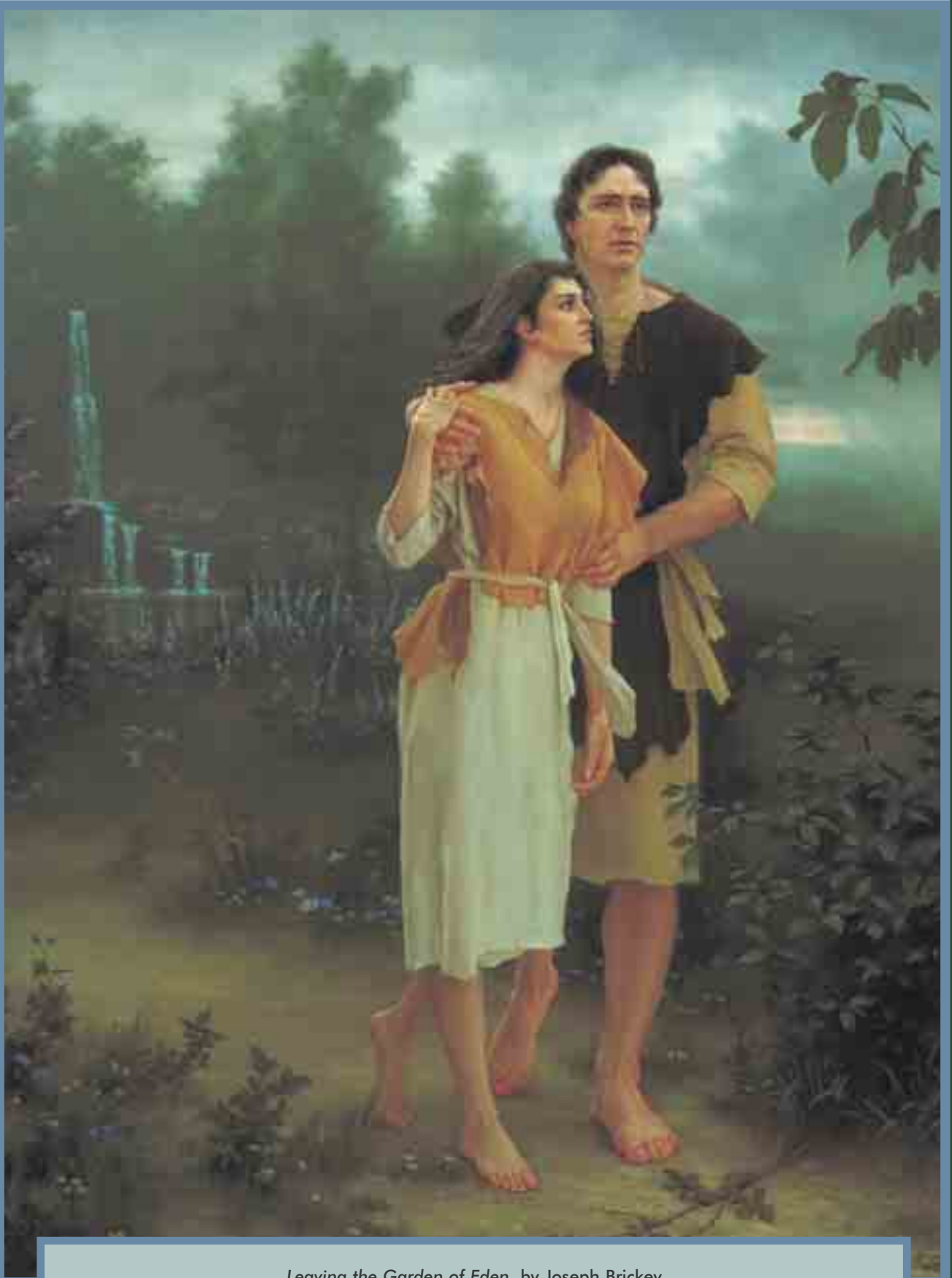
At that time, I did not even think about why I made the decision to be honest. But when I told my mother about it later, she said the Holy Ghost had whispered to me and I had listened to the still, small voice.

I am grateful for having learned to be honest. □

*Rudinei Antonio Fernandes Filho, age 11, is a member of the Mangalot Ward, São Paulo Brazil Pirituba Stake.*



The *Liahona* would like to hear about an experience you have had in trying to be like the Savior. An older person can help you write your article. Please include at least one photograph of yourself, along with your name, age, address, telephone number, and ward and stake (or branch and district). Send your article to Trying to Be like Jesus, *Liahona*, Floor 24, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3223, USA; or e-mail to [CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org](mailto:CUR-Liahona-IMag@ldschurch.org).



***Leaving the Garden of Eden, by Joseph Brickey***

“Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken” (Genesis 3:23).

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