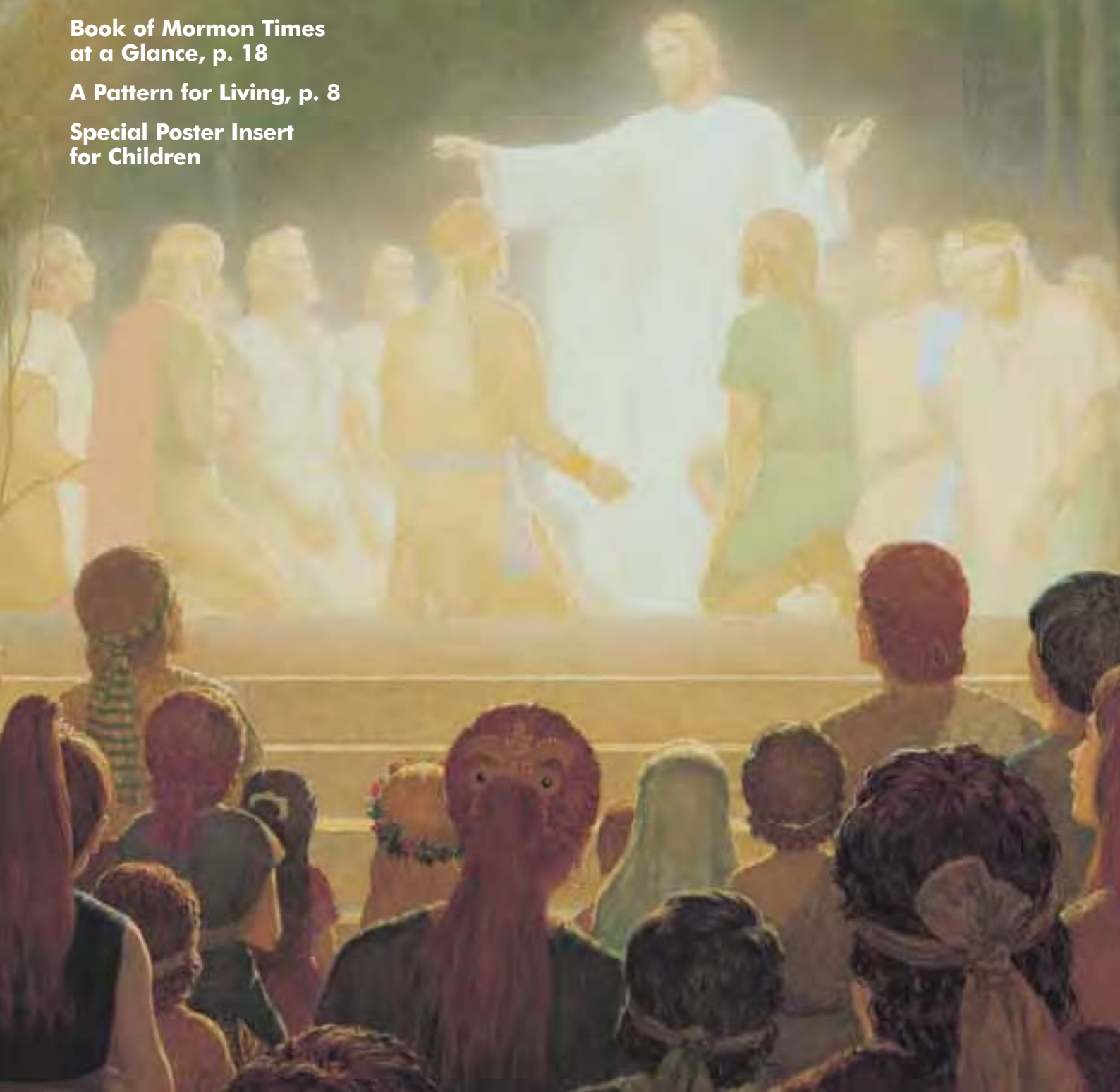


# Liahona

**Book of Mormon Times  
at a Glance, p. 18**

**A Pattern for Living, p. 8**

**Special Poster Insert  
for Children**



# Liahona



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*The Light of His Countenance Did Shine upon Them*, by Gary L. Kapp, courtesy of Museum of Church History and Art, Sixth International Art Competition.



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Photograph by Jerry Garns.

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Sharing Time Poster: My Family Can Be Forever



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# Family Home Evening Ideas



**"A Pattern for Living,"**

p. 8: "All things shall work together for your good" if you search diligently, pray always, and are believing. But what if the promised blessing doesn't come immediately? Ask family members to respond; then discuss Elder L. Tom Perry's answer.

**"Heber J. Grant: A Prophet for Hard Times,"** p. 26: Many lessons can be drawn from President Heber J. Grant's example. Choose an aspect of his life that impresses you, and discuss how family members can apply this example.

**"The Lord Knew What Was Ahead,"** p. 41: Ask family members if they have ever prayed fervently for something that the Lord did not give them. Read Sister Linda Sims Depew's story together, and talk about why you think the Lord didn't answer her prayer in the way she originally wanted.

**"Ice Dreams,"** p. 44: Chris Obzansky planned to serve a mission after the 2006 Winter Olympics, but the Spirit prompted him to go at age 19. Ask family members what their life plans are. Would they be willing to sacrifice those plans if the Spirit prompted them to? Why are sacrifice and faith so closely intertwined?

**"More Blessed to Give,"**

p. F2: Tell President Thomas S. Monson's story about his Sunday School class. Ask family members to write down one thing they can do this week to give something to someone whose need is greater. In your next family home evening ask what they thought and how they felt when they performed this act of giving.

**"Song of Faith,"** p. F14: Ask the children in your family if they have ever been scared, nervous, in pain, or sad. Read this story with them; then suggest that singing Primary songs can help them feel better when they face difficulties.

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# The Keystone of Our Religion

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

After many years, I still remember holding in my hand my mother's copy of her favorite book. It was a timeworn copy of the Book of Mormon. Almost every page was marked. In spite of tender handling, some of the leaves were dog-eared and the cover was worn thin. No one had to tell her that she could get closer to God by reading the Book of Mormon than by any other book. She was already there. She had read it, studied it, prayed over it, and taught from it. As a young man I held her book in my hands and tried to see, through her eyes, the great truths of the Book of Mormon to which she so readily testified and which she so greatly loved.

But the Book of Mormon did not yield its profound message to me as an unearned legacy. Indeed I question whether one can acquire an understanding of this great book except through singleness of mind and strong purpose of heart, manifest through study and prayer. We must not only ask if it is true, but we must also ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Said Moroni, "Ask God, the Eternal Father, *in the name of Christ*, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a

sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."<sup>1</sup>

## Why a Keystone?

Joseph Smith, who translated the gold plates from which the Book of Mormon came, had this to say: "I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book."<sup>2</sup>

One dictionary defines *keystone* as "the central wedge-shaped stone of an arch that locks its parts together." A secondary definition is "the central supporting element of a whole."<sup>3</sup>

The Book of Mormon is a keystone because it establishes and ties together eternal principles and precepts, rounding out basic doctrines of salvation. It is the crowning gem in the diadem of our holy scriptures.

It is a keystone for other reasons also. In the promise of Moroni previously referred to—namely, that God will manifest the truth of the Book of Mormon to every sincere



***I question whether one can acquire an understanding of the Book of Mormon except through singleness of mind and strong purpose of heart, manifest through study and prayer.***



inquirer having faith in Christ<sup>4</sup>—we have a key link in a self-locking chain.

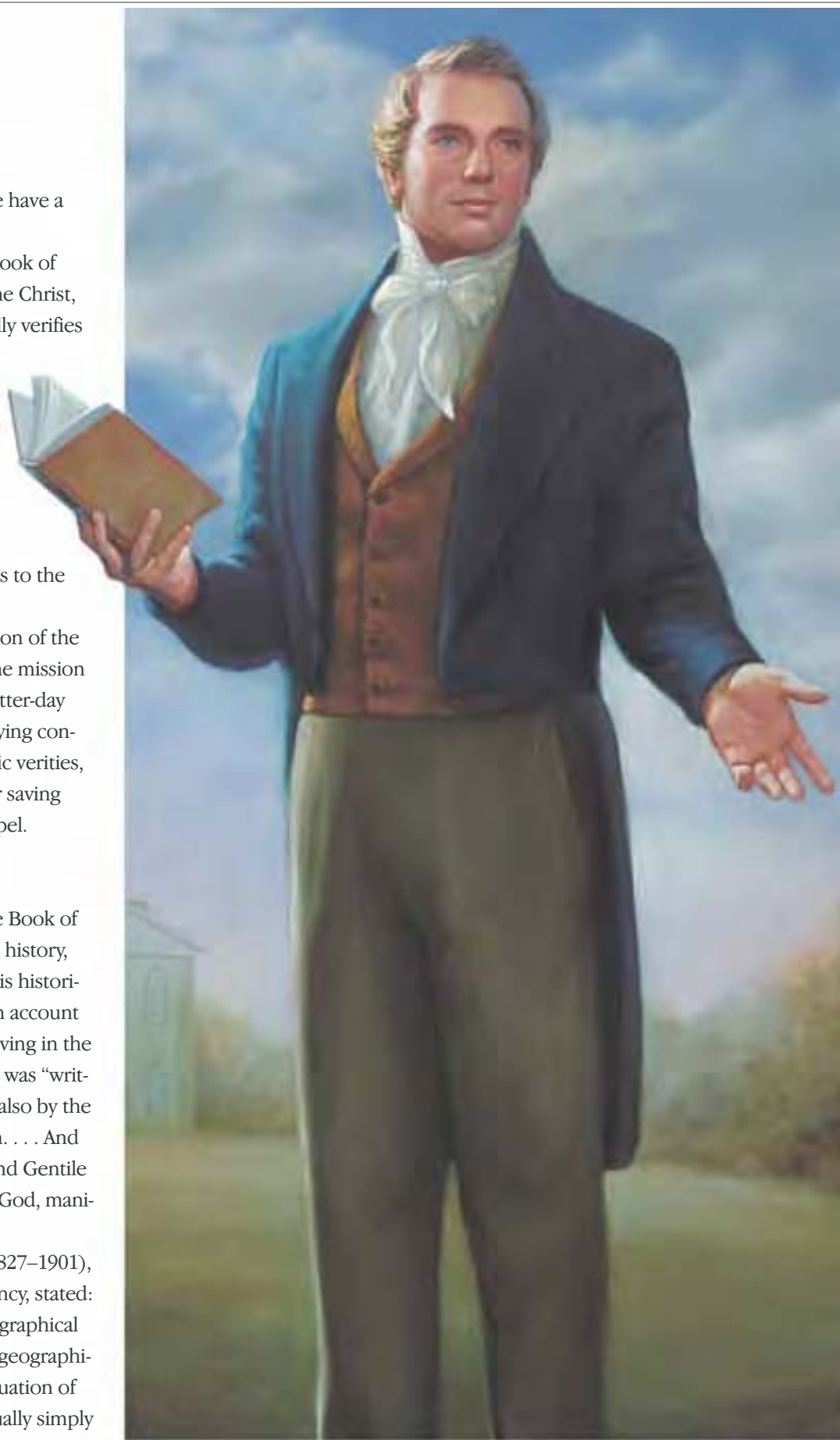
A confirming testimony of the Book of Mormon convinces “that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God”<sup>5</sup> and also spiritually verifies the divine calling of Joseph Smith and that he did see the Father and the Son. With that firmly in place, it logically follows that one can also receive a verification that the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price are true companion scriptures to the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

All of this confirms the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the divine mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, led by a living prophet enjoying continuous revelation. From these basic verities, an understanding can flow of other saving principles of the fulness of the gospel.

#### **What It Is and Is Not**

It is important to know what the Book of Mormon is not. It is not primarily a history, although much of what it contains is historical. The title page states that it is an account taken from the records of people living in the Americas before and after Christ; it was “written by way of commandment, and also by the spirit of prophecy and of revelation. . . . And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations.”

President George Q. Cannon (1827–1901), First Counselor in the First Presidency, stated: “The Book of Mormon is not a geographical primer. It was not written to teach geographical truths. What is told us of the situation of the various lands or cities . . . is usually simply



an incidental remark connected with the doctrinal or historical portions of the work.”<sup>6</sup>

What, then, is the Book of Mormon? It is confirming evidence of the birth, life, and Crucifixion of Jesus and of His work as the Messiah and the Redeemer. Nephi writes about the Book of Mormon: “All ye ends of the earth, hearken unto these words and believe in Christ; and if ye believe not in these words believe in Christ. And if ye shall believe in Christ ye will believe in these words, for they are the words of Christ.”<sup>7</sup>

Nephi and his brother Jacob join with Isaiah to constitute three powerful pre-Messianic voices proclaiming the first coming of Jesus. Nephi quotes Isaiah extensively because Isaiah was the principal Old Testament prophet who prophesied of the coming of the Messiah.

The Book of Mormon establishes the truthfulness of the Bible.<sup>8</sup> It is evidence “to the world that the holy scriptures are true.”<sup>9</sup> It foretells the establishment of the fulness of the gospel of peace and salvation. It was written to give us principles and guidelines for our eternal journey.

One of the ultimate messages of the Book of Mormon, and indeed of the Old Testament and all human history, is that mankind cannot reach perfection on our own. There is another message that comes through loud and clear from its pages. It is the often unpopular and seemingly harsh injunction “Repent or perish.” When the Book of Mormon people listened to this prophetic message, they flourished. When they forgot the message, they perished.

In Galatians Paul said, “The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.”<sup>10</sup> The records maintained by the Book of Mormon

prophets—and portions of what is now the Bible brought from the eastern continent—served, according to Abinadi, “to keep them in remembrance of God and their duty towards him.”<sup>11</sup> So the Book of Mormon is a schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.<sup>12</sup>

#### **Scriptural and Personal Testimonies**

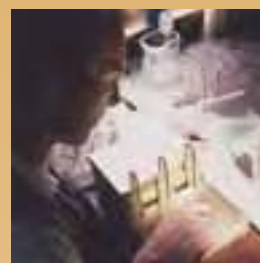
The test for understanding this sacred book is preeminently spiritual. An obsession with secular knowledge rather than spiritual understanding will make its pages difficult to unlock.

To me it is inconceivable that Joseph Smith, without divine help, could have written this complex and profound book. There is no way that an unlearned young frontiersman could have fabricated the great truths contained in the book, generated its great spiritual power, or falsified the testimony of Christ that it contains. The book itself testifies that it is the holy word of God.

References to teachings in the Old Testament and the New Testament are so numerous and overwhelming throughout the Book of Mormon that one can come to a definitive conclusion by logic that a human intellect could not have conceived of them all. But more important than logic is the confirmation by the Holy Spirit that the story of the Book of Mormon is true.

All scriptures are one in that they testify of Jesus. Jacob, a Book of Mormon prophet, reminds us “that none of the prophets have written, nor prophesied, save they have spoken concerning this Christ.”<sup>13</sup> Speaking of the scriptures, the Psalmist said, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”<sup>14</sup>

The Book of Mormon will encourage only righteousness. Why, then, has hostility been engendered against the book? In part, no



**J**oseph Smith, who translated the gold plates from which the Book of Mormon came, had this to say: “I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”



**G**od Himself has put His approval on the Book of Mormon, having said, “As your Lord and your God liveth it is true.” I pray that we may gain a testimony of the Book of Mormon.

doubt, it may have come because the origin of the book was from golden plates delivered to Joseph Smith by an angel. These were seen and handled by selected witnesses but not put on public display. Perhaps hostility comes also because the book is claimed to be primarily the work of ancient prophets here on the American continent.

The Savior Himself declared the great worth of the Book of Mormon. He said in 3 Nephi, “This is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me.”<sup>15</sup>

The Redeemer further declared in the Book of Mormon, “Behold I have given unto you my gospel.”<sup>16</sup>

As a special witness, I testify that Jesus is the Christ and that Nephi’s and Isaiah’s prophecies of His coming have in fact been fulfilled. Like Nephi, “we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ.”<sup>17</sup>

I testify through the sure conviction that springs from the witness of the Spirit that it is possible to know things that have been revealed with greater certainty than by actually seeing them. We can have a more absolute knowledge than eyes can perceive or ears can hear. God Himself has put His approval on the Book of Mormon, having said, “As your Lord and your God liveth it is true.”<sup>18</sup>

I can now see more clearly through the eyes of my own understanding what my mother could see in her precious old worn-out copy of the Book of Mormon. I pray that we may live in such a way as to merit and gain a testimony of and abide by the great truths of the Book of Mormon. I testify that the keystone of our religion is solidly in place, bearing the weight of truth as it moves through all the earth. ■

## IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

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

1. Ask family members to share their feelings about someone whose testimony and love of the Book of Mormon have influenced their lives.
2. Ask family members to reflect on what the Prophet Joseph Smith may have meant when he said the following about the Book of Mormon: “A man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”
3. Ask children or young people in the family if President Faust received his testimony of the Book of Mormon from his mother. Explain that she had worked and studied to receive a testimony, but as wonderful as it was, she could not transfer it to her children. Discuss how a person can receive a testimony of the Book of Mormon through study and prayer.
4. Ask family members what the subtitle of the Book of Mormon is. Explain that as they read the Book of Mormon this year they will read many prophets’ testimonies of Jesus Christ and will come to know why the Book of Mormon is subtitled “Another Testament of Jesus Christ.” Read aloud 2 Nephi 25:23, 26. Ask how we can testify of Jesus Christ in our lives today.

### NOTES

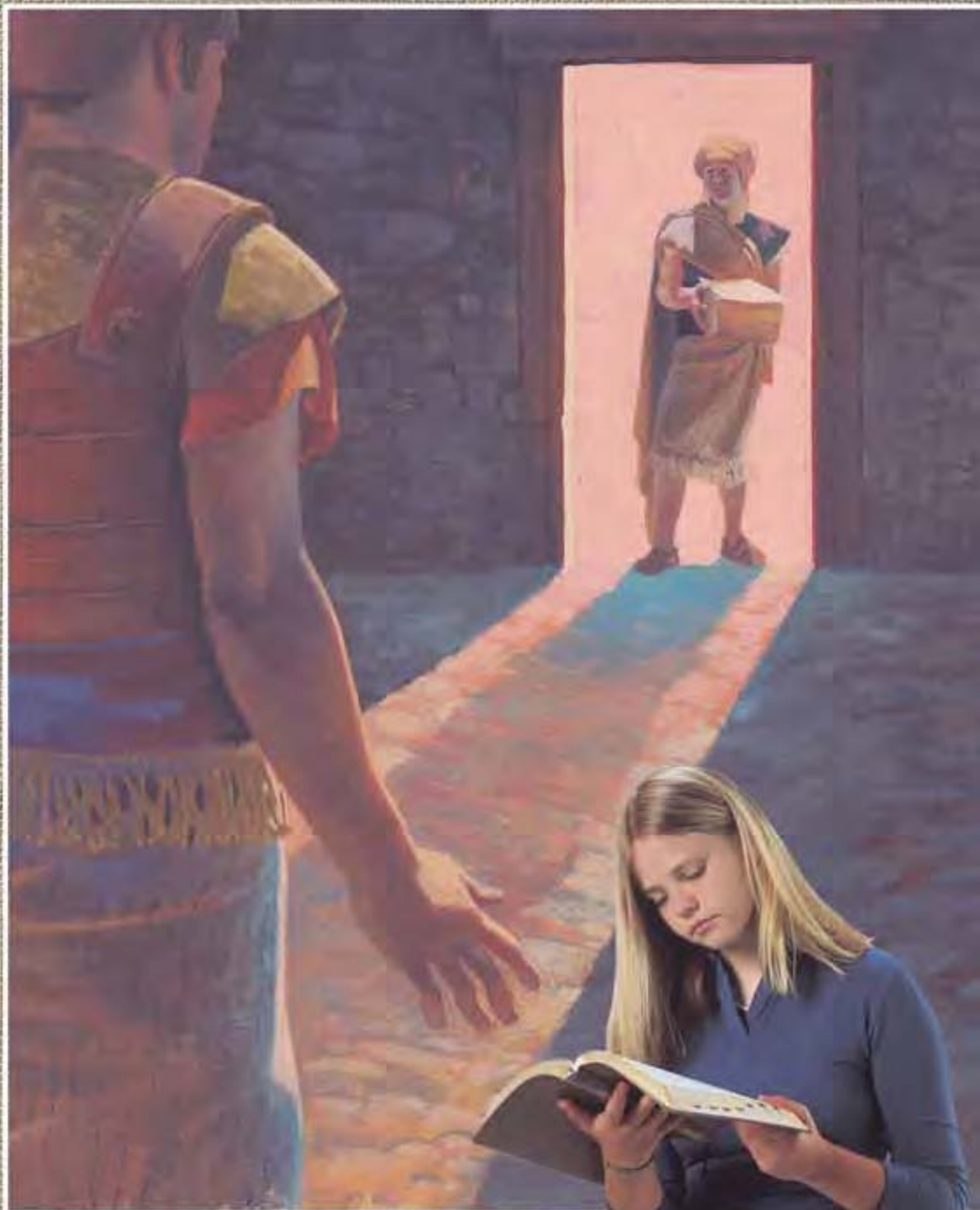
1. Moroni 10:4; emphasis added.
2. Book of Mormon introduction.
3. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 4th ed. (2000), “keystone,” 961.
4. See Moroni 10:4.
5. Book of Mormon title page.
6. “The Book of Mormon Geography,” *Juvenile Instructor*, Jan. 1890, 18.
7. 2 Nephi 33:10.
8. See 1 Nephi 13:40.
9. D&C 20:11.
10. Galatians 3:24.
11. Mosiah 13:30.
12. See Mosiah 13:27–35.
13. Jacob 7:11.
14. Psalm 119:105.
15. 3 Nephi 11:32.
16. 3 Nephi 27:13.
17. 2 Nephi 25:26.
18. D&C 17:6.



# STANDING TALL



YOU REACH THE GREATEST HEIGHTS WHILE ON YOUR KNEES.  
(See D&C 19:38.)





# A Pattern for Living

*“Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and all things shall work together for your good” (D&C 90:24).*

**T**he Church magazines asked Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to share some thoughts about D&C 90:24, the Young Men and Young Women Mutual theme for 2004.

**This scripture seems to be divided into four parts. What does the first part mean, to “search diligently”?**

**Elder Perry:** In order to find answers, the Lord says, we not only have to search for them, but we have to search *diligently*. That means there is effort involved. We really have to work at it. One of the best places to search for answers is in the scriptures, and searching diligently means reading them again and again, prayerfully and with faith, until the answers become apparent.

I often think of what happened in the Book of Mormon, in 1 Nephi 3–4. Lehi sent his sons back to Jerusalem to get from Laban the record known as the brass plates. The



***Nephi obtained the brass plates by faith. In the same way, if youth will act in faith, they will receive knowledge that will guide them.***

record was important; the people needed it so they would not dwindle in unbelief.

On their first try, Lehi’s sons left getting the records to chance. They cast lots, and Laman was selected. He went to talk to Laban, and Laban was angry and cast him out of his presence. If young people leave the study of the scriptures to chance—only what they may casually absorb in Mutual, seminary, or a Sunday School class—they will not get the deep meaning that will come from studying by themselves and with their families. You cannot leave to chance a treasure as important as knowledge of the gospel.

Next Lehi’s sons tried to buy the brass plates using the things of the world. Laban sent his servants to slay them, and they escaped only by leaving their riches behind. Young people today may be tempted to seek happiness through the things of the world. Worldly ideas are presented to them all the time as they sit in front of the



television or log on to the Internet. But sooner or later they will find that these ideas will not lead to the happiness they are seeking.

Finally, Nephi determined that the only way to obtain the records was by faith. When he made that decision, he was led by the Spirit to know what to do, and great blessings occurred. He obtained the scriptures, and the family of Lehi could journey in the wilderness with the sacred scriptures to guide them. In the same way, if youth will act in faith, they will receive knowledge that will guide them.

**Is it just the scriptures that we should search diligently?**

**Elder Perry:** Search after truth, and remember that word *diligently*. That doesn't mean halfheartedly. That means with all your might. It is also important to keep the commandments so you can feel the promptings of the Spirit. Part of being diligent is being worthy.

**As we are searching, what can we find that will be useful to us?**

**Elder Perry:** The scriptures give us the direction we need. They are the words of the Lord revealed to us by the prophets. And the scriptures are revealed in different times and seasons and years, giving us a great opportunity to have a large view of what has happened, that the truths have been restored. As you study them regularly, you can find the pattern for your own life. You can see how obedience will bring blessings to you.

**The next part of the verse says to “pray always.” How do we do that?**

**Elder Perry:** Carry a prayer in your heart. You don't have to express it out loud all the time, but there are very few hours in the day when you don't need guidance and direction in the course that you would want to follow. It is a wonderful, satisfying thing to know that the Lord is there. And He is there “24/7,” as they say. He is always available to us.

I remember an experience I had in the United States Marine Corps when we came in after being on a long, heavy, forced march. We were tired, hungry, and thirsty. The cooks had prepared a chicken salad to tide us over until our evening meal, and boy, was it going to taste good! A friend and I always paused and blessed the food before we ate. We prayed while the others dived in. Within hours, the whole group was violently ill, except for two—the two of us who had stopped to thank the Lord.

Of course, most prayers don't bring such dramatic results. Most of the time, the response is a quiet, peaceful feeling about what is right. I have had many times in my life when I have been comforted and assured by prayer.

We should also remember to give thanks. Heavenly Father provides so many wonderful opportunities and blessings. Most of our prayers should

*In the United States Marine Corps, a friend and I always blessed the food before we ate. We prayed while the others dived in. Carry a prayer in your heart. It is a wonderful, satisfying thing to know that the Lord is there. And He is there “24/7,” as they say.*





be expressions of appreciation for what He has given to us.

**How do we develop the habit of having a prayer in our hearts?**

**Elder Perry:** I hope most of it comes from following the example of good parents. Where young people have prayer as part of their daily lives, they have a warm, comfortable feeling about approaching the Lord. Prayer is a comfort and a practice that comes easily to every child.

**What counsel would you give to those who don't live in that kind of a setting?**

**Elder Perry:** They have the opportunity of embracing the gospel. The Church gives opportunity after opportunity to say prayers. I think the practice of prayer can be encouraged by the guidance of good priesthood leaders, Mutual leaders, and Young Men and Young Women leaders. That will help bridge the gap between not having it in their early lives and having an opportunity now to pick it up, go forward, and understand what the Lord has given us.

**Why is it important to “be believing”?**

**Elder Perry:** I feel I have always believed. I had a noble father, who was my bishop for the first 18 years of my life. He believed in the Lord, trusted in the Lord, and followed the Lord in his priesthood calling. I had a mother, who always had a strong belief and relied on that testimony within her. The belief of my parents created in me a desire to believe, which was important in gaining my own testimony.

**How should we go about gaining our own testimonies?**

**Elder Perry:** All of us have to gain our own testimonies, and the example of others is a tremendous way to start. We can feel confident when we find someone we trust who can bear solemn witness. There is a natural affinity that draws us to that desire to “be believing.”

It is also important to live the commandments. You have to know the law of the Lord and try living it in order to prove that it works and brings blessings. The Savior said, “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:17).





I've often thought, "What if I'd been reared without the gospel? How would I have reacted if I had heard it preached?" I hope I would have been sensitive enough to listen and evaluate and pray.

I don't think a testimony comes like a bolt out of the blue. A testimony is something that's growing all of the time. As I have opportunities to serve in the Lord's kingdom and see how He blesses His people, my testimony continues to grow.

**What are some of the other things we need to do?**

**Elder Perry:** We should never forget the value of partaking of the sacrament. I recall another experience I had in the military. I was part of a group that was able to stay together for a time. We held sacrament meeting every Sunday I was in the service. Sometimes the water came from a canteen cup and the bread was a biscuit from our K rations, but we partook of the sacrament. Friends who were separated from us, who did not have the opportunity to take the sacrament for a long time, seemed to be not as sure in their faith because of it.

You should seek out righteous Latter-day Saint companions and be certain that every Sunday you can renew your vows and covenants with the Lord. That does something to individuals. It makes them realize that the Lord is bound to supply the blessings that they are asking for, if they live worthy of them, if they live their part.

**How and when should we hope that "all things [will] work together for [our] good"?**

**Elder Perry:** There can be a great blessing in having to wait. You appreciate rewards more when you work toward them. Each period of life has a different phase, and as you progress from phase to phase, you find increasing fulfillment in following what the Church has taught us.

There is a great witness of the Holy Spirit within a person when he or she is doing what is right. It brings gladness, peace, and satisfaction that can come in no other way. When you live righteously, then other things fall into place. Those things may be different from what you had planned, but they will be good. Remember that blessings come in the timetable of the Lord.



**We held sacrament meeting every Sunday I was in the military. Sometimes the water came from a canteen cup and the bread was a biscuit, but we partook of the sacrament. Never forget the value of partaking of the sacrament.**

**What about tragedies that come into our lives? How can they work for our good?**

**Elder Perry:** Well, I have lost a wife and a daughter. Although it has been difficult, it has not shaken my testimony. I have found that life's trials can be overcome if you stay on course. Fulfillment comes despite tragedy, and that fulfillment gives you great satisfaction. Enduring in faith is an experience that brings you closer to the Spirit.

If you "search diligently, pray always, and be believing," it is very difficult to get off course. The Lord has promised us that. When people turn away from the Lord, there's an automatic deterioration of the ability to follow the Spirit and a loss of the opportunity to experience true joy in life. When people

follow the Lord, they prosper, they grow, and even though there are difficulties, the good things of life come according to the plan of the Lord.

There is great satisfaction in knowing who you are, what you are supposed to do here, and what eternal blessings our Father in Heaven

has promised to the faithful in the eternities to come. What greater comfort could there be than that?

**How do you know when that promise is fulfilled if you don't see immediate results?**

**Elder Perry:** One of the reasons we are on earth is to learn patience, endurance, and righteous living. It may take time to see the results, but if you live in the right way, you will find the joy and happiness that come from a good life. That's what faith is all about.

**What final suggestions do you have about how youth can apply the Lord's instructions in D&C 90:24?**

**Elder Perry:** Do what it says. It's a promise from the Lord, and look what He's promising you: "All things shall work together for your good." What a blessing that is! That's a promise of the Lord to these great young people. He's never failed yet.

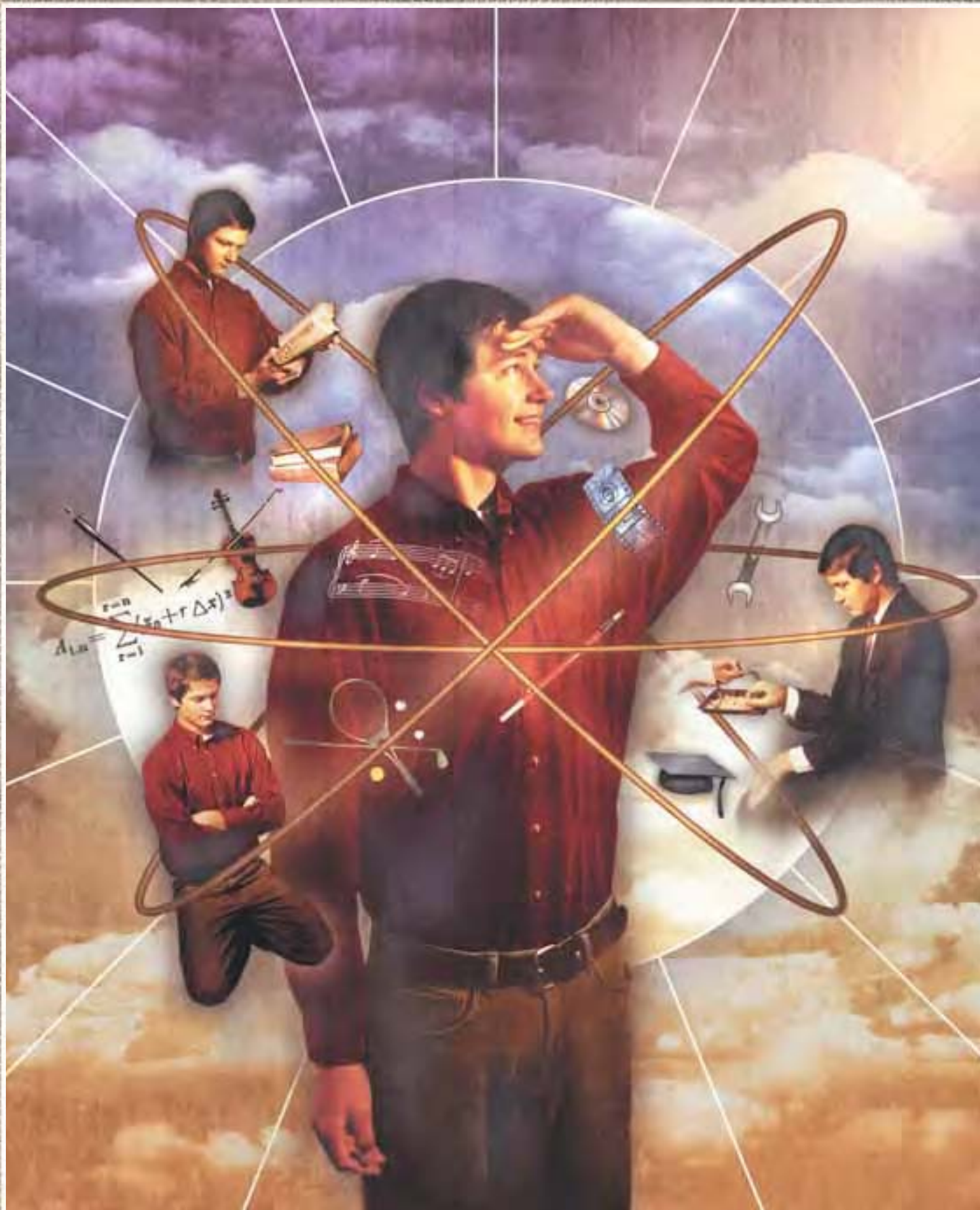
I have had such a great, exciting, and fulfilling life that I want every one of the youth in the Church to have the same blessings. I wasn't a straight-A student in school. I wasn't an all-state basketball player. In fact, I thought during my high school years that I was just mediocre. Yet life has been so good, so fulfilling, that I want to do everything I can to get young people to feel that.

Not every day of my life has been successful. But I don't think there has been a day when the Lord was not with me, inspiring and directing me. I think I have ended every day with a happy heart and an enthusiastic spirit to try again the next day, and I know that is a great way to live. ■

*This interview was conducted by Richard M. Romney and Janet Thomas.*







$$\Delta a = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i + \Delta x_i)^2}{n}$$

# Search, Pray, Believe

*Here's what the Young Men and Young Women general presidencies have to tell you about this year's Mutual theme.*



## **A Most Generous Promise**

Doctrine and Covenants 90:24 contains one of the most generous promises of the Lord. But it can be realized only by fulfilling the necessary conditions.

With limited years of experience, you may not yet know whether “all things [can] work together for your good.” It often requires a lifetime of trusting in the Lord to judge whether this promise is true.

We testify that it is true and that you may—by your diligence, prayerfulness, faith, and obedience—claim all the blessings of what the Apostle Peter called the Savior’s “great and precious promises” (2 Peter 1:4).

Young Men General Presidency  
Elder F. Melvin Hammond (center)  
Elder Lynn G. Robbins (left)  
Elder Donald L. Hallstrom (right)

## **2004 MUTUAL THEME**

*“Search diligently,  
pray always, and  
be believing, and  
all things shall  
work together  
for your good”  
(D&C 90:24).*



## **A Formula for Spiritual Protection**

Here it is, a formula for spiritual protection and success! “Search diligently, pray always, and be believing.” This formula fortified the sons of Mosiah (see Alma 17:2–3), and it can be a safeguard for you.

Use this theme as you prepare talks and plan activities. Use it at school and in your families. As you do so, the Holy Ghost will guide you. You are promised, “All things shall work together for your good.”

We love you, we pray for you, and we have confidence in you. Put this formula to the test. It works.

Young Women General Presidency  
Susan W. Tanner (center)  
Julie B. Beck (left)  
Elaine S. Dalton (right)



*Youth from around the world speak out on what the Mutual theme means to them.*

**Search Diligently**

In this verse, we can learn what kind of people we should be to come unto Christ. To return to God's kingdom we need to seek knowledge diligently, to pray and ask for help, and what is most important—to truly believe in the Lord. Then we will get great blessings and inherit eternal life. Of course, we need to keep all the covenants that we entered into when we were baptized.

Vladimir Proskourin, 16  
Vladivostok First Branch,  
Vladivostok Russia District

This Church was restored through a boy who decided to “search diligently.” The Prophet Joseph Smith has helped us all by setting an example. By searching the scriptures, along with searching our hearts, we can find the answers we are looking for.

Kyle Curbello, 17  
Jenks Ward,  
Tulsa Oklahoma Stake

Searching diligently is necessary to understand the gospel. When someone asks me a question I cannot answer, I turn to the basic principles of the gospel for help. I want to make sure that the next time the subject comes up, I will have an answer for them.

Melanie Grant, 16  
Walled Lake Ward,  
Bloomfield Hills Michigan Stake

Puzzles are my hobby. My strategy is to put one piece at a time in its place. I must concentrate until the last piece is in place. This is like living a gospel-centered life. We must focus continually. We need to constantly seek God's path, have diligence in our work, and place everything in God's care.

Ying Lin Lee, 19  
Shuang Ho First Ward,  
Taipei Taiwan West Stake

**You too will be able to speak out on this year's Mutual theme as you learn about it by using it in your talks, your activities, and most important—your daily lives.**

When I read this passage, I think of the need to search diligently for people who need the gospel. I pray for them and for the missionaries. It is also important for me to talk to people about what we know and to show them how happy I am because of it.

Sarah Hoare, 12  
Liverpool Ward,  
Liverpool England Stake

**Pray Always**

My youngest brother was saying the usual family prayer, “Thank Thee for this day, the weather . . .,” when out of this five-year-old's mouth came, “and thank Thee for letting us be able to talk to Thee always.” I sat for a long time wondering about my wise brother. I started saying personal prayers in the morning and right before I went to bed. I was happier than before and felt the Spirit more often. My questions and doubts were quickly answered, and I knew that I was spiritually improving.

Andrea Minson, 14  
Baytown First Ward,  
Houston Texas East Stake

Through prayer, Heavenly Father gives us the opportunity to seek guidance through our struggles, to worship, to express our gratitude, and most important, to come unto Him and His Son and partake of Their love.

Paul Brusuelas, 17  
Eagle River Third Ward,  
Wasilla Alaska Stake

“Pray always” is the phrase that means the most to me because it has helped me throughout my education. Heavenly Father will help you when you ask and put in the effort.

Chantel Burgess, 16  
Sunnyvale Ward,  
Auckland New Zealand Henderson Stake

It doesn't matter when or where I am, whether I'm happy or sad, prayer will bring peace and happiness. Since I am in high school now, temptations have grown stronger, but I have overcome them through prayer.

Shan Cheng, 15  
Lu Yeh Branch,  
Hua Lien Taiwan District

### **Be Believing**

Believing is an essential step to gaining a strong testimony. You do not have to understand to believe. But with the help and promptings of the Spirit, you can have a greater understanding of all things.

Michelle Pray, 16  
Lewisville Second Ward,  
Lewisville Texas Stake

During Christmas, I was going home teaching and I had a prompting to take my violin and play a Christmas carol for our families. I played for the first two families, but I didn't see why I had had the prompting. Then we went to the last family (who were less active), and that was when I knew. I played for them and could see that they were moved; the Spirit was there. They started taking the missionary lessons.

Martin Perez, 18  
Midland Second Ward,  
Odessa Texas Stake

In this scripture, the word *believing* has the deepest meaning to me. Three years ago, due to a mishap during a construction project, my father fell from the roof of a building. I fasted and prayed that Heavenly Father would bless my father to recover his health quickly. My father, who entered the hospital with a spinal injury and unable to walk, left the hospital only 13 days later. Now no one realizes he was ever injured.

Because I was younger at that time, I did not understand what benefit fasting and prayer would bring. I knew I had to believe. Through the teachings of the Church, I know how I can ask for help.

Mi Cheng, 18  
Lu Yeh Branch,  
Hua Lien Taiwan District

### **All Things Shall Work Together for Your Good**

Many nights my choice is between doing scripture study or homework first. On those nights when there is too much to do, I get a little prompting to put away the homework, put my faith in the Lord, and spend my more awake time in the scriptures. It is pretty safe to say that every time I have chosen to study spiritually first, the Lord has made sure my other work was taken care of on time.

Michelle Nielson, 17  
Basin City Second Ward,  
Pasco Washington Stake

This year our band director scheduled a performance on the day of our annual youth temple trip. Three other Church members and I were to participate in this show, and my director threatened to cancel the performance for everyone if the four of us didn't go. Some of my friends were upset with me. I decided to fast, pray, and trust in the Lord. The Holy Spirit whispered to me that I should go on the temple trip and that everything would be all right.

After the temple trip, I was afraid to go to band practice. However fear turned to joy as I learned that the band show was postponed because of bad weather. If you put your trust and faith in the Lord, He will direct your life so "all things shall work together for your good."

Heather Todd, 15  
Berwick Ward,  
Williamsport Pennsylvania Stake

Being from a part-member family and growing up in a big city, I sometimes wondered how to avoid drugs, gangs, or immoral acts. But I know it is possible. Even in the midst of hardships, I know that Heavenly Father will always provide a way. He will not give me a trial or obstacle that I cannot overcome. In the end, all things will work for my good.

Chanthou Lok, 18  
South Philadelphia Branch,  
Valley Forge Pennsylvania Stake ■



BOOK/CHAPTERS

ETHER 1–15

AUTHOR/ENGRAVER

MORONI

YEARS SINCE LEHI LEFT JERUSALEM

DATE (Some dates are approximate.)

B.C. 2200

# Book of Mormon

## TIMES AT A GLANCE

### JAREDITES

- Jared, his brother, their families, and others (the Jaredites) left the area of the Tower of Babel and traveled to a new land (see Ether 1–2).
- The Jaredites built barges and crossed the sea to the American continent (see Ether 2–6).

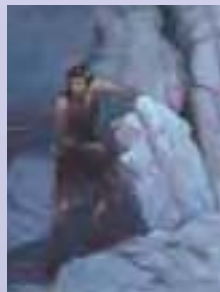


- Akish formed secret combinations (see Ether 8).
- Emer was anointed king and saw Jesus Christ (see Ether 9:14–22).



- Great famine and poisonous serpents caused the people to be humbled before the Lord (see Ether 9:30–35).

Prophets warned of the destruction of the Jaredite nation unless they repented (see Ether 11:1–13).



Eventually bloody civil war destroyed the Jaredite nation. Only Coriantumr and Ether survived (see Ether 13–15).

### MAJOR TEACHINGS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST



Christ showed His spirit body to the brother of Jared (see Ether 3–4).

### SOME STATEMENTS OF GOSPEL PRINCIPLES

(See chart on page 24.)

1 2

3 4

### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Genesis

2 Kings

Isaiah

600

8  
591

11  
588

29  
570

30  
569

### THE FAMILY OF LEHI

- Prophets in Jerusalem warned that the city would be destroyed unless the people repented (see 1 Nephi 1:4).
- The Lord commanded Lehi and his family to travel to a promised land. They departed into the wilderness (see 1 Nephi 2:1–6).
- Lehi's sons returned to Jerusalem to obtain the plates of brass (see 1 Nephi 3–4).
- Ishmael and his family joined Lehi's family in their journey to the new land (see 1 Nephi 7; 16:7–8).



- The Lord gave Lehi a brass ball, or compass (Liahona), to guide their journey (see 1 Nephi 16:9–16).

### PEOPLE OF ZARAHEMLA (MULEKITES)

- Mulek, the son of King Zedekiah, escaped from Jerusalem. The Lord led him and his people to the American continent. Coriantumr, the last survivor of the Jaredite nation, lived with them until his death (see Omni 1:14–21; Helaman 6:10; Ether 13:20–21).



- Nephi kept a secular history (large plates of Nephi) and a sacred record (small plates of Nephi) of his people. He commanded that the plates be handed down from one generation to another (see 1 Nephi 19:1–6).
- The Lord revealed to Lehi that Jerusalem had been destroyed (see 2 Kings 25; 2 Nephi 1:4).



- The Lord commanded Nephi to build a ship. The families crossed the sea and arrived on the American continent (see 1 Nephi 17–18).

- The more righteous part of Lehi's family—the people of Nephi—separated themselves from the more wicked part—the Lamanites (see 2 Nephi 5:1–7).

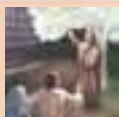
### PEOPLE OF NEPHI

- The people of Nephi prospered in the land of Nephi (see 2 Nephi 5:8–13).

### LANANITES

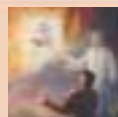
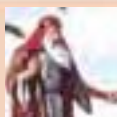


- Lehi counseled and blessed his posterity, then died (see 2 Nephi 1–4).



Lehi saw a vision of the tree of life (see 1 Nephi 8).

Lehi prophesied of the Messiah (see 1 Nephi 10:3–15).



Nephi learned of the condensation of God (see 1 Nephi 11–12).



Nephi prophesied of Christ's Crucifixion (see 1 Nephi 19).



Lehi taught Jacob of the Holy Messiah (see 2 Nephi 2).

Nephi and Jacob taught and prophesied of Christ (see 2 Nephi 6–10).



5 6 8  
7

10 12  
9 11

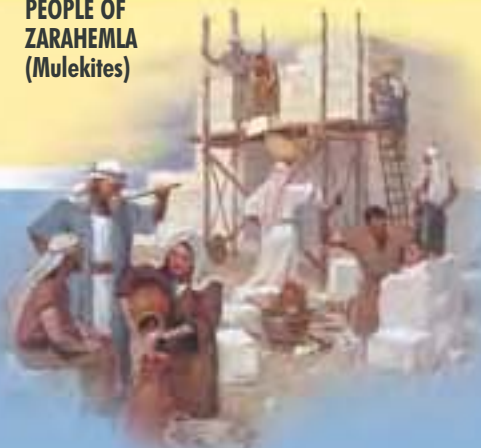
13

14 16  
15 17



| BOOK   | JACOB 1-7                | ENOS 1 | JAROM 1 | OMNI 1:1-22, 26-29 | AMARON | CHEMISH |
|--------|--------------------------|--------|---------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| AUTHOR | JACOB (brother of Nephi) | ENOS   | JAROM   | OMNI               |        |         |
| YEARS  | 40                       | 55     | 179     | 200                | 238    | 282     |
| DATE   | B.C. 559                 | 544    | 420     | 399                | 361    | 317     |

**PEOPLE OF ZARAHEMLA (Mulekites)**



● The people of Nephi tried to restore the Lamanites to the true faith in God but failed (see Enos 1:20).

● The people of Nephi became stiffnecked. Many prophets preached repentance. Enos gave his son Jarom the small plates and died (see Enos 1:22-27; Jarom 1:1-2).

● After many seasons of war and peace, Omni gave his son Amaron the plates (see Omni 1:1-3).

● Jacob confronted and confounded Sherem, an anti-Christ (see Jacob 7:1-23).

● The people of Nephi repented and repeatedly defeated the Lamanites in battle (see Jarom 1:3-13).

● Many of the wicked Nephites were destroyed. Amaron gave his brother Chemish the plates (see Omni 1:4-8).

**PEOPLE OF NEPHI (Nephites)**

● Nephi gave his brother Jacob the plates and died (see Jacob 1:1-14).

● Jacob gave his son Enos the plates and died (see Jacob 7:27).

● Jarom gave his son Omni the plates and died (see Jarom 1:14-15).

● Chemish passed the records to his son Abinadom (see Omni 1:9).



**LAMANITES**

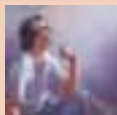
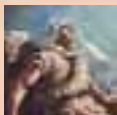
● Wars and contentions began between the people of Nephi and the Lamanites (see 2 Nephi 5:34).

● There were many wars and dissensions between the people of Nephi and the Lamanites (see Jarom 1:8-13).



**MAJOR TEACHINGS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

Nephi expounded the doctrine of Christ (see 2 Nephi 31-32).



Jacob taught of obtaining a hope in Christ (see Jacob 4).

**GOSPEL PRINCIPLES**  
(See chart on page 24.)



**BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

Ezra Esther Nehemiah Malachi

| ABINADOM | AMALEKI | MOSIAH 9–10<br>MORMON |     |  | OMNI 1:23–25, 30<br>AMALEKI | WORDS OF MORMON<br>MORMON | MOSIAH 11–18<br>MORMON |
|----------|---------|-----------------------|-----|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
|          |         | 412                   | 421 |  | 439                         |                           | 452                    |
|          |         | 187                   | 178 |  | 160                         |                           | 147                    |
|          |         | ▲                     | ▲   |  | ▲                           |                           | ▲                      |

## NEPHITES



Mosiah discovered the people of Zarahemla (Mulekites). Mosiah became their king in the land of Zarahemla (see Omni 1:12–19).

Being warned of the Lord, Mosiah fled northward with those who hearkened to the voice of the Lord (see Omni 1:12–13; Alma 22:27–34).

The plates passed from Abinadom to his son Amaleki (see Omni 1:10–12).

● A large group of Nephites left Zarahemla for the land of Nephi. After a violent internal dispute, only 50 returned to Zarahemla (see Omni 1:27–28; Mosiah 9:1–2).

● Another group, led by Zeniff, returned to the land of Nephi and began to live in peace with the Lamanites (see Mosiah 9:3–9).



● The Lamanites came to battle against the people of Zeniff (see Mosiah 9:10–15).

● The Lamanites again went to war against the people of Zeniff. Many Lamanites died (see Mosiah 10:1–20).

● Mosiah died and his son Benjamin became king. Wars continued between the Nephites in Zarahemla and the Lamanites (see Omni 1:23–24).

● Amaleki gave King Benjamin the small plates (see Omni 1:25, 30; Words of Mormon 1:10).

King Benjamin and holy prophets established peace and righteousness in Zarahemla (see Words of Mormon 1:13–18).

## PEOPLE OF ZENIFF

● The Lord delivered the people of Zeniff, and peace was again established in the land of Nephi (see Mosiah 9:16–19).

● Zeniff conferred the kingdom upon his son Noah (see Mosiah 10:21–22; 11:1).

Alma, one of King Noah's priests, was converted to the Lord by the preaching of Abinadi. He taught and baptized (see Mosiah 18:1–31).



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Abinadi prophesied of redemption through Christ (see Mosiah 13–15).



Alma baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (see Mosiah 18).



**BOOK** MOSIAH 1–8; 19–29  
**AUTHOR** MORMON  
**YEARS** 454  
**DATE** B.C. 145

475  
 124  
 478  
 121

**NEPHITES**

● King Benjamin taught his people, gave them a new name, and conferred the kingdom upon his son Mosiah (see Mosiah 1–6).



● Ammon and 15 others journeyed to the land of Nephi to learn what had happened to Zeniff and his people (see Mosiah 7:1–7).



**LAMANITES**

**PEOPLE OF ALMA**

● Alma and his people worshiped God and prospered in the land of Helam (see Mosiah 23:3–20).

**PEOPLE OF ZENIFF**

● The Lord warned Alma to flee with his people. They settled in a new land (see Mosiah 18:32–34; 23:1–5).

● A group of 43 men went to find a way back to the land of Zarahemla. They returned with a set of 24 gold plates—the plates of Ether (see Mosiah 8:7–18; 21:25–28).

● King Noah was killed. The people of Zeniff were in bondage to the Lamanites. Limhi, son of Noah, became king (see Mosiah 19:10–29).

● Ammon discovered the people of Zeniff, led by King Limhi; they were in bondage to the Lamanites (see Mosiah 7:8–16).

● Gideon led a rebellion against King Noah (see Mosiah 19:1–9; 25:5).

● Ammon guided Limhi's people back to the land of Zarahemla (see Mosiah 22).

● The people of Limhi drove the Lamanites out of their land (see Mosiah 20:8–26).



● The wicked priests of King Noah escaped into the wilderness and abducted some Lamanite daughters (see Mosiah 19:21; 20:1–5).

● The Lamanites conquered them, but Limhi's people humbled themselves before the Lord (see Mosiah 21:1–22).

**PRIESTS OF KING NOAH**

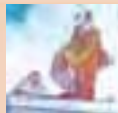
● The Lamanites again went to war against the people of Zeniff (see Mosiah 19:6).

● The Lamanites went to battle against the people of Zeniff because some of their daughters were missing (see Mosiah 20:6–7).

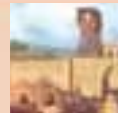
● Lamanite armies, attempting to find Limhi's people, discovered the wicked priests of King Noah (see Mosiah 22:15–16; 23:30–32).

**MAJOR TEACHINGS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

King Benjamin preached of our indebtedness to Christ (see Mosiah 2).



An angel revealed to King Benjamin that Christ's blood atoneth (see Mosiah 3).



King Benjamin's people became children of Christ (see Mosiah 4–5).

**GOSPEL PRINCIPLES**  
 (See chart on page 24.)

54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

64

**BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

479  
120  
▲

507  
92  
▲

508  
91  
▲

● The peoples of King Mosiah, King Limhi, and Alma united to form one nation of Nephites in the land of Zarahemla. Alma established the Church of Christ throughout the land (see Mosiah 25).



● Many were led into sin by unbelievers. Alma received instructions from the Lord on how to judge transgressors and set the Church in order (see Mosiah 26).

● An angel appeared to Alma the Younger and the sons of Mosiah, causing them to repent and stop persecuting the Church. They began to repair the spiritual damage they had done (see Mosiah 27).

● King Mosiah translated the plates of Ether and read them to the people (see Mosiah 28:10–19).

● King Mosiah gave his sons and others permission to preach the gospel among the Lamanites. They left on a 14-year mission (see Mosiah 28:1–9).

● King Mosiah conferred all the records on Alma the Younger (see Mosiah 28:20).

● King Mosiah proposed that the people be ruled by judges. The people agreed, and Alma the Younger was chosen as the first chief judge and also as high priest over the affairs of the Church (see Mosiah 29).

● The people began to measure years according to the reign of the judges. Alma and King Mosiah died (see Mosiah 29:45–47; Alma 1:1).



● Alma and his people were put into bondage to the Lamanites (see Mosiah 23:29, 36–39; 24:1–9).

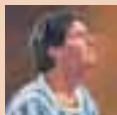
● Alma and his people prayed for deliverance. The Lord answered their prayers, and they escaped, arriving in the land of Zarahemla (see Mosiah 24:10–25).



● While trying to find the land of Nephi, the Lamanite armies found Alma and his people (see Mosiah 23:21–28, 35).

● The priests and their families became leaders of the Lamanites (see Mosiah 23:33–35, 39).

Alma learned of repentance and forgiveness through Christ (see Mosiah 26).



Alma the Younger learned that all must be born of God (see Mosiah 27).





# *Book of Mormon Times at a Glance*

## Some Statements of Gospel Principles

| Reference           | Principle   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Ether 4:11–12     | All good things come from Jesus Christ and persuade us to do good.  |
| 2 Ether 8:22        | Any nation that upholds secret combinations to get power and gain, until they spread over the nation, will be destroyed.                                      |
| 3 Ether 12:6        | Faith is things which are hoped for and not seen. We receive no witness until after the trial of our faith.   |
| 4 Ether 12:27       | If we will humble ourselves before God and have faith in Him, He will make weak things become strong.   |
| 5 1 Nephi 1:1       | We can have many afflictions and yet be highly favored of the Lord.   |
| 6 1 Nephi 1:20      | The tender mercies of the Lord are over all those who have faith in Him.  |
| 7 1 Nephi 2:20      | Inasmuch as we keep the Lord's commandments, we will prosper in the land.   |
| 8 1 Nephi 3:7       | When the Lord gives us a commandment, He will prepare a way for us to accomplish it.  |
| 9 1 Nephi 8:10–32   | The fruit of the tree of life is more desirable than any other fruit.   |
| 10 1 Nephi 10:17–19 | The mysteries of God are revealed by the power of the Holy Ghost to all those who diligently seek them.   |
| 11 1 Nephi 14:10    | There are but two churches, the Church of the Lamb of God and the church of the devil.  |
| 12 1 Nephi 17:33–35 | The Lord esteems all people as one; those who are righteous are favored of God.   |
| 13 1 Nephi 22:26    | The righteousness of the people of God will make Satan powerless.   |
| 14 2 Nephi 2:11     | There must be opposition in all things.   |
| 15 2 Nephi 2:16     | God has given unto us that we should act for ourselves.   |
| 16 2 Nephi 2:25     | We are that we might have joy.  |
| 17 2 Nephi 2:27     | We are free to choose either liberty and eternal life through Jesus Christ or captivity and death through the power of the devil.                             |
| 18 2 Nephi 9:13–15  | In the day of resurrection, we shall have a perfect knowledge of our guilt or our righteousness.  |
| 19 2 Nephi 9:20     | God knows all things.   |
| 20 2 Nephi 9:29     | It is good to be learned if we hearken unto the counsels of God.  |
| 21 2 Nephi 9:39     | To be carnally minded is death, and to be spiritually minded is life eternal.   |
| 22 2 Nephi 9:51     | We should not spend our money for that which is of no worth or labor for that which cannot satisfy.   |
| 23 2 Nephi 25:23    | It is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.  |
| 24 2 Nephi 25:29    | If we worship Jesus Christ with our whole soul, we will not be cast out.  |
| 25 2 Nephi 26:11    | The Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with us.  |
| 26 2 Nephi 26:24    | Everything the Lord does is for our benefit, because He loves us.   |
| 27 2 Nephi 26:28    | All people are privileged, the one like unto the other, and none are forbidden.   |
| 28 2 Nephi 26:33    | All are alike unto God, and He inviteth all to come unto Him.   |
| 29 2 Nephi 28:7–8   | It is a false teaching to say, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; and it shall be well with us."   |
| 30 2 Nephi 28:21    | The devil seeks to pacify the people of God into thinking that all is well in Zion, while leading them carefully down to hell.                                |
| 31 2 Nephi 28:30    | The Lord teaches His children line upon line.   |
| 32 2 Nephi 29:1–2   | In the last days, the Lord will use the Book of Mormon as a standard to gather His people.  |
| 33 2 Nephi 31:6–13  | The Savior was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, and those who follow His example and are baptized in His name will be given the gift of the Holy Ghost. |
| 34 2 Nephi 31:17    | After repentance and baptism comes a remission of our sins by the Holy Ghost.   |
| 35 2 Nephi 31:20    | If we press forward, steadfast in Christ, feasting upon His word, we shall have eternal life.   |
| 36 2 Nephi 32:3–5   | The Holy Ghost can show us all things that we should do.  |

| Reference              | Principle   |
|------------------------|---|
| 37 2 Nephi 32:8        | The Spirit teaches us to pray.  |
| 38 2 Nephi 32:9        | We should not perform anything unto the Lord unless we have first prayed.   |
| 39 Jacob 1:17–19       | Before teaching, we should obtain our errand from the Lord.   |
| 40 Jacob 2:18–19       | We should seek the kingdom of God before we seek for riches.  |
| 41 Jacob 2:35          | A bad example breaks the hearts of others and causes them to lose confidence in us.   |
| 42 Jacob 4:7           | God shows us our weakness so we may know that it is by His grace that we have power to do His work.   |
| 43 Jacob 4:8–10        | We should not seek to counsel the Lord but take counsel from His hand.  |
| 44 Jacob 4:14          | Spiritual blindness comes from looking beyond the mark.   |
| 45 Jacob 5:65–75       | In the last days the Lord will clear away the bad parts of His vineyard as the good grows.  |
| 46 Jacob 7:11          | All prophets have written and prophesied of Jesus Christ.   |
| 47 Enos 1:5–8          | We may be made whole, forgiven of our sins, because of our faith in Jesus Christ.   |
| 48 Omni 1:26           | We are to offer our whole souls as an offering unto the Savior by fasting, praying, and enduring to the end.  |
| 49 Mosiah 10:17        | Teaching our children to hate can have long-term consequences.  |
| 50 Words of Mormon 1:7 | We should do the will of the Lord even when we do not know why we are doing it.   |
| 51 Mosiah 15:11–13     | The seed of Christ are those who have obeyed His words, believed in Him, and looked forward to receiving a remission of their sins through His Redemption.  |
| 52 Mosiah 16:8         | The sting of death is swallowed up in Christ.   |
| 53 Mosiah 18:9–10      | A desire to give comfort and stand as a witness of God at all times and in all things is part of being prepared for baptism. Baptism by water is a witness before God that we have entered into a covenant with Him.          |
| 54 Mosiah 2:17         | When we are serving others, we are also serving God.  |
| 55 Mosiah 2:21         | If we should serve God with our whole souls, yet we are still unprofitable servants.  |
| 56 Mosiah 2:32–33, 36  | Those who list to obey the evil spirit when they know the law of God receive the wages of eternal damnation.  |
| 57 Mosiah 3:17         | Christ is the only name or means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men.   |
| 58 Mosiah 3:19         | The natural man is an enemy to God unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit and becomes as a child.   |
| 59 Mosiah 4:3          | A remission of sin brings peace of conscience.  |
| 60 Mosiah 4:27         | All things are to be done in wisdom and order.  |
| 61 Mosiah 4:30         | We must watch our thoughts, words, and deeds; keep the commandments of God; and continue in faith; or we will perish.   |
| 62 Mosiah 5:2          | When the Spirit has made a mighty change in our hearts, we will have no more disposition to do evil but to do good continually.   |
| 63 Mosiah 21:13–15     | The Lord will make it easier for us to carry our burdens.   |
| 64 Mosiah 7:29–33      | The Lord will not succor His people in the day of their transgression. When we turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, trust, and diligence of mind, He will deliver us from bondage according to His will and pleasure. |
| 65 Mosiah 8:20–21      | How blind and impenetrable is the understanding of the children of men.   |
| 66 Mosiah 24:14–15     | We should cheerfully and with patience submit to the will of the Lord, who strengthens us so we can bear our burdens with ease.   |
| 67 Mosiah 26:29–30     | As often as we repent in the sincerity of our heart, the Lord will forgive us.  |
| 68 Mosiah 27:25–26     | All people must be born again, changed from their fallen state to a state of righteousness, becoming new creatures to inherit the kingdom of God.   |
| 69 Mosiah 27:31        | At the last day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is God and that His judgment is just.   |
| 70 Mosiah 27:36        | We can become instruments in the hands of God in bringing many to the knowledge of the Redeemer.  |

## Feeling the Love of the Lord Daily in Our Lives

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

**Bonnie D. Parkin, Relief Society general president:** “If I could have one thing happen for every woman in this Church, it would be that they would feel the love of the Lord in their lives daily. I have felt the love of the Lord in my life, and I am so thankful for that” (“Feel the Love of the Lord,” *Liabona*, July 2002, 95; *Ensign*, May 2002, 84).

### As We Love Him, What Does Our Gracious God Promise Us?

**1 Corinthians 2:9:** “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”

**2 Nephi 1:15:** “The Lord hath redeemed my soul from hell; I have beheld his glory, and I am encircled about eternally in the arms of his love.”

**President Gordon B. Hinckley:** “Love of God is the root of all virtue, of all goodness, of all strength of character, of all fidelity to do right. . . . Love the Lord your God, and love His Son, and be ever grateful for Their love for us. Whenever other love fades, there will be that shining, transcendent, everlasting love of God for each of us and the love of His Son, who gave His life for each of us” (“Words of the Living Prophet,” *Liabona*, Dec. 1996, 8; “Excerpts from Recent Addresses of President

Gordon B. Hinckley,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1996, 73).

**1 Nephi 11:22–23:** “The love of God . . . sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the most desirable above all things . . . and the most joyous to the soul.”

### What Can We Do to Feel the Love of the Lord Each Day?

**Jacob 3:2:** “Lift up your heads and receive the pleasing word of God, and feast upon his love; for ye may, if your minds are firm, forever.”

**Elder Gene R. Cook of the Seventy:** “True gratitude is the ability to humbly see, feel, and even receive love. Gratitude is a form of returning love to God. Recognize His hand, tell Him so, express your love to Him. As you come to truly know the Lord, you will find an intimate, sacred relationship built on trust. You will come to know He understands your anguish and will, in compassion, always respond to you in love.

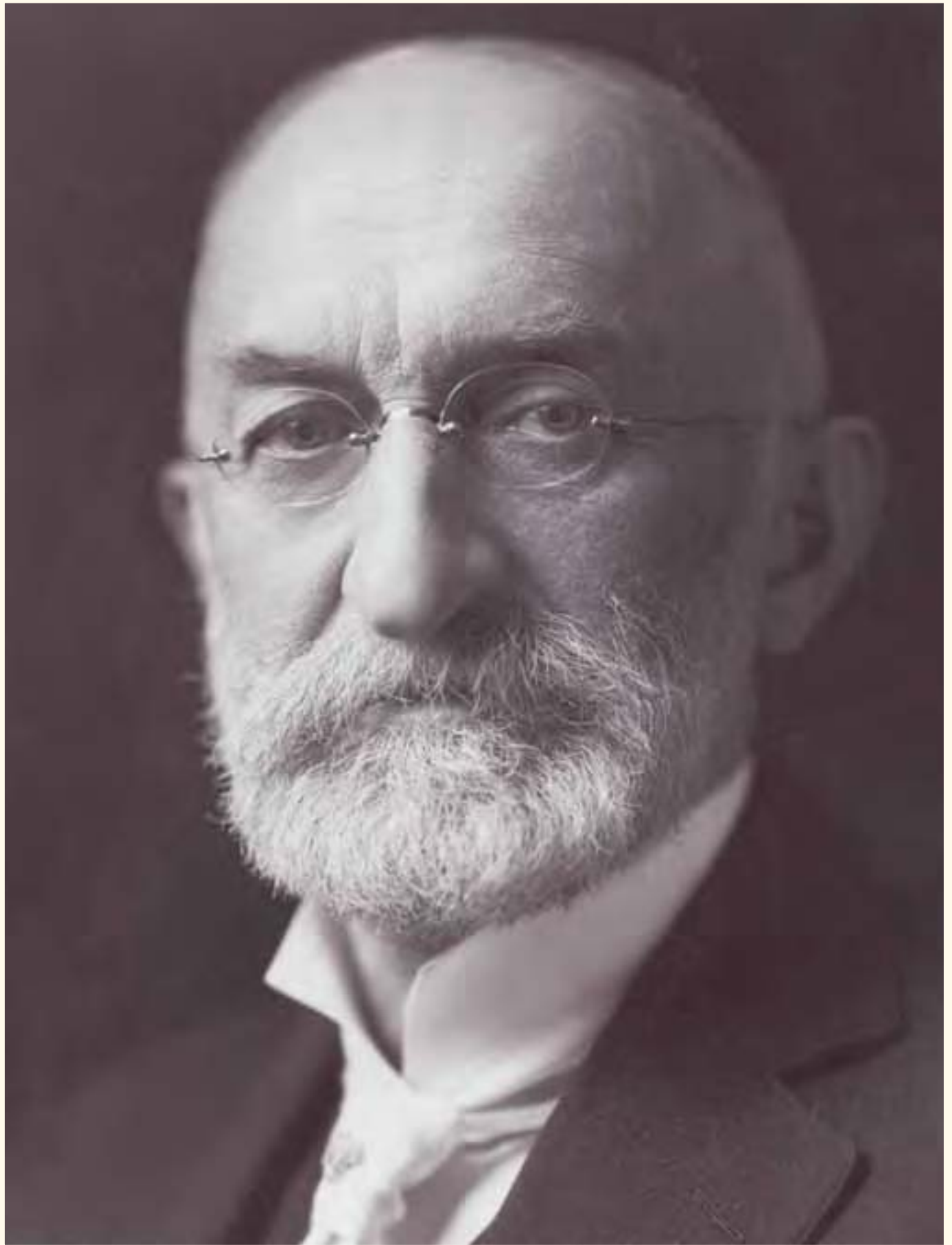
“Receive it. *Feel* it. It is not enough just to know that God loves you. The gift is to be *felt* continually day by day.

It will then be a divine motivator throughout your life. Repent. Remove any worldliness from your life, including anger. Receive a continual remission of your sins, and you will bridle all your passions and be filled with love” (“Charity: Perfect and Everlasting Love,”

*Liabona*, July 2002, 92–93; *Ensign*, May 2002, 83). ■







# Heber J. Grant

## *A Prophet for Hard Times*

*Known for his persistence, President Grant was well prepared to lead the Church after World War I, through the Great Depression, and through World War II.*

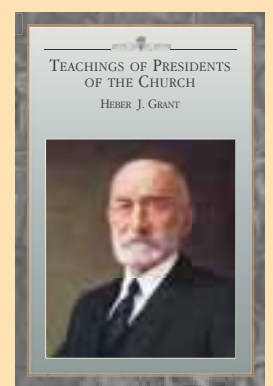
BY SHERRIE MILLS JOHNSON

When President Joseph F. Smith lay dying in 1918, Heber J. Grant, then President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was at his bedside. Taking Heber's hand, President Smith said: "The Lord bless you, my boy, the Lord bless you; you have got a great responsibility. Always remember this is the Lord's work and not man's. The Lord is greater than any man. He knows whom He wants to lead His Church, and never makes any mistake. The Lord bless you."<sup>1</sup>

With these words of encouragement, the leadership of the 495,000 members of the Church fell to Heber Jeddy Grant. World War I

had just ended, and people were struggling to recover from its horrible devastation. A worldwide influenza epidemic, which eventually killed more than 20 million people, began in the fall of 1918. Because of it, the April 1919 general conference in which President Grant was to be sustained had to be postponed until June.<sup>2</sup>

But the more-than-six-foot-tall (185-cm) leader was ready for the task. For the next 26 1/2 years, President Grant served as prophet, seer, and revelator. As the seventh President of the Church, he served longer than any other Church President had except Brigham Young. During these years the Church almost doubled in size, growing to 954,000; built 3 new temples; and added 16 missions. Under President Grant's leadership, the Church inaugurated the welfare system, began microfilming family history records, and established the weekly Tabernacle Choir radio program. President Grant delivered a sermon during the Church's first radio broadcast and did much to change the negative image of the Church that existed at the time.



**The teachings of Heber J. Grant are the Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society curriculum for 2004, the fifth study guide in the series of Teachings of Presidents of the Church.**





**Above: Jedediah M. Grant. Right, top: Rachel Ridgeway Ivins Grant, with Heber J. Grant, age 10. Right, bottom: Heber J. Grant, age 34. Opposite page, top: Heber J. Grant and Lucy Stringham Grant in 1887 with daughters Rachel, Lucy, Florence, Edith, and Anna. Right: Heber J. Grant's missionary calling card, used during his 1901–03 mission to Japan; the first missionary tract in Japanese, published in 1908. Far right: Heber J. Grant in Japan in 1902.**

### Jedediah and Rachel

President Grant had been well prepared spiritually by the example of his parents. His father, Jedediah M. Grant, Second Counselor in the First Presidency to President Brigham Young, died of pneumonia at age 40, only nine days after Heber's birth on 22 November 1856. However, the legacy of faith and righteousness his father left was a motivating factor throughout Heber's life. "Years after his death I was reaping the benefits of his honesty and faithful labors," President Grant later explained.<sup>3</sup>

The influence of Heber's mother, Rachel Ridgeway Ivins Grant, was equally as powerful. Before Rachel joined the Church, her wealthy family in the eastern United States offered her a large income if she would renounce the gospel of Jesus Christ. But she refused and stood by her testimony. After the death of her husband, the young widow, who had been left penniless, worked sewing clothing and taking in boarders in order to provide for her son.

She taught Heber the value of hard work, and together they eked out a meager existence. In the process, Rachel and Heber grew very close. He was later to say of her: "I stand here today as one whose mother was all to him. She was both father and mother to me; she set an example of integrity, of devotion and love, of determination, and honor second to none. I stand here today as the president of the Church because I have followed the advice and counsel and the burning testimony of the divinity of the work of God, which came to me from my mother."<sup>4</sup>

### A Prophet's Influence

While his mother was the dominant influence in Heber's life, the Lord placed many others in his path to help guide and direct him. One of the first of these associations was with President Brigham Young (1801–77). Young Heber, too poor to own a sled, entertained himself in the winter by catching hold of passing vehicles, sliding on the snow a block or two, and letting go. One day when he was six years old, Heber caught hold of President Young's sleigh. As Heber later told the story, President Young "was very fond of a fine team, and was given to driving quite rapidly. I therefore found myself skimming along with such speed that I dared not jump off, and after riding some time I became very cold."

Finally President Young noticed Heber, told his driver to stop, tucked the cold child under buffalo robes, and then asked who he was. When President Young discovered that the boy was Jedediah M. Grant's son, he expressed his love for Heber's father and the hope that Heber would be as fine a man. Before President Young dropped Heber off, he invited the boy to visit him in his office. Thus began a friendship that lasted until President Young's death. Of this friendship, Heber said, "I learned not only to respect and venerate him, but to love him with an affection akin to that which I imagine I would have felt for my own father, had I been permitted to know and return a father's love."<sup>5</sup>





### Young Heber's Choices

Poverty defined Heber's growing years but not negatively. Having little money was a challenge that never deterred him. Wanting to learn to pitch a baseball but not having enough money for a ball, Heber earned the money by shining boots for his mother's boarders. Later he longed to attend the Salt Lake Theatre; instead of feeling sorry that he had no money to buy tickets, he obtained a job as a water carrier for theater patrons and was thus allowed to watch the plays.<sup>6</sup>

As Heber grew older, his persistence and fortitude were put to good use in business ventures. Offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, he opted to stay near his mother and to become a businessman instead.<sup>7</sup> After finishing his schooling at age 16, Heber got a job as a bank clerk and learned bookkeeping. His honesty, ability to work hard, and great desire to learn soon opened up many opportunities. By the time he was 20 years old, he had been made the assistant cashier of Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company, and he had purchased an insurance agency.<sup>8</sup>

The poverty of Heber's youth made him compassionate and prepared him to lead the Church through the aftermath of World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II.

### Overcoming "Mr. Devil"

As a young man, Heber was bothered by a promise made to him in his patriarchal blessing that he would be called to the ministry in his youth. Thinking this meant he would serve a mission for the Church, he was disturbed when at age 23 he had received no mission call. This lack caused him to feel concerns about his status and also about the Church. Thoughts began to cross his mind that the patriarch had not been inspired, and if so, maybe other revelations weren't inspired either. As he pondered, he grew more confused. He knew the Church was true, so why did doubts continue to plague him? Eventually he concluded that the patriarch must have made a mistake, but still he found no peace concerning the issue.

One day while he was walking down Main Street in Salt Lake City, these thoughts began to torment him again. Heber stopped right there on the sidewalk and spoke out



loud, even though no one was present: "Mr. Devil, shut up. I don't care if every patriarch in the Church has made a mistake in a blessing, and told a lie, I believe with all my heart and soul that the gospel is true and I will not allow my faith to be upset."

Never again was Heber tormented by these negative thoughts. And within a short period of time he was called to serve as a stake president—a fulfillment of his patriarchal blessing.<sup>9</sup>

### Called as an Apostle

Ordained an Apostle in 1882 when he was only 25 years old, Heber worried that he was not capable or worthy of the trust that had been placed in him. While on a visit to





Native Americans in Arizona, he left his companions to pray and meditate about the matter. He later explained that while he was alone he “seemed to see” a council on the other side of the veil. The council was discussing who should fill two vacancies in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Heber’s father and the Prophet Joseph Smith proposed Heber’s name. That satisfied Heber’s concerns. “It was also given to me,” Heber said, “that that was all these men . . . could do for me; from that day it depended upon me and upon me alone as to whether I made a success of my life or a failure.”<sup>10</sup>

### **Family Life**

President Grant was a loving husband and father. Once his wife suggested that they should tell each other of their faults. President Grant agreed. She mentioned one or two of Heber’s faults and then invited him to tell hers. A slight twinkle came into his eyes, and he replied, “You haven’t one.”<sup>11</sup>

President Grant loved his 10 daughters and was very close to them, but the fact that his only 2 sons died while still children was a deep and lasting sorrow to him.

Through many years of traveling to carry out his Church responsibilities, President Grant felt lonely whenever he was away from his family. His return home was marked with great joy. His daughters remember how on these occasions he would tell them of his experiences,

walking around the house with a child on each foot and delighting in their company.<sup>12</sup>

### **Persistence and a Sense of Humor**

Those who knew President Grant personally agree that two characteristics stood out among the many good qualities he possessed: his persistence and his sense of humor. President Grant often referred to the story of an ant that made 69 attempts to carry off a grain of corn before it was successful. “This wonderful lesson of perseverance by an insect has been an inspiration to me all the days of my life,” he said.<sup>13</sup>

An example of his persistence is demonstrated in the way he learned to sing. When President Grant was 43 years old, he decided he wanted to sing, despite the fact that he had never been able to carry a tune. As he explained:

“I had a private secretary with a beautiful baritone voice. I told him I would give anything in the world if I could only carry a tune. He laughed and said, ‘Anybody who has a voice and perseverance can sing.’ I immediately appointed him as my singing teacher.

“My singing lessons started that night. At the end of two hours’ practice I still couldn’t sing one line from the song we had been practicing. After practicing that one song for more than five thousand times, I made a mess of it when I tried to sing it in public. I practiced it for another six

months. Now I can learn a song in a few hours.”<sup>14</sup>

President Grant’s sense of humor was evident in the stories he shared of his efforts in learning to sing. He told of a time when he was practicing his singing next to a dentist’s office. He heard someone in the hall remark that it sounded like somebody was having teeth pulled.<sup>15</sup>

### A Man of Faith

President Grant was 62 years old when he became the seventh President of the Church on 23 November 1918. He was 88 years old when he died on 14 May 1945. He was stern from the pulpit when he needed to be. He preached extensively for Prohibition, which made illegal the manufacture and sale of alcohol in the United States, and against the dole. But he also often used his sense of humor to make a point. When speaking on the attributes of Latter-day Saints, he once said: “I have heard it remarked that when a measure is before Congress, which would injure the Mormons, that the Saints pray that it may be defeated, and if it is not, they thank God any way. . . . There is some truth in this remark. A Mormon knows that the promises of God are true, and He said that all will be tried; realizing these things the Latter-day Saints will acknowledge their Maker not only in blessings but also in tribulations.”<sup>16</sup>

Above all, President Heber J. Grant was a man of abiding faith who bore witness as he traveled all over the world, including the years he spent presiding over missions in

Europe and in Asia. He once testified: “I know that God lives, I know that Jesus is the Christ, I know that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, I know that the Gospel

tree is alive, that it is growing, that the fruits of the Gospel growing upon the tree are good. I have reached out my hand, I have plucked the fruits of the Gospel, I have eaten of them and they are sweet, yea, above all that is sweet.”<sup>17</sup> But more than just tast-

ing, President Grant did all he could to offer the fruit to others because he knew from his own experience that the gospel would sustain people through any adversity. ■

*Sherrie Mills Johnson is a member of the Cascade Fourth Ward, Orem Utah Cascade Stake.*

### NOTES

1. Quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Heber J. Grant* (2002), xx.
2. See Joseph Fielding Smith, *Essentials in Church History*, 20th ed. (1966), 639.
3. “Work, and Keep Your Promises,” *Improvement Era*, Jan. 1900, 191.
4. In Conference Report, Apr. 1934, 15.
5. See Preston Nibley, *The Presidents of the Church* (1941), 271.
6. See *The Presidents of the Church*, 273.
7. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, xiii.
8. See *The Presidents of the Church*, 276–77.
9. See Francis M. Gibbons, *Heber J. Grant: Man of Steel, Prophet of God* (1979), 35–36.
10. In Conference Report, Apr. 1941, 4–5.
11. Augusta Winters Grant, “My Husband,” *Relief Society Magazine*, Nov. 1936, 671.
12. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, xv.
13. “A Story That Helped Me,” *Juvenile Instructor*, June 1913, 366.
14. Quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 34.
15. See “Learning to Sing,” *Improvement Era*, Oct. 1900, 887.
16. In Brian H. Stuy, comp., *Collected Discourses Delivered by President Wilford Woodruff, His Two Counselors, the Twelve Apostles, and Others*, 5 vols. (1987–92), 2:101.
17. In Forace Green, comp., *Testimonies of Our Leaders* (1958), 50.



**Opposite page, left, top: In 1922, President Grant delivered his first radio message.**

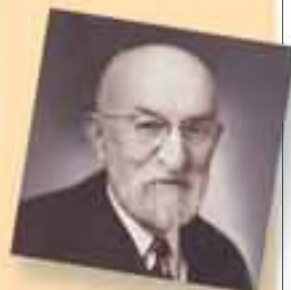
**Left, bottom: Deseret Industries began during President Grant’s administration.**

**Right: The First Presidency in 1925—President Anthony W. Ivins, First Counselor; President Heber J. Grant; President Charles W. Nibley, Second Counselor. This**

**page, top: President Grant, age 64. Middle: The First Presidency in 1936—President**

**J. Reuben Clark Jr., First Counselor; President Heber J. Grant; President David O. McKay, Second Counselor.**

**Below: President Grant, age 84.**





# The Perpetual



# Education Fund

## *A Bright Ray of Hope*

*The Perpetual Education Fund is blessing not only participants and donors but also the Church as a whole.*

**BY ELDER JOHN K. CARMACK**  
Managing Director  
Perpetual Education Fund Department

In the priesthood session of general conference on 31 March 2001, President Gordon B. Hinckley made an announcement heard around the world. The Church was to create a Perpetual Education Fund. It would be patterned after the 19th-century Perpetual Emigrating Fund, which helped tens of thousands of Latter-day Saint converts from Europe join the body of the Saints in the valleys of western North America.

This new PEF would provide loans to help worthy returned missionaries and other young Latter-day Saint adults gain the training and education necessary for adequate employment in their own countries. President Hinckley concluded his bold announcement with this invitation and promise: "I believe the Lord does not wish to see His people condemned to live in poverty. I believe He would have the faithful enjoy the



***The Perpetual Education Fund has advanced from a vision foreseen by a prophet to a powerful reality. It is preparing Church leaders, fostering hope, and building character and self-reliance—all of which will bless generations to come.***



PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDUARDO VILLAGONESA AND COURTESY OF THE PERPETUAL EDUCATION FUND DEPARTMENT





**Top: Cibertec, a school in Lima, Peru, prepares students for careers in information technology. Above: “I had so little hope and so many fears—even after the PEF was announced. But I prayed and went forward. Now I am in school to become a Web designer. With the job I have found already, I hope to pay off the loan by the time I graduate!” says Meriam Erquiza (left) of the Philippines.**

good things of the earth. He would have us do these things to help them. And He will bless us as we do so. For the success of this undertaking I humbly pray, while soliciting your interest, your faith, your prayers, your concerns in its behalf.”<sup>1</sup>

Latter-day Saints everywhere received the announcement with joy. Many shed tears. Thousands and tens of thousands who had been blessed with sufficient material blessings for their needs had wanted some way to help those Church youth mired in poverty and hopelessness. Now, here was a way for virtually everyone to help provide education for those without resources, enabling them to rise out of poverty. The recipients would, after securing good employment, repay their loans, providing the means for others to enjoy the same assistance. The whole concept, explained in detail by President Hinckley, resonated in hearts and minds.

In developing countries, young people with ambition and desire to rise out of their circumstances immediately grasped the meaning of the PEF. Here was the way to gain skills, knowledge, and opportunities. President Hinckley had taught us that education was

the key to progress. The Perpetual Education Fund became a bright ray of hope.

### **Two Faithful Sons**

The story of two equally fine young men will illustrate the PEF’s impact. They have recently served missions in a less-advantaged country. Both of these elders served obediently. But when one returned home, he enjoyed the means to attend a great university, thanks to parents who have saved enough through self-reliance and provident living to pay for his education. He would not even have to work during school. The other missionary, equally worthy and obedient, returned home to face the same poverty from whence he came.

Anguished at the situation, the returned missionary from better financial circumstances sent a letter to the PEF office. Following inner promptings, he took the money his parents provided for a year of college, donated it to the PEF, and found a job to earn his own way through school that year. Clearly he sought to become one with the Savior by becoming one with his brother. (See D&C 38:25–27.)

This generous young man is just one of many Latter-day Saints who have responded

to President Hinckley’s invitation. In the days and months that followed the general conference announcement, hundreds of thousands opened their purses and sent what they could to the fund—in addition to their tithing and fast offerings. The fund grew, almost overnight, to major proportions. “It is a miracle!” President Hinckley exclaimed over and over.

Less than two years after the announcement of the PEF, the program had been introduced in most of the areas where our young adults face serious conditions of poverty. More than 10,000 loans have been approved, and the applications for loans continue to arrive in the PEF office. The loans are helping our young people gain a rich variety of vocational and technical skills needed in their countries.



### OBTAINING SOMETHING OF WORTH

*“It has been said that if one obtained some-*

*thing that is worthwhile and very desirable for nothing he has paid too dearly for it.”*

**President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.**

A recent batch of loan applications from one South American country revealed the following occupational goals: automobile mechanic, banking clerk, certified software systems engineer, clothing maker, computer maintenance worker, computer network systems engineer, computer programmer, electronic technician, environmental technician, hairstylist, hotel administrator, marketing and sales technician, natural gas technician, nurse, nutritionist, pathology lab technician, and Web technician. Note the practical nature of these educational goals.

environmental technician, hairstylist, hotel administrator, marketing and sales technician, natural gas technician, nurse, nutritionist, pathology lab technician, and Web technician. Note the practical nature of these educational goals.

#### Developing Leaders

As this effort begins to bear fruit, the implications for the Church are wonderful to contemplate. Finding leaders

## PERPETUAL EDUCATION FUND FACTS

- The PEF is governed by a board of directors that includes the First Presidency, members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, other General Authorities, and general auxiliary leaders.

- The PEF is funded by donations—most coming from average, not wealthy, members of the Church. All contributions go directly to educational loans; none are used for administrative costs.

- Only *earnings* from the corpus (or body) of the fund are used for loans; the corpus is untouched and continues to generate money for loans.

- More than 10,000 loans have been approved.

- The full program is available in 11 international areas, which include 85 percent of the 1.2 million Latter-day Saint young adults living outside North America. An additional 6 international areas are preparing to implement the program.

- The average age of participants is 26. About 55 percent are young men (85 percent returned missionaries); 45 percent are young women (25 percent returned missionaries).

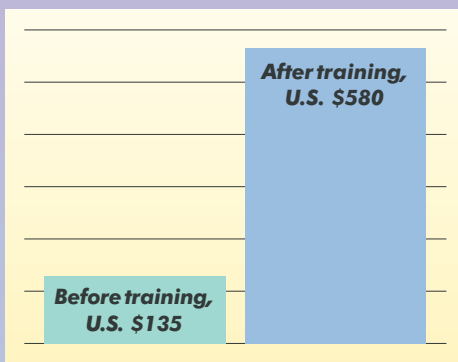
- The average payment for a year of quality education is U.S. \$800; the average training program length is 2.2 years.

- Each participant receives training in setting realistic goals, budgeting and managing finances, and developing other skills and attitudes necessary for success. Many who take this course discover they can enter school *without* a PEF loan.

- Most loans are for vocational or technical training that matches

local job opportunities.

- Loans are typically used only for costs of tuition, books, and fees.



The average income per month for participants before and after vocational training





**Above and below:**  
**Waldir Amarrillo—on his own since shortly after his mission—lives in a small room built onto the side of a garage in Lima, Peru, while he completes the last two years of a five-year mechanical engineering program. His education is being aided by the PEF.**

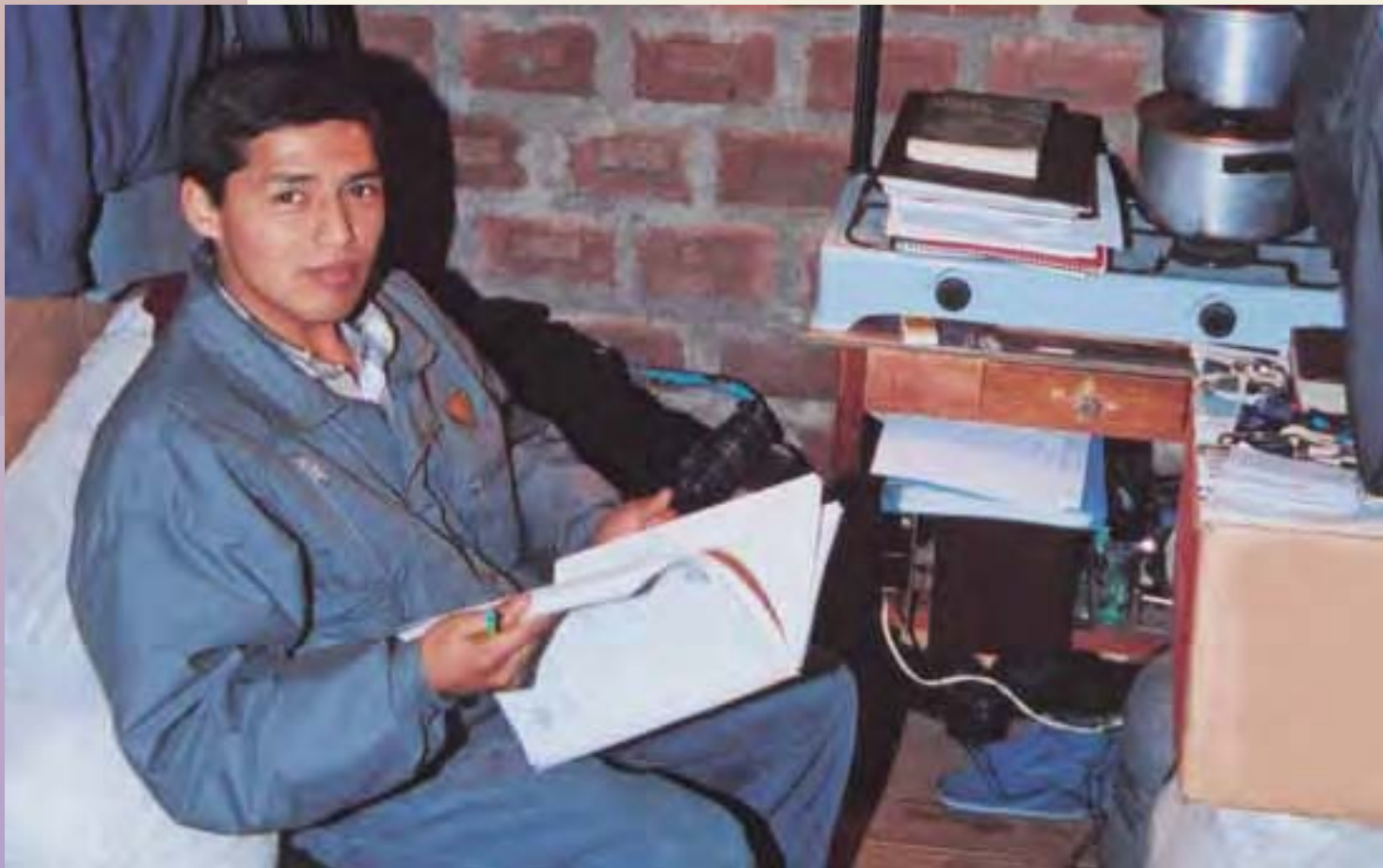
to meet the needs of a rapidly growing Church membership ranks high on the list of challenges the Church faces. The issue is particularly pertinent in places such as Latin America and the Philippines, where our major growth is taking place. Where will we find these leaders? They will come as those who have stable financial circumstances—gained through educational opportunities—take leadership roles, marry, and establish righteous families. Those righteous families will continue to produce the next generation of Church leaders.

Speaking of those who would be blessed by the PEF, President Hinckley said: “With good employment skills, these young men

and women can rise out of the poverty they and generations before them have known. They will better provide for their families. They will serve in the Church and grow in leadership and responsibility. . . . As faithful members of the Church, they will pay their tithes and offerings, and the Church will be much the stronger for their presence in the areas where they live.”<sup>2</sup>

The blessings for future families are already becoming evident. A young returned missionary in Mexico reports:

“In December 2001, I returned home after a full-time mission in the México Veracruz Mission. My goals were high, but it appeared that I would be unable to achieve them due to



finances, even with the help of my family. It was then I discovered that through the PEF my dream could be achieved.

“Only last week I finished my studies and was immediately hired at a salary three times greater than that which I was earning before. I can now begin my family. I was married on 20 December 2002.”

### Hope

The blossoming of hope among those who had previously despaired is proving to be one of the powerful effects of the PEF. One Brazilian young man speaks for many when he says: “I was discouraged and had abandoned my goals for a good career. But then the Perpetual Education Fund helped me raise my head and discern new horizons.”

To hope is “to cherish a desire with anticipation [or] expectation of obtainment [or] fulfillment.”<sup>3</sup> We think of it in gospel terms as the expectation that we will live again and be saved with our Father in Heaven. Our young people with testimonies cherish the hope of immortality and eternal life. It is hard, however, for them to become excited about the next life if they cannot anticipate having a good life while on earth, including a decent career and the opportunity to develop their skills and talents. When these goals appear impossible to attain, hope turns to hopelessness. Without such temporal hope, the spiritual hope of salvation can seem unreal.

The PEF has already increased hope in our young men and women all over the world. Just knowing that our prophet is deeply concerned about them and wants the best for them has been powerful. Knowing that he has declared that education is the key to opportunity has turned their hearts and minds to education, training, and a search for a satisfying career. Knowing that career training, guidance, and the means to obtain them are available is powerful medicine. This reaching out to the youth may yet prove the most important principle and brightest light of the Perpetual Education Fund.

## WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

Participants may include worthy young men and young women who are:

- Generally between 18 and 30.
- Married or single.
- Active in the Church and enrolled in the local institute of religion.
- Living, working, and attending school in areas where the PEF program is approved.
- Lacking resources to finance their own education.



### Self-Reliance

Another powerful principle at work in the PEF is self-reliance. President Hinckley continually stresses that young people are not being given anything but an opportunity: “They will repay their loans to make it possible for others to be blessed as they have been blessed.”<sup>4</sup> He believes in our young people, and they are responding. The early reports on repayment rates by those receiving the first loans are encouraging evidence of this principle at work.

Built into the program is a strong covenant-like promise to repay the loans to benefit others. Applicants for loans also promise to borrow only the amount absolutely necessary to help achieve their goals. They must pay all of their own room and board, stay in their own communities, and find ways to pay as many of their own school expenses as possible. They welcome this responsibility.

One young married couple applied for PEF loans. During the application process, they took the short training course designed to help them choose a career and budget their money. Upon reflection and upon working out their budget, they decided what unessential expenditures they could reduce or eliminate, such as eating in fast-food establishments. They were startled to discover that by exercising frugality they would not need the loans. They could pay for their own schooling.

The PEF has already proven a catalyst for teaching self-reliance to our Church members—and particularly to our young adults. The benefits will extend to their children, to their wards and branches, and to the Church as a whole. Every community will be better as our people learn and exemplify self-reliance. Self-esteem and confidence will soar, and the effect will be miraculous.



## HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

If you live in an area where the PEF is approved:

- Enroll in institute.
- Maintain a job, if possible, so you can pay for your living costs and help pay for your education costs.
- Talk with your institute director about a Perpetual Education Fund loan application. Church Educational System personnel will help you begin the process.



### Sacrifice

From the wards and branches have come literally millions of dollars. Most of the contributions have been from the rank-and-file members of the Church. Every day, every week, their small contributions arrive to build the fund. If there were no other result than this outpouring of love and sacrifice, we would have to conclude that the fund had increased the spirit of sacrifice among the Saints everywhere in the world, thus exerting a powerful influence for good among them.

But there is also a corollary principle involved here. It is the principle of making choices to make us a more caring and just people. When someone sees people suffering in poverty and hopelessness, a voice inside asks, “When I have so much, how can I rest and feel that I am just?” The PEF is a wonderful way for ordinary individuals to help tip those scales toward balance and justice.

The contrast between those with enough and to spare and those without enough is not new. Paul saw similar conditions among the Corinthian Saints. The solution was to share. He reminded the Corinthian Saints that the “Lord Jesus Christ, . . . though he was rich, yet for [your] sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Paul urged those who had means to use their abundance as a supply for what others lacked. In doing so, they would receive as well as give because “their [the poor’s] abundance also may be a supply for your want” (2 Corinthians 8:14). He urged them to “give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

This is a win-win situation with tremendous potential benefits. Those with enough and to spare can help those in poverty. In the process, those receiving loans gain independence and repay their loans to help others. As President Hinckley has said: “With greatly improved opportunities, they will step out of the cycle of poverty which they and those before them have known for so long. . . . They will become leaders in

this great work in their native lands. They will pay their tithes and offerings, which will make it possible for the Church to expand its work across the world.”<sup>5</sup>

### An Invitation

Since its initial announcement, the Perpetual Education Fund has advanced from a vision foreseen by a prophet to a powerful reality. It is preparing Church leaders, fostering hope, and building character and self-reliance—all of which will bless generations to come.

President Hinckley has invited us to become a part of this bold initiative. Church members who give to help others will gain spiritual blessings in the process. Qualified young people who accept the prophet’s invitation to participate will be better able to provide for themselves and their families. And they will gain skills and confidence that will enable them to make greater contributions to the Church and their communities. The Lord loves wonderful, worthy young people, and He loves those who give with pure



intent, regardless of the size of their gift.

Through the establishment of the Perpetual Education Fund, the Lord has provided another powerful mechanism for the continued growth of His kingdom. And He has provided another way for us to grow individually as well—becoming more just, more generous, more hopeful and self-reliant, more as one with our fellow Saints. ■

**Elder John K. Carmack** served as a member of the Seventy from 1984 to 2001.

#### NOTES

1. "The Perpetual Education Fund," *Liabona*, July 2001, 67; *Ensign*, May 2001, 53.
2. *Liabona*, July 2001, 62; *Ensign*, May 2001, 52.
3. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th ed., "hope," 558.
4. *Liabona*, July 2001, 62; *Ensign*, May 2001, 52.
5. "Reaching Down to Lift Another," *Liabona*, Jan. 2002, 62; *Ensign*, Nov. 2001, 53–54.

#### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- Who can benefit from participation in the Perpetual Education Fund?
- Why do you think Church leaders created a loan program rather than a scholarship program?
- Why does the Lord want us to be self-reliant?
- How did you feel about the Perpetual Education Fund when you initially learned about it? How do you feel about it now?
- How does adequate employment help strengthen family life?
- How do strong Latter-day Saint families produce strong leaders?
- The scriptures frequently include hope along with faith and charity as an essential principle (see Moroni 10:20). What role does hope play in your own life?
- Why is sacrifice such a powerful principle? How have you personally benefited from the sacrifice of others?



**Above: Carlos Salinas Villantoy of Lima, Peru, is studying computer science.**

**Below: Students learn to repair diesel engines at an auto mechanics school in Mexico City.**





**P**eeking out from his hiding place, Jason was horrified to see an intruder going through drawers.



## *Call Home Now!*

By Barbara Elkins Catmull

**W**hen our eldest son, Jason, was 11 years old, we had an experience we will never forget. It was Sunday, and as the rest of the family was preparing for church, Jason complained he was feeling ill. We decided to leave him home and promised we would telephone him later to see how he was doing. Our meetinghouse was not far away, and we could run home if he needed us.

Just before sacrament meeting began, I felt prompted to call Jason right at that moment. The telephone rang many times, but Jason didn't

answer. I assumed he was sleeping and did not hear the phone. Yet a nagging feeling told me something was very wrong. Since my husband was in the bishopric at the time and was already sitting on the stand, I left my other children in their seats and told them I would return in a few minutes.

The five-minute trip to our home seemed to take forever. Once there, I raced into the house, frantically calling Jason's name. For what seemed like an eternity, there was no answer, and I could not find him. Finally, I heard soft

crying as Jason cautiously crawled out from behind the couch in the family room. I put my arms around him and could feel him trembling as he related what had happened.

He had been lying on the couch when he had a feeling he should hide. He got up immediately and hid behind the couch. Just then, he heard someone come in the front door. Thinking it must be the family, he quietly peeked out from his hiding place. He was horrified to see an intruder, wearing a black ski mask and gloves, going through drawers. He listened as

the stranger wandered throughout the house. At that point the phone began ringing, and the intruder left. Of course, the ringing phone had been my call just before I left the meetinghouse.

I will always be grateful for the promptings of the Holy Ghost that both Jason and I experienced that day. I am so grateful I was prompted to come home to be there when Jason needed me. Who knows what might have happened if Jason had been discovered by the intruder? Not only was he protected, but I believe the Spirit helped him heal from this traumatic experience. Today Jason is a courageous and strong missionary whose treasured companion continues to be the Holy Ghost. ■

**Barbara Elkins Catmull** is a member of the Ammon Seventh Ward, Idaho Falls Idaho Ammon Stake.

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## *The Lord Knew What Was Ahead*

By Linda Sims Depew

**A**lone in my home and on my knees in tearful prayer, I asked Heavenly Father why things were not working out for me. Personal challenges during the previous two years had convinced me that I needed to move from the small town where I lived and find a different job. Despite many efforts, however,

I had not yet been able to find an appropriate position.

As I sobbed and prayed to know why I did not seem to be receiving the help I needed, a peaceful, warm feeling came over me. I stopped speaking and just knelt there quietly. I knew that Heavenly Father was comforting

me through the Spirit. To my mind came the passages of scripture that I had read many times during the previous two years and that had been a source of great comfort.

One passage was 2 Nephi 4:16–35, particularly verse 28, where Nephi says, “Rejoice, O my heart, and give

**A**s I prayed to know why I did not seem to be receiving the help I needed, a peaceful, warm feeling came over me.



place no more for the enemy of my soul.” The other passage was Doctrine and Covenants 98:3, which reassured me that my prayers were heard and that “all things wherewith you have been afflicted shall work together for your good, and to my name’s glory, saith the Lord.”

So now, even though I still felt that I wanted to move from that town, I knew with all my heart that I would be OK. Heavenly Father was there, and I felt fine about staying if He wanted me to.

Just three months later I learned that my 24-year-old son, who was attending medical school in a neighboring state, had cancer. I spent the next three weeks with him at the hospital. Had I gotten a new job, I would have had no vacation time, no release time, no sick leave. I would have had to quit the new job in order to be with my son, thereby adding unemployment to my challenges.

I couldn’t help but think that the Lord knew what was ahead and so for the moment had said no to my prayer.

My son underwent chemotherapy, and during the first few months we had no assurance he would live. I felt I needed to move to the neighboring state where he was; I could not stand to be so far away when he was sick and still making the effort to attend classes at medical school. Thankfully, through a chain of events that indicated to me the Lord was helping me, I was able to get a job in the area where my son lived.

I lived in that area long enough to see my son marry his childhood sweetheart, regain his health, graduate with honors, and present me with my first grandchild. Soon I was blessed to marry a wonderful man who was a longtime and respected friend.

“Rejoice, O my heart, and give place no more for the enemy of my soul.” “All things wherewith you have been afflicted shall work together for your good, and to my name’s glory, saith the Lord.” When the time was right, the Lord opened the windows of heaven and blessed me. I continue to remember those blessings and the comforting words of the scriptures, and I pray never to forget. ■

*Linda Sims Depew is a member of the Lost Mountain Ward, Powder Springs Georgia Stake.*

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## *He Restoreth My Soul*

By Sérgio Ribeiro

I was born in 1961 in Brazil and learned about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when I was six years old. My childhood was immensely happy, but my family’s life began to change at Christmastime in 1970, when I contracted a very rare disease.

At one point I was admitted to the hospital for a year, and the doctors didn’t know what to do. Several times the Lord saved my life after my father

placed his hands on my head and pronounced a powerful priesthood blessing. I recall one occasion when a team of doctors was amazed upon seeing my fever of 106 degrees (41° C) instantly abate when my father took his worthy hands from my head. Such miracles went on for about four years while the disease was at its worst.

One day there was a conference in our city. My parents were excited and grateful when they learned we would have Elder Marvin J. Ashton (1915–94) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles among us.

On the day of the conference, the chapel was overflowing. My mother could not get close to Elder Ashton. When my six-year-old brother saw my mother’s despair, he managed to get through the human barrier and reach him. He asked Elder Ashton to bless his brother who was very sick and insisted that he come to where we were. But Elder Ashton couldn’t come at that moment. We prayed for an opportunity to meet him at the end of the conference.

To our surprise, at the beginning of his talk Elder Ashton said, “When I got here, a little boy asked me to bless his brother who is gravely ill, and I would like to say to all within the sound of my voice that your brother will get well and fulfill his mission here on earth.”

For my parents, this was the balm they had prayed for, a relief from their days of pain and sadness. We





**M**y six-year-old brother managed to get through the human barrier to ask Elder Ashton to bless me.

began a new treatment, and with confidence in the power of Elder Ashton's promise, I found my life changed completely.

When I turned 19, I went into the mission field in partial fulfillment of the promise I had received and to satisfy my heart's desire to serve the Lord by sharing His wonderful gospel. I served in the Brazil Recife Mission, where elect families were placed in my path and I was able to serve as an instrument in the hands of the Lord in bringing souls to repentance.

When I returned from my mission, I married a beautiful young woman I had grown up with in the Church. When our first child was born, however, the Lord took it unto Himself.

I couldn't believe this new tragedy in my life, but I knew my testimony and confidence in the Lord were still being molded.

Today my wife and I have a beautiful family of five children. Our oldest son is preparing to serve a mission. I have served as bishop of my ward. The symptoms of my previous illness have disappeared.

My life and my testimony are based on a belief in the power of the priesthood, the eternal nature of the family, and the teachings of the 23rd Psalm, in which David says:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me

beside the still waters.

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." ■

*Sérgio Ribeiro is a member of the Jardim do Lago Ward, Campinas Brazil Stake.*



# ICE DREAMS



BY SHANNA GHAZNAVI  
Church Magazines

*When Chris was nine he traded his hockey skates for figure skates. Now he has traded his ice skates for tracting shoes.*

*“For this cause I have sent you—that you might be obedient, and that your [heart] might be prepared to bear testimony” (D&C 58:6).*

**C**hris Obzansky played ice hockey for three years before he decided it just wasn't for him. When he was nine, he traded his hockey skates for figure skates and pushed off on a path that has led him to a successful career as an ice dancer. But it hasn't all been smooth gliding.

“I got really determined to learn on those figure skates,” he says. “But I just kept stumbling on those toe picks!” Despite the difficulties, he found that ice dancing was what he really wanted to do. And besides, “I thought it was pretty cool to be skating with a girl instead of with a team of smelly hockey players,” Chris says, laughing.

He had big dreams. He and his partner had

placed second at the junior level United States nationals, third at U.S. nationals, and first in an international competition in China. His plan was to compete in the 2006 Winter Olympics and then go on a mission after he turned 21. But when he was 18, just when everything was going smoothly, he ran into a snag.

“I wasn't really enjoying it, and I was having a hard time with the sport,” he remembers. “I was just trying to push through it, and I could not do it anymore. I said, ‘Lord, what do I do?’”

Chris got the first part of his answer when he went to talk to his bishop, who encouraged him to pray about his plan to delay his mission. “His advice kind of went in one ear and out the other,” Chris admits. “But my life got to the point where I really did have to ask, and I really did have to listen.”

The second part of Chris's answer came during a sacrament meeting. As he listened to his Young Men president talk about his own



**T**hough he had always planned on serving a mission, Chris felt prompted to go sooner than he had thought.



**C**hris's coaches and partner (below) were disappointed when he said he had decided to leave on a mission, but they gave him their full support.

mission call, the Spirit told him, "Chris, you need to serve a mission when you're 19, or you're going to have a tough life.' The message was so clear I actually turned around to see if someone was there," he says. "The feeling came back 10 times stronger, and I knew I had to go on a mission."

#### **That's Not the End of the Story**

That night Chris called his partner and coaches to give them the news. When he had first started training with them, he told them that a mission was a possibility. But none of



them had expected him to go—at least not yet. Although they were disappointed, Chris says, "They've been very supportive of me and my mission, and I give them credit for that."

Chris feels peace about his decision and where his life is going. "I'm grateful Heavenly Father gave me that prompting," he says.

"But it's been really hard since then.

Satan tried to bring me down in any way possible."

To combat the fears and temptations, Chris read the scriptures and prayed the way he used to dedicate himself to practicing at the ice rinks in Delaware, where he lived while he trained. He studied the scriptures at least twice a day,



and he set aside time to pray earnestly at least three times a day. "That really protected me," he says. He also credits much of his help to surrounding himself with good friends and family when he came back home to the Thirteenth Ward of the Salt Lake Central Stake.

#### **A New Set of Rules**

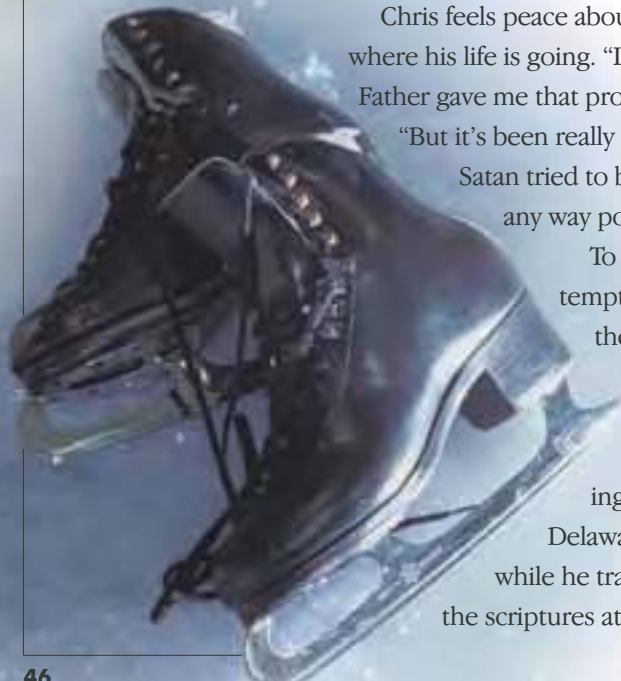
There are lots of rules in ice dancing—lots of required and restricted moves. To succeed takes a lot of creativity and dancing talent. Chris thinks his experiences with ice dancing will help him on his mission—experiences like learning to get along with a partner, following strict rules, and being dedicated to something every day for a long time.

His call to the Baltic States Mission, Russian speaking, was exciting for Chris, especially since he knows speaking Russian will help him if he still wants to return to ice dancing after his mission. (Many of the competitors and coaches speak Russian.) He also wants to be a coach eventually. But for now, he says, "I just want to try to bring people to a knowledge of the gospel."

#### **Continually Guided**

Being prompted to go on a mission wasn't the first time Chris asked for and received the Lord's guidance in his life. He was 16, had just split from a skating partner, and was having a hard time. "My dad gave me a blessing, and he told me the Spirit would be with me and would comfort me," he says.

After the blessing, Chris was prompted to read D&C 58. Verses two through seven have made a big difference in his life. "I thought they were written exactly for me,"



he says. “Everything in those verses has come to pass in my life and is still coming to pass. Those verses have given me so much comfort.”

Trying to obey the counsel he received in D&C 58, Chris is serving a mission when the Lord asked him to, and he is ready to bear

testimony of the Savior and the gospel in the Baltic states. He knows he will have more difficulties than toe picks and changing partners there, but he also knows that when he asks for guidance, the Lord will answer. ■

**Shanna Ghaznavi** is a member of the *BYU 61st Ward, Brigham Young University Second Stake.*

**A**fter spending a few weeks in the MTC with his companion, Elder Wilkinson (below), Elder Obzansky is now in another icy place—the Baltic States Mission. And he’s finding that the Lord continues to guide him in all he does.





### Grateful for Relief Society

As a missionary for the Church, I tried to help others feel the influence of the Holy Ghost. Some time ago my companion and I had the opportunity to show a young man a videotape of a talk by President Gordon B. Hinckley. The Spirit profoundly touched the young man's heart.

I recently read a general conference talk by the Relief Society general president that is very important for me as a Latter-day Saint young woman. I am grateful for the sisterhood we have. Our leaders and their conference addresses help me a great deal to be a good sister and also to prepare to be a mother.

*Juliana Rosa,  
Habitacional Branch,  
São João da Boa Vista Brazil Stake*

### Liabona a Great Source of Strength

I have been a member of the Church for three years, and from the time I was baptized I haven't missed an issue of the *Liabona*. It is a great source of strength to me because it confirms the truthfulness of the great work of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am very grateful to my Heavenly Father for such inspired leaders whose messages renew us spiritually every month.

*Martha Castro,  
Ipiales Second Ward,  
Pasto Colombia Stake*

### Faith in Jesus Christ Increased

For a few months I borrowed the *Liabona* from others. Only this month did I receive the first copy of my own subscription. I am glad to have it because the *Liabona* inspires and teaches me about the gospel. It increases my faith in Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father. I am fortunate to

know the Church is true. I love being a Latter-day Saint.

*Mary Ann C. Pada,  
Lucena Second Ward,  
Lucena Philippines Stake*

### Good Friends at Church

I have been a member of the Church since 6 May 2001, and the Church is the greatest thing in my life. I'm 16 years old. Although none of my family are Church members, I have the best friends I could ask for in the Young Men program. In the Church are also the most helpful adults and the most innocent and loving children.

*Douglas Eduardo Díaz Ruiz,  
Obrero Ward,  
Ciudad Ojeda Venezuela Stake*

PHOTOGRAPH BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN, POSED BY MODELS

### Call for Home Evening Successes

Has your family had a successful family home evening experience? Tell us what works for your family—creative lesson ideas, service projects, activities, testimony meetings, family councils, and so on. Send your ideas to Family Home Evening Successes, *Liabona*, Room 2420, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA; or e-mail to [cur-liabona-imag@ldschurch.org](mailto:cur-liabona-imag@ldschurch.org).





# the Friend



# More Blessed to Give

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



**Giving to those in need is important. President Monson tells of a Sunday School teacher who taught him to share.**

I express gratitude for a Sunday School teacher [named] Lucy Gertsch. She was beautiful, soft-spoken, and interested in us. She made the scriptures actually come to life.

We undertook a project to save nickels and dimes for what was to be a gigantic party. Sister Gertsch kept a careful record of our progress. As boys and girls with typical appetites, we [imagined] cakes, cookies, pies, and ice cream. This was to be a glorious occasion—the biggest party ever.

None of us will forget that gray Sunday morning in January when our beloved teacher announced to us that the mother of one of our classmates had passed away. We thought of our own mothers and how much they meant to us. We felt sorrow for Billy Devenport in his great loss.

The lesson that day was from the book of Acts, chapter 20, verse 35: “Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Lucy Gertsch asked, “How would you like

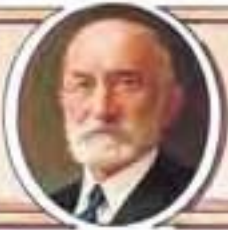
to follow this teaching of the Lord? How would you feel about taking your party fund and, as a class, giving it to the Devenports as an expression of our love?” The decision was unanimous. We counted very carefully each penny and placed the total sum in a large envelope.

Ever shall I remember the tiny band walking those three city blocks, entering Billy’s home, greeting him, his brother, sisters, and father. Noticeably absent was his mother. Always I shall treasure the tears which glistened in the eyes of each one present as the white envelope containing our precious party fund passed from the delicate hand of our teacher to the needy hand of a grief-stricken father. We fairly skipped our way back to the chapel. Our hearts were lighter than they had ever been, our joy more full, our understanding more profound. We [had] learned through our own experience that indeed it is more blessed to give than to receive. ●

*From an April 1992 general conference address.*







FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

# Becoming Brigham Young's Friend



One winter day six-year-old Heber J. Grant sneaked onto the back runner of President Brigham Young's sleigh. He wanted to ride for only one block. But he didn't dare leap off until the sleigh slowed down. When it did, he had ridden quite a way. He tried to run without President Young seeing him.



Stop! That little boy is almost frozen! Put him under the buffalo robe.



What's your name?

You must be Jedediah's son. I loved your father very much. He was my Second Counselor.

Heber Grant, sir.

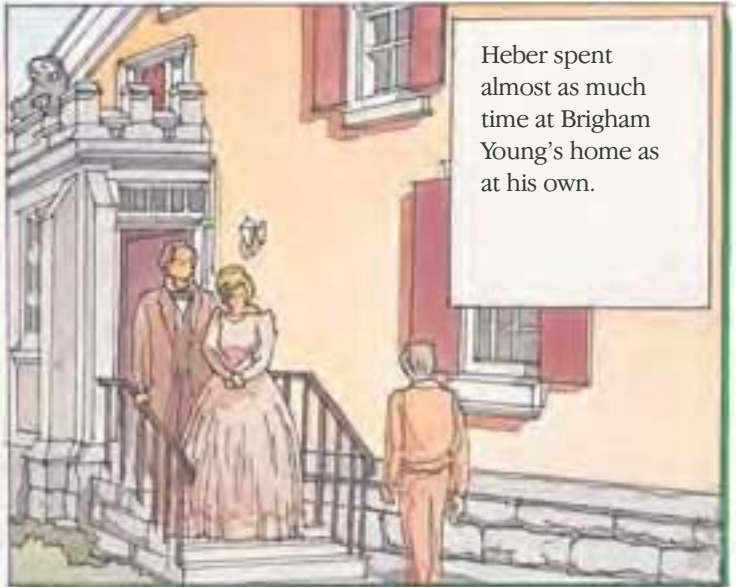




President Young told Heber he would like to interview him in six months. Heber obeyed. He and President Young were friends from then on.



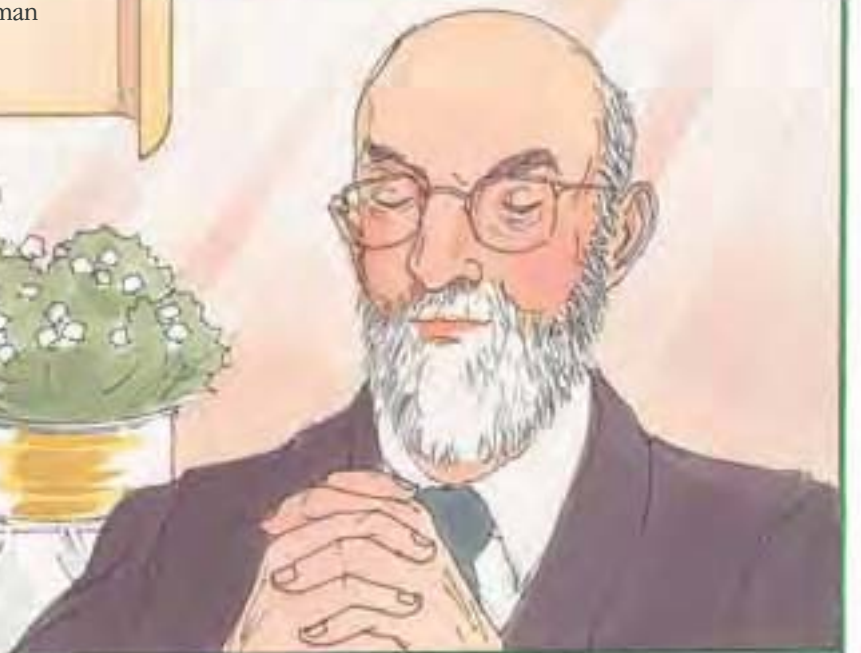
Heber spent almost as much time at Brigham Young's home as at his own.



Sometimes Heber stayed for family prayer, and he was startled by the way President Young prayed. Heber later said, "I . . . lifted my head, turned and looked at the place where Brigham Young was praying, to see if the Lord was not there. It seemed to me that he talked to the Lord as one man would talk to another."

As prophet, Heber J. Grant learned to speak to Heavenly Father the same way.

*Adapted from Conference Report, Apr. 1917, 23; Conference Report, June 1919, 7.*





# Blessings of

BY ELDER ENRIQUE R. FALABELLA

Area Authority Seventy  
Central America Area

**M**y mother died when I was five years old. We lived in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and at that time we were not members of the Church. My father believed in God but didn't know anything about the plan of salvation or what had become of his wife's spirit. It was hard for him to raise four children alone.

When I was about 12 years old, my sister saw two missionaries walking past our house and invited them in.

They taught us the gospel, and after a few weeks my sister and I decided to be baptized. But my father wasn't sure. A brother in the ward visited him and left a pamphlet about the plan of salvation. When my father read that our family could be together forever, he knew he wanted to join the Church. It was the answer to his hopes and dreams.

At that time the nearest temple was in Mesa, Arizona, in the United States. It was difficult to make such an expensive trip. Later, when my father was called as district president, the mission president asked him, "Well, what are you planning to do?"

"We are going to the temple," my father answered. He organized a group of about 100 people who traveled together to the Mesa Arizona Temple. Our family was sealed, and we all felt my mother's presence. We knew she had accepted the gospel.

**Guatemala City Guatemala  
Temple**



# the Temple

When my wife, Blanca, and I were married, the laws of Guatemala required that we be married civilly first. I didn't like that ceremony—it said that we were married only until death. The next day we left for Arizona, though we had to sell some of our possessions to afford the trip. Being sealed to my wife in the temple for eternity was one of the most joyful experiences of my life.

But we soon discovered that we didn't have enough money to return to Guatemala. When we went to church, a man shook my hand and left a U.S. \$20 bill in it. Another man did the same. I had said nothing of our problems. But we had told Heavenly Father.

I was a stake president when the temple in Guatemala was announced. It was my privilege to help raise funds for the temple and prepare the people to be worthy to enter it. We were asked to raise U.S. \$10,000. Children, young people, and adults all participated. The people of the stake were so enthusiastic that we raised about \$27,000—almost three times as much as our goal.

When our youngest child, Daniel, was 11 years old, he told us he wanted a special gift when he turned 12. He wanted to go to the temple and be baptized for some of his ancestors. The whole family got involved in

family history. We grew closer to our living relatives and found several ancestors whose temple work had not been done. On my son's 12th birthday, he was baptized for these people. I performed the ordinances. Daniel gained a greater testimony of temple work.

As you can see, many of the best moments of my life have been spent in the house of the Lord. It can be the same for each of you.

Always remember that our Lord Jesus Christ loves children. When we read about His visit to the Americas after His Resurrection, we learn that He called the children to Him and blessed each of them. There are not many times in the scriptures when the writer couldn't record the things that were said, but this was one of them. The words and the blessings were so sacred they could not be written. (See 3 Nephi 17:12–23.) Jesus loves you just as He loved those children.

I believe that my testimony was just as firm when I was 12 years old as it is today. You do not have to be a grown-up to have a testimony of Jesus Christ or to make a difference. Perhaps sometimes you don't realize how much good you are doing for your parents, for your relatives, and for the world. ●



*“Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).*

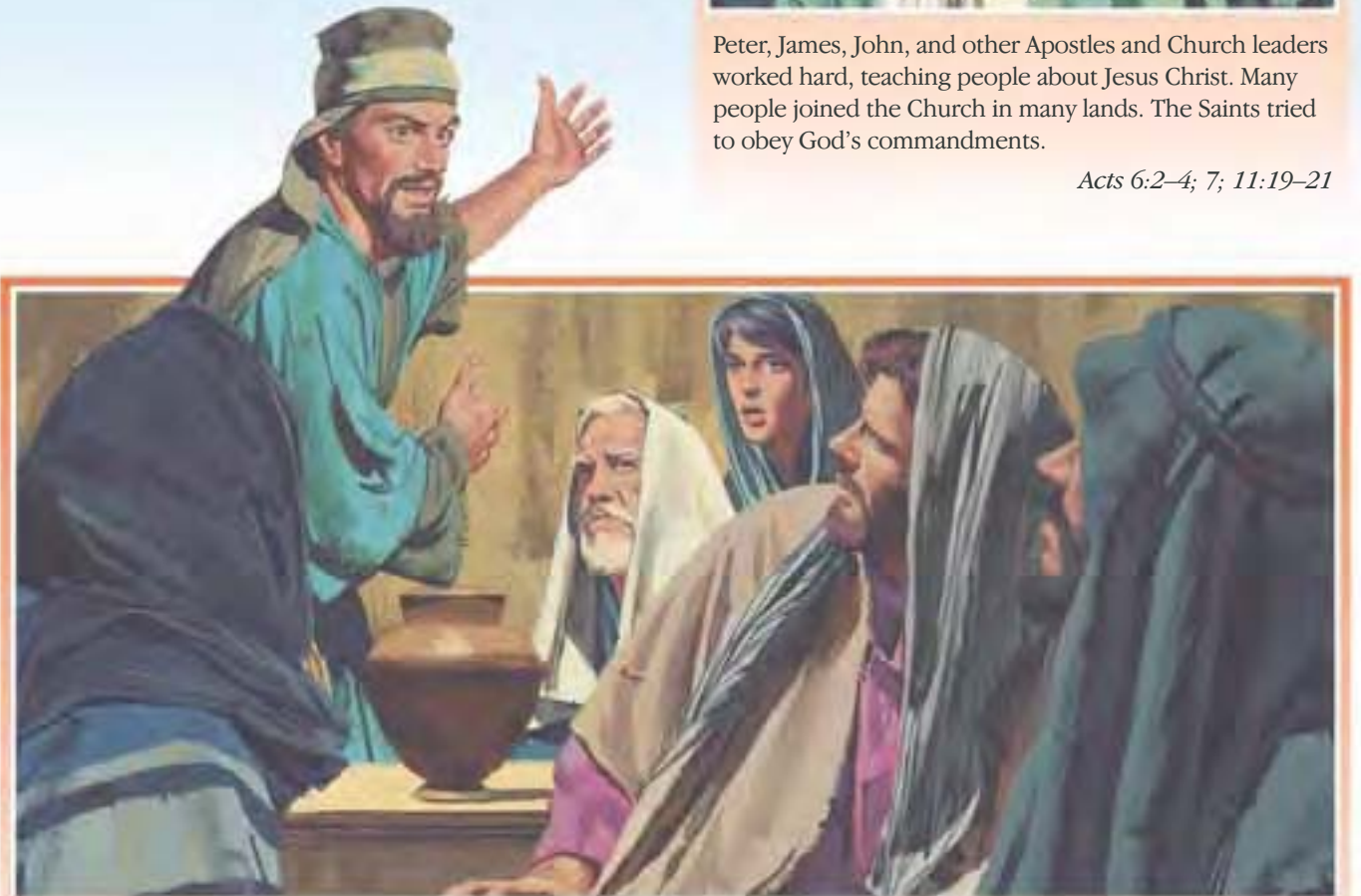
# AFTER THE NEW TESTAMENT



ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL MANN

Peter, James, John, and other Apostles and Church leaders worked hard, teaching people about Jesus Christ. Many people joined the Church in many lands. The Saints tried to obey God's commandments.

*Acts 6:2–4; 7; 11:19–21*



Wicked people did not want the Saints to believe in Jesus Christ and obey God's commandments, so they tried to change the commandments. Some Saints believed the wicked people. They stopped believing in Jesus and did not obey His commandments.

*Galatians 1:6–8; Titus 1:10–11; 1 John 2:18–19*



Many righteous Saints were killed. When the Apostles were killed, there was no one to lead the Church. The Church of Jesus Christ was not on the earth anymore. The keys of the priesthood were taken from the earth, and the people did not have prophets to guide them. The Apostles Peter and Paul had said this would happen.

*Matthew 23:34; 24:8–10; Romans 8:36; 1 Corinthians 4:9–13; 1 Peter 4:12; James E. Talmage, Jesus the Christ, 3rd ed. (1916), 745–46*



Hundreds of years went by. There were many different churches, but none of them had Apostles. Their leaders did not have the priesthood. None of the churches was the Church of Jesus Christ. However, prophets had said that after many years the Church of Jesus Christ would be on the earth again.

*Acts 3:19–26; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4; 2 Timothy 4:3–4*





In 1820 a boy named Joseph Smith wanted to know which church was the Church of Jesus Christ. He went into the woods near his home, knelt, and asked God to tell him which church was right.

*Joseph Smith—History 1:3, 5, 10, 14–15*



Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ came to Joseph Smith. The Savior told Joseph not to join any of the churches because none of them was right.

*Joseph Smith—History 1:17–19*



God chose Joseph Smith as the prophet to bring the Church of Jesus Christ back to the earth. God sent angels to give Joseph the priesthood, and He helped Joseph translate the Book of Mormon. On 6 April 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ was organized.

*Joseph Smith—History 1:33, 66–75*



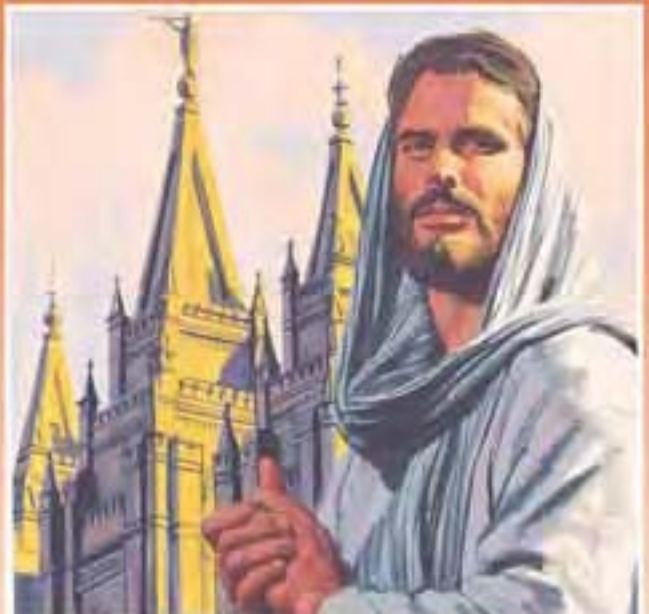
Just as Jesus chose Twelve Apostles to help Him when He was on the earth, Twelve Apostles were chosen to help Joseph Smith lead the Church. They were given the power to teach the gospel and to do miracles.

*D&C 102:3; 107:22–23, 35*



Jesus wants everyone to know about His Church. When He was on the earth, He sent missionaries to teach His gospel. Jesus told Joseph Smith to send missionaries to teach all people about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*D&C 1:18, 30*



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the same church Jesus and His Apostles had when they lived on earth.

*D&C 115:4*



# I Am a Child of God

BY SHEILA E. WILSON

**“I am a child of God. I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him. I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ” (Faith in God guidebook, inside front cover).**



Who are you? Do you know? You know your name, and you know you belong to a family here on earth. Your parents and family love you. You are special to them. You are also special to Heavenly Father. He is the father of your spirit. You lived with Him in heaven before you came to earth. Everyone born on the earth is a child of Heavenly Father.

You do not remember living with Heavenly Father, but you are His child. The scriptures teach us that “all of [us] are children of the most High” (Psalm 82:6). “The most High” means Heavenly Father.

Do you have the same color eyes as your mother? Is the color of your hair like your father’s? Children often are very much like their parents. The Bible teaches us that “God created man in his own image” (Genesis 1:27). To be created in His image means that you look like your Heavenly Father. It also means you can become like Him.

Prophets testify that you are a child of God and that He knows and loves you. Each time you sing “I Am a Child of God” (*Children’s Songbook*, 2–3), you also testify that you know who you are. Your Heavenly Father loves you. He will answer your prayers and help you to become like Him. You are His child, and He wants you to return to live with Him again someday.

## Scripture Box

Carefully remove page F13, and mount it on heavy paper. Cut around the solid black line. Fold on the dotted lines to make a box. Glue the end flaps. Fold the top end flap to close the box, but don’t glue it shut. Draw or glue a picture of yourself inside the blank frame.

Read the scripture reference on each side of the box.

Cut out the scripture reference strips, and place them in the box. Each day choose a reference, and mark it in your scriptures. The scriptures will remind you who you are. Share the box during family home evening.

## Sharing Time Ideas

1. Show the children a picture of a baby, or invite a new mother to tell about the preparations for her baby’s birth (for example, family members were excited, got clothes ready, knew they would love the baby). Liken this to how Heavenly Father feels about us. He prepared this world for us to live in. He rejoices as we grow, learn, and make right choices. Prepare case studies (see Teaching, No Greater Call [1999], 161–62) demonstrating that because I am a child of God I will choose and act accordingly. Make cutouts of children from red, yellow, and blue paper. As the children sing “I Am a Child of God,” let them pass the cutouts around. When the music stops, if they are holding a red child, have them name one way they know Heavenly Father loves them; if holding a yellow child, have them name one way they can show their love for Heavenly Father; and if holding a blue child, have them resolve a case study. Have each child write one way we can know we are children of God.

2. Ask the children to stand up whenever you make a statement that describes them. Use statements that demonstrate the similarities and differences among the children, such as everyone with a nose or everyone wearing blue. Explain that we all have characteristics similar to our Heavenly Father because we are His children. We can grow spiritually to be like our Heavenly Father. On one side of the chalkboard write, “Heavenly Father is,” and on the other side write, “I can be.” Have the children list some of Heavenly Father’s characteristics (loving, kind, generous, and so on). Then have them list some of those qualities that they have or would like to develop. ●



Fold but don't glue

*I am a child of God (see Psalm 82:6; D&C 76:24).*

*I was created in the image of God (see Moses 2:27).*

*Heavenly Father blessed me with a physical body. My body is a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).*

*Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to help me return to Him (see D&C 49:5).*

*Heavenly Father gave me an earthly family to help me and to guide me (see D&C 68:25-28).*



*I lived in heaven with Heavenly Father (see D&C 93:29).*

*Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ want me to be happy (see 2 Nephi 2:25).*

*Heavenly Father loves me and gives me certain talents (see D&C 46:11).*

*Heavenly Father gave me the scriptures so I can learn about Him (see D&C 33:16).*

*Heavenly Father listens to and answers my prayers (see D&C 112:10).*

*I can return to live with Heavenly Father someday (see D&C 78:7).*

Glue

Glue



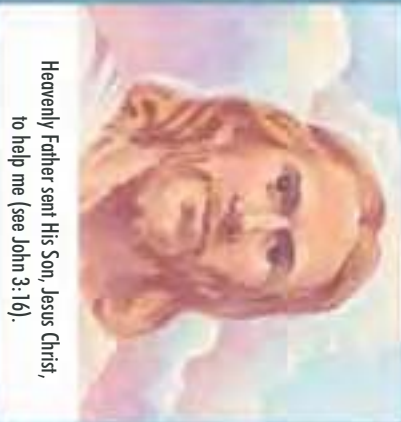
*I am a child of God; my Heavenly Father loves me (see Psalm 82:6).*



*Heavenly Father has given me an earthly family (see D&C 68:25-28).*



*I live in a beautiful world created for me (see D&C 14:9).*



*Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to help me (see John 3:16).*

*Because of His love for me, Heavenly Father—through Jesus Christ—created this beautiful world for me (see D&C 14:9).*

*I can show my love for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ by keeping the commandments (see John 14:15).*

Glue

Glue



*Heavenly Father listens to and answers my prayers (see D&C 112:10).*

*Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ will help me obey the commandments (see 1 Nephi 3:7).*

*I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ so I can live with Him someday (see John 14:3).*





# Song of Faith

BY RONDA GIBB HINRICHSEN  
A true story



*"The song of the righteous is a prayer unto me"  
(D&C 25:12).*

It had just started to rain when seven-year-old Angela stepped into the tent. Her two older brothers, Michael and Mark, were already inside. Mom and Dad had their own tent set up not far away.

"Let's say our prayers before we get into our sleeping bags," Michael said.

The three children knelt in prayer. Angela thanked Heavenly Father for her many blessings, and she asked Him to keep them safe from the storm and to help them sleep well.

After her prayer, she slid into her sleeping bag. For a long time all was quiet except for the plomp, plomp, plomp of the rain against the roof of their tent. Then

she heard Michael's voice. "Hey, Angela, wasn't Mount Rushmore cool?"

"Yes," she answered with a yawn.

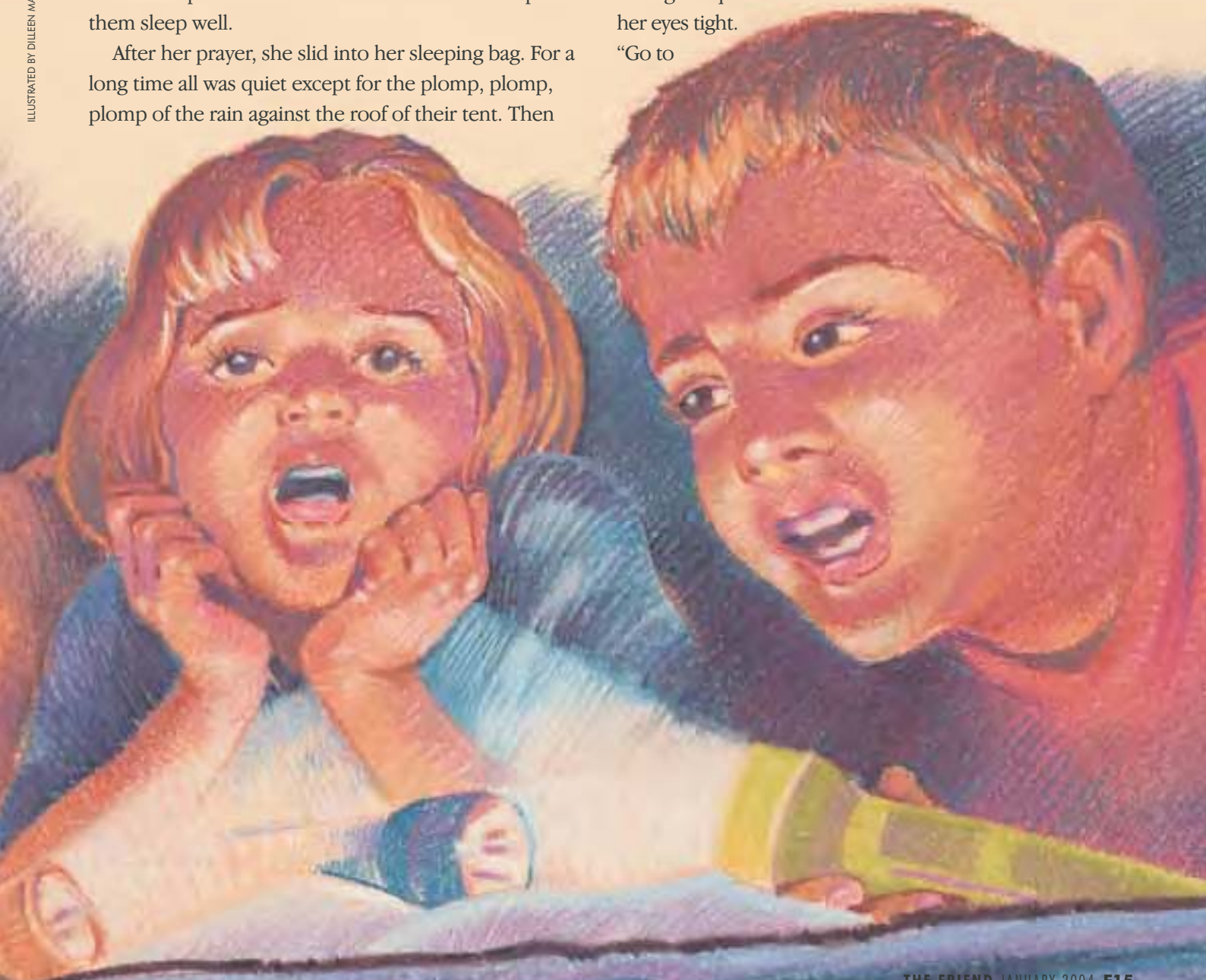
"So were the animals in the park," said Mark.

"I liked them too," Angela agreed. She pictured the buffalo calves grazing so close to the road that she could see their eyes watching the slow-moving cars.

*Flash! Boooooom!*

Angela squeezed her eyes tight.

"Go to





sleep,” she told herself. “It’s just thunder.” It had rained almost every day that her family had been on vacation. Every time it rained, lightning shot across the sky like hot arrows, and thunder echoed on and on like beating drums.

*Flash! Boooooom!*

Angela pulled the sleeping bag over her head. “Go to sleep,” she told herself again.

“Mark, are you awake?” Michael whispered into the darkness.

“Hmmm?” Mark’s voice was heavy with sleep.

“Are you awake?”

*Flash!*

Mark opened his eyes. “I am now,” he said.

*Boooooom!*

“Angela, are you awake?” Michael asked.

“Yes,” Angela whimpered. “I’m scared.

I want to go to Mom and Dad’s tent.”

“It’s raining too hard,” Michael said.

“You’ll get soaking wet. Besides, it’s not safe to go out in the lightning.”

Angela frowned. “But I’m really scared.”

*Flash! Flash!*

“You don’t need to be scared,” Mark said. “The lightning is really cool! It’s just a bunch of static electricity in the clouds.”

*Boooooom!*

“And the thunder sounds like a big whip!” he added.

Angela shuddered. “I don’t like it!”

*Flash! Boooooom!*

“Well, then think of things that make you happy,”

Mark suggested. “That might help.”

Angela closed her eyes and thought about a field of yellow flowers. She imagined herself running down a hill into the field, laughing.

*Flash! Boom! Flash! Flash! Boooooom!*

“It’s not working,” Angela said, shaking. “I’m still scared.”

Suddenly, rain began pelting their tent. Angela scrunched deep within her sleeping bag. What could

she do to stop feeling scared? Then a quiet thought entered her mind. “Why don’t we sing?” she shouted, hoping her brothers could hear her above the noise. “My Primary teacher said that singing Primary songs can help us feel better.”

“OK,” Mark said loudly. “What should we sing?”

“How about ‘I Am a Child of God?’” Michael suggested. Slowly, quietly, Angela started to sing.

*“I am a child of God,  
And he has sent me here . . .”*

Angela stopped. Her brothers weren’t singing with her. “They must not be able to hear me,” she thought. So she sang louder.

*“Has given me an earthly home  
With parents kind and dear.”*

Her brothers were singing now.

*“Lead me, guide me, walk beside me,  
Help me find the way.*

*Teach me all that I must do  
To live with him someday.”  
(Children’s Songbook, 2–3)*

*Flash! Boom!*

“Now what should we sing?” Angela asked.

“Let’s sing that one again,” Michael said.

Over and over, Angela, Michael, and Mark

sang “I Am a Child of God” until the storm passed and peace returned to their tent.

“It worked!” Angela told herself as she snuggled into the warmth of her sleeping bag. “Finally I can go to sleep.” As she closed her eyes, another thought gently filled her mind. “I am a child of God, and I know He will help me find the way.” ●



“Just like the beautiful Primary song you sing, each of you truly is a child of God.”

**President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994),  
“To the Children of the Church,” Ensign,  
May 1989, 81.**

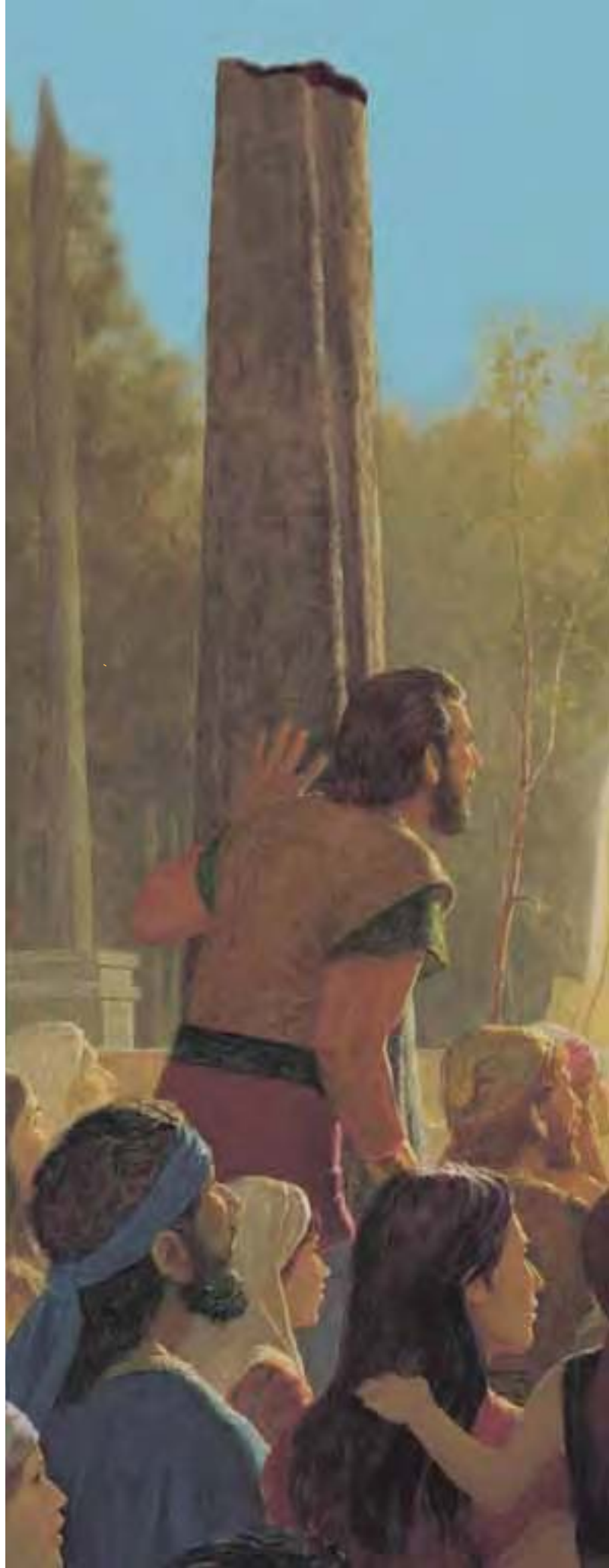


**Lehi Building an Altar of Stones in the Valley of Lemuel, by Clark Kelley Price**

*“It came to pass that when [Lehi] had traveled three days in the wilderness, he pitched his tent in a valley by the side of a river of water. And it came to pass that he built an altar of stones, and made an offering unto the Lord, and gave thanks unto the Lord our God” (1 Nephi 2:6–7).*



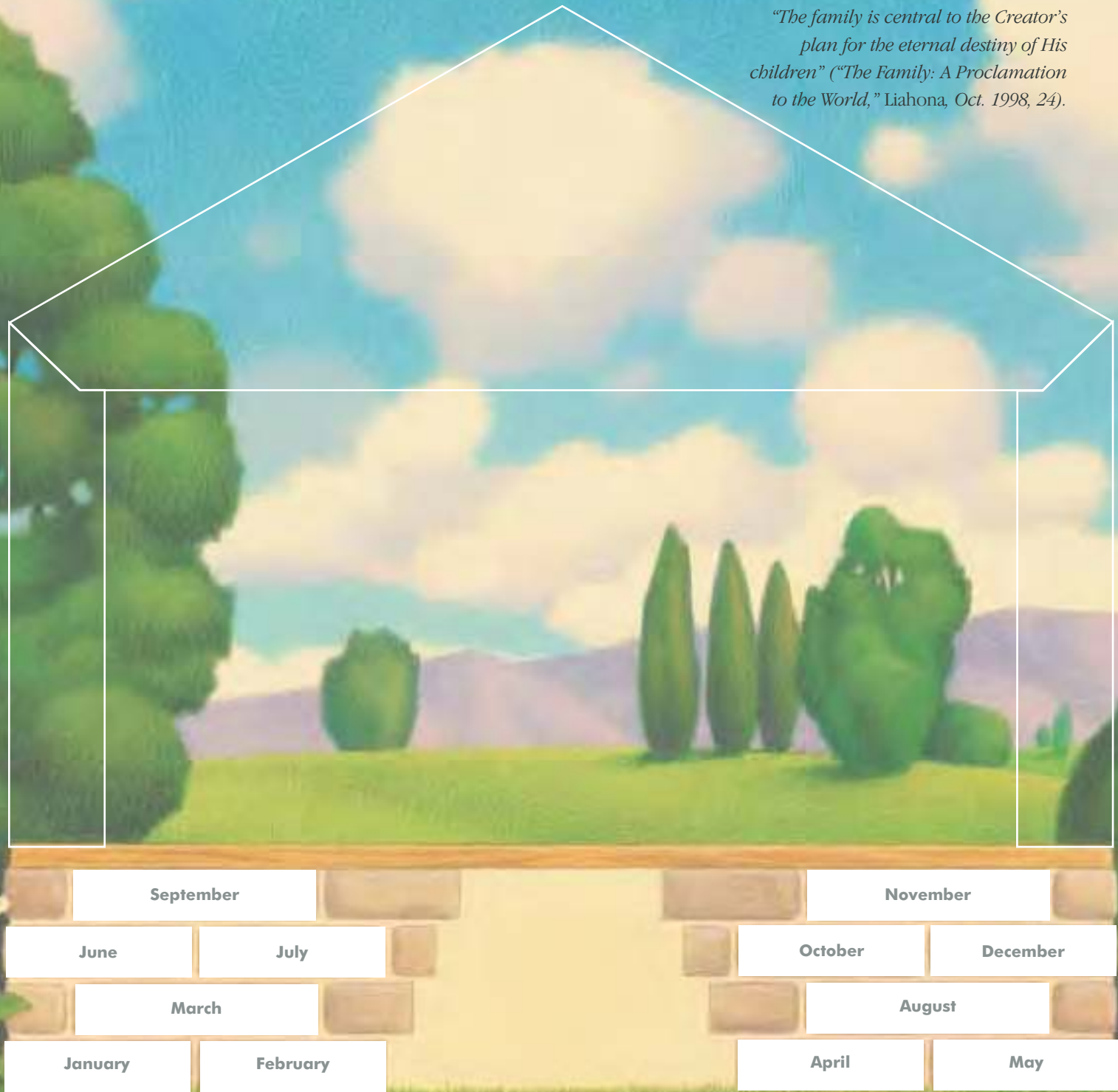
**T**he Book of Mormon is a keystone because it establishes and ties together eternal principles and precepts, rounding out basic doctrines of salvation. It is the crowning gem in the diadem of our holy scriptures." See President James E. Faust, "The Keystone of Our Religion," p. 2, and "Book of Mormon Times at a Glance," p. 18.



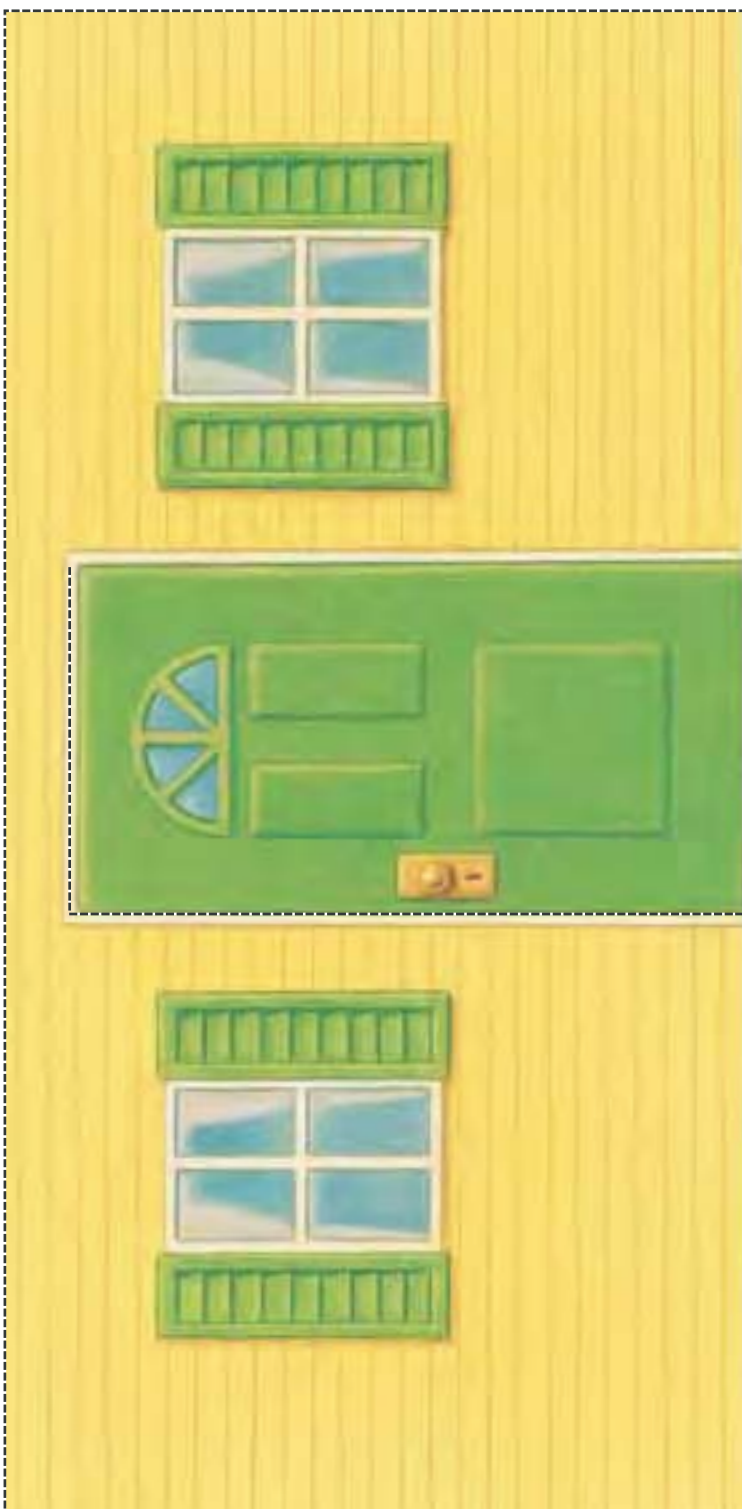
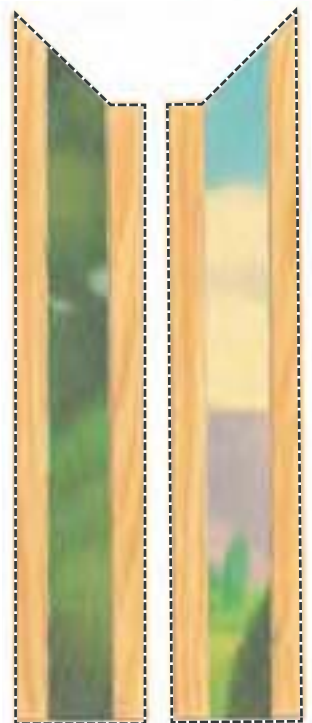
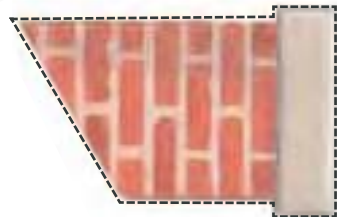


# My Family Can Be Forever

*"The family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children" ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World," Liahona, Oct. 1998, 24).*



ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE KROPP



- I am a child of God.
- The family is central to Heavenly Father's plan.
- Families can be happy when they follow Jesus Christ.
- Family members have important responsibilities.
- Heavenly Father teaches me how to strengthen my family.
- Temples unite families.
- Prophets teach me how to strengthen my family.
- My family is blessed when we remember Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ makes it possible for me to live with Heavenly Father again.
- Faith, prayer, repentance, and forgiveness can strengthen my family.
- Respect, love, work, and wholesome recreation can strengthen my family.
- Keeping the Sabbath day holy can strengthen my family.





# My Family Can Be Forever



Before we came to earth, Heavenly Father taught us the great plan of happiness. The family is central to His plan. Because He loves us, He has given us families so that we can love and learn from one another. By following Heavenly Father's plan, families can return to Him and live with Him forever.

Prayerfully read the scriptures and quotations referred to on this year's poster, and present them in family home evening. As you do, you will remember the blessings of being a member of a family. And you will learn ways to make your family stronger.

## Instructions

1. Open the staples, remove the poster from the magazine, and reclose the staples.
2. Cut out the foundation stones, and put them in an envelope. Cut out the pieces of the house, and put them in a different envelope.
3. At the beginning of each month, find the right foundation stone and house piece for that month in the envelopes (all pieces are labeled by month on the back). Read and memorize the scripture or quotation. Then glue the pieces in place. When you attach the October piece, make sure there is no glue on the back of the door. In November, cut the door on the dotted lines and fold it open. In December, draw or glue a picture of your own family on the doorway piece.

Additional copies of the poster (item no. 24958) are available from Church distribution centers.

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**November:**  
"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

**March:**  
"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

**September:**  
"Successful . . . families are established and maintained on principles of faith, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities" (Liahona, Oct. 1998, 24).

**August:**  
"Successful . . . families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, [and] forgiveness" (Liahona, Oct. 1998, 24).

**June:** "And ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably" (Mosiah 4:13).

**February:**  
"The family is ordained of God" (Liahona, Oct. 1998, 24).

"I am a child of God. I know Heavenly Father loves me, and I love Him. I can pray to Heavenly Father anytime, anywhere. I am trying to remember and follow Jesus Christ" (Faith in God guidebook, inside front cover).

## January:

January  
February  
April  
May  
June  
July

"And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of me; for good cometh of none save it be of me. . . . I am the light, and the life, and the truth of the world" (Ether 4:12).

## December:

"Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Liahona, Oct. 1998, 24).

## April:

**July:** "Let this house be built unto my name, that I may reveal mine ordinances therein unto my people" (D&C 124:40).

"What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, . . . whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same" (D&C 1:38).

## October:

September  
October  
December  
March  
August  
September  
November

**May:** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).