

Liahona

A painting of a man and a woman looking down at a baby wrapped in a white blanket. The man is on the right, looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The woman is on the left, also looking down at the baby. The baby is lying in a white, fluffy blanket and looking up towards the camera. The background is a soft, painterly landscape with green grass and a blue sky.

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**Why Did Adam and
Eve Partake? p. 8**

**What You Can Say
about the Temple,
p. 40**

**Special Poster Insert
for Children**

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of Sisters

FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

*These ideas can help you use
this issue of the Liahona to
enhance your teaching
in the classroom as well
as in the home.*

**"At Home in
Mozambique,"** p. 10:

Invite a family mem-
ber to share what the scriptures
teach about serving others (see
Matthew 25:40; Mosiah 2:17–18).
Using the article's story as inspira-
tion, plan and carry out a project
that would benefit a family in your
community.

"The Nature of the Godhead,"

p. 34: Share the story of Joseph
Smith's First Vision (see Joseph
Smith—History 1:15–20).

Discuss the truths Joseph
Smith learned through this
experience. Divide the
three sections of the
article among family members.

Use sections to role-play what it
would be like to explain LDS beliefs
concerning the Godhead to others.

"Using Agency Wisely," p. 36:
Have family members write answers
to the question, "Why do we not



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- F13 Fun Page: Scripture Figure
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F2 Walk the High Road

INSERT: FOR CHILDREN

Sharing Time Poster: I Will Trust in Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ—Their Promises Are Sure

ON THE COVER

Front: Painting by Jay Bryant Ward. Back: Photograph by Steve Bunderson, posed by models.

THE FRIEND COVER

Illustrated by Sal Velluto and Eugenio Mattozzi. ON THE COVER

make right decisions every time?” Discuss their responses using President Spencer W. Kimball’s quote. Read Brother Kawada’s story, and discuss why he was able to make the right choices. Share personal examples of the blessings you have received from choosing correctly.

“How to Talk about the Temple,” p. 40: Display a picture of a temple, and ask each family member how he or she feels about the temple. Have family members imagine what those not of our faith must think about the temple. Choose a few

questions from the article, and have family members share how they would answer them. Supplement their answers with the suggestions from the article.

“Walk the High Road,” p. F2: If possible, drive or walk to a road with an elevated view. Discuss what it means to “walk the high road that leads to achievement and happiness.” While there, have family members search President Gordon B. Hinckley’s message and identify specific things they can do to accomplish this goal.

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The Master's Blueprint

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

When Jesus ministered among men at a time long ago and a place far away, He often spoke in parables, in language the people best understood. Oftentimes He referred to home building in relationship to the lives of those who listened. Wasn't He frequently known as "the carpenter's son"?¹ He declared, "Every . . . house divided against itself shall not stand."² Later He cautioned, "Behold, mine house is a house of order, saith the Lord God, and not a house of confusion."³

In a revelation given through the Prophet Joseph Smith at Kirtland, Ohio, December 27, 1832, the Master counseled, "Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God."⁴

Where could any of us locate a more suitable blueprint whereby he or she could wisely and properly build a house to personally occupy throughout eternity?

In a very real sense, we are builders of eternal houses. We are apprentices to the trade—not skilled craftsmen. We need divine help if

we are to build successfully. The words of instruction provided by the Apostle Paul give the assurance we need: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"⁵

When we remember that each of us is literally a spirit son or daughter of God, we will not find it difficult to approach our Heavenly Father in prayer. He appreciates the value of this raw material which we call life. "Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God."⁶ His pronouncement inspires purpose in our lives.

There is a teacher who will guide our efforts if we will but place our faith in Him—even the Lord Jesus Christ. He invites us:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."⁷

It was said of Jesus that He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."⁸ Do we have the determination to do likewise? One line of holy writ contains a



In a very real sense, we are builders of eternal houses. We are apprentices to the trade—not skilled craftsmen. We need divine help if we are to build successfully.



LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE BUNDERSON, POSED BY MODELS, MAY NOT BE COPIED, RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPH BY BUSATH PHOTOGRAPHY AND © GETTY IMAGES

tribute to our Lord and Savior, of whom it was said, “[He] went about doing good.”⁹

Examples of the Believers

Paul, in his epistle to his beloved Timothy, outlined a way whereby we could become our better selves and, at the same time, provide assistance to others who ponder or ask the question, “How can I [find my way], except some man should guide me?”¹⁰

The answer, given by Paul to Timothy, provides an inspired charge to each of us. Let us take heed of his wise counsel: “Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”¹¹

Let us examine this solemn instruction which, in a very real sense, is given to us.

First, be an example in word. “Let your words tend to edifying one another,”¹² said the Lord.

Do we remember the counsel of a favorite Sunday School hymn?

*Oh, the kind words we give shall in memory live
And sunshine forever impart.*

*Let us oft speak kind words to each other;
Kind words are sweet tones of the heart.*¹³

Consider the observation of Mary Boyson Wall, who married Don Harvey Wall in the Salt Lake Temple in 1913. They celebrated their 81st wedding anniversary shortly before Don died at age 103, preceding her in death. In a *Church News* article she attributed longevity in life and in their marriage to speaking kind words. She said, “I think that helped us through because we [tried] to help each other and not say unkind words to each other.”¹⁴

Second, be an example in conversation. In a general conference in October 1987, President Gordon B. Hinckley declared: “Foul talk defiles the man who speaks it. If you have the habit, how do you break it? You begin by making a decision to change. The next time you are prone to use words you know to be wrong, simply stop. Keep quiet or say what you have to say in a different way.”¹⁵

François de la Rochefoucauld observed, “One of the

reasons why so few people are to be found who seem sensible and pleasant in conversation is that almost everybody is thinking about what he wants to say himself rather than about answering clearly what is said to him.”¹⁶

Third, be an example in charity. From Corinthians comes the beautiful truth, “Charity never faileth.”¹⁷

Satisfying to the soul is the ready response the Church has made to disasters of nature in so many locations. Frequently we have arrived first on the scene following such disasters and with the most help. There are other organizations which likewise respond in a generous fashion.

What is charity? Moroni, in writing a few of the words of his father, Mormon, recorded, “Charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever.”¹⁸

One who exemplified charity in his life was President George Albert Smith (1870–1951). Immediately following World War II, the Church had a drive to amass warm clothing to ship to suffering Saints in Europe. Elder Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Elder Marion G. Romney (1897–1988), an Assistant to the Twelve, took President George Albert Smith to Welfare Square in Salt Lake City to view the results. They were impressed by the generous response of the membership of the Church. They watched President Smith observing the workers as they packaged this great volume of donated clothing and shoes. They saw tears running down his face. After a few moments, President Smith removed his own new overcoat and said, “Please ship this also.”

The Brethren said to him, “No, President, no; don’t send that; it’s cold and you need your coat.”

But President Smith would not take it back; and so his coat, with all the others, was sent to Europe, where the nights were long and dark and food and clothing were scarce. Then the shipments arrived. Joy and thanksgiving were expressed aloud, as well as in secret prayer.

Fourth, be an example in spirit. The Psalmist wrote, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”¹⁹

As a 17-year-old, I enlisted in the United States Navy



and attended boot camp in San Diego, California. For the first three weeks, one felt as though the navy were trying to kill rather than train him on how to stay alive.

I shall ever remember the first Sunday at San Diego. The chief petty officer said to us, “Today everybody goes to church.” We then lined up in formation on the drill ground. The petty officer shouted, “All of you who are Catholics—you meet in Camp Decatur. Forward, march! And don’t come back until three!” A large number marched out. He then said, “All of you who are of the Jewish faith—you meet in Camp Henry. Forward, march! And don’t come back until three!” A smaller contingent moved out. Then he said, “The rest of you Protestants meet in the theaters in Camp Farragut. Forward, march! And don’t come back until three o’clock!”

There flashed through my mind the thought, “Monson, you’re not Catholic. You’re not Jewish. You’re not a Protestant.”

I elected to stand fast. It seemed as though hundreds of men marched by me. Then I heard the sweetest words which the petty officer ever uttered in my presence. He said, “And what do you men call yourselves?” He used the plural—men. This was the first time I knew that anyone else was standing behind me on that drill ground. In unison we said, “We’re Mormons.” He scratched his head, an expression of puzzlement on his face, and said, “Well, go and find somewhere to meet—and don’t come back until three o’clock.” We marched away. One could almost count cadence to the rhyme learned in Primary:

*Dare to be a Mormon;
Dare to stand alone.
Dare to have a purpose firm,
And dare to make it known.*

Fifth, be an example in faith. President Stephen L Richards (1879–1959), First Counselor in the First Presidency, speaking

Elder Harold B. Lee, President George Albert Smith, and Elder Marion G. Romney observed workers as they packaged a great volume of donated clothing and shoes. After a few moments, President Smith removed his own new overcoat and said, “Please ship this also.”





Many years ago I attended a stake conference in Star Valley, Wyoming. I asked all those persons whom the stake president had blessed as children, confirmed, ordained, set apart, personally counseled, or otherwise blessed to please stand. The outcome was electrifying.

of faith, declared: “The recognition of power higher than man himself does not in any sense debase him. If in his faith he ascribes beneficence and high purpose to the power which is superior to himself, he envisions a higher destiny and nobler attributes for his kind and is stimulated and encouraged in the struggle of existence. . . . He must seek believing, praying, and hoping that he will find. No such sincere, prayerful effort will go unrequited—that is the very constitution of the philosophy of faith.”²⁰ Divine favor will attend those who humbly seek it.

Minnie Louise Haskins set forth this principle in a lovely poem:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”*²¹

Finally, be an example in purity. “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

“He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

“He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”²²

As President David O. McKay (1873–1970) observed: “The safety of our nation depends upon the purity and strength of the home; and I thank God for the teachings of the . . . Church in relation to home building, and the impression that kind parents have made, that the home must be the most sacred place in the world. Our people are home-builders, and they are taught everywhere, from childhood to old age, that the home should be kept pure and safe from the evils of the world.”²³

Our Father's Gratitude

Many years ago I attended a stake conference in Star Valley, Wyoming, where the stake presidency was re-organized. The stake president who was being released, E. Francis Winters, had served faithfully for the lengthy term of 23 years. Though modest by nature and circumstance, he had been a perpetual pillar of strength to everyone in the valley. On the day of the stake conference, the building was filled to overflowing. Each heart seemed to be saying a silent thank-you to this noble leader who had given so unselfishly of his life for the benefit of others.

As I stood to speak, I was prompted to do something I had not done before, nor have I done so since. I stated how long Francis Winters had presided in the stake; then I asked all whom he had blessed or confirmed as children to stand and remain standing. Then I asked all those persons whom President Winters had ordained, set apart, personally counseled, or blessed to please stand. The outcome was electrifying. Every person in the audience rose to his or her feet. Tears flowed freely—tears which communicated better than could words the gratitude of tender hearts. I turned to President and Sister Winters and said, “We are witnesses today of the prompting of the Spirit. This vast throng reflects not only individual feelings but also the gratitude of God for a life well lived.” No person who was in the congregation that day will forget how he or she felt when we witnessed the language of the Spirit of the Lord.

Here, in Francis Winters, was “an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”²⁴

*True to the faith that our parents have cherished,
True to the truth for which martyrs have perished,
To God's command,
Soul, heart, and hand,
Faithful and true we will ever stand.*²⁵

That each of us may do so is my humble prayer. ■

NOTES

1. Matthew 13:55.
2. Matthew 12:25.
3. D&C 132:8.
4. D&C 88:119.
5. 1 Corinthians 3:16.
6. D&C 18:10.
7. Matthew 11:28–30.
8. Luke 2:52.
9. Acts 10:38.
10. Acts 8:31.
11. 1 Timothy 4:12.
12. D&C 136:24.
13. Joseph L. Townsend, “Let Us Oft Speak Kind Words,” *Hymns*, no. 232.
14. Quoted in “Lives of Kindness, Service,” *Church News*, Sept. 21, 1996, 10.
15. “Take Not the Name of God in Vain,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 47.
16. *Maxims* (1959), 54.
17. 1 Corinthians 13:8.
18. Moroni 7:47.
19. Psalm 51:10.
20. In Conference Report, Oct. 1937, 35, 38.
21. From “The Gate of the Year,” in James Dalton Morrison, ed., *Masterpieces of Religious Verse* (1948), 92.
22. Psalm 24:3–5.
23. In Conference Report, Apr. 1909, 66.
24. 1 Timothy 4:12.
25. Evan Stephens, “True to the Faith,” *Hymns*, no. 254.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

After prayerfully studying this message, share it using a method that encourages the participation of those you teach. Following are some examples.

1. Discuss with family members the process of building a house. Read aloud the fourth paragraph. Invite them to share examples of divine help they have received as “builders of eternal houses.”

2. Assemble a small “house” with wood, cups, or other building blocks labeled with the six elements mentioned in 1 Timothy 4:12. As each block is put in place, read what President Monson said about that element. Invite family members to share why each piece is important. Have family members think of someone who has been “an example of the believers” to them.

3. Share the account of E. Francis Winters in the article, and bear testimony of the blessings of following the Master’s blueprint.



Adam's Role in Bringing Us Mortality



Joseph Fielding Smith was long noted for the depth of his knowledge of the gospel and the scriptures. He served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for more than 55 years before he was sustained as a counselor in the First Presidency in October 1965 and then as Church President in 1970. In October 1967, he spoke of the blessing for mankind that is known as the Fall of Adam.

BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH
(1876–1972)
Tenth President of the Church

When Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden, he was in the presence of God our Eternal Father. He talked with the Father and the Father with him. But something happened, and it had to happen: Adam partook of certain fruit. My Bible, the King James Version, [speaks in a commentator's note] of Adam's Fall [as] "man's shameful fall." Well, it wasn't a shameful fall at all.

Adam came here to bring mortality upon the earth, and that resulted in the shutting out from the presence of the Eternal Father of both Adam and Eve and their posterity. The Son of God comes upon the scene from that time henceforth as our Redeemer. . . . It is the Savior who stands between mankind and our Heavenly Father. . . . The Son is the mediator between mankind and the Eternal Father. You seldom hear a prayer that isn't offered to our Heavenly Father in the name of His Beloved Son, and that's right. Christ came into this world to represent His Father. He came into this world to teach mankind who His Father is, why we should worship Him, how we should worship Him. He performed the greatest work that was ever performed in this mortal world by the shedding of His blood, which paid a debt that mankind owes to the Eternal Father, and which debt we inherited after the Fall of Adam.

They Opened the Door

Adam did only what he had to do. He partook of that fruit for one good reason, and that was to open the door to bring you and me and everyone else into this world, for Adam and Eve could have remained in the Garden of Eden; they could have been there to this day, if Eve hadn't done something.

One of these days, if I ever get to where I can speak to Mother Eve, I want to thank her for tempting Adam to partake of the fruit. He accepted the temptation, with the result that children came into this world. . . . If she hadn't had that influence over Adam, and if Adam had done according to the commandment first given to him, they would still be in the Garden of Eden and we would not be here at all. We wouldn't have come into this world. So the commentators made a great mistake when they put in the Bible . . . "man's shameful fall."

Well, that was what the Lord expected Adam to do, because that opened the door to mortality; and we came here into this mortal world to receive a training in mortality that we could not get anywhere else or in any other way. We came here into this world to partake of all the vicissitudes, to receive the lessons that we receive in mortality from or in a mortal world. And so we become subject to pain, to sickness. We are blessed for keeping the commandments of the Lord with all that He has given us, which, if we will follow and be true and faithful, will bring us back again

into the presence of God our Eternal Father, as sons and daughters of God, entitled to the fulness of celestial glory.

Privileged to Be Mortal

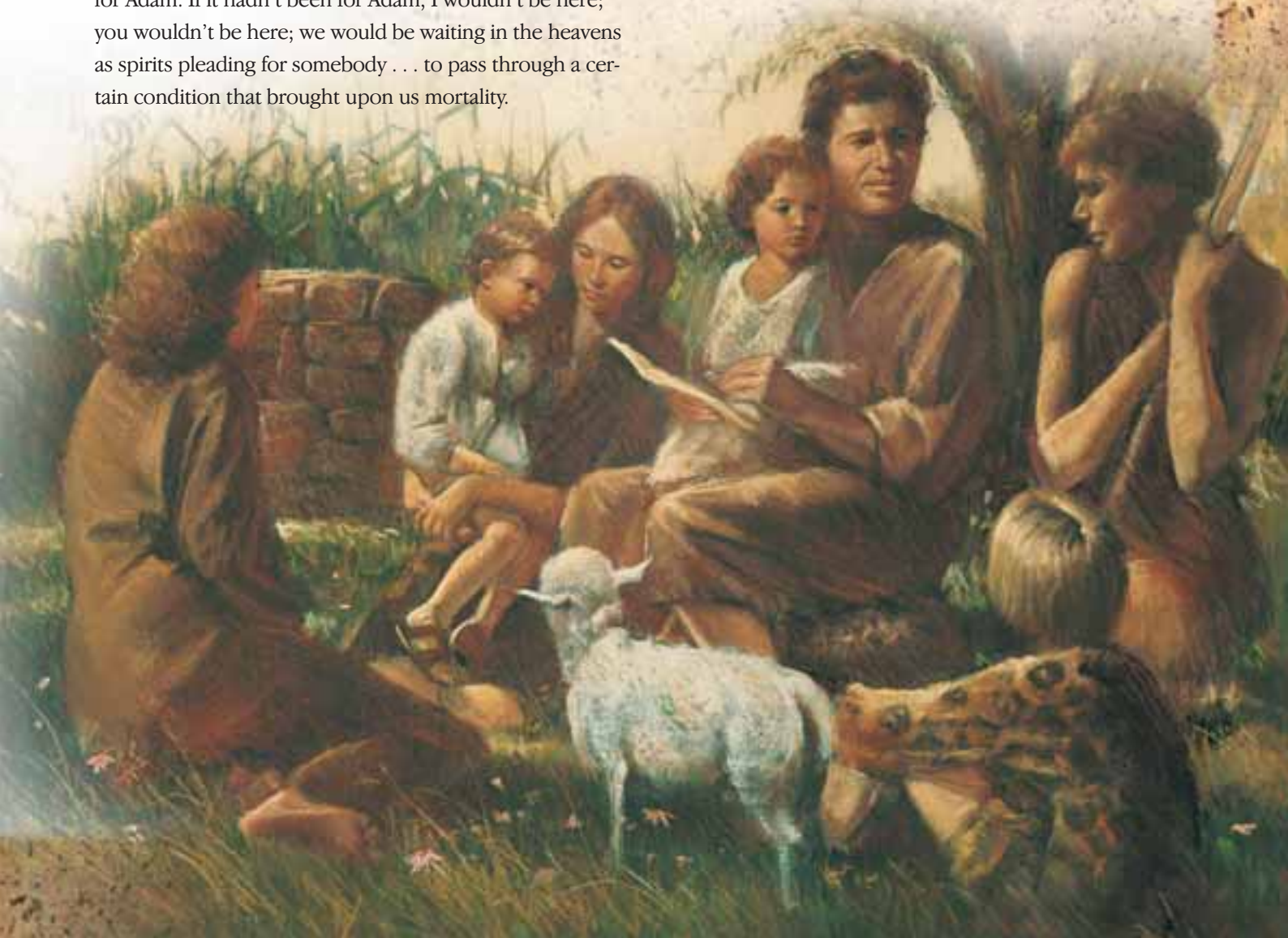
That great blessing of celestial glory could never have come to us without a period of time in mortality, and so we came here in this mortal world. We are in school, the mortal school, to gain the experiences, the training, the joys, and the sufferings that we partake of, that we might be educated in all these things and be prepared, if we are faithful and true to the commandments of the Lord, to become sons and daughters of God, joint heirs with Jesus Christ; and in His presence to go on to a fulness and a continuation of the seeds forever, and perhaps through our faithfulness to have the opportunity of building worlds and peopling them.

Brethren and sisters, let's thank the Lord, when we pray, for Adam. If it hadn't been for Adam, I wouldn't be here; you wouldn't be here; we would be waiting in the heavens as spirits pleading for somebody . . . to pass through a certain condition that brought upon us mortality.

We are in the mortal life to get an experience, a training, that we couldn't get any other way. And in order [for us] to become gods, it is necessary for us to know something about pain, about sickness, and about the other things that we partake of in this school of mortality.

So don't let us, brethren and sisters, complain about Adam and wish he hadn't done something that he did. I want to thank him. I am glad to have the privilege of being here and going through mortality, and if I will be true and faithful to the covenants and obligations that are upon me as a member of the Church and in the kingdom of God, I may have the privilege of coming back into the presence of the Eternal Father; and that will come to you as it will to me, sons and daughters of God entitled to the fulness of celestial glory. ■

An October 1967 general conference address; subheads added; punctuation, capitalization, and spelling modernized.



AT HOME IN MOZAMBIQUE

Through their dedicated service, youth in Mozambique help others feel right at home.

BY BENJAMIN THOMAS GARRISON

Mozambique. The name, for some, conjures images of exotic wildlife, lush green vegetation, or white-sand beaches. More likely, it will send the average person scrambling for a map to discover its location in southeast Africa. But for Maria da Conceição, it means home. And thanks to the efforts of members in the Inhamítua Branch and a few missionaries,

Maria now has a place in Mozambique to call her own.

Maria is a tiny woman with a gigantic spirit. Abandoned by her husband and oldest daughter, she was left to rear two small children on her own. Crippled by a debilitating disease she has had since birth, Maria



Mozambique youth gather to serve others.

struggled to pay the rent each month. In a country that has high unemployment, work and money are nearly impossible to come by. Yet Maria managed to make a meager living and do the best she could.

I was a full-time missionary in Mozambique. When I first met Maria, I was impressed by her positive attitude and zest for life. She worked relentlessly in her *machamba* (large garden) to provide for two children and herself and to pay rent on a small mud house.

Church members helped by providing food and medical care. Tragically, Maria's two children died within three weeks of each other due to disease and

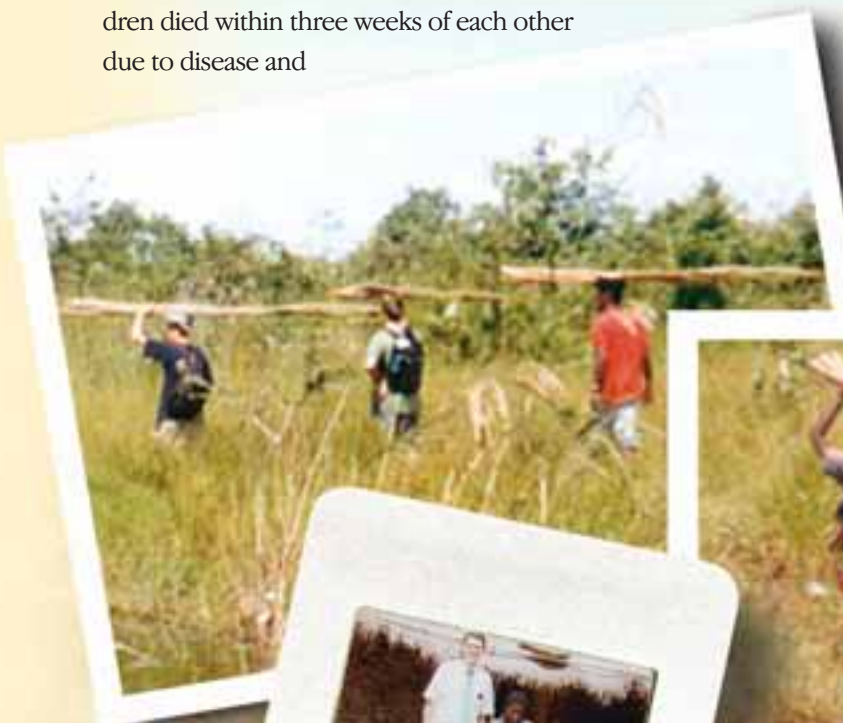
no access to the right medical facilities. Death and suffering are common in Mozambique.

Serving as the branch president for our tiny branch, I was extremely concerned for Maria. Both the youth and adult members of our isolated branch did everything they could to help Maria. Some worked in the *machamba*, others offered food, and a few even helped pay the rent; but she needed a permanent answer.

Late one night, while I was pondering and searching for an answer, inspiration came to me in the form of an idea for an ambitious youth project: building a home for Maria.

My companion, Elder Bis-Neto, and I proposed our idea to the younger

Maria needed help, and members and missionaries in the Inhamizua Branch in Mozambique jumped at the opportunity to make her life a little better.



Elder Garrison with Maria da Conceição outside her home.



members of the branch, and they jumped at the chance to help build Maria a house. There was little money and a great deal of work to be done, but with many willing hands and a vision of a traditional African mud-and-stick house, a plan took shape, and the youth went to work.

Walking with Wood

Everyone got down to business immediately. First job: get wood.

A trip into the African jungle to gather wood for building a home is not a job for the fainthearted. The youth and missionaries made many two-hour trips through thick, swampy savannas, endless rice fields, dense overgrown jungles, and waist-deep mud to find the perfect trees with which to build Maria's house. Using machetes, we hacked down the slender trees and then organized them into bundles for the journey back.

Some of the youth used tall wild grass to quickly weave hats to help protect their heads from the rough logs.

The most difficult leg of the journey now began. Carrying a heavy load on our heads, scratching our way through the dense undergrowth, and battling the scorching African sun, we hauled our loads back. As we walked, the youth sang hymns of Zion, with smiles on their faces.

Alves Elídio Eguimane Razão, 18, says, "It was a lot of hard work, and we loved every minute of it!"

The wooden frame went up stick by stick, with care given to ensure a sturdy and lasting structure. Many generous hands constructed the roof by laying down strips of plastic, which were secured with mats of woven weeds. This roof would need to repel the violent storms of the annual rainy season.

Making Mud

From mud walls to mud floors to mud pies, mud was the menu for most building days. Barrel after barrel of

rich brown dirt was hauled in and then drenched in water. Dozens of youth and other branch members turned out to help hand mix the mud and cover the frame house.

The exterior was done first, followed by the interior walls

and partition. After we had packed the walls with several inches of strong, dried mud, the house started to take shape. To jazz up the interior, a special layer of mud was carefully applied to create the floor and solid water-resistant surfaces.

These days were full of hard work, but the atmosphere abounded in good humor and many smiles, not to mention the surprised eyes of the neighbors as they watched missionaries and youth carrying large bundles of sticks and gallons upon gallons of water and slinging handfuls of mud.

Finally the door was hung, a lock installed, and the house was done.

After more than 1,000 service hours, given by more than 40 members and a number of missionaries, Maria da Conceição had a beautiful home of her own.

In addition to completing Maria's home, a number of other good things happened as a result of the project.

Helder Manuel Tomo, 19, helped build the home before he was a member of the Church. He says, "Building Maria's house was great! I first went to church with Jonqueiro, a great friend of mine who was about to serve a mission. I really enjoyed church, yet I felt like the 'new guy.'"

Spending time building the house helped Helder get to know the youth in the branch. "This new feeling of belonging and having so many friends is what sealed my decision to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I was baptized by Jonqueiro. I am so grateful that he invited me to church and helped me 'belong' through this great service project."

Jonqueiro Alai Malaica, 22, says, "It was a great service project for all of the members. It wasn't easy, but it was



SOME FACTS ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE

On the coast of southeastern Africa, Mozambique has a population of nearly 19 million, about 3,000 of whom are Church members. The Mozambique Maputo Mission, the 339th mission in the Church, was formed in January 2005 and has around 30 full-time missionaries.

most certainly worth it.” He says it brought the whole branch together.

“I’m also grateful for the youth and the friendship they showed to Helder,” says Jonqueiro. Helder is now working hard as a branch missionary and plans to go on a mission.

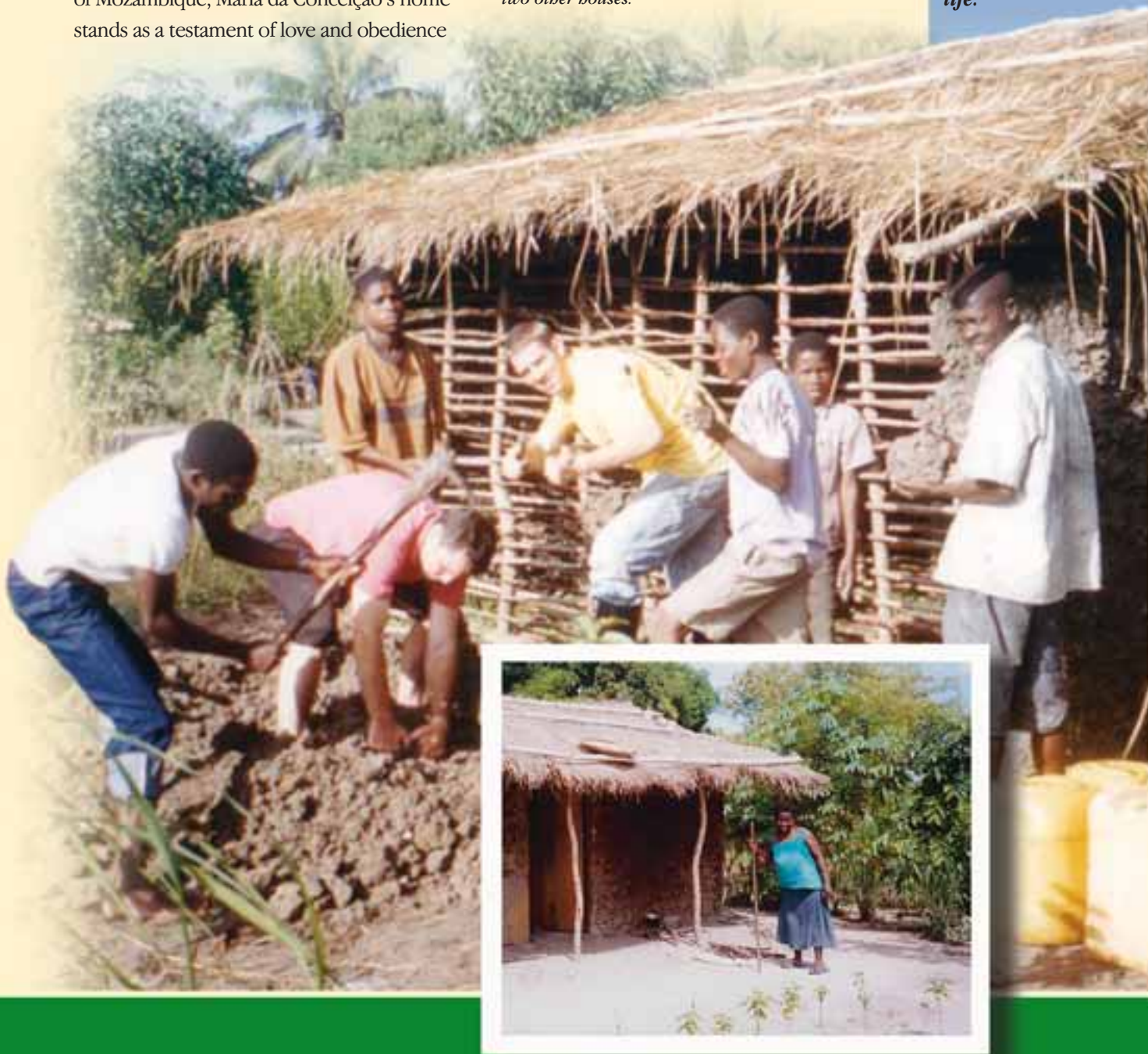
On a tiny plot of land, in a remote village of Mozambique, Maria da Conceição’s home stands as a testament of love and obedience

to the principles of the gospel. Maria and the members of the Inhamízua Branch have learned that, amid the harsh trials of life, there is hope to be found when Church members work together to make good things happen. ■

Benjamin Thomas Garrison served full-time in the Mozambique Maputo Mission.

Editors’ note: *The members of the Inhamízua Branch did not stop with Maria’s house. The volunteers and missionaries have since rebuilt two other houses.*

More than 1,000 hours of service from more than 40 volunteers mean Maria has a new home and a more comfortable life.



THE PRICE FOR GOOD THINGS



We pay the price for good things in advance with our patience, humility, and obedience.

BY ELDER CARLOS E. AGÜERO

Area Seventy
South America South Area

Personal experience has taught me that the Lord knows us better than we know ourselves and that we can trust in the promises made by priesthood leaders, knowing they come from the Lord through His Spirit. That Spirit will confirm to us that those promises will come to pass if we are faithful to the commandments.

When I was 14, I met two American missionaries. I was interested in hearing about the Book of Mormon, so we set an appointment for them to visit me. My entire family listened to the first discussion, but none of them were interested in continuing. I had felt something and sensed the message was true, so I asked my parents for permission to continue receiving the missionary discussions. They agreed, and when I was almost 15 years old, I entered the waters of baptism in the Godoy Cruz Branch, Mendoza Argentina District.

The next year I faced a great trial in my life: my parents separated. Thankfully, I had the Church during that difficult time and the

support of excellent teachers, leaders, and friends. At about that same time, after being ordained a priest in the Aaronic Priesthood, I baptized my 11-year-old sister.

Learning a New Language

I worked full-time for the next few years, attending school in the evenings. When I was 19, I sent in my mission papers. I will always remember the day I received my call to the France Paris Mission. It was signed by President Joseph Fielding Smith, dated June 16, 1972, just weeks before he passed away.

After going through endless formalities to obtain a passport (I was underage, my parents were separated, and I was of military age), I was finally able to leave for my mission, a year and a half after completing my papers. I flew to Paris, France, with only my five years of high school French and without knowing any English. The zone conferences in my mission were in English. And I hadn't been endowed yet because there were no temples in South America at that time.

One month after I began my service,

President Willis D. Waite sent me with a young Frenchman, Jean Collin, to receive my endowment in the Swiss Temple. We traveled all night by train and spent three emotional and spiritual days there.

Six months into my mission, I had a special interview with my mission president during one of our mission conferences. In essence President Waite told me, “Elder Agüero, I’m going to give you an assignment. You have to learn English because when you return home you will be a member of a stake presidency, a mission president, and a leader in the Church. You will need English to communicate with the General Authorities.”

I laughed, perhaps because at the age of 20

I couldn’t see myself in these positions and because I came from a new stake in Argentina that was among only three that had been organized in the country.

He said, “Don’t laugh, Elder Agüero. I’m being serious.”


I felt the Spirit very strongly through this man, my leader, who then explained to me the way in which I was to fulfill this assignment.

He said, “From now on, you will speak only in English, every day, for half the day, with your companion.”

My companion received the same instructions in his interview, and we started doing so. It was extremely difficult for me at first, but later after much effort, I began to understand basic ideas. I

prayed at night, crying many times out





Because I followed my mission president's counsel to learn English, after my mission I was able to interpret for several General Authorities, including Elder Hartman Rector Jr. of the Seventy.

of frustration and helplessness because I wanted to be obedient to the task I had been given.

After some months and a few companions later, the miracle came. While a missionary was giving a beautiful talk in English during a zone conference, I suddenly began to understand every

Interpreting in the Temple

word. The miracle did not end there. Over time I came to serve as the mission's financial secretary, which helped me read and write English. I tried to understand the language by reading *Church News*, the *Ensign*, and other English materials. Through these I was able to get a feeling for the English language, which is still with me today.

Shortly after I returned from my mission, my stake president asked me to interpret for Elder Hartman Rector Jr., then of the Seventy, who had come to Mendoza, Argentina, to preside over a stake conference. These marvelous opportunities have continued over the years. I interpreted for President Thomas S. Monson and other General Authorities during the 11 dedicatory sessions of the Buenos Aires Argentina Temple.

During four of those sessions, I read the dedicatory

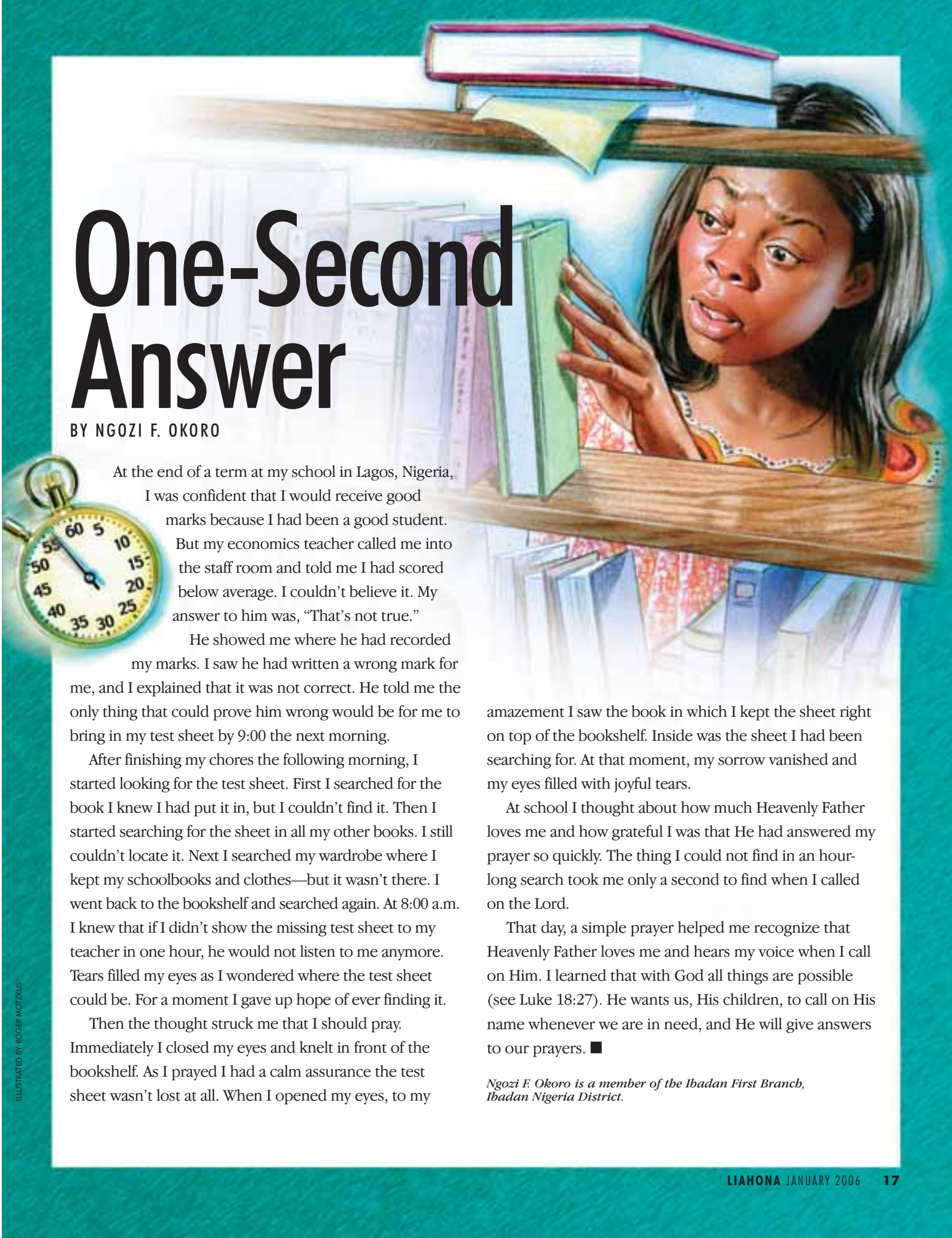
prayer in Spanish from the pulpit in the celestial room. My voice broke up several times because of my emotions; tears filled my eyes and flowed down my face. I was reading the inspired prayers and promises for my country from Heavenly Father, who lives and reveals His will, just as He did 12 years earlier through my mission president when I accepted the challenge to learn English.

I also interpreted for the prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley, during the four dedicatory sessions of the Montevideo Uruguay Temple and the four dedicatory sessions of the Asunción Paraguay Temple.

It's difficult for me to explain how sacred those moments were for me when I stood alongside prophets, seers, and revelators in the Lord's house. I felt somewhat like Peter, James, and John when they had the amazing experience of seeing Jesus transfigured. Peter expressed my feelings when he told Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here" (Matthew 17:4).

From these and other experiences, I learned how the Lord works in our lives. The price for good things is paid in advance by our patience, humility, and obedience, especially during trials. If you don't give up during your trials or let frustration and discouragement overcome you, trials will refine you spiritually and prepare you for better things. You will see the fulfillment of beautiful miracles in your lives. ■

Elder Carlos E. Agüero served as an Area Seventy from 1996 to 2005.



One-Second Answer

BY NGOZI F. OKORO

At the end of a term at my school in Lagos, Nigeria, I was confident that I would receive good marks because I had been a good student.

But my economics teacher called me into the staff room and told me I had scored below average. I couldn't believe it. My answer to him was, "That's not true."

He showed me where he had recorded my marks. I saw he had written a wrong mark for me, and I explained that it was not correct. He told me the only thing that could prove him wrong would be for me to bring in my test sheet by 9:00 the next morning.

After finishing my chores the following morning, I started looking for the test sheet. First I searched for the book I knew I had put it in, but I couldn't find it. Then I started searching for the sheet in all my other books. I still couldn't locate it. Next I searched my wardrobe where I kept my schoolbooks and clothes—but it wasn't there. I went back to the bookshelf and searched again. At 8:00 a.m. I knew that if I didn't show the missing test sheet to my teacher in one hour, he would not listen to me anymore. Tears filled my eyes as I wondered where the test sheet could be. For a moment I gave up hope of ever finding it.

Then the thought struck me that I should pray. Immediately I closed my eyes and knelt in front of the bookshelf. As I prayed I had a calm assurance the test sheet wasn't lost at all. When I opened my eyes, to my

amazement I saw the book in which I kept the sheet right on top of the bookshelf. Inside was the sheet I had been searching for. At that moment, my sorrow vanished and my eyes filled with joyful tears.

At school I thought about how much Heavenly Father loves me and how grateful I was that He had answered my prayer so quickly. The thing I could not find in an hour-long search took me only a second to find when I called on the Lord.

That day, a simple prayer helped me recognize that Heavenly Father loves me and hears my voice when I call on Him. I learned that with God all things are possible (see Luke 18:27). He wants us, His children, to call on His name whenever we are in need, and He will give answers to our prayers. ■

Ngozi F. Okoro is a member of the Ibadan First Branch, Ibadan Nigeria District.

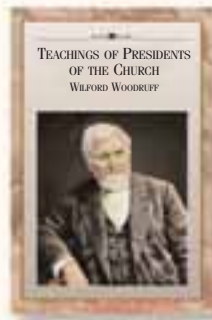
Wilford Woodruff

Contending for the Faith

While contending for the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, President Woodruff taught principles relevant for our lives today.

BY AARON L. WEST

President Gordon B. Hinckley has counseled us to “cultivate in [our] hearts a living and vibrant testimony of the restoration of the gospel.”¹ As we strive to follow this counsel, we can learn much if we view the Restoration through the eyes of one of President Hinckley’s predecessors—Wilford Woodruff (1807–98), the fourth President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



you don’t contend for that Gospel that Jesus Christ taught, and that His Apostles taught? Why do you not contend for that religion that gives unto you power before God, power to heal the sick, to make the blind to see, the lame to walk, and that gives you the Holy Ghost and those gifts and graces that have been manifest from the creation of the world? Why do you not teach

the people those principles that the ancient Patriarchs and Prophets taught while they were clothed with the revelations of God? They had the administrations of angels; they had dreams and visions, and constant revelation to guide and direct them in the path in which they should walk.”

The people at the meeting must have been surprised to hear such bold language from such a young man. Immediately, the presiding minister tried to discount the ideas Wilford Woodruff had shared. “My dear young man,” he said, “you would be a very smart man, and a very useful man in the earth, if you did not believe all those foolish things. These things were given to the children of men in the dark ages of the world. . . . Today we live in the blaze of the glorious gospel light, and we do not need those things.”

Unconvinced by this minister’s comments, Wilford replied, “Then give me the dark ages of the world; give me those ages when men received these principles.”³

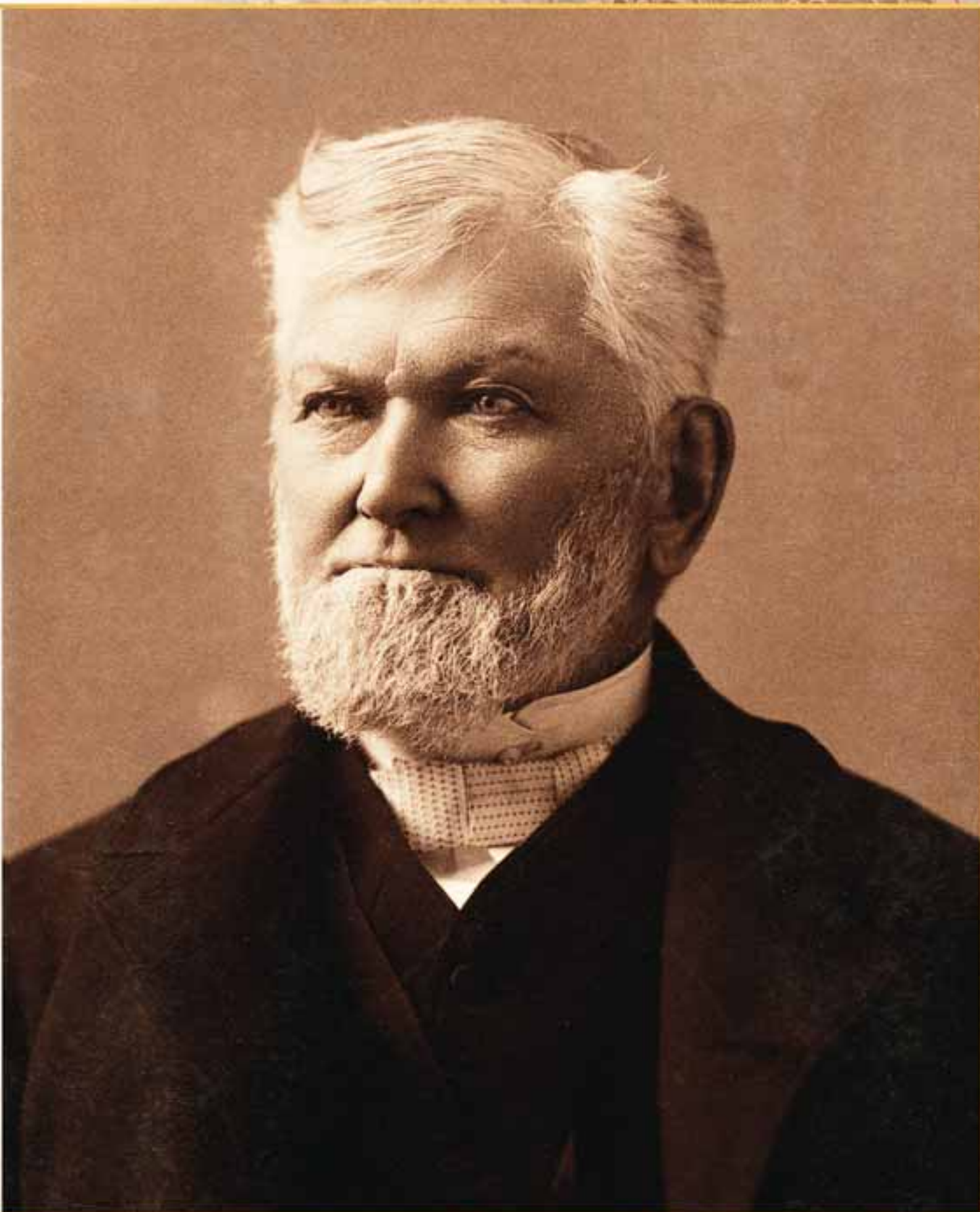
Some time later, in a small schoolhouse, 26-year-old Wilford Woodruff stood to speak in another meeting. This

Searching for the True Church

In the 1820s, Joseph Smith experienced the First Vision, conversed with angels, translated the gold plates by the power of God, and received priesthood authority. In a neighboring state, a young man named Wilford Woodruff was searching for the true Church. He said, “I believed . . . that the Church of God would be reestablished upon the earth, and that I should live to see it.”²

Yearning to find the truth, Wilford Woodruff attended many religious meetings in the area around his home. At one such gathering, permission was given for anyone in the congregation to speak. Young Wilford stood, knowing that 40 or more ministers of various churches were in attendance. He stepped into the aisle and said:

“My friends, will you tell me why you don’t contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints? Will you tell me why



time he spoke in response to the testimonies of Elders Zera Pulsipher and Elijah Cheney, missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He later recounted: “[Elder Pulsipher] opened the door for any remarks to be made. The house was crowded. The first thing I knew I stood on top of a bench before the people, not knowing what I got up for. But I said to my neighbors and friends, ‘I want you to be careful what you say as touching these men . . . and their testimony, for they are servants of God, and they have testified unto us the truth—principles that I have been looking for from my childhood.’”⁴ Wilford Woodruff was baptized and confirmed two days later, on December 31, 1833.

Contending for the Faith

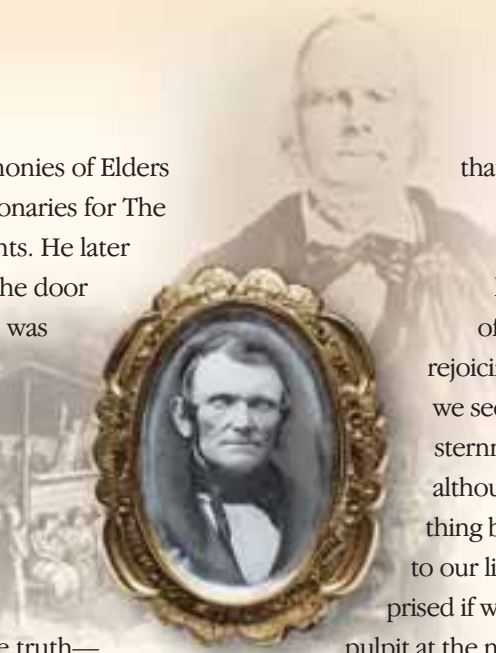
When Wilford Woodruff stood and spoke to the ministers in his area, he referred to an excerpt from near the end of the New Testament. He repeated Jude’s plea to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3).

Wilford Woodruff’s use of this seldom-quoted passage showed his keen biblical knowledge, which he had acquired as he “learned verse after verse and chapter after chapter.”⁵ But his emphasizing of the verse revealed more than his careful study—it revealed his determination to search for the truth. He knew that “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” had been lost, and he contended earnestly to find it. Once he did find it, he embraced it without hesitation.

Having experienced the confusion brought about by the Great Apostasy, Wilford Woodruff rejoiced to learn what it truly meant to “live in the blaze of the glorious gospel light.” That light grew brighter and brighter for him as he cultivated and shared his testimony of the Restoration throughout his life.

Teachings of President Wilford Woodruff

When we see pictures of President Wilford Woodruff with his prominent forehead and piercing eyes, we might assume



that he was a stern, distant man. But through a study of his life and teachings, we can come to know him as a lively, compassionate, humble servant of God—a man who went on his way rejoicing, even in times of trial.⁶ In his face we see nobility and strength rather than sternness. And we find that his words, although more than a century old, are anything but distant. In fact, they are so relevant to our lives today that we would not be surprised if we heard similar statements from the pulpit at the next general conference.

The following quotations highlight President Woodruff’s testimony of the restored gospel. They are taken from *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff*, which is the Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society curriculum for 2006 in 24 languages.

Restoration of the Gospel. “I thank God that I live in this day and age of the world, when my ears have heard the sound of the fulness of the gospel of Christ.”⁷

“We have the privilege of walking in the light, we have the privilege of comprehending and knowing the truth, of knowing the way to be saved and exalted in the presence of our Father and God. We are in a position to know his mind and will, through his servants the prophets. The Lord has given unto us teachers and inspired men, men who are inspired by the Spirit and power of God; clothed them with truth and endowed them with wisdom to teach us at all times the path we should walk in. This is a great blessing.”⁸

Atonement of Jesus Christ. “It [has] been fully established beyond all controversy, from the flood of testimony . . . from the revelations of God, given in various dispensations and ages of the world, and in different parts of the globe, that the object of Christ’s mission to the earth was to offer himself as a sacrifice to redeem mankind from eternal death, and that it was perfectly in accordance with the will of the Father that such a sacrifice should be made. He acted strictly in obedience to his Father’s will in all things from the beginning, and drank of the bitter cup given him. Herein is brought to light,

glory, honour, immortality, and eternal life, with that charity which is greater than faith or hope, for the Lamb of God has thereby performed that for man which [man] could not accomplish for himself.”⁹

“There is no being that has power to save the souls of men and give them eternal life, except the Lord Jesus Christ, under the command of His Father.”¹⁰

The Prophet Joseph Smith. “I have felt to rejoice exceedingly in what I saw of brother Joseph, for in his public and private career he carried with him the Spirit of the Almighty, and he manifested a greatness of soul which I had never seen in any other man.”¹¹

“I will say myself that I do not believe there ever was a man . . . that was more closely united and associated with God the Father, and God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, than the Prophet Joseph Smith. The power of revelation was with him from the day that he was called to receive the Priesthood up to the time when he was martyred. The power of inspiration was with him day by day.”¹²

Priesthood. “When an apostle or president, bishop or any man holding the priesthood officiates, he administers by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ; then that priesthood has effect, and all the blessings that a servant of God bestows upon the children of men, will take effect both in this life and in that which is to come. If I have a blessing given to me by the holy priesthood, or if I receive a blessing from a patriarch, those gifts and blessings will reach into the other world; and if I am true to my covenants through this life, I can claim every blessing that has been conferred upon me, because that authority by which they were conferred is ordained of

God, and it is that by which the sons of the Most High administer unto the children of men the ordinances of life and salvation, and those official acts will have their effect upon those persons beyond the grave as well as in this life. These are the true riches; they are riches that will last to all eternity, and we have power through these blessings, conferred by the gospel, to receive our bodies again and to preserve our identity in eternity. Yes, we can claim this by virtue of the holy priesthood.”¹³

Keeping the Commandments. “There is no man or woman who has ever lived on the earth and kept the commandments of God



Far left: Behind Wilford Woodruff are influences in his conversion—a religious meeting and Zera Pulsipher, who baptized him. Left: Wilford Woodruff’s wife Phoebe. Below: The First Presidency in 1894—President Woodruff (center), President George Q. Cannon (left), and President Joseph F. Smith (right).



who will be ashamed of, or sorry for it, when they go into the presence of God.”¹⁴

Gift of the Holy Ghost. “Now, if you have the Holy Ghost with you—and every one ought to have—I can say unto you that there is no greater gift, there is no greater blessing, there is no greater testimony given to any man on earth. You may have the administration of angels; you may see many miracles; you may see many wonders in the earth; but I claim that the gift of the Holy Ghost is the greatest gift that can be bestowed upon man. It is by this power that we have performed that which we have. It is this that sustains us through all the persecutions, trials and tribulations that come upon us.”¹⁵

“Through all my life and labors, whenever I have been told to do anything by the Spirit of the Lord, I have always found it good to do it. I have been preserved by that power. . . . Get the spirit of revelation with you. And when you get that you are safe, and you will do exactly what the Lord wants you to do.”¹⁶

Family Life. “We are all expecting to live together forever after death. I think we all as parents and children ought to take all the pains we can to make each other happy as long as we live that we may have nothing to regret.”¹⁷

“It is a great thing to know how to act so as to gain the feelings and affections of our families, that will lead them in the path wherein they may be saved. This is a study and a work that should not be laid aside by parents. . . . Many times we may consider business so urgent that it must crowd these things out of our minds, but this should not be. Any man’s mind that is open, and who looks forward to the

work that lies before us, will see and feel that the responsibility that rests upon him concerning his own family, and especially in the rearing up of his children, is very great.

“We want to save our children, and to have them partake of all the blessings that encircle the sanctified, to have them receive the blessings of their parents who have been faithful to the fulness of the gospel.”¹⁸

Missionary Work. “Mankind in all ages search for happiness; they desire social and domestic peace; and when they think of the vast future, they desire to participate in the blessings that are spoken of as pertaining to that state of existence; but they know not how to obtain them, except a servant of God comes along and points out the way of life.”¹⁹

“My whole life almost has been spent in this Church; and from the time I came into the Church I went on missions and have never ceased altogether from that day to this. I have always rejoiced in this, and do to-day. When I die and lay down my body, I do not want anybody to rise up and say that I have neglected my duty in trying to give him salvation as far as I could. I have always rejoiced in preaching the Gospel; I have rejoiced in administering the ordinances of life and salvation at home and abroad, because I have known that this was the work of God, and I know it is to-day.”²⁰

Temple and Family History Work. “What is gold and silver; what are the riches of this world? They all perish with the using. We pass away and leave them. But if we have eternal life, if we keep the faith and overcome, we shall rejoice when we go upon the other side of the veil. I rejoice in all these things. There is hardly any principle the Lord has revealed that I have rejoiced more in than in the redemption of our dead; that we will have our fathers, our mothers, our wives and our children with us in the family organization, in the morning of the first resurrection and in the Celestial Kingdom. These are grand principles. They are worth every sacrifice.”²¹

“We want the Latter-day Saints from this time to trace their genealogies as far as they can, and to be sealed to their fathers and mothers. Have children sealed to their parents, and run this chain through as far as you can get it.”²²

“No right feeling Latter-day Saint can think upon this subject without being thrilled with heavenly joy.”²³

Words of Warning and Encouragement

Looking back on the Church's history and reaching forward to the Church's destiny, President Gordon B. Hinckley exhorts us: "We are the beneficiaries of [the] great Restoration. . . . We can't afford to be tawdry people. We ought to stand a little taller, be a little better for the great inheritance which we have."²⁴ More than 120 years ago, President Wilford Woodruff gave a similar challenge to the Latter-day Saints. His words, both in warning and encouragement, are just as true for us today:

"What manner of men and women ought we to be, who are called to take part in the great latter-day work? We should be men and women of faith, valiant for the truth as it has been revealed and committed into our hand. We should be men and women of integrity to God and to His holy Priesthood, true to Him and true to one another. We should not permit houses and lands, gold and silver, nor any of this world's goods to draw us aside from pursuing the great object which God has sent us to perform. Our aim is high, our destiny is high and we should never disappoint our Father, nor the heavenly hosts who are watching over us. We should not disappoint the millions in the spirit world, who too are watching over us with an interest and anxiety that have hardly entered into our hearts to conceive of. These are great and mighty things which God requires of us. We would not be worthy of salvation, we would not be worthy of eternal lives in the kingdom of our God, if anything could turn us away from the truth or from the love of it."²⁵ ■

Aaron L. West is a member of the Kaysville Second Ward, Kaysville Utah Central Stake.

NOTES

1. "Recurring Themes of President Hinckley," *Ensign*, June 2000, 21.
2. Quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Wilford Woodruff* (2004), xix.
3. Quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 36–37; see also 35.
4. *Millennial Star*, Oct. 5, 1891, 627; see also *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, xix–xx, 37–38.
5. Quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 35.
6. See *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 109, 153, 162, 218.
7. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 10.
8. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 8–9.
9. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 69–70.
10. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 74.
11. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 14.
12. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 16.
13. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 42–43.
14. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 214.
15. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 49.
16. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 52.
17. Quoted in *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 163.
18. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 167–68.
19. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 92.
20. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 95.
21. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 192–93.
22. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 177.
23. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 176.
24. "Excerpts from Recent Addresses of President Gordon B. Hinckley," *Ensign*, Mar. 1999, 72.
25. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church*, 43–44.

President Wilford Woodruff (left) directed the laying of the capstone of the Salt Lake Temple during April 1892 general conference (below). One year later, in April 1893, President Woodruff dedicated the Salt Lake Temple.



God Moves in a Mysterious Way

With dignity ♩ = 58-69

Descant Ah, _____ ah.

1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
 2. Ye fear - ful Saints, fresh cour - age take; The
 3. His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -
 4. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And

Ah, _____

won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps in the
 clouds ye so much dread Are big with mer - cy and shall
 fold - ing ev - 'ry hour; The bud may have a bit - ter
 scan His works in vain; God is His own in - ter - pret -

ah. _____

sea And rides up - on the storm.
 break In bless - ings on your head.
 taste, But sweet will be the flower.
 er, And He will make it plain.

Text: William Cowper, 1731-1800
 Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68
 Descant: Ralph B. Woodward, b. 1944

Psalms 107:23-31
 Romans 8:28

This hymn may be copied for incidental, noncommercial church or home use.

A favorite hymn of President Wilford Woodruff.

The Purpose of Relief Society



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

Why Relief Society?

Blessings of Belonging to Relief Society: The Relief Society serves under the guidance of the priesthood as the Lord's organization for sisters in the Church. *The purpose of Relief Society is to assist priesthood leaders in carrying out the mission of the Church by helping sisters and families come unto Christ.* The Relief Society helps sisters and their families receive all essential priesthood ordinances, keep the associated covenants, and qualify for exaltation and eternal life.

The following objectives support the purpose of the Relief Society:

1. Build faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and teach the doctrines of the kingdom of God.
2. Emphasize the divine worth of each sister.
3. Exercise charity and nurture those in need.
4. Strengthen and protect families.
5. Serve and support each sister.
6. Help sisters become full participants in the blessings of the priesthood.

President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918): “This organization is divinely

made, divinely authorized, divinely instituted, divinely ordained of God to minister for the salvation of the souls of women and of men. . . . Make [Relief Society] first, make it foremost, make it the highest, the best and the deepest of any organization in existence in the world. You are called by the voice of the Prophet of God to do it, to be uppermost, to be the greatest and the best, the purest and the most devoted to the right” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* [1998], 184).

Bonnie D. Parkin, Relief Society general president: “We have been given an organization to build our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to feel his love, and to extend that love to all. The Relief Society is that organization” (“Transforming Transitions,” in *The Rock of Our Redeemer: Talks from the 2002 BYU Women’s Conference* [2003], 45).

Eliza R. Snow (1804–87), former Relief Society general president: “What is the object of the Female Relief Society? I would reply—to do good—to bring into requisition every capacity we possess for doing good, not only in relieving the poor but in saving souls. United effort will accomplish incalculably more than can be accomplished

by the most effective individual energies” (“Female Relief Society,” *Deseret Evening News*, Apr. 18, 1868, 2).

How Can You Enjoy the Blessings of Belonging to Relief Society?

Anne C. Pingree, second counselor in the Relief Society general presidency: “When the sisters of Relief Society look ‘with an eye single to the glory of God’ (D&C 4:5), they can experience rich spiritual insights and share deep spiritual strength together. . . . Connections forged among covenant women in Relief Society can indeed *enlighten, enliven, and enrich* the journey of life because we can help each other learn how to put the Lord *first* in our *hearts* and in our *lives*” (“Walking towards the Light of His Love,” *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 112–13).

President Gordon B. Hinckley: “My dear friends of the Relief Society, whatever your circumstances, wherever you may live, may the windows of heaven be opened and blessings come down upon you. May you live with love for one another. May you reach down to lift up those whose burdens are heavy. May you bring light and beauty to the world” (“To the Women of the Church,” *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2003, 115). ■



A Happy Gathering of Sisters

Relief Society home, family, and personal enrichment meetings help sisters worldwide fill their hearts and homes with love and charity.

BY LILIAN DELONG
Relief Society General Board

In Lutsk, Ukraine, an oven warms the tiny kitchen where 16 sisters have gathered to make cookies and cakes. The oven sits on the floor and the sisters sit nearby, sharing not only the warmth of the oven but also the warmth of being together. This is what they call “sisters night,” a happy gathering you might know better as home, family, and personal enrichment meeting.

In this setting, there is a lot of laughter, hugging, and even dancing. Always, these sisters sing hymns together, demonstrating their love for the hymns of the Church. The singing continues as those who live far away board the bus for the three-hour ride home.

What a wonderful example of how enrichment meeting reinforces what President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, taught when he said Relief Society is a place of learning, serving, and socializing.¹

It seems to fit the picture that Sister Bonnie D. Parkin, Relief Society general president, describes of home, family, and personal enrichment meeting as a place “where hearts and hands are joined together in a safe, relaxed, and enjoyable environment.”

Sister Parkin explains: “Women of all ages and stages of life can feel a sense of belonging as they participate in activities that build spiritual strength, develop personal skills, strengthen home and family, and exercise charity through service. In these meetings bonds of sisterhood are strengthened, new and less-active members are fellowshiped, and missionary opportunities abound.”

Learning

Through the flexibility of home, family, and personal enrichment meeting, sisters can share and learn





together no matter what their situation or age.

In the rain forest of southeastern Nigeria, young women and Relief Society sisters dressed in brightly colored clothing and head ties gather outside the simple Church meetinghouse to learn how to make patterns for blouses and dresses. Using empty cement bags as drafting paper, the Relief Society sisters gather around the table, listening attentively to the young women who are teaching this new skill. After drafting their patterns, then cutting the material, they take turns using a treadle sewing machine to complete their outfits.

Serving

In the Juneau Second Ward, Juneau Alaska Stake, the sisters feel a sense of community even though they are separated by distance. On the first Sunday of the month, Relief Society presidency member Sandy Perkins asks, "How can we take the light of the gospel to the community?" She answers her own question by describing the upcoming enrichment meeting. The Relief Society presidency has invited a panel of local leaders, representing a handful of the services and charitable programs in the area, to share their needs with the

sisters. "Our hope," Sister Perkins explains, "is that we will increase our influence here, in our own town, as we reach out to share our light."

Socializing

Home, family, and personal enrichment meeting is a wonderful place to socialize and establish the sisterhood necessary to create a sense of belonging among members of Relief Society and visitors. This is exemplified in an enrichment meeting held in Benidorm, Spain—a resort town where travelers are constantly coming and going. One evening sisters from Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, England, Scotland, and Spain meet together for an enrichment meeting. On this particular night the sisters from Switzerland teach the others how to make greeting cards that can be used for various occasions. It is a simple design, easily mastered while the sisters visit and strengthen friendships.

As the sisters work together, their friendliness and sincerity soon overcome

Left: Sisters in Lutsk, Ukraine, share the warmth of being together in home, family, and personal enrichment meeting. Above: In Nigeria, sisters gather to learn to make patterns for blouses and dresses.



language barriers. The sister missionaries have brought some investigators who are chatting happily with the others. When these investigators visit the little branch again on Sunday, they already feel they belong to the group.

It is a simple activity, but this enrichment meeting accomplishes the goals of learning, serving, and socializing. Some of the sisters might have thought, "I don't need to go. I have plenty of greeting cards." But the greeting cards are only a small part of the benefit of attending enrichment meeting this night. Sometimes we attend to get something out of it. Other times we're there to give to others, if only a listening ear, a word of encouragement, or a welcoming hand of friendship.

Come to Relief Society

In today's world, increasing numbers of women are employed. Other members of Relief Society face challenges that include the time commitment of single parenting, the necessity of traveling long distances to meet with the Saints, and the economic implications of traveling and participating. For some, attending enrichment meeting may be a difficult choice. When asked what would inspire her to attend enrichment meeting, a busy full-time student and single mother of seven replied, "I would have to be promised that my family would be blessed."

Maria Jasmine Juan (center) as a missionary.



Such a promise has been made. Sister Parkin said: "Come to Relief Society! It will fill your homes with love and charity; it will nurture and strengthen you and your families."²

An invitation is open to you, as it is to all women.

Maria Jasmine Juan, living in Manila, Philippines, away from her family, is among those who choose to come to Relief Society. "I was very lonely and missed my mother," she says. "I knew that if I would go to Relief Society, I would be all right. As the sisters welcomed me to enrichment meeting, I



ENDURING CONCEPTS

"I believe the four great enduring concepts of [Relief Society] are: First, it is a divinely established sisterhood. Second, it is a place of learning. Third, it is an organization whose basic charter is to serve others. Its motto is 'Charity never faileth.' Fourth, it is a place where women can socialize and establish eternal friendships."

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "You Are All Heaven Sent," *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 111.



realized there was a whole room full of 'mothers.'

In Relief Society you'll find a safe place where joys and sorrows can be shared, a place where visiting and laughing strengthen bonds of friendship, and a cordial place where visitors are welcome. Come and be a part of the Lord's organization for women. Like the oven in that tiny kitchen in Ukraine, home, family, and personal enrichment meeting will warm your heart and then your home. ■

Lilian DeLong is a member of the South Weber First Ward, South Weber Utah Stake.

NOTES

1. See "You Are All Heaven Sent," *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 111.
2. "How Has Relief Society Blessed Your Life?" *Liabona and Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 35.



INCLUDING EVERYONE

Have you ever felt left out? Or have you ever known someone who didn't quite fit in and was excluded by others? Whether it happened at school, church, or in some other setting, most people have felt that way at some time in their lives.

Here are some tips from the youth in the Handen Ward, Stockholm Sweden South Stake, on how to cope with feeling left out and how to help others feel welcome.

Feeling Included

- * Always remember, it's not worth it to lower your standards to fit in.
- * Being excluded hurts, but don't become angry or hold a grudge; this will only make you feel worse.
- * Try to be with people who make you want to be better, who encourage you to live the gospel, and whom you feel good around.
- * Improve yourself and learn new skills. Joining a school club and learning to play a sport are good ways to meet people with similar interests.
- * Go to Church youth activities and participate willingly.
- * Try hanging out with your family. You can find some of your best friends right at home.
- * Be the best person you can be. You will find friends

who appreciate you for the good person you are.

- * Don't wait forever for someone to ask you to be his or her friend. Go out and be a friend to others.

Including Others

- * Make the effort to talk to new people at school or church. Introduce them to others with similar interests.
- * Invite someone who might need a friend to a school or Church activity.
- * Stand up to people who intentionally make others feel unwelcome. Be an example of one who includes and loves others.
- * Sit beside someone who is sitting alone, or invite him or her to sit with you and your friends. Ask how he or she is doing.
- * If you're not sure how to help someone, pray about it. Heavenly Father knows just what that person needs and can help you help him or her. Be sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit teaching what you should do or warning what you should not do.
- * If you are at a dance, ask someone who hasn't danced that night to dance with you.
- * It's difficult sometimes to be outgoing and to help others, but try anyway. ■

A Lesson That **CHANGED MY LIFE**

Members around the world responded to a call for stories about lessons that blessed lives. These are just a few of the many responses we received. We hope these experiences will inspire you, remind you of lessons you have learned, and help you in your responsibilities as a teacher.

Bricks

Early in our marriage my husband and I relocated for his schooling. In our new ward I worked closely with a woman whose manner I found brusque and insensitive. Looking for sympathy, I complained to my husband, lamenting that such a woman would be in a leadership position in the ward. Rather than offering the sympathy I expected, my husband presented an informal but valuable lesson on the importance of love and tolerance.

In the Church, he said, we are all working together to build the kingdom of God. He suggested that individual members are like bricks. None of us “bricks,” however, is perfectly sound. Under close scrutiny each is flawed—a gouge here, a bump there. When we are placed side by side with other bricks, there is seldom a perfect fit. Invariably there are gaps or wobbles where others’ imperfections come into contact with our own. Without the “mortar” of love, tolerance, patience, and forgiveness, our efforts to build the kingdom would come to naught.

As our family has grown and my experiences in helping to build the kingdom have broadened, I have often reflected on this simple lesson. I am reminded of my

own responsibility to be more charitable in my interactions with others. And where my own shortcomings are concerned, I am more appreciative of those who are liberal with “mortar” in their dealings with me.

*Lee Ann Fairbanks, Moses Lake 10th Ward,
Moses Lake Washington Stake*

I Knew That He Knew

My first Sunday in church was in early 1995. All my life I had spent weekends in stadiums and gymnasiums. I love sports! I was even studying sports. But in January 1995 I came in contact with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The sister missionaries invited me to attend church, and I went.

It was a fast and testimony meeting. I sat on a massive wooden pew, one sister missionary to my right, the other to my left. But I encountered only unfamiliar faces, unfamiliar music, unfamiliar proceedings, and unfamiliar words. I had never partaken of the sacrament before and was preoccupied with finding out the appropriate conduct. I felt very uncomfortable. I said to myself, “It will be over at some point, and then I will get out of here and

never come back.” But the meeting concluded with the announcement that all should remain in the chapel for a lesson by the mission president, President Charles W. Dahlquist II, who now serves as Young Men general president. So most people, including the sister missionaries, remained seated, and I could not simply sneak out inconspicuously, as I had planned. Since I did not have the courage to tell the missionaries how awful I was feeling, I decided to endure.

President Dahlquist stood in front. He began by asking what we would do with a good book we had just read. My answer was, “Read it again, recommend it to others, or give it as a gift.”

He spoke about the Book of Mormon, then about a few

other subjects. But something peculiar happened. I suddenly knew that everything he said was true. I knew that he knew more things that were true as well. I knew that I wanted to know what he knew. I knew that I wanted to have in my life what he had as an anchor in his life. It is hard to find words to describe this experience. I simply knew that he knew.

I looked around stealthily to see if anybody had noticed anything unusual, for I had the impression that something wonderful had happened.

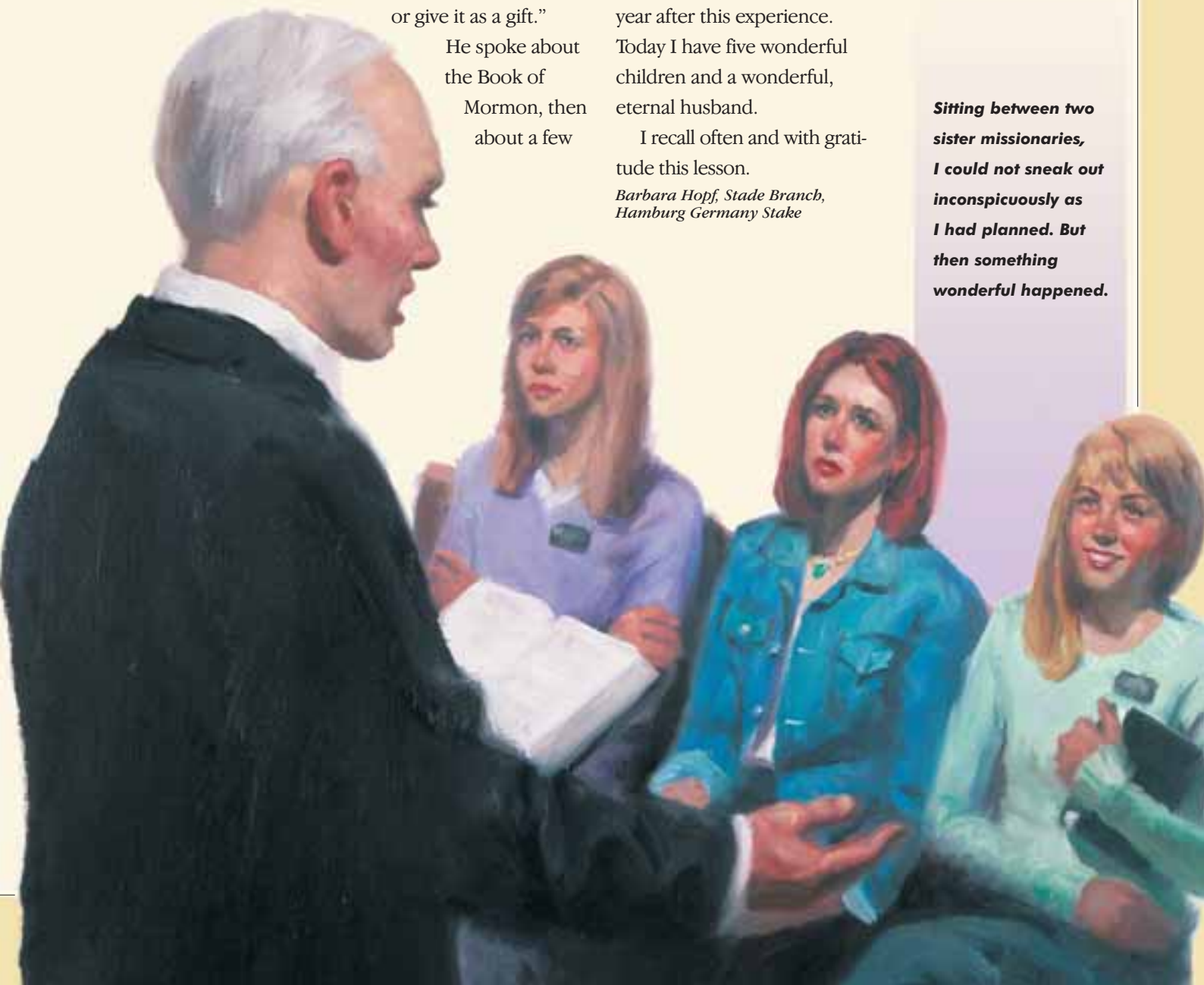
Because of his lesson I attended church again—and again. My baptism was on March 2, 1996, approximately one year after this experience.

Today I have five wonderful children and a wonderful, eternal husband.

I recall often and with gratitude this lesson.

*Barbara Hopf, Stade Branch,
Hamburg Germany Stake*

Sitting between two sister missionaries, I could not sneak out inconspicuously as I had planned. But then something wonderful happened.





When I was five years old a Primary teacher taught me that God was my Heavenly Father and that Jesus Christ was my Savior and Redeemer.

A Testimony of the Godhead

The lesson that most affected my life was a Primary lesson. It was so long ago that I don't remember the teacher's name, but the lesson penetrated my soul so deeply that I have never forgotten it.

When I was five years old I learned that God was my Heavenly

Father and that Jesus Christ was my Savior and Redeemer. I learned that They love all people and that I could speak with God whenever I needed to because He always listens to my prayers. My faith increased, something within my heart grew, and little by little I gained a testimony of the Godhead.

With the pure intent of a small child, I started praying with greater fervor, and I had many wonderful experiences with prayer.

I attended church for more than a year. Then other events made my going to church difficult. But I never stopped praying.

I was finally able to join the Church when I turned 20 years old. I was baptized with the sincere feelings of a child who says to her Father, "I'm coming back home."

The seed was planted when I was a child and then germinated when I became an adult. I don't know whether that teacher knows how much she helped me. But her lesson transformed my soul and kept my feet on the sure path, even while I had no contact with the Church for 14 years.

*Estela Santana Leitão Cavalcante,
Praia Grande Ward, Praia Grande Brazil Stake*

The Stains of Sin

When I was a Laurel more than 15 years ago, our stake Young Women president was a real heroine to me and many other girls. Her beautiful, curly brown hair impressed me, but she was also smart and articulate, a spiritual woman, a returned missionary, and a newlywed. She wore nice modest clothes, showing us how attractive we could be without compromising our standards. I remember her personifying every dream I had ever dreamed for my own future.

Once she was the speaker at a fireside for the Young Women. When we entered the chapel, we saw her gorgeous white wedding gown displayed in a prominent place. What can be more exciting than a wedding dress when you're a dreaming 16-year-old? I imagined a fireside about boys and our bright futures.

But when our Young Women president started speaking, it became clear that this was not her plan. She started talking about chastity and how important it was to keep ourselves morally clean. She stood at the pulpit with notes and a pen and talked emphatically about these crucial matters.

All of a sudden the unthinkable happened. She gestured as she spoke and somehow flipped ink from her fountain pen across the wedding dress. The ink made a big stain on the white fabric. We were devastated.

I don't remember exactly what she said next. It was something about our being as clean and pure as her white dress and that sexual transgressions, however small they might seem, would stain us just as the ink had stained the dress. I recall never *ever* wanting to be anything but clean and pure. It was a decision I had already made subconsciously, but now it was unforgettably engraved upon my heart.

After she had made her point about remaining clean or becoming clean, she informed us that the ink was invisible ink from a prank store and that it would disappear in a couple of minutes. She hadn't tried it before, so we all sat there hoping it would work. It did.

Since that day this object lesson has had a special place in my mind. I want to appear before my Heavenly Father as pure as that white dress.

Anja Klarin, Borås Ward, Göteborg Sweden Stake

The Power and Spirit of the Atonement

I always believed in God the Eternal Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ. Ever since I was young I felt the desire to be closer to Them, but I didn't know how.

In May 2000 I had my first contact with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I had just turned 17 when I met the missionaries. They knocked on my friend's door, and she invited me to hear them. After listening to the discussions and attending sacrament meeting, my friend and I, as well as my father, mother, and younger brother, were baptized.

We were well received into the ward organizations. I was in Young Women. I was very happy and loved our Young Women president, Maria José, who always helped me grow spiritually. At about the time I finished the Young Women program, Maria José became my Sunday School teacher.

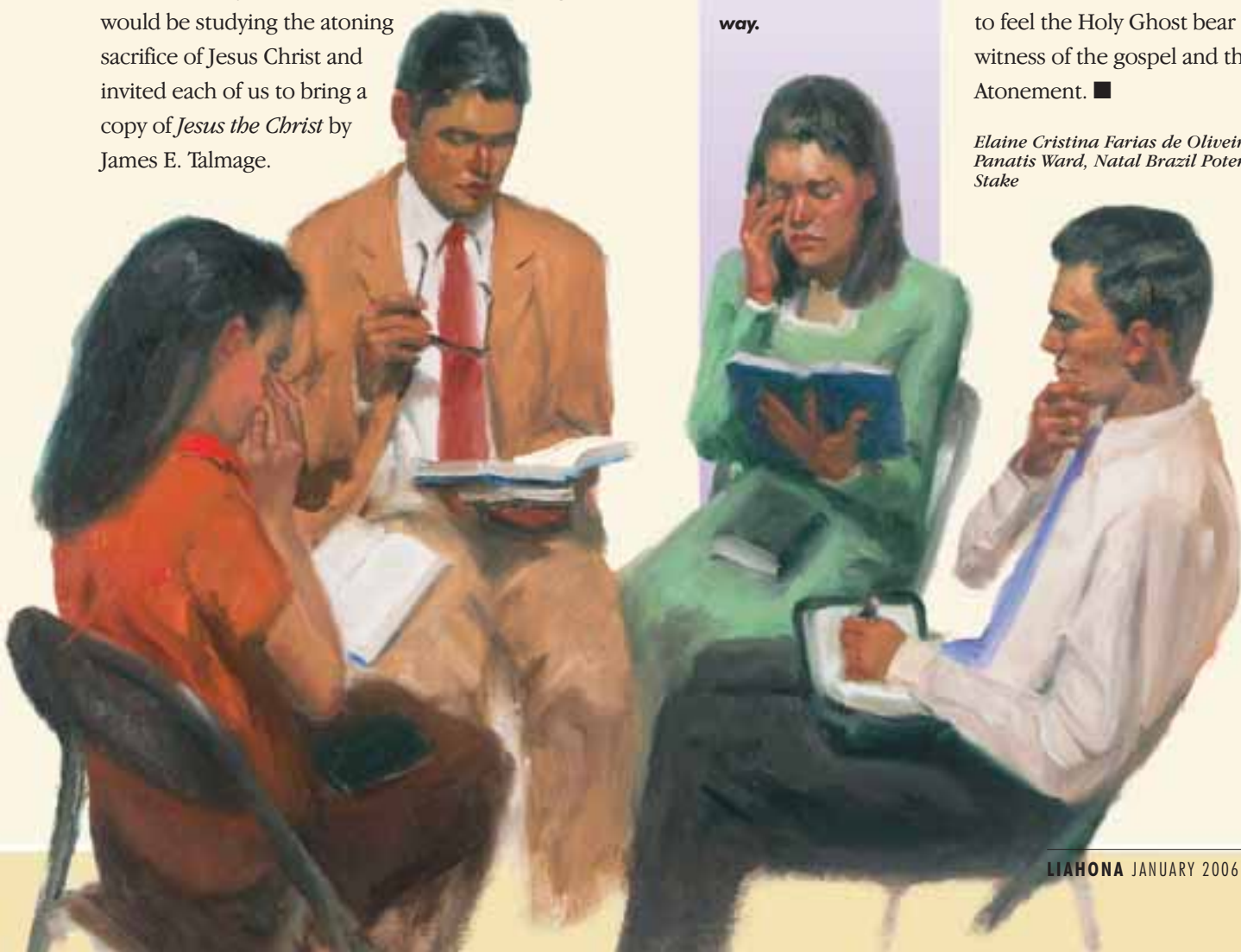
One Sunday she notified us that the following week we would be studying the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ and invited each of us to bring a copy of *Jesus the Christ* by James E. Talmage.

The next Sunday we all sat in the room with our books. Each of us had been assigned to study part of the book and explain it to the class. Our teacher orchestrated the reading of scriptures and our explanations. The Spirit influenced us in a magnificent way. Everyone was crying when we talked about Gethsemane and Calvary. It was the most amazing thing I have ever seen in a gospel class. I had never before understood with such profound feeling the power and spirit of the Atonement.

Our teacher orchestrated the reading of scriptures and our explanations. The Spirit influenced us in a magnificent way.

At the end of class we sang a hymn and had a simple prayer. We were very moved. I am grateful for the Atonement and for the plan of salvation. I am especially grateful for the love and concern of our teacher, who wanted us to feel the Holy Ghost bear witness of the gospel and the Atonement. ■

*Elaine Cristina Farias de Oliveira,
Panatis Ward, Natal Brazil Potengi
Stake*



The Nature of the Godhead

The first in a series of articles explaining basic beliefs of the restored gospel, doctrines unique to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has many beliefs in common with other Christian churches,” said Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “But we have differences, and those differences explain why we send missionaries to other Christians, why we build temples in addition to churches, and why our beliefs bring us such happiness and strength to deal with the challenges of life and death.”¹

Three Separate Beings

“In common with the rest of Christianity,” Elder Oaks continued, “we believe in a Godhead of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. However, we testify that these three members



of the Godhead are three separate and distinct beings. We also testify that God the Father is not just a spirit but is a glorified person with a tangible body, as is his resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. . . . In contrast, many Christians reject the idea of a tangible, personal God and a Godhead of three separate beings.

They believe that God is a spirit and that the Godhead is only one God. In our view, these concepts are evidence of the falling away we call the Great Apostasy.”²

Not long after the deaths of the Savior’s New Testament Apostles, ideas from Greek philosophy began transforming plain and precious gospel truths. Conflicting doctrines regarding the nature of deity led Emperor Constantine to convene a churchwide council in Nicaea in A.D. 325. The resulting Nicene Creed eliminated the concept of deity as separate beings by declaring Jesus Christ to be “one substance with the Father.”

“Other councils followed,” Elder Oaks explained, “and from their decisions and the writings of churchmen and philosophers there came a synthesis of Greek philosophy and Christian doctrine. . . . The consequences persist in the various creeds of Christianity, which declare a Godhead of only one being.”³

Divine Truth Restored

The truth concerning the nature of the Godhead was restored in the spring of 1820 when Joseph Smith entered the Sacred Grove. As he prayed, a pillar of light appeared, which he described as being “above the brightness of the sun. . . . When the light rested upon me,” he recorded, “I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—*This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!*” (Joseph Smith—History 1:16–17). Joseph learned during this vision, among other truths, that God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, are separate, glorified individuals and that we, as the Bible teaches, are created “in the image of God” (Genesis 1:27).

President Gordon B. Hinckley has said, “The experience of Joseph Smith in a few moments in the grove on a spring day in 1820, brought more light and knowledge and understanding of the personality and reality and substance of God and his Beloved Son than men had arrived at during centuries of speculation.”⁴

In 1843 Joseph Smith summarized what he had learned through direct revelation about the Godhead: “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us” (D&C 130:22).

The Nature of Man

Not only do we know that God possesses a glorified body of flesh and bones, but from this restored understanding



As the Bible teaches, we, like Adam, are created “in the image of God.”

of the nature of God flows the Latter-day Saint belief regarding our nature and potential. The Prophet Joseph Smith once taught: “It is the first principle of the gospel to know for a certainty the character of God, . . . and that He was once a man

like us. . . . When you climb up a ladder, you must begin at the bottom, and ascend step by step, until you arrive at the top; and so it is with the principles of the gospel—you must begin with the first, and go on until you learn all the principles of exaltation. But it will be a great while after you have passed through the veil before you will have learned them.”⁵

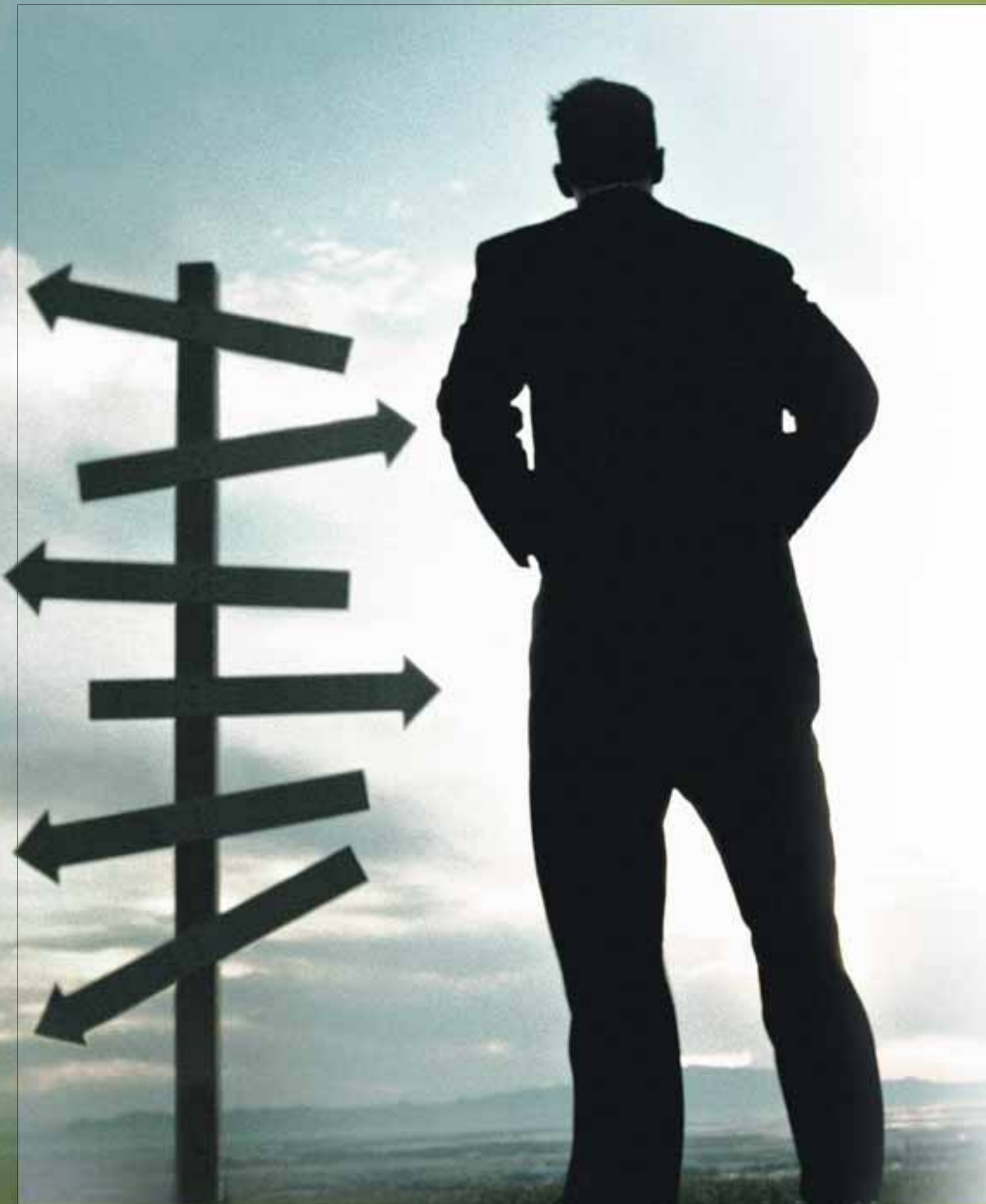
President Joseph F. Smith (1838–1918) taught: “God the Eternal Father . . . is the literal Parent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and of the spirits of the human race. . . . We are God’s children.”⁶

The belief that we are created in the image of our Eternal Father “does not mean that we claim sufficient spiritual maturity to comprehend God,” observed Elder Oaks. “Nor do we equate our imperfect mortal bodies to his immortal, glorified being. But we can comprehend the fundamentals he has revealed about himself and the other members of the Godhead. And that knowledge is essential to our understanding of the purpose of mortal life and of our eternal destiny as resurrected beings after mortal life.

“In the theology of the restored church of Jesus Christ, the purpose of mortal life is to prepare us to realize our destiny as sons and daughters of God—to become like Him.”⁷ ■

NOTES

1. “Apostasy and Restoration,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 84.
2. *Ensign*, May 1995, 84.
3. *Ensign*, May 1995, 85.
4. In Conference Report, Apr. 1960, 82.
5. *History of the Church*, 6:305–7.
6. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* (1998), 354.
7. *Ensign*, May 1995, 85–86.



Using Agency Wisely

BY ELDER DONALD L. HALLSTROM

Of the Seventy

Moral agency, the ability to choose for oneself, is fundamental to our Heavenly Father's great plan of happiness. As the Lord told Adam, "It is given unto [thy children] to know good from evil; wherefore they are agents unto themselves" (Moses 6:56).

Correctly used, moral agency enables us to overcome obstacles, develop the characteristics of godliness, and qualify for eternal life, "the greatest of all the gifts of God" (D&C 14:7). Jacob stated, "Remember that ye are free to act for yourselves—to choose the way of everlasting death or the way of eternal life" (2 Nephi 10:23).

It seems so simple. So why do we not make right decisions every time? One reason is that the consequences of our actions are not always immediate, which is especially trying in a world where we have been conditioned to expect quick results. President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) stated: "If pain and sorrow and total punishment immediately followed the doing of evil, no soul would repeat a misdeed. If joy and peace and rewards were instantaneously given the doer of good, there could be no evil—all would do good and not because of

the rightness of doing good. There would be no test of strength, no development of character, no growth of powers, no free agency. . . . There would also be an absence of joy, success, resurrection, eternal life, and godhood."¹

Like all of us, Toshio Kawada of the Obihiro Ward, Sapporo Japan Stake, has had to make crucial choices when faced with life's difficulties. He joined the Church in 1972, and he and his wife, Miyuki, were sealed in the Laie Hawaii Temple in 1978. They have two sons. Brother Kawada served as president of the Obihiro Branch, president of the Kushiro Japan District, and counselor in the Japan Sapporo Mission presidency for many years.

More than 20 years ago, when his family was still very young, Brother Kawada was working for his father as a dairy farmer. Tragically, one day the large barn where they kept their milk cows and all their equipment burned down. Financially devastated, his father went to the farmers' union for a loan but was turned down. Subsequently, his father and older brother filed for bankruptcy. Although not legally responsible, Brother Kawada felt obligated to help pay back all the debts.

As Brother Kawada was pondering a solution to his problem, he decided to plant carrots. He had grown potatoes, but he did not



Correctly used, moral agency enables us to overcome obstacles, develop the characteristics of godliness, and qualify for eternal life.

know how to grow carrots. He planted the seeds and prayed earnestly for his carrots to grow.

All this time, Brother Kawada faithfully served in the Church, kept the Sabbath day holy, and paid his tithing. When he and his family dressed in their best clothes and went to their Sunday meetings, many neighbors scoffed at them. It was difficult to lose one day a week in their fields, especially at harvesttime. It was not always easy for them to pay their tithing, but they offered it to the Lord obediently and cheerfully.

Fall came and Brother Kawada's carrots turned out to be unusually sweet and large, with an exceptionally rich color. He had an abundant harvest and went to the farmers' union for help, but they refused to sell his carrots through their distribution system. He fasted and prayed and felt inspired to try to find a produce distributor in Tokyo—something that is very difficult to do without introductions or connections.

Brother Kawada was blessed to find a large distributor in Tokyo. Since then he has been very successful and has repaid all his father's debts. He currently has a large agricultural operation with many employees, and he is teaching young farmers how to effectively organize their businesses.

Even in exceptionally trying circumstances, Brother Kawada chose to be true to the promises he made in his baptismal, priesthood, and temple covenants. Although it would have been easy to rationalize working on the Sabbath, not serving in the Church, and not paying tithing until his problems were resolved, he was resolute in following the directive to "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." He then found that, indeed, "all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

I respect Toshio Kawada not simply because he overcame hard times and became a successful farmer. Far more impressive is that he made courageous choices during a difficult period, knowing they would not necessarily bring an immediate reward—or any temporal reward at all. His example of righteously using agency and steadfastly holding to everlasting principles is worthy of emulation. ■

NOTE

1. *The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball (1982), 77.



SABBATH OBSERVANCE

"Sometimes Sabbath observance is characterized as a matter of sacrifice and self-denial, but it is not so.

. . . The Sabbath is a holy day in which to do worthy and holy things. Abstinence from work and recreation is important, but insufficient. The Sabbath calls for constructive thoughts and acts. . . . To observe it, one will be on his knees in prayer, preparing lessons, studying the gospel, meditating, visiting the ill and distressed, writing letters to missionaries, taking a nap, reading wholesome material, and attending all the meetings of that day at which he is expected."

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985), "The Sabbath—a Delight," *Tambuli*, July 1978, 4; *Ensign*, Jan. 1978, 4.



TOSHIO KAWADA'S TESTIMONY

When we got married, my wife and I made a decision to keep the Sabbath day holy even though we were farmers. I remember a 1978 First Presidency Message by President Spencer W. Kimball. He talked of how he rejoiced when he saw machinery sitting idle in the fields on Sunday. He spoke of how keeping the Sabbath day holy was an expression of Latter-day Saints' faith. (See "The Sabbath—a Delight," *Tambuli*, July 1978, 1; *Ensign*, Jan. 1978, 2.)

At the time, we shared machinery with other farmers.

When you are working with others, it's difficult to say you won't work on the Sabbath. So we got out of combined farming and stopped raising potatoes.

On Callings

I was also the branch president. If I didn't go to church on Sunday, I couldn't fulfill my responsibilities. There were times I'd get up at 3:00 in the morning, milk the cows, feed the animals, and then go to church, do interviews, and get home at 5:00 in the evening. Then I would milk the cows again. By the time I finished everything it would be 10:00. I still remember those days when I'd sigh, "Finished at last."



On Sacrifices to Keep the Sabbath

Sometimes we worked until midnight on Saturday to keep from breaking the Sabbath. We went to church the next day, often without much sleep. Once we came home from church, and a cow had gotten caught in the pasture fence and died. There were times when we had millions of yen worth of damage to our cut hay because it had lain in the rain on the Sabbath. We knew accidents didn't happen because it was Sunday. If you worry about that kind of thing, you would never be able to keep the Sabbath. Accidents can happen anytime.

On Faith and Endurance

When the barn burned and we lost our cattle, some said, "I can't believe you were able to get through it." We said we couldn't do it any other way than how we did. We just worried about keeping the Sabbath and getting over the pain. We believed that God was watching over us and blessing us.

On Growing Carrots

We planted carrots with great success. Finally we were getting some kind of order in our lives. With carrots, it didn't matter if it



rained or we took every Sunday off. We could make our own decisions. We could serve more easily in any calling we were called to.

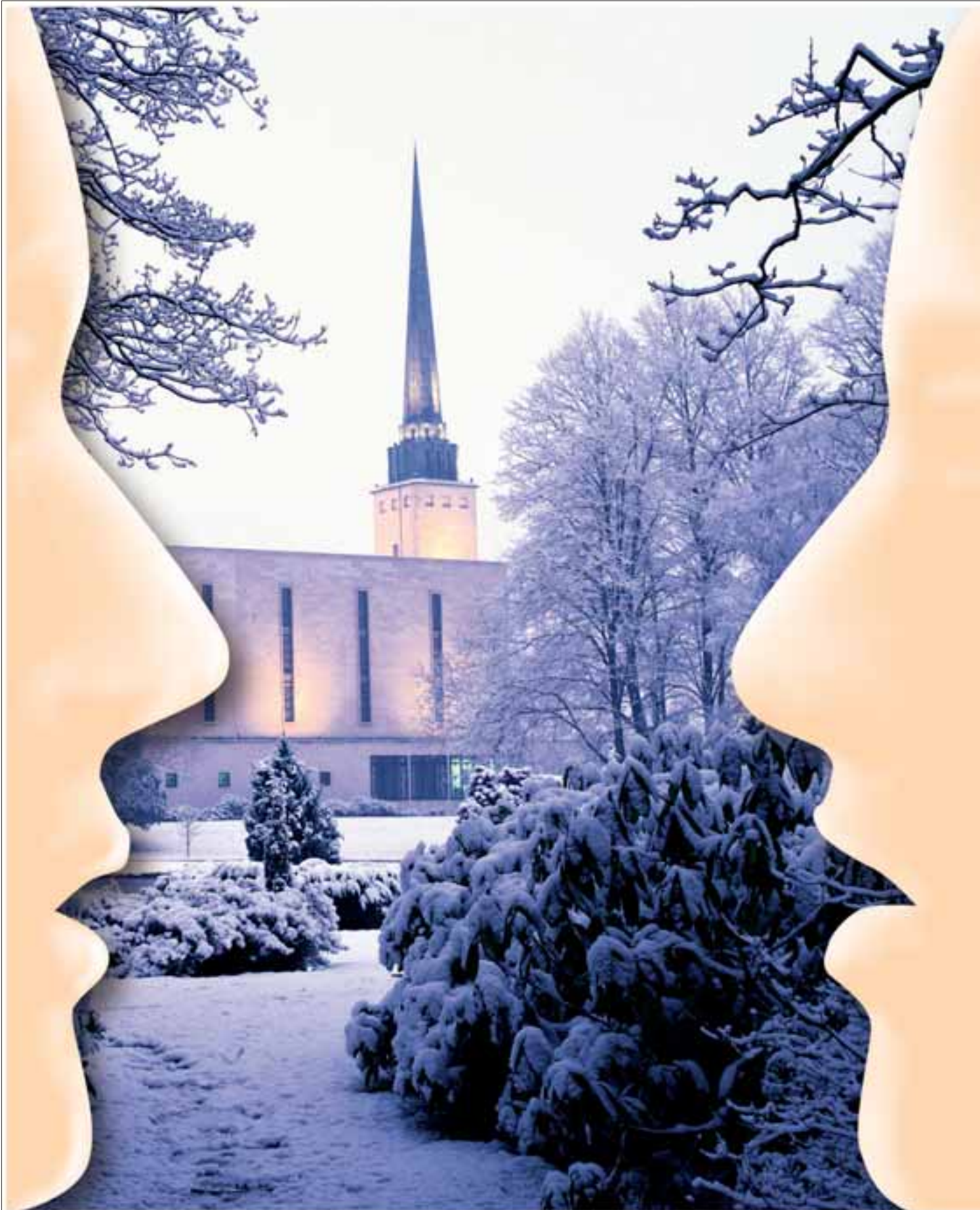
In our business, we use a lot of part-time help. When we are really busy, our employees suggest that we work Sundays. I tell them that we just don't work on Sundays. When our workers know that, they work hard and rarely take days off. On Sundays the younger workers spend the day with their children, and the older workers visit with their grandchildren.

On Gratitude to the Lord

Obedying God's commandments has been important to us. We stood firmly by our decision to keep the Sabbath day holy and wouldn't bend. As we did all that we could do, our children learned that there is a God and He blesses us. Our children really do hear and remember.

When our oldest son was serving in the Japan Fukuoka Mission, the mission president often introduced him by saying, "Elder Kawada's father stopped growing potatoes so he could keep the Sabbath day holy. Elder Kawada was raised in a family like that."

We feel happy when we see our children. They come to church. They have served missions and married in the temple. We are grateful to our Heavenly Father, who knows us and has blessed us. ■



How to Talk about the Temple

BY SHANNA BUTLER

Church Magazines

I swallowed hard when I was about to tell my father I was going to be married in the temple—probably even harder than my husband did when he was asking my dad for permission to marry me. My father is a good man of another faith. I had told him many times before that when I got married it would be in the temple. He had never seemed upset at that, but I didn't know if now, when it was really going to happen, he would be hurt or angry at not being able to see his only child get married.

Gratefully, my father was more concerned with my happiness than with being able to come into the temple. But even though he was understanding, some others could not understand why the Church would be so “strict.”

These people are not alone in asking questions about the temple. Many people think the Church is secretive about the temple. But I know that what the prophets have said is true: *The temple is sacred, not secret.*¹

Even though we should not talk in detail about what happens in the temple, there are certain things we can say to those who ask us

questions such as “What do you do in the temple?” and “Why can't I go into your temple?” Here are some questions you might be asked and some good information you can share with those seeking answers about Latter-day Saint temples.


“Why does your Church have temples?”

Throughout history the Lord has commanded His people to build temples.² When the Church was restored, the Lord commanded the Prophet Joseph Smith to build temples. The temple is the house of the Lord.³ In the temple, sacred ordinances are performed that could not be done anywhere on earth except in these dedicated buildings.⁴

Temples are special and sacred to Church members because the ordinances performed there prepare them to return to God's presence and to be joined to their families for eternity.

“Why can't I go into your temple?”

Since the temple is a sacred place where sacred covenants are made, one who enters



When I had to tell my father I would be married in the temple, I realized how hard it can be to talk about the temple. Even though we shouldn't talk in detail about what happens in the temple, there are helpful things we can say to those who have questions.



PREPARING TO ENTER THE TEMPLE

“Because a temple is sacred, the Lord asks that it be protected from

desecration. Anyone may enter who is willing to prepare well for that privilege. The concept of preparation prevails in other fields of endeavor. I remember when I was but a young boy, I told my parents I wanted to attend the university. They said I could, but only if I worked hard in preliminary schooling and met all the requirements for admission to the university. Similarly, we must qualify for admission to the temple. We prepare physically, intellectually, and spiritually.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Prepare for Blessings of the Temple,” *Ensign*, Mar. 2002, 18–19.

must be a Church member who is spiritually prepared and living Church standards.

Any adult who has been a Church member for at least a year and who lives worthy to receive a temple recommend from his or her bishop or branch president may enter the temple. Living worthy of entering the temple includes living a pure life, being honest, keeping the Word of Wisdom, and paying tithes and offerings, among other requirements.

“What do Church members do in the temple?”

In the temple, Church members participate in sacred ordinances, such as eternal marriage, where a couple is joined, or sealed, as husband and wife for this life and all eternity. The temple is also a place of instruction and worship, where members make covenants to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, Church members perform ordinances, such as baptism and confirmation, in behalf of those who have passed away without the opportunity of accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ. Temple workers are volunteers.

“Why do Church members take little suitcases or bags to the temple?”

Inside the temple, Church members change out of their street clothes and wear modest, simple white clothing. White symbolizes purity and reverence. They bring their temple clothing to the temple with them in their bags.

“What does the temple look like inside?”

At a temple open house (held before a temple is dedicated), visitors are welcome to walk through and see what the interior of the temple looks like. Temples are beautifully decorated and kept very clean. There are rooms within the

temple to serve various purposes, such as holding marriage ceremonies. Temple grounds and visitors’ centers are usually open for viewing also. Photos of temple interiors can be found in the two booklets mentioned in the last paragraph of this article.

To find out the hours or location of a temple in your area, go to www.lds.org/temples. Or to search for more articles about temples, go to the Church magazines online at www.lds.org, and click on “Gospel Library.”

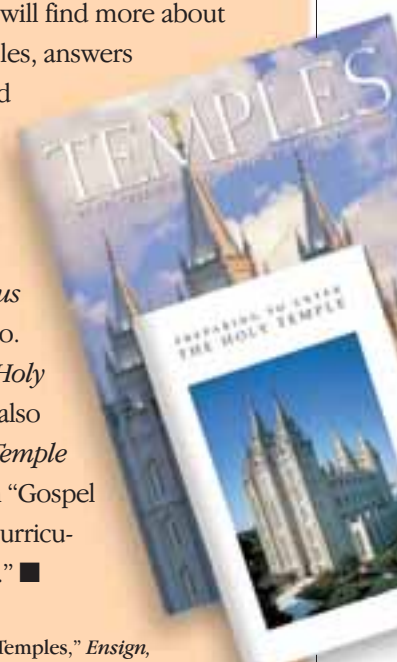
“How do I find out more?”

For more information you can share with others, go to www.lds.org/temples. There, you will find more about the history and purposes of temples, answers to frequently asked questions, and how family history work relates to temple work.

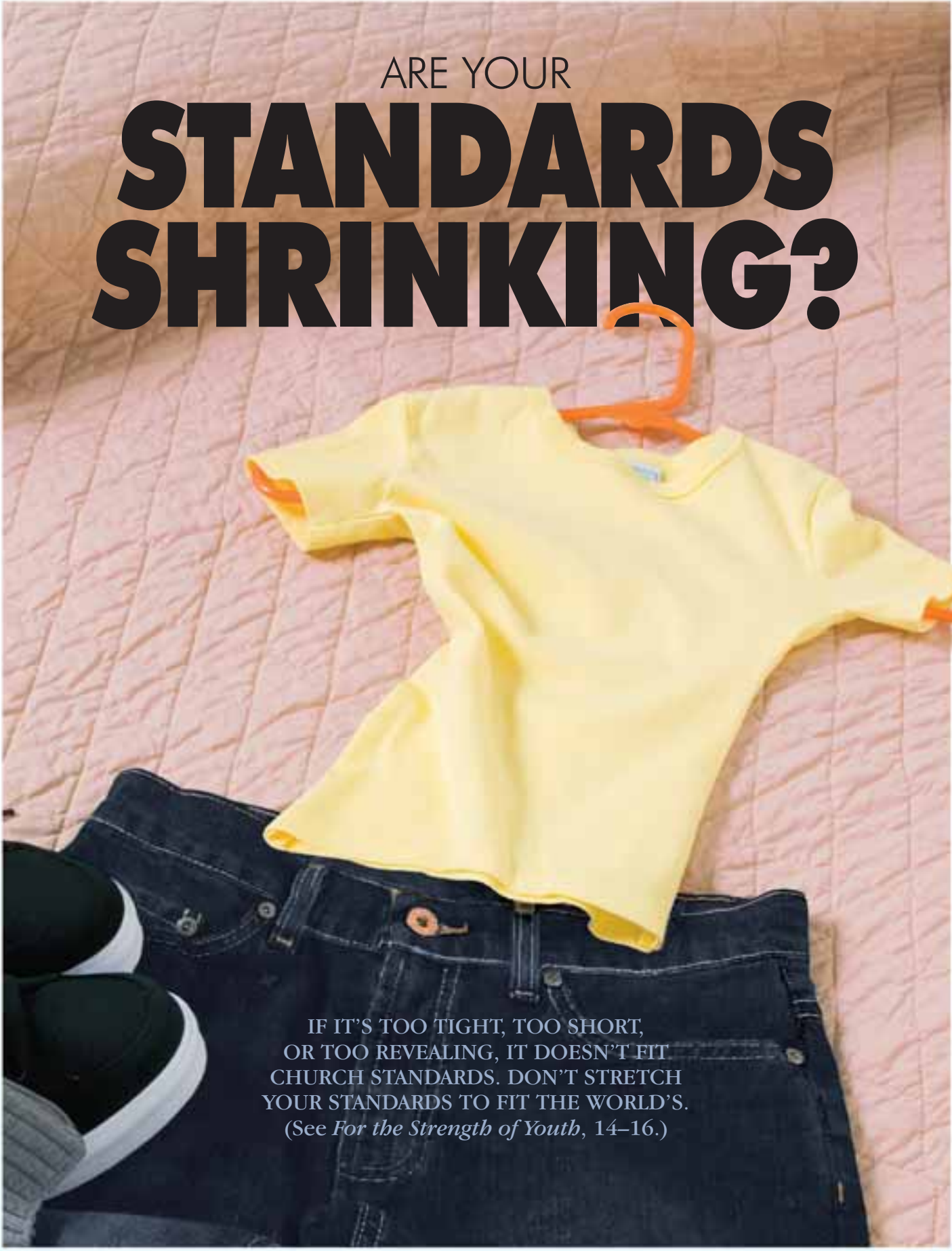
For more help answering questions about the temple, you can read *Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (item no. 35863) or *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple* (item no. 36793). You can also find *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple* in English at www.lds.org. Click on “Gospel Library,” “Church Publications,” “Curriculum,” and then “Optional Courses.” ■

NOTES

1. See David O. McKay, “The Purpose of Temples,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1972, 38.
2. See 1 Chronicles 22; Ezra 3–6; Zechariah 6:13; 2 Nephi 5:16; Helaman 3:14.
3. See D&C 88:119; 97:12, 15. For more about the history and purposes of temples, see Boyd K. Packer, “The Holy Temple,” *Tambuli*, June 1992, 14.
4. See D&C 124:37–40.



ARE YOUR
**STANDARDS
SHRINKING?**



IF IT'S TOO TIGHT, TOO SHORT,
OR TOO REVEALING, IT DOESN'T FIT
CHURCH STANDARDS. DON'T STRETCH
YOUR STANDARDS TO FIT THE WORLD'S.
(See *For the Strength of Youth*, 14–16.)

Nowhere to Land

By Kenneth B. Smith

In January 1951 we lived in Fairbanks, Alaska, just 100 miles (160 km) south of the Arctic Circle. I was a United States Air Force pilot and had been ordered to Nome, Alaska, for two weeks to ferry freight to various sites.

During the Alaskan winters the daylight hours are very short, so operations requiring daylight had to be conducted in a narrow window when the sun was above the horizon. In January there was just less than one hour of daylight at midday. I was delivering cargo to a small outpost at Gambell, a native village on St. Lawrence Island, just a few miles off the Chukchi Peninsula of Siberia and about 200 miles (320 km) across the Bering Sea from Nome.

St. Lawrence Island had no airfield at that time, so we used a frozen lake near the coast. With 19 inches (48 cm) of ice on the lake it was safe to land a loaded C47 transport. But there was no lighting available, so we had to plan our arrival for sunrise, about 11:30 a.m., and our departure before sunset at 12:30 p.m., one hour later.

The weather reporter had assured me the weather would be fine all day, so I elected to take less than a full load of fuel in order to carry another 1,000 pounds (450 kg) of cargo to the men at Gambell. Our fuel was

sufficient to take us to Gambell and back to Nome with enough to fly 30 extra minutes.

We took off at 10:00 a.m. A few stars were visible through the scattered clouds. We arrived at Gambell on schedule—just as the Arctic sun was peeping over the horizon—landed, and started unloading cargo to the delight of the troops.

By the time we were ready to take off again, it was getting dark. And just after takeoff we received an urgent call from the weather station at Gambell telling us we should check the weather at Nome. As we flew we radioed Nome and learned that an Arctic blizzard was moving in. They were expecting clouds at ground level with visibility of less than one mile (1.6 km) within an hour. The Nome airport had no radar instrument landing system. Under those conditions the airport was closed for landing. With only a half hour of extra fuel, we would be unable to reach an alternate airport. And with a massive storm bearing down, there would be no airports in northern Alaska where we could land anyway.

Needless to say, our situation was precarious. Because the outside temperature was -40° F (-40° C) with wind gusting to 35 mph (55 km/h), any attempt to bail out with parachutes would have meant nearly instant death.

I had been taught to pray as a child and had always said my daily prayers, but never had I needed the Lord's help more than on that day. I asked Heavenly Father to tell me what to do. I had a wife and three children back in Fairbanks, and my copilot and crew chief also had families. We knew we would never see our families again unless Heavenly Father helped us. After praying and flying for nearly an hour, I had the feeling that I must land somewhere in the vicinity of the Nome airport so that maybe someone could find us if we survived a crash landing.

Nome radio had notified the Alaskan Air Command of our predicament and received an urgent inquiry about my intentions. When I advised Nome that I would land there, they quickly responded that it would be impossible with the existing weather conditions. But they offered no alternative.

As we neared Nome, I told the radio operator we would attempt as many low approaches as fuel would allow to see if we could find an opening in the clouds. We made three such approaches and saw nothing but blinding snow. On our fourth approach I saw a red light for a fraction of a second. Then as we reached our minimum altitude I saw a white light in front of me for a fraction of a second, just long enough for me to line up where I had seen it. I was pretty sure I was

over the airfield but had no idea exactly where.

I knew it was now or never. I was expecting a crash and possibly an explosion. Instead, the airplane landed in the middle of the runway and came to a stop without any problem.

The odds against such a landing were astronomical. There was no way I could have put that airplane down like that without the Lord's help. How did He help me?

First, He told me where to attempt to land despite all protests from the ground. Second, by some process

unknown to me, He guided me onto that runway.

I have a testimony of the power of prayer. Nothing is impossible for the Lord. I know He will help us if we earnestly seek Him and strive to be obedient to His teachings. ■

Kenneth B. Smith is a member of the Morningside Fifth Ward, St. George Utah Morningside Stake.

We made *three low approaches to see if we could find an opening in the clouds. We saw nothing but blinding snow.*



A Gift for My Father

By Silvia Girard

When I was a little girl just two years of age, my father died in a tragic accident. I had a sister who was seven and a brother who was six. Life became very hard for my mother, who had to face life alone with her three little children. For some reason she decided to tell me that my daddy had gone away on a trip. Maybe she was so sad that she didn't have the courage to tell me the truth.

So I kept waiting to see him and hear his sweet voice and be wrapped in his arms. My birthday would come, and I would wait. Christmas would come, and I would wait.

Then one day I learned the truth from a neighbor girl who was my age. It was devastating; I cried so hard. I started noticing other children with their fathers even more than before. It seemed so cruel.

The years went by, and I was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I married a good man who wasn't a member of the Church. But he gained a testimony and decided to be baptized.

Through our membership in the Church, a most wonderful blessing

came into our lives. We learned that families can be forever, that a link in our family chain that had been left hanging by itself could be joined to the rest of the family.

Through temple ordinances, my father could be baptized by proxy and sealed to his parents and I could eventually be sealed to him.

My husband was baptized for my father, and we had all the necessary temple ordinances performed. The Spirit of the Lord brought great joy to us. The anguish I had gone through as a child didn't seem to matter when I compared it with this great joy and blessing. Knowing that families can be eternal was better than all the Christmases or birthdays my father and I could have spent together.

Today my father is sealed to his parents, and they, in turn, are sealed to their parents. As a result of the happiness I have experienced, I dedicate a great part of my time to doing family history so I can help families be joined together. Temple work brings the most wonderful blessings into our lives. ■

Silvia Girard is a member of the Spencer Fifth Ward, Magna Utah Central Stake.



Don't Open the Door!

By Janet Dunne

The night was freezing, with snow coming thick and fast. I was warm and safe in our home, and our three children were sleeping soundly. My husband was attending a bishopric meeting at the chapel some five miles (8 km) away. At about 8:30 there was an unexpected knock at the door. Immediately I felt strongly impressed that I was not to open the door. This certainty—this warning of danger—had never before come to me so strongly.

I was therefore quite stunned to hear my husband's brother answer my query as to who was there. My husband's only brother, Michael, a member of the Church, lived 70 miles (110 km) away. We had a very good relationship with him, and it was not surprising that he would visit, possibly expecting to stay a few days, as he had done many times before. It wasn't even surprising that he hadn't called, since the phone lines were down because of the weather. I should have felt safe and relieved, and it would have been normal for me to welcome him into our home on this cold winter night.

I could not understand the strong feelings I had or why I heard myself asking him to travel to the chapel to meet my husband. After a stunned silence my brother-in-law explained in

a rather strange manner that he had traveled by train, then had caught the bus to our home, and now the snow was getting quite deep.

A powerful prompting continued to impress upon me that I must not, for any reason, open the door. I calmly explained that I was sorry and repeated my request for him to travel to the chapel to meet my husband.

For the remainder of the evening I reflected on my actions. Poor Michael had traveled several hours by train and bus, and on a cold winter evening I had turned him away. How could anyone be so uncaring? Yet at the same time I was unable to deny the strong witness that I was in danger and must not open my door.

It was late and I was almost asleep when my husband returned home. We discussed the situation very briefly, my husband confirming that his brother had met him and was now sleeping downstairs. I no longer felt any fear and slept very soundly.

The next morning I puzzled over how I could explain my actions to Michael. Would he be angry with me? I took a deep breath and walked into the kitchen to prepare breakfast. "Michael, about last night . . ." I began but stopped when

I saw that, far from being angry, he was actually smiling.

"I'm so glad you did not let us in last night," he said. I had no idea until then that he had not been alone. He proceeded to tell me how he had met Steve, an old school friend, on the train, and it had taken him some time to realize that Steve was high on drugs. By then Michael had already told him where he was going. Steve became more and more aggressive during the journey. He explained he urgently needed money and a place to sleep. He forcibly accompanied Michael to our home with what my brother-in-law could describe only as "the most evil of intentions."

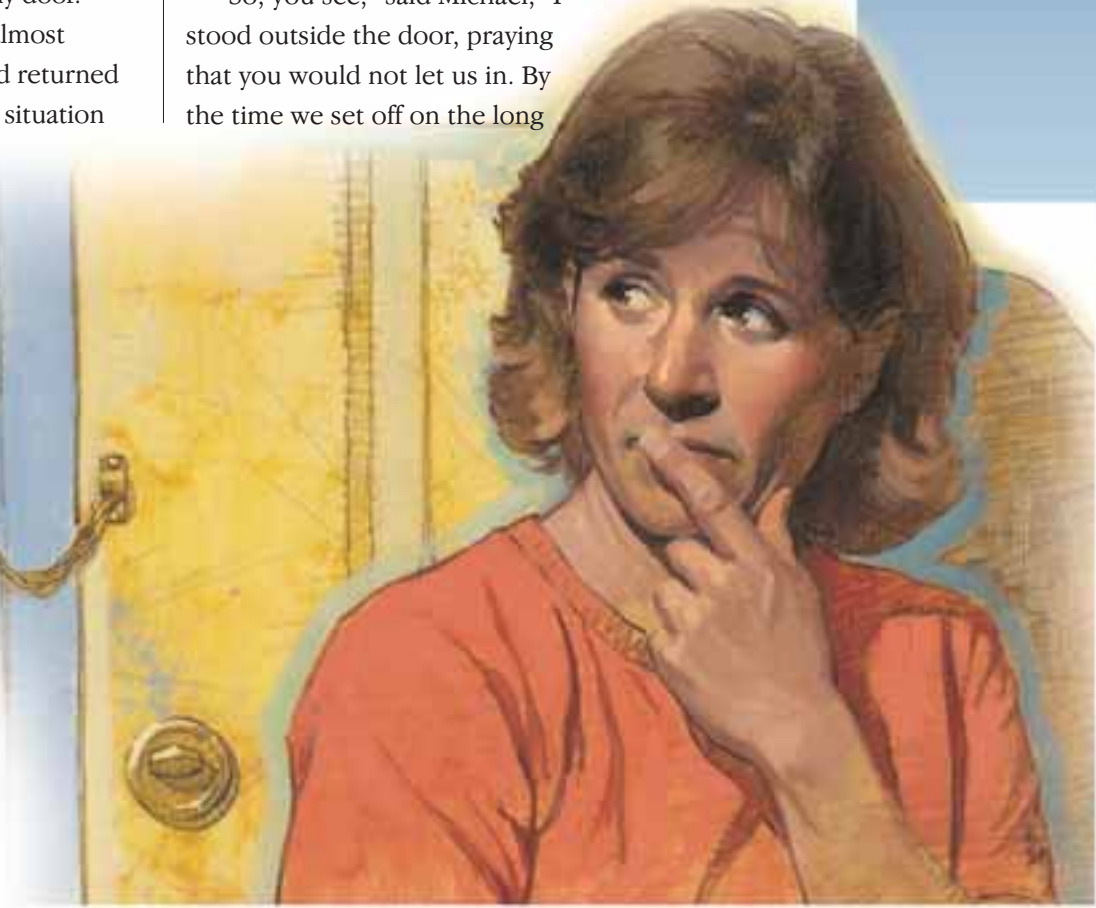
"So, you see," said Michael, "I stood outside the door, praying that you would not let us in. By the time we set off on the long

trip to the chapel, Steve lost interest and said he would go and find some 'action' somewhere else."

I will never know what might have befallen our family or me that winter night. I will just be eternally grateful to have learned one of the most valuable lessons here on earth—to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Even when there appears to be no logical reason, we will be kept safe by relying on that still, small voice. ■

Janet Dunne is a member of the Leeds Fourth Ward, Leeds England Stake.

When I heard the knock, immediately I felt strongly impressed that I was not to open the door.



CALL FOR LEADERSHIP ARTICLES

Good leadership is taught best through stories and examples. Have you tried something as a leader that has blessed the lives of those you serve? Or has your life been blessed by an inspired leader? Please share your experience with other *Liahona* readers. Send it to cur-liahona-imag@ldschurch.org or to Leadership Experiences, *Liahona*, 50 East North Temple Street, Floor 24, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA. Please include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and ward and stake (or branch and district).



A New Beginning

When my father passed away suddenly, I had a very difficult time dealing with my grief. I had been a member of the Church for 16 years and thought I was prepared for this experience, but I struggled greatly.

One evening about a month after my father's death, I picked up the September 2004 *Liabona* and began to read. The article in Latter-day Saint Voices entitled "Death Is a New Beginning," by Claudia Yolanda Ortíz Herrera, caught my attention immediately. The author's experience was very much like my own, and after reading the article three times, I began to have a better understanding about many things and I felt greater peace. My testimony that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ live was strengthened, and I realized that, indeed, death is just a beginning. I am so grateful for the *Liabona* and for that wonderful article.

*Zullymar Rodríguez Castro,
Costa Hermosa Ward,
Barranquilla Colombia
Hipodromo Stake*

Many Seek for Truth

Thank you for allowing us to share in the great blessing of the gospel. The *Liabona* edifies

and strengthens us and makes it possible for us to overcome the challenges of the modern world. There is much evil in the world now, but people still seek for the truth. As in the days of the

Prophet Joseph, people are confused and want to hear true doctrine. Thank you for the wonderful gift you give us from month to month.

*Félix Omar Sarmiento Parada,
Capacho Branch,
San Cristóbal Venezuela Stake*



Answers in Difficult Times

The *Liabona* is very special to us because it has shown us answers during many difficult times. It has been a veritable compass for us, as it was for Lehi's family. Thanks to all who work to bring this magazine to our home.

*Francisco de Assis Sousa dos Reis and
Martha Rejane Santana de Souza Reis,
Veneza Branch,
Fortaleza Brazil South Stake*

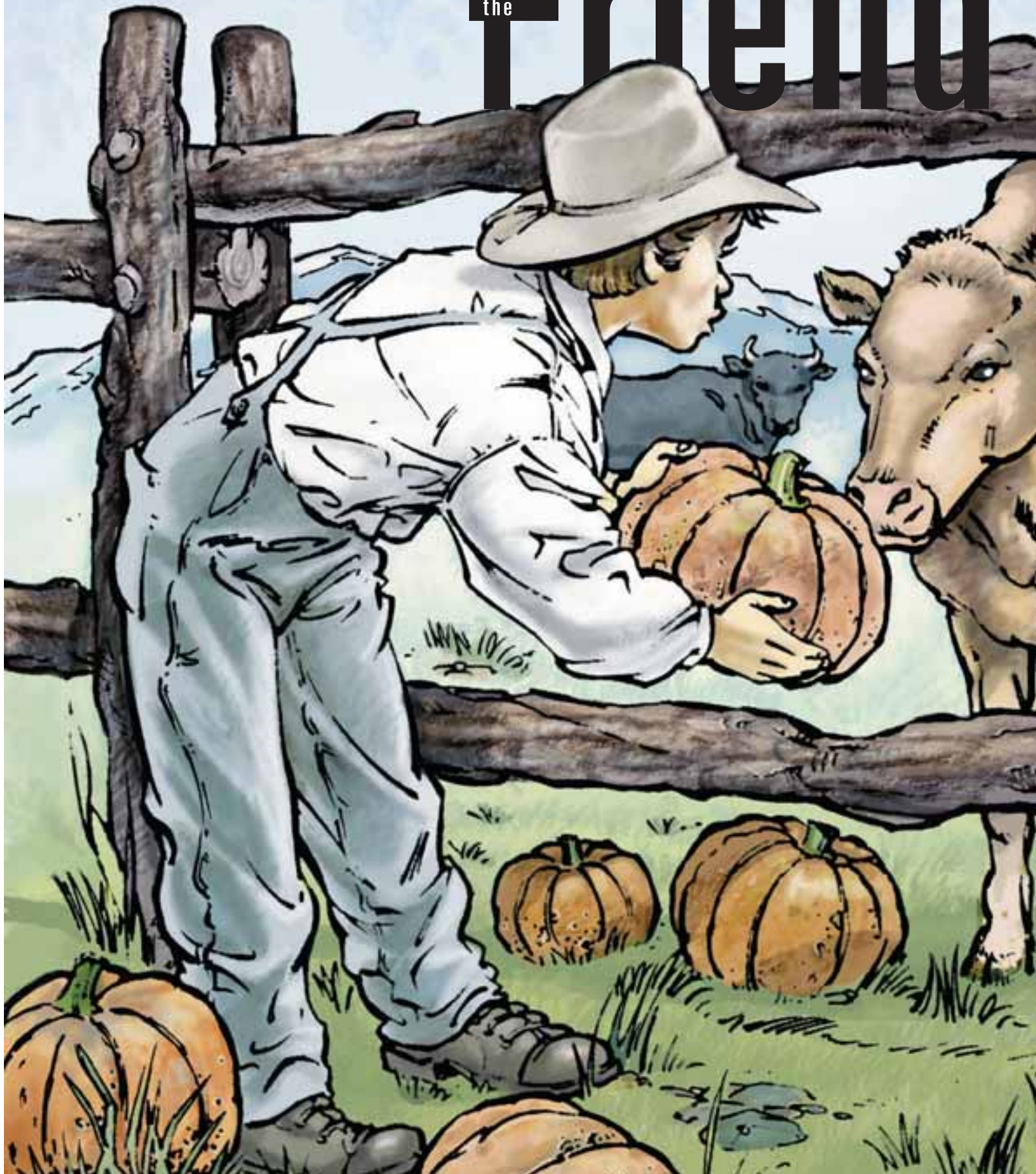
Liahona Helps Build Faith

My first contact with the *Liabona* was when a friend—who later became my husband—brought me a copy when he returned to the United States from serving a mission in Argentina and Chile. Later when I served a mission in Chile, I loved the magazine and was grateful that the members had it to help them build their faith. Now as a senior missionary in Tonga, I use it in the classes I teach at church. Thank you for the *Liabona!*

*Sister Mary Lou Ellsworth,
Tonga Nuku'alofa Mission*



the Friend



Walk the High Road

BY PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

My dear young friends, you are the strength of the present, the hope of the future. You are the sum of all the generations that have gone before, the promise of all that will come hereafter.

You must know, as you've been told, that you are not alone in this world. There are hundreds of thousands of you. You live in many lands. You speak various languages. And every one of you has something divine within you.

You are second to none. Your Eternal Father is the great Master of the universe. He rules over all, but He also will listen to your prayers and hear you as you speak with Him. He will answer your prayers. He will not leave you alone.

In my quiet moments, I think of the future with all of its wonderful possibilities and with all of its terrible temptations. I wonder what will happen to you in the next 10 years. Where will you be? What will you be doing? That will depend on the choices you make, some of which may seem unimportant at the time but which will have tremendous consequences.

You have the potential to become anything to which you set your mind. You have a mind and a body and a spirit. With these three working together, you can walk the high road that leads to achievement and happiness. But this will require effort and sacrifice and faith. You will be expected to put forth great effort and to use



President Hinckley teaches us to build happy futures through prayer, faith, and keeping the commandments.

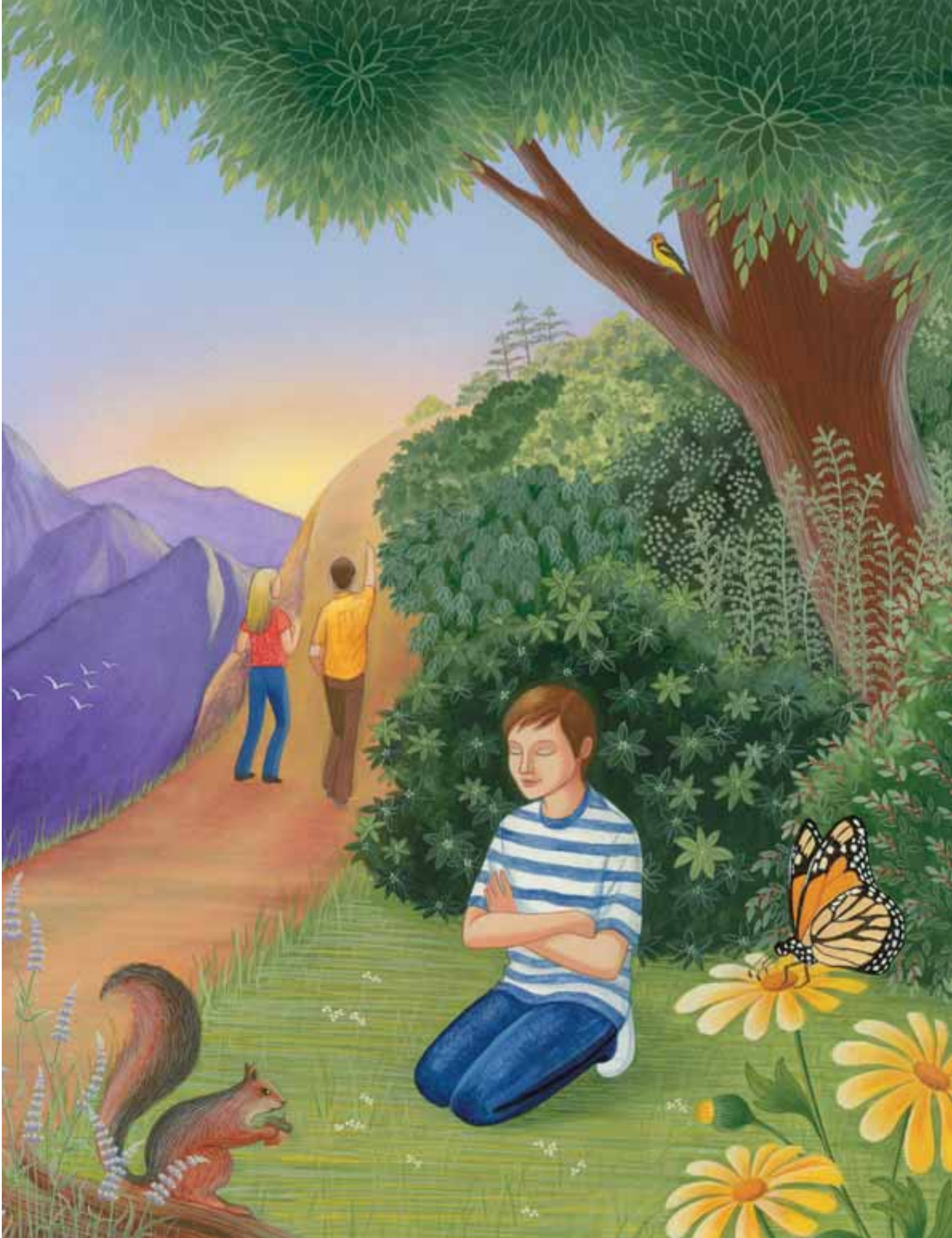
your best talents to make your way to the most wonderful future of which you are capable. Occasionally, there will likely be serious disappointments. But there will be helping hands along the way to give you encouragement and strength to move forward.

As you walk the road of life, be careful of your friends. They can make you or break you. Be generous in helping the unfortunate and those in distress. But bind to you friends of your own kind, friends who will encourage you, stand with you, live as you desire to live; who will enjoy the same kind of entertainment; and who will resist the evil that you determine to resist.

Never assume that you can make it alone. You need the help of the Lord. Never hesitate to get on your knees in some private place and speak with Him. What a marvelous and wonderful thing is prayer. Think of it. We can actually speak with our Father in Heaven. He will hear and respond, but we need to listen to that response. Nothing is too serious and nothing too unimportant to share with Him. He has said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He continues, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (v. 30).

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ must be a beacon light before you, a polar star in your sky. ●

From an April 2004 general Young Women meeting address.



PROMISES IN THE SCRIPTURES



Genesis 9:12-17

PROMISES IN THE SCRIPTURES



Moroni 10:3-5

D&C 59:9-16

PROMISES IN THE SCRIPTURES



3 Nephi 27:6

PROMISES IN THE SCRIPTURES



Matthew 11:28-30

Malachi 3:10

PROMISES IN THE SCRIPTURES



Alma 40:3-4, 23

PROMISES IN THE SCRIPTURES



John 14:27

D&C 34:5-8

Promises in the Scriptures

“For he will fulfil all his promises which he shall make unto you, for he has fulfilled his promises which he has made unto our fathers” (Alma 37:17).

BY LINDA MAGLEBY



There once was a young boy who had a very important question. He wanted to know which church was right so he could join it. He read a promise in the Bible in James 1:5: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” The boy believed that promise. He believed that if he sincerely asked Heavenly Father which church was right, he would get an answer.

You have probably guessed that the boy’s name was Joseph Smith. He studied the scriptures and believed in the promise. He prayed and was given a wonderful answer—Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared and told him not to join any of the churches. Joseph learned for himself that the promise in James is true, that a person who lacks wisdom can pray to Heavenly Father and receive an answer. Many answers will come not from a heavenly appearance but through the promptings of the Holy Ghost.

There are many stories in the scriptures about Heavenly Father making promises. The scriptures also teach us that Heavenly Father always keeps His promises. When we study the scriptures, we learn about His promises to us.

Scripture Bookmarks

To make the bookmarks on page F4, cut on the solid black lines and fold along the dotted lines. Read each scripture, and write on the blank lines the promise made. Keep these bookmarks

in your scriptures as a reminder to read every day.

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

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ made promises to the children of Israel. Tell the story of the children of Israel in Egypt (see Exodus 5). The Lord promised to bring them out of bondage (see Exodus 6:6–7) and told Moses and Aaron to ask Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. The Lord promised to send plagues until Pharaoh agreed. Divide the children into small groups. Give each group a slip of paper with one of the following scriptures written on it: (1) Exodus 7:20–21; (2) Exodus 8:6; (3) Exodus 8:17; (4) Exodus 8:24; (5) Exodus 9:6; (6) Exodus 9:10; (7) Exodus 9:23; (8) Exodus 10:14–15; (9) Exodus 10:22. Have each group read the scripture together, determine which plague was sent, and draw a picture representing it. Gather the pictures, and present the story of the plagues to the group. Explain that Pharaoh hardened his heart until the 10th plague, the death of the firstborn of all the Egyptians. The children of Israel were spared as the angel of death “passed over” their homes and they passed through the Red Sea on dry ground (see Exodus 12–14). Testify that Heavenly Father kept His promise to bring them out of bondage.

2. Make a copy of the bookmarks on page F4 for each child, or write the scripture references on the board. Divide the children into groups, and have each group look up a scripture, read it, and find the promise. Have each group report by reading or summarizing the scripture and telling how we are all blessed because of the promise. As each group reports, have the children fill in the promise on the blank lines on their bookmarks. Encourage them to keep the bookmarks in their scriptures as a reminder to read every day. Testify of Heavenly Father and Jesus’s love for us. Their promises bless all of us. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

Saved by Providence



President Wilford Woodruff almost died many times while growing up. While still a child, he fell into a pot of boiling water, broke several bones, was kicked in the stomach by an ox, fell out of a tree, nearly froze to death in a snowstorm, and was bitten by a sick dog!

I can't believe I broke my leg again.

One day, Wilford was feeding pumpkins to his father's cattle in a pasture.

He noticed that one large bull was eating more than his fair share, so Wilford decided to take one of his pumpkins away.

He ate one of that cow's pumpkins! I'll show him who's boss.

ILLUSTRATED BY SAL VELLUTO AND EUGENIO MATTOZZI

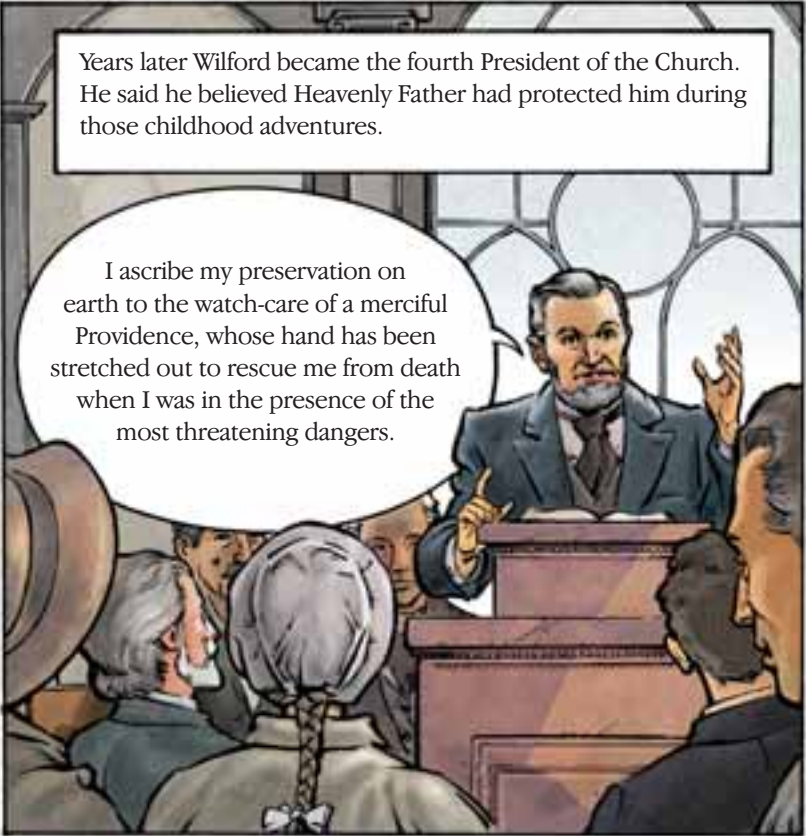


The bull was so mad at Wilford that he started chasing him down the pasture hill.



Luckily, Wilford tripped and fell to the ground, and the pumpkin went flying out of his hands. The bull jumped right over Wilford and tore the pumpkin to pieces with his horns.

If I hadn't tripped, that would've been me getting torn to pieces!



Years later Wilford became the fourth President of the Church. He said he believed Heavenly Father had protected him during those childhood adventures.

I ascribe my preservation on earth to the watch-care of a merciful Providence, whose hand has been stretched out to rescue me from death when I was in the presence of the most threatening dangers.

Adapted from Susan Arrington Madsen, *The Lord Needed a Prophet* (1990), 59–60.

My Goals, 2006



BY BRITNEY SCHETSELAAR
Church Magazines

January is a great time to make goals for a new year. To get started, cut out the “My Goals, 2006” chart on page F9 and mount it on heavy paper. Cut out six small pieces of blank paper, one for each area on the chart, and write a goal on each of them. Tape them on the chart, and hang it where you can see it every day.

When you have finished writing your goals, make a “My 2006 Goal Time Capsule” by decorating a jar, box, or other container with the label on this page. Every

time you finish a goal, take it off the chart and put it in the capsule. Then make a new goal for that area.

You will be surprised to see what you can do when you work hard! Next Christmas, when the year is almost over, you could put your capsule under the tree as a gift to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. They are happy when we learn and grow in all areas of our lives. ●

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My 2006 Goal TIME CAPSULE

Name _____

My Goals, 2006



Home and Family



Interests and Hobbies



Spiritual



Physical



Friends



School

MAKING FRIENDS

Abel & Camila León Sifuentes

OF TRUJILLO, PERU

BY MARVIN K. GARDNER





Abel is preparing to receive the Aaronic Priesthood, and Camila was recently baptized and confirmed. Left: With their parents, grandmother, and twin sisters. Below: Camila's scripture case has the Lima Peru Temple stitched on the cover.

Dancing and singing. Playing the flute. Swimming and running races. Playing soccer and basketball. These are some of the activities that Camila León Sifuentes and her brother, Abel, of Los Laureles Ward, Trujillo Peru Laureles Stake, enjoy.

Other activities also keep them busy: Doing chores around the house. Helping care for their younger sisters—María Fé and María Pía (four-year-old twins) and the new baby, Valeria. And taking care of 12 colorful parakeets that live in cages in the courtyard. As Camila feeds the parakeets, she explains, “Mama says every day is their birthday, because they are always happy and singing.”

Something else also keeps Camila and Abel busy: Being prepared. Eight-year-old Camila was recently baptized and confirmed, and 11-year-old Abel is looking forward to receiving the Aaronic Priesthood soon. Both say it is important to prepare carefully for these steps in life.

“I wanted to be baptized,” says Camila, “because I wanted to feel closer to Heavenly Father and be strong in the Church.”

“And I want to receive the Aaronic Priesthood,” Abel says. “It will be a gift of great worth from the Lord. Before the Savior died, He gave the sacrament to His Apostles. When I’m a deacon, I’ll be able to serve the sacrament to people in my ward. It will be marvelous to have the priesthood.”

Abel struggles with a learning disability. But his parents, Hugo and Mary Ann, say that he is a hard worker, has a tender heart, and is making great progress.

They are finding many ways to help Abel, Camila, and their other children prepare for life. “We’re trying to teach them how to make wise decisions,” says their dad.

Family home evening and one-on-one talks with parents have helped the most. “In family home evening we sing songs, read scriptures, pray, and have activities and refreshments,” says Camila. “All of us, even the twins, take turns conducting the meeting, giving lessons, and directing the music.”

Abel remembers a recent family home evening taught by his dad—who is also his stake president. “He gave us a lesson about the priesthood. He explained that the oath and covenant of the priesthood is a promise between God and man and that through the priesthood we can serve God and other people. I want to prepare well to receive it.”

Family prayer and scripture study are also important preparation. Each morning when the parents wake up the children, they all gather on the parents’ bed. There they sing a hymn, kneel and pray, and take turns reading scriptures aloud before having breakfast and getting ready for school. They talk about the principles in the scriptures.

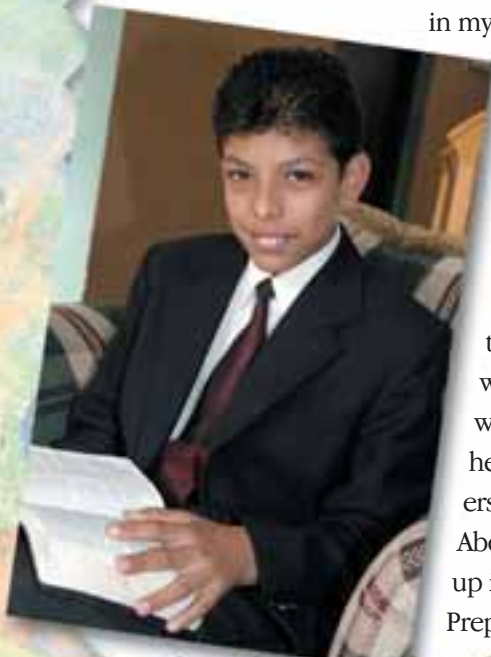
“It’s really a challenge to get everybody up so early,” says their mom. “But since we’ve been studying





Above: "In family home evening we sing songs, read scriptures, pray, and have activities and refreshments," says Camila.

Below: "When I'm a deacon," says Abel, "I'll be able to serve the sacrament to people in my ward. It will be marvelous to have the priesthood."



the scriptures every morning, the children are understanding them

better. When we didn't do it, we felt we were sending our children out to school unprotected. But now they are going out into the world more prepared. We hope that during the day they might think of something we read about."

Camila and Abel are also preparing by attending Primary, fasting, paying tithing, and taking notes during general conference broadcasts. They carry their scriptures to church with them. As a family they have traveled the eight hours to the Lima Peru Temple. The children visit the grounds while their parents are in the temple.

Talking with the bishop has helped too. "When I met with the bishop," says Camila, "he said I should ask Heavenly Father if I should be baptized. So I prayed and asked God, and He told me yes. I felt the answer in my soul."

Abel had an interview with the bishop to talk about receiving the Aaronic Priesthood.

"I'm grateful for my bishop and other leaders who guide me," he says. Abel and his family recently attended a Priesthood Preview. All the boys turning 12 during the year were invited to attend the program with their parents and families. They heard talks and testimonies by leaders, teachers, and one of the boys. Abel and some of his friends stood up in front and sang "A Young Man Prepared" (*Children's Songbook*,

166-67), a song about the priesthood. Parents gave letters to their sons encouraging them in their preparation. "I felt the Spirit there," says Abel.

Camila and Abel feel that all of the preparation has been worth it. "When my father baptized me," says Camila, "I felt joy. When he gave me the gift of the Holy Ghost, I felt as if I were in a temple. The Holy Ghost helps me feel at peace and come closer to God. He helps me know right from wrong."

The Holy Ghost recently helped Camila make an important decision about her standards. "I wanted to dance in a presentation," she says, "but the costumes all the girls were wearing were short skirts. I talked with my mother, and she said to pray about it and choose the right. I thought a lot about it and talked with my dance teacher. She said I could wear a longer skirt, and my grandmother made me one. As I danced I felt happy, and I felt the Holy Ghost with me. I was the only girl wearing a longer skirt, but nobody made fun of me. Some of my friends said they were learning from me."

Abel and Camila are discovering that preparing for baptism and confirmation and for the priesthood is helping them prepare for other important events in life. They are looking forward to going on missions, being married in the temple, becoming parents, and serving in the Church.

"I want to make good decisions because I love Heavenly Father," says Abel. ●

Marvin K. Gardner is a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Ward, Pleasant Grove Utah East Stake.

Scripture Figure



As you retell scripture stories, this figure can represent any man in the scriptures, such as Noah, Peter, or Lehi. The figure can be mounted on heavy paper, colored, cut out, then made into a stick puppet, a flannel board figure, or a paper sack puppet, as illustrated. Make several and color the hair and clothing differently for each one. ●



Stick Puppet

pet, as illustrated. Make several and color the hair and clothing differently for each one. ●

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Flannel Board Figure



Paper Sack Puppet



Being Brave

“Be strong and of good courage, and do it” (1 Chronicles 28:20).

BY CHARMAYNE GUBLER WARNOCK

Based on an experience from the author’s life

The day I got sick and threw up at school was my worst day. It was also my best day. That’s the day Rosella became my best friend. I was feeling sick and stupid, and she just walked over, got some paper towels, and started helping me clean up the floor. When I told her she didn’t have to do that, she said, “Oh, I’m going to be a doctor when I grow up, and this doesn’t bother me at all.” When school was over, she walked home with me.

It seemed that Rosella wasn’t ever afraid of things. Once she rescued a non-poisonous snake from some boys who were being mean to it. She carried the snake all the way home so it could live in some bushes in her backyard. I kept watching the snake and its beady, black eyes and wondering if it was going to reach around and bite her. But Rosella didn’t seem worried at all.

One day Rosella and I were sitting next to each other during music class. We were practicing songs for the spring program when the intercom crackled and the principal’s voice asked the music teacher to please come

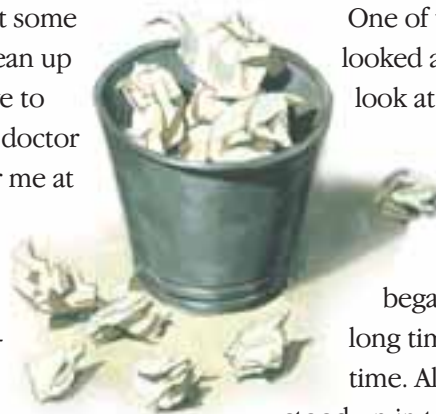
to the office. The teacher told everyone to behave. He said he would be back in a minute, but he was gone a long time.

Some of the boys in the class began throwing wads of paper at the trash can on the other side of the room. Soon the floor was littered with paper.

One of the boys who was throwing paper looked at a boy named Alan and said, “Alan, look at that mess you made. You’d better go pick up those papers.”

Alan hadn’t thrown any paper at all, but he didn’t argue. He just nodded, got up from his chair, and began picking up the paper. It took him a long time because he picked up one wad at a time. Alan had crooked glasses, and his hair stood up in tufts all over his head. Something happened when he was born, and he didn’t get enough oxygen. Because of that he had a hard time learning. Sometimes he tripped or made mistakes. But he wanted to be friends with everyone, and he smiled a lot.

After Alan had picked up all the paper, he walked back to his chair. The other boys were all grinning. When Alan turned to sit down, one of them reached over and yanked the chair out from under him. Alan sat





“Will it take courage to stand tall? Of course it will. Can you muster the courage? Of course you can. Seek strength from your Heavenly Father.”

Bishop H. David Burton, Presiding Bishop,
“Stand Tall,” *Liahona*, Jan. 2002, 76; *Ensign*,
Nov. 2001, 65–66.

down on the floor. Hard. You could see it hurt him because tears came to his eyes. But when the boys all started laughing, Alan tried to laugh too.

The next thing I knew, Rosella was standing up. She marched across the room and stood in front of those boys, glaring at them. Then she reached out her hand and helped Alan get into his chair. The whole class was silent. She asked Alan if he was hurt, and he shook his head. Then she put her hands on her hips. “Being mean to people is a really chicken way of trying to be funny,” she told the boys.

They just looked at her. She didn’t sound mean or angry, but everyone knew she meant it.

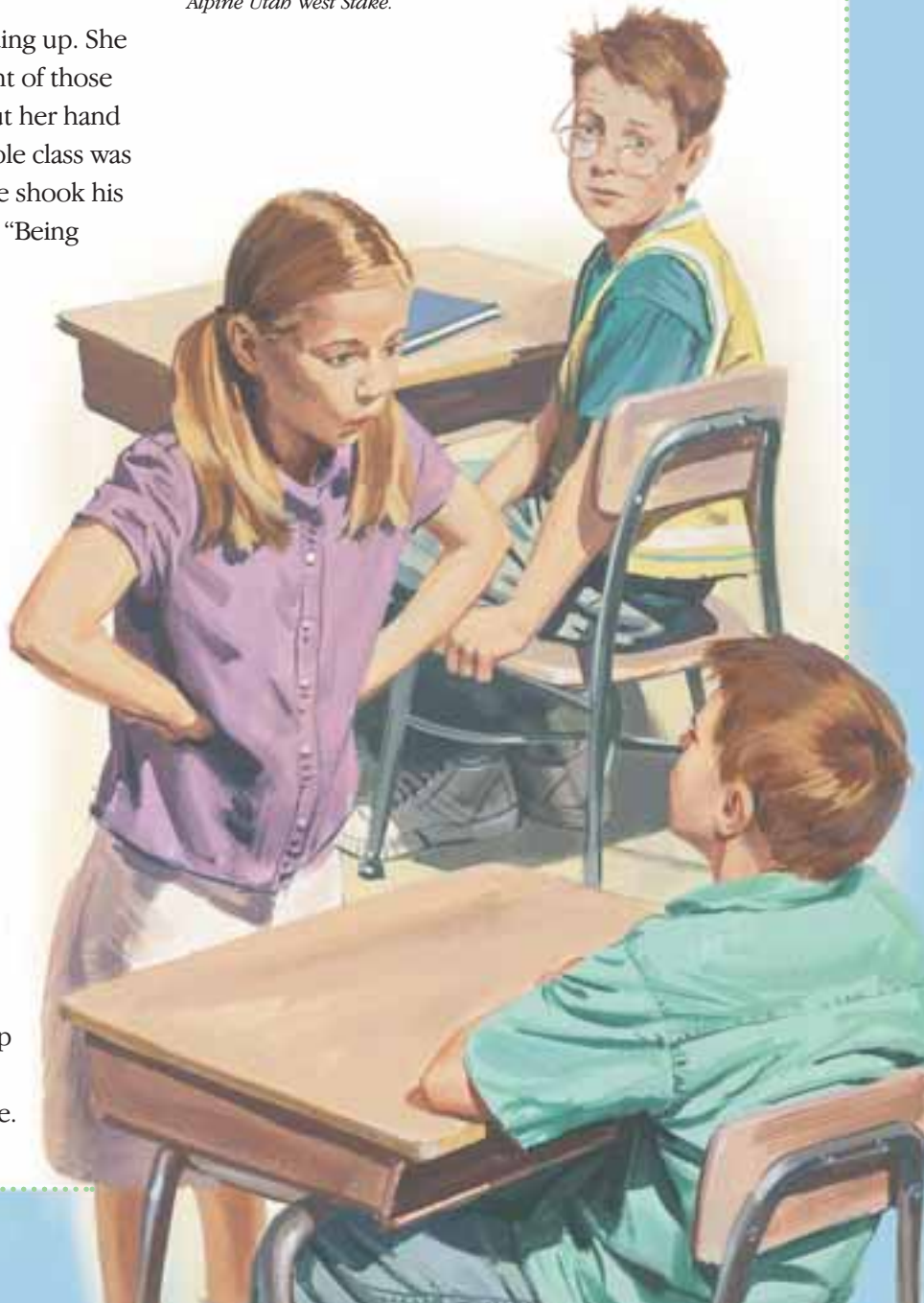
Then Rosella turned around and walked back to her chair. The class was dead quiet. I wondered what the boys would do. They usually didn’t like being told what to do, especially by a girl. I kept hoping the teacher would come back before anything else happened. Then one of the boys looked over at Alan. “Sorry we yanked your chair,” he said.

Alan folded his hands together and smiled big. “It’s OK. I have friends.” He looked over at Rosella.

Just then the teacher walked in. No one said anything about the paper, and class continued as usual. When Rosella picked up her music, I could see that her hands were shaking, but she had a quiet look on her face.

Our class began practicing. I could hear the piano playing and the class singing, but I was thinking about Rosella. I was thinking about how she stood up for Alan even though she was probably scared. I looked at Rosella singing the song and then over at Alan. Then I understood—being brave doesn’t mean you’re not scared. Being brave means doing the right thing even if you are scared. ●

*Charmayne Gubler Warnock is
a member of the Alpine Fifth Ward,
Alpine Utah West Stake.*





Elder Wilford Woodruff, by Filippo Pistrucci

While a missionary in London, 33-year-old Wilford Woodruff responded to his wife Phoebe's request to get his "portrait taken." He wrote, "I took my last Sitting for my Portrait with Mr Pistrucci. He says it is an exact likeness." Recently restored, it is the earliest known image of Wilford Woodruff.



Adam did only what he had to do. He partook of that fruit for one good reason, and that was to open the door to bring you and me and everyone else into this world. . . . I want to thank him. I am glad to have the privilege of being here and going through mortality, and if I will be true and faithful to the covenants and obligations that are upon me as a member of the Church and in the kingdom of God, I may have the privilege of coming back into the presence of the Eternal Father.” See President Joseph Fielding Smith, “Adam’s Role in Bringing Us Mortality,” p. 8.

January
The promises of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ to us are recorded in the scriptures.

Clue 1:
read Alma 37:17

February
Heavenly Father's plan promises eternal happiness.

Clue 2:
read 1 John 2:25

March
Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ make promises to me through the prophets.

Clue 3:
read Amos 3:7

April
Heavenly Father loves me, so He sent His Son, the Promised Messiah.

Clue 4:
read Moroni 7:41

May
Heavenly Father gave me the gospel of Jesus Christ, promised before the world was.

Clue 5:
read 3 Nephi 27:21

June
Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ promise me blessings when I obey the commandments.

Clue 6:
read Mosiah 2:22

July
Heavenly Father promises to hear my prayers and answer them.

Clue 7:
read D&C 112:10

August
As I follow the direction and righteous examples given in the scriptures, the Lord promises me rich blessings.

Clue 8:
read Mosiah 1:7

September
The promises taught in the scriptures give me comfort and courage.

Clue 9:
read Psalm 27:1

October
Latter-day prophets teach me the way to obtain God's promises.

Clue 10:
read D&C 1:38

November
I am thankful for the promises of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ—Their promises are sure.

Clue 11:
read Psalm 100:4

December
Heavenly Father fulfilled His promise to send a Savior.

Clue 12:
read Luke 2:10-11



I Will Trust in Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ—
Their Promises Are Sure

Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, have made many promises to us. When we are obedient, we can receive the blessings of those promises. We find out what Their promises are by reading the scriptures, listening to the prophet, praying, and following the Savior's example.

Reading the monthly scripture clues and themes on this year's poster can help you discover more about Heavenly Father and the Savior's promises.

Instructions

1. Turn the page, open the staples, remove the poster, and reclose the staples.
2. Cut out the scripture references/pictures, being careful not to cut off the tabs. Then cut small slits along the small black dotted lines on the poster. Match each month's scripture reference/picture with its slit, and slide the tab into the slit, scripture facing out. Fold the tabs to hold the scripture references/pictures in place.
3. Each month, find and read that month's clue in the scriptures to discover a promise Heavenly Father and the Savior have given us. After reading the theme and the scripture, pull the cutout from its slit. Then turn the cutout over, and replace it on the poster with the picture showing. Throughout the year, these pictures can help remind you of Heavenly Father and the Savior's many promises to us.

Additional copies of the poster (item no. 26959) are available from Church distribution centers.
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