

# OUR SPACE

*Have you experienced the power of the Book of Mormon in your life? Put it to the test as these missionaries did!*



## I FOUND THE MISSING PIECE

**W**hen I was in high school, I got offended about some of the Church doctrine. It eventually led me to become less active. I attended some activities at another church, but my joy was not full. It was as if there was something missing.

It took me time to find what was missing, but one day after I prayed, I opened my eyes and saw the Book of Mormon on my table. I was about to go to sleep when a thought came to me: “I was born a Mormon. How come I haven’t finished reading the Book of Mormon?” So that day I decided I would finish reading the Book of Mormon.

After many years of searching, I finally found the missing piece of that happiness. ■

Elder Jayme Promise, Philippines Quezon City Mission

## WHEN PEOPLE OPEN THE BOOK

**O**n my mission I’ve seen people who drink, smoke, and use drugs open the Book of Mormon and turn from their ways and come back to their families and the Church. I’ve seen prodigal sons return home and serve missions after they opened this book. I’ve seen broken families read

the Book of Mormon together and be sealed in the temple afterward. I’ve seen people who are totally desperate and don’t know what to do open this book, and everything begins to fall into place.

The moment I open the Book of Mormon and use a verse to help someone, miracles happen. The power of God lies beneath those

pages, waiting for a life to change, waiting for a miracle to unfold. I can promise you that miracles happen every time you open the Book of Mormon. They may not always be what we want them to be or happen when we want them to happen, but they will happen. ■

Elder Benjamin Baradi, Philippines Bacolod Mission

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN CALL



FROM THE  
MISSION FIELD



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID STOKER

# A SOUL CRYING OUT

*He didn't look like a pleasant man to talk to. Part of me was scared, but another part really wanted to talk to him.*

**By Stephen Dugdale**

I had the opportunity to serve as a missionary in Catania, Italy. At one point, we hit a rough spot in the work. We'd had a whole week of pretty much everything going wrong, and each day was a test of whether or not we would retain good spirits, keep a smile on, and continue trying hard.

One evening, we were determined to change the flow of things. We went around talking to people in a park near our house, and we saw this guy sitting on a bench with his head down and a cigarette in his mouth. He was dressed in black from head to toe and wore the hood of his big puffy jacket over his head. He did not look like a very pleasant man to talk to. I looked at him, my companion looked at him, we looked at each other, and back at him.

Elder Farley asked me, "Have we talked with him before?"

"I think we have, because I really think I know him," I responded.

"Yeah, me too," Elder Farley said.

So we started walking toward him. Part of me was scared because he was just not a person I would normally talk to, but another part really wanted to talk to him.

"Good evening, how are you?" we asked.

He looked up with darkened eyes, as if to say, "Who disturbs my slumber!?" Then very softly he said, "Good evening." We introduced ourselves as missionaries, and he quickly told us that he was atheist and didn't believe in anything. We asked him why, which I think caught him by surprise.

"Well, because I lost my mom, dad, sister, and niece all in the same month, and I've lived a terrible, lonely life because of it. Religion didn't do anything but make it worse for me."

We asked him if he knew where his loved ones were.

"In Catania cemetery, where they have been for a long time," he responded.

We explained to him the spirit world and the Resurrection. We told him that right now we are each a spirit and a body, and that death is merely a temporary separation between the spirit and the body. We told him that his family members were just waiting for him until they could all be reunited with their bodies and live together for eternity.

He looked at us, confused, and said, "I didn't understand any of that. Could you repeat everything?"

So we repeated everything. Then he raised an eyebrow in confusion and said, "Wait, I'm a spirit and a body? And my family is just waiting for me and learning right now?"





We read him several scriptures from Alma 40 and other chapters, and he looked at us and asked, “So why have I never heard this before?”

I don’t think I had ever met a more truly humble person in my life. This man had been so lost for such a long time, so confused, so lonely. He took in everything we said, telling us that he understood very little of it because it was all stuff he had never heard before, but he liked everything.

We taught him about how we can get answers through prayer. He hadn’t prayed in over 30 years, and the last time had been a recited prayer in church when he was a child. After we talked about answers from the Spirit, he asked us what the Spirit feels like. Since it can be different for everyone, we both shared what it feels like for us. I told him that to me it feels like getting a hug from your mom after you haven’t seen her for a long time. I felt impressed to promise him that he could and would feel that same thing, a feeling like a hug from his mom who had been missing from his life for a long, long time.

We asked him if we could pray with him. He was really confused and asked, “Now? Here, in the park?”

“We can pray whenever, wherever we want,” I told him. “God wants to hear from us, and He is especially anxious to hear from you because He hasn’t heard from you in a long time.”

## BELONGING TO GOD’S FAMILY

“All [people] are children of God, your brothers and sisters. God loves them just as He loves you. Many of these people are searching for purpose in life. They are concerned for their families. They need the sense of belonging that comes from the knowledge that they are children of God, members of His eternal family.”

*Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service (2004), 1.*

He had never heard a prayer before that wasn’t a memorized prayer to a saint, so he was pretty eager to see how it worked. We bowed our heads, and my companion said the prayer for our new friend, Alfio, and asked for blessings, help, and comfort for him. He asked for Alfio to feel an answer that his family was all right and that God really exists. We finished our prayer, and Alfio looked at us with gigantic eyes.

“I must tell you something,” he said. “I am not a person who lies, especially about something like this. I feel like I just got a huge hug from my mother. I haven’t gotten a hug from anyone in a long, long time. That felt so good. I want to know how I can feel that again, because I want more hugs like that.”

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**“Ever since that prayer, I have walked around with my head up, and I look at everything. This world is beautiful.”**

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The next day we met again. Alfio sat down next to us on the same bench and said, “Elders, my entire life I have walked with my hood up and my head down, staring at the ground. I have never, ever walked with my head up. Ever since that prayer, I have walked around with my head up, and I look at everything. This world is beautiful.”

Needless to say, we continued working with Alfio to bring more hugs, more light, and more looking up into his life. The scary man on the bench who looked like he would hate us was really a soul crying out, begging to feel his Heavenly Father’s love again. ■

*The author lives in Missouri, USA.*



**Elder David A. Bednar**

Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

## HOW TO HELP MISSIONARIES

**W**e properly pray for the safety and success of the full-time missionaries throughout the world. And a common element in many of our prayers is a request that the missionaries will be led to individuals and families who are prepared to receive the message of the Restoration. But ultimately it is my responsibility and your responsibility to find people for the missionaries to teach. Missionaries are full-time teachers; you and I are full-time finders. And you and I as lifelong missionaries should not be praying for the full-time missionaries to do our work!

If you and I would truly pray and ask in faith, as did Joseph Smith—if we would pray with the expectation to act and not just to express—then the work of proclaiming the gospel would move forward in a remarkable way. Such a prayer of faith might include some of the following elements:

- Thanking Heavenly Father for the doctrines and ordinances of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, which bring hope and happiness into our lives.
- Asking for courage and boldness to open our mouths and share the gospel with our family and friends.
- Entreating Heavenly Father to help us identify individuals and families who will be receptive to our invitation to be taught by the missionaries in our homes.
- Pledging to do our part this day and this week and petitioning for help to overcome anxiety, fear, and hesitation.
- Seeking for the gift of discernment—for eyes to see and ears to hear missionary opportunities as they occur.
- Praying fervently for the strength to act as we know we should.

Gratitude would be expressed, and other blessings might be requested in



such a prayer, which would be closed in the name of the Savior. And then the consecrated work of that prayer would continue and increase.

This same pattern of holy communication and consecrated work can be applied in our prayers for the poor and the needy, for the sick and the afflicted, for family members and friends who are struggling, and for those who are not attending Church meetings.

I testify that prayer becomes meaningful as we ask in faith and act. I invite all of us to pray in faith about our divinely given mandate to proclaim the gospel. As we do so, I promise doors will open and we will be blessed to recognize and act upon the opportunities that will be provided. ■

*From an April 2008 general conference address.*

“My parents swear, listen to loud music, and watch inappropriate TV shows. What can I do to feel the Spirit at home, especially on Sundays?”

**W**hen you were baptized, you received the gift of the Holy Ghost. This means that no matter your circumstances, you can have the companionship of the Spirit if you keep yourself worthy and make good personal decisions.

As you partake of the sacrament each week, you will be reminded of your covenants with Heavenly Father to “take upon [you] the name of [His] Son, and always remember him and keep his commandments . . . that [you] may always have his Spirit to be with [you]” (D&C 20:77). By keeping your covenants, you stay worthy of the Spirit’s companionship.

Attending sacrament meeting and other Church meetings isn’t the only way to focus your Sunday on covenant-keeping. Regardless of your home circumstances, you can show Heavenly Father your commitment to your covenants by working on your family history, studying the gospel, and serving others, especially those who are lonely or sick. Choosing these kinds of activities, even if your family members don’t, will bring you joy and rejoicing. (See Russell M. Nelson, “The Sabbath Is a Delight,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 129–32.)



**Speak Up**

Whether or not your parents are members of the Church, talk with them about why

it is important to you to always have the Spirit in your home, especially on Sundays. In your case, you can choose the calmest place in the house and invite other members of the Church to come be with you and together invite the Spirit to be there. I know that if you keep the Sabbath day holy, the Lord will bless you greatly.

*Joskares C., age 16, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic*



**Pray for Your Parents**

You can pray for your parents. As Mormon wrote, “The Lord will

remember the prayers of the righteous, which have been put up unto him for them” (Mormon 5:21). Your parents may not stop right away, but the Lord will help you.

*Cole M., age 17, Arizona, USA*

**Focus on Doing Good Things**

Sundays are always hard for me at home. I’m the only member of the Church in my house, and my parents and brothers watch TV and listen to their music on the Sabbath. I want to show my love for Heavenly Father by keeping the Sabbath day holy. I’m able to go to my room and read scriptures, listen to Church music, and go





on visits with my friends or with the missionaries. I am so grateful to have the Lord's help to observe the Sabbath day diligently and for the strength He always gives me.

*Lais de Jesus M., age 19, Sergipe, Brazil*



### Use Church Resources

If you have a smartphone or tablet, you can download the Mormon Channel and LDS Youth apps. They're full of wonderful songs, videos, and talks that always bring the Spirit when I play them! It's simple, but it really helps me to feel the Spirit even when I'm surrounded by noise. It makes a difference and brings peace throughout the whole house.

*HunterEve V., age 16, Texas, USA*

### Turn to the Scriptures

Talk to your parents about the things they do, but if they don't listen, you can pray for guidance on how to help you feel the Spirit in your home. To feel the Spirit in my home, I read the scriptures, and that brings the Spirit into the room instantly.

*Blake E., age 14, Utah, USA*

### Follow Christ's Example

It's important that a home be filled with the Spirit, but it's more important that a person be filled with it. Christ was the perfect example of having the Spirit with Him all the time. Just trying to live more like Christ, being kind to

others, and seeing the world the way that He would is probably the best way to keep the Spirit with you wherever you are.

*Isabel W., age 16, Oregon, USA*

### Suggest Family Activities

On Sundays, maybe suggest activities that you can do together as a family. Suggest something that the family can do to get together where those inappropriate things would not be happening. If you're doing something together as a family, it brings you closer together. And it gives them a different idea of what you can do on Sundays. Maybe next Sunday they'll say, "Hey, what we did last time was fun—let's do it again."

*Ryan B., age 19, Idaho, USA*



### ACT ON THE PROMPTINGS

"I offer this encouragement. You have had times when you have felt the influence of the Holy Ghost. . . .

"You can treat those moments of inspiration like the seed of faith that Alma described (see Alma 32:28). Plant each one. You can do that by acting on the prompting you felt. The most valuable inspiration will be for you to know what God would have you do. . . .

"As you obey, the impressions from the Spirit will come more frequently, becoming closer and closer to constant companionship. Your power to choose the right will increase."

President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, "The Holy Ghost as Your Companion," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2015, 105.

## UPCOMING QUESTION

"My best friend says she doesn't believe in God. How can I share the gospel with her?"

Submit your answer and, if desired, a high-resolution photograph by July 1, 2016, at [liahona.lds.org](http://liahona.lds.org), by email to [liahona@ldschurch.org](mailto:liahona@ldschurch.org), or by mail (see address on page 3).

The following information and permission must be included in your email or letter: (1) full name, (2) birth date, (3) ward or branch, (4) stake or district, (5) your written permission, and, if you are under age 18, your parent's written permission (email is acceptable) to publish your response and photograph.

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.