

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS • OCTOBER 2014

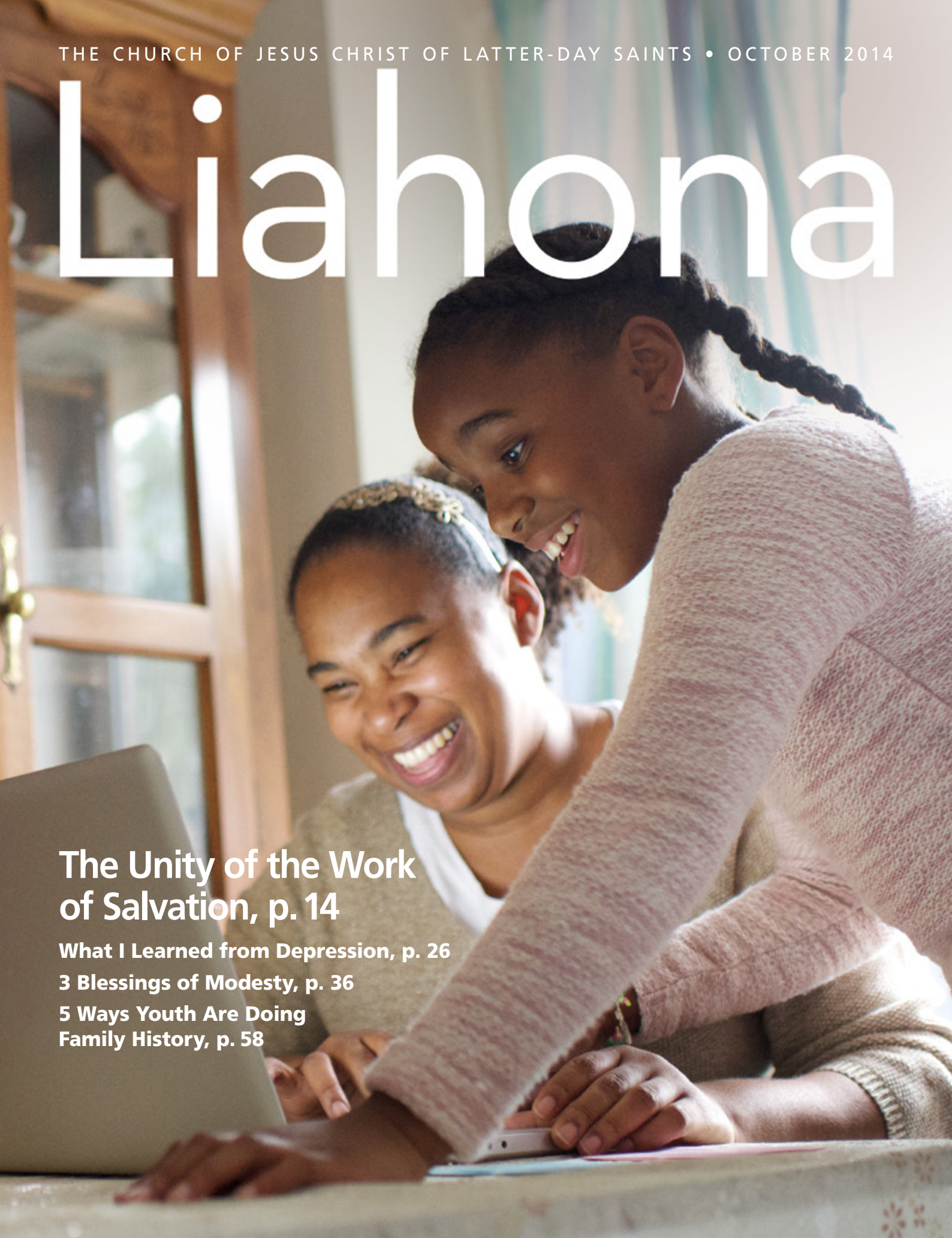
Liahona

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*"Who can find a
virtuous woman?
for her price is far
above rubies."*

Proverbs 31:10



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Family Home Evening Ideas

This issue contains articles and activities that could be used for family home evening. The following are two ideas.



"Family History—I Am Doing It," page 58: Host a journaling activity! Encourage family members to record anything about their life—a memory from years ago or something that happened to them that day. Help your family understand that there are many ways to journal. They can write, type, or draw their journal entry, or they can even record themselves telling a story with a voice recorder. Encourage your family to continue recording in their journals often.

"Learning More about What's in Store," page 64: Consider holding a mission preparation activity like the ward in Norway did. You can teach the same things they did—such as how to start gospel conversations or how to iron a white shirt—or you can focus on other skills you think your family members would benefit from in the mission field.

IN YOUR LANGUAGE

The *Liahona* and other Church materials are available in many languages at languages.lds.org.

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By President
Henry B. Eyring

First Counselor
in the First Presidency

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

Prayer is more than words we speak to God. It is a two-way communication between God and His children.

When prayer works as it should, we express the feelings of our hearts in simple words. Heavenly Father typically answers by putting thoughts in our minds accompanied by feelings. He always hears the sincere prayer we offer when we pray with a commitment to obey Him, whatever His answer and whenever it comes.

The Lord makes this promise to all who read and pray about the Book of Mormon:

“And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

“And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things” (Moroni 10:4–5).

That promise is sure. Millions of people have tested and proved that wonderful promise about prayer by receiving a blessing that has filled their lives with joy and lasting

happiness. That promise applies to all our prayers to know the mind and will of God for us. We can apply it whenever we receive counsel from a servant of God who is authorized to give us direction. For instance, we can depend on it when we have listened to a sermon in general conference. We can apply it when we are taught by humble missionaries called of God by the living prophet. It applies as well to the counsel we receive from our bishop or branch president.

For prayer to work in our lives, the rules are simple. We must ask to know what is true by praying to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. We must ask with a sincere heart, which means we must have an honest intent to do whatever God’s answer requires of us. And our real intent must spring from our faith in Jesus Christ.

The investigator who reads the Book of Mormon before being baptized and confirmed may receive both an assurance that the book is true and a witness that Joseph Smith translated it by the power of God. After being confirmed a member of the Church, we can have the Holy Ghost as our companion to confirm other truths. Then, whenever we pray in faith, we can expect that the Holy Ghost will testify to us that Jesus is the Christ, that God the Father lives, and



to the bishop or the branch president that equals at least the value of the two meals we forego. Our thoughts and our prayers are turned to the Savior and to those He would have us serve by addressing their spiritual and temporal needs.

Our prayers and desires thus come closer to being like the prayers and desires of the Savior as we fast to become more meek, teachable, and loving. And as He did, we pray to know the Father's will for us and to do it. ■

TEACHING FROM THIS MESSAGE

President Eyring teaches that prayer and fasting can help us “know eternal truth.” Consider where the testimonies of those you visit may need strengthening and prepare a lesson on that topic. For example, if a person you visit lost a close friend or family member, consider discussing eternal families and life after death. You could offer to fast with those you visit in order to help them gain a testimony of that principle.

that They love us and all of Heavenly Father's children.

That is one reason there is a promise in the Book of Mormon that we will have charity in our hearts as the Holy Ghost bears witness to us that Jesus is the Christ: “If a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity” (Moroni 7:44).

There is a great opportunity to grow spiritually every fast Sunday. Fast Sunday can help us approach the experiences of Alma and the sons of Mosiah, who prayed and fasted to know eternal truth so that they could teach the Lamanites with power, authority, and love (see Alma 17:3, 9).

On fast Sunday we combine prayer and fasting. For the blessing of the poor, we give a generous fast offering

Prepare before You Pray

President Eyring reminds us that prayer “is a two-way communication between God and His children.” Taking the time to prepare for our prayers can make that two-way communication possible. You could use your journal to spend a few minutes preparing to pray each day. You could make lists of blessings you want to thank Heavenly Father for, people who need your prayers, and questions you may need answered. Then invite the Spirit by singing a hymn or reading a few verses of scripture. As you pray, pay attention to how the Holy Ghost guides what you should say, and



pay attention to your feelings and thoughts (see D&C 8:2–3). Consider recording your experiences in your journal and reviewing answers you receive. You could also use the activities on pages 95–97 of *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* to help you evaluate your prayers and learn to recognize the Holy Ghost.

CHILDREN

Prayer Sandwich

How do you know what to say when you pray? You can begin your prayers by saying, “Dear Heavenly Father,” and end them by saying, “In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.” What you say in the middle is your choice, just like choosing what goes in a sandwich.

Choose the pieces you would like in your sandwich. Write the things you would like to pray for next to them. You can say “I thank Thee” for blessings, talk about your worries, ask for blessings, or pray about questions.

You can cut this sandwich out or make another. Hang it in your home to help you remember the things you can say in your prayers.

Dear Heavenly Father,

**In the name of Jesus Christ,
amen.**

Prayerfully study this material and seek to know what to share. How will understanding the life and mission of the Savior increase your faith in Him and bless those you watch over through visiting teaching? For more information, go to reliefsociety.lds.org.

The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ: Bread of Life

This is part of a series of Visiting Teaching Messages featuring aspects of the mission of the Savior.

Jesus said, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever” (John 6:51). “Jesus teaches us, His disciples, that we should look to God each day for the bread—the help and sustenance—we require in that particular day,” said Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. “The Lord’s invitation . . . speaks of a loving God, aware of even the small, daily needs of His children and eager to assist them, one by one. He is saying that we can ask in faith of that Being ‘that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given’ (James 1:5).”¹ As we understand that Jesus Christ will provide for our needs, we will turn to Him for our spiritual sustenance.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles invites us “to join in the adventure of the earliest disciples of Christ who also



yearned for the bread of life—those who did *not* go back but who came to Him, stayed with Him, and who recognized that for safety and salvation there was no other to whom they could ever go.”²

Additional Scriptures

John 6:32–35; Alma 5:34; 3 Nephi 20:3–8

NOTES

1. D. Todd Christofferson, “Recognizing God’s Hand in Our Daily Blessings,” *Ensign*, Jan. 2012, 17; *Liahona*, Jan. 2012, 25.
2. Jeffrey R. Holland, “He Hath Filled the Hungry with Good Things,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 65; *Liahona*, Jan. 1998, 76.

Consider This

When we come unto Christ, how does He nourish us?



Faith, Family, Relief

From the Scriptures

Jesus Christ was teaching a multitude of more than 4,000 people. After three days, He said to His disciples: “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have . . . nothing to eat:

“And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way. . . .

“And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?

“And [Jesus] asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven.”

Then Christ “took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; . . .

“And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

“So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets.” (See Mark 8:1–9.)

THANK YOU, BROTHER JAY

By Kristine Purcell

How grateful I am for the spirit, commitment, preparation, and love of countless earnest servants throughout the Church.



Tomorrow is Sunday,” I told my five-year-old daughter as she snuggled on my lap. A smile spread over her face.

“Oh, goody,” she said. “Then I get to see Brother Jay.”

Gratitude filled my heart. How thankful I felt for a loving, caring Primary teacher who had eased our transition to a new ward following a move. Leaving our home in the U.S. Midwest and relocating 1,350 miles (2,173 km) away had been traumatic for the whole family but especially for our preschooler, Season. Shy by nature, she feared new situations and was apprehensive about attending church our first week in a new ward.

Brother Jay, a gentle, dedicated man, blended just the right touch of humor and affection to win Season’s trust. On that first Sunday he crouched down, took hold of her hand, looked into her eyes, and said, “C’mon, sweetheart. You’ll have fun in our class.”

As the weeks passed, Season looked forward to Sunday more than any other day of the week. As soon as we arrived at church, she scanned

the congregation for her teacher. He would smile in greeting.

Throughout the years Brother Jay remembered each student with little gifts for holidays and birthdays. When Season’s birthday approached, the most important guest she wanted to invite to her party was Brother Jay.

Could he have any idea how influential he had become in our little girl’s life? Would he ever guess how much his words and actions were internalized by his group of five-year-old Primary students? Could he possibly know how much it meant to me, as a mother, to have him be part of my daughter’s life?

Later, Season advanced to Brother Edward’s class, and her wonderful Primary experience continued. How thankful I am for all the conscientious, well-prepared, humble men and women who had a positive spiritual influence on Season’s life.

Our entire family has been blessed by dedicated individuals who have served us on our path of spiritual progression. I recall an outstanding Scoutmaster, a long-suffering priests

quorum adviser, a patient Seminary teacher, an extraordinary Young Women presidency, and a caring bishop.

As blessed as our family has been, I know we are not unique. “Brother Jay” could be many people, for there are many dedicated brothers and sisters whose service has touched the lives of families just like ours. How grateful we are for their spirit, commitment, preparation, and love.

Thank you to the countless earnest servants throughout the Church who have assisted our family. ■

The author lives in Nevada, USA.



STRIVE TO CHANGE LIVES

“May we focus on the simple ways we can serve in the kingdom of God, always striving to change lives, including our own.”

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “O Be Wise,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2006, 20.

JEREMIAH

“Jeremiah lived in a difficult time and place, but the Lord allowed him to foresee ‘a time of hope during the latter-day gathering of Israel.’”¹

—Linda K. Burton, Relief Society general president

I am the son of Hilkiah, a priest in Anathoth, near Jerusalem. During my youth, “the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”

I felt unprepared for this calling, and I replied, “Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.”

The Lord replied, “Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

“Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee.” The Lord then “touched my mouth” and put words into it.²

I prophesied in Jerusalem for 40 years, from 626 to 586 B.C., during the reigns of Josiah, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah.³ I was a contemporary of the Book of Mormon prophet Lehi. We both condemned the wickedness of the people in Jerusalem

and foretold the destruction of that great city.⁴

The Lord commanded me to record my prophecies in “a roll of a book.”⁵ When King Jehoiakim heard the prophecies, he burned the roll. The Lord commanded me to write the prophecies again and add many more to them.⁶

I faced continuous opposition as I preached the Lord’s word. Pashur, the son of the chief governor, smote me and put me in the stocks. The mobs wanted to put me to death for

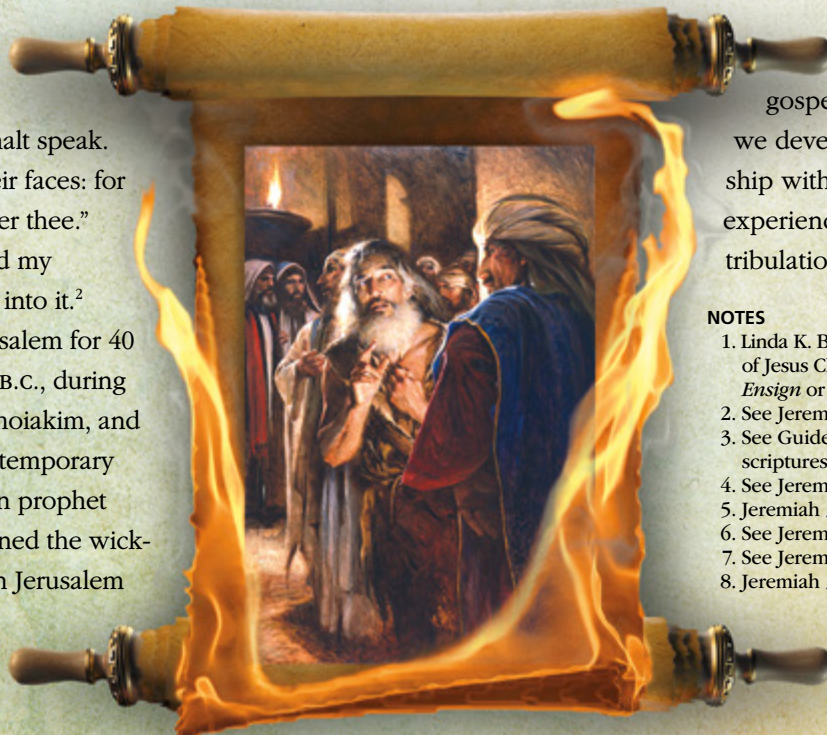
my preaching. I was an unpopular prophet, often cast into dungeons and prisons. I lived in a time of truly great wickedness.⁷

But despite living in the midst of tribulation, the Lord allowed me to foresee that the Israelites would be gathered in the last day, that the Lord would write His law “in their hearts,” and that He would bring “one of a city, and two of a family” to Zion.⁸

As I continued to preach the Lord’s word—even when it was difficult—I learned that an inward commitment to the gospel leads to peace. As we develop individual fellowship with the Lord, we can all experience hope amid trials and tribulation. ■

NOTES

1. Linda K. Burton, “Is Faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ Written in Our Hearts?” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 111.
2. See Jeremiah 1:1–9.
3. See Guide to the Scriptures, “Jeremiah,” scriptures.lds.org.
4. See Jeremiah 6; 1 Nephi 1:13, 18–20.
5. Jeremiah 36:2.
6. See Jeremiah 36:23–32.
7. See Jeremiah 20:2; 26:8; 38:6.
8. Jeremiah 31:33; 3:14.



PHOTOGRAPH OF SCROLL BY DIMDIMCHISTOCK/THINKSTOCK, JEREMIAH, BY WALTER RANE © IRI

THE JADEITE CABBAGE

By Ellen C. Jensen

On my mission in Taiwan, my companion and I spent a little time during one preparation day at the National Palace Museum in Taipei. The main attraction is a piece of art called the Jadeite Cabbage. So many people were admiring it, but all I saw was a cabbage carved out of jade. It was pretty, no doubt, but there must have been something I was missing.

When we finished at the museum, I asked my companion, “What did you think of the Jadeite Cabbage?”

“I love that piece of art!”

“Why?” I asked. “It’s just a cabbage.”

“Are you kidding? The Jadeite Cabbage is a metaphor for my life!” she exclaimed.

“The cabbage?”

“Yes! Don’t you know the story?”

“Apparently not.”

She told me the story. And she was right. It became the metaphor for my mission and my life.

For a jade carving to have great value, the jade has to be one solid color. Carvings made out of perfect jade sell for high prices because it is nearly impossible to find perfect jade. The Jadeite Cabbage is green on

one end and white on the other, and it has cracks and ripples. No skilled carver would waste time on such a piece of jade, until someone came along whom the Chinese call a master carver.

If this jade could talk, I can imagine the conversation it would have with this new carver. I imagine the carver picking up this piece of jade.

“What do you want?” the jade would ask.

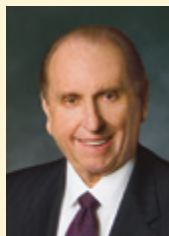
“I am looking for jade to carve,” the carver would say.

“Then find another piece. I am of no worth. I have two different colors so intertwined that you’ll never

separate them. I have cracks and ripples in me. I will never be of any worth. Don’t waste your time.”

“Oh, you silly little jade. Trust me. I am a master carver. I will make a masterpiece of you.”

What makes the Jadeite Cabbage so amazing is that this anonymous master carver used the weaknesses of the jade—the two colors, the cracks, and the ripples—to make the cabbage all the more lifelike. The opaque white part became the stem of the cabbage, and the cracks and ripples make the leaves come to life. If it weren’t for the “weaknesses” of this jade, it could not have looked so real.



THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART

“In our world, moral character oftentimes seems secondary to beauty or charm. But from long ago the Lord’s counsel to Samuel the prophet echoes: ‘The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart’ (1 Samuel 16:7).”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Canaries with Gray on Their Wings,” *Ensign or Liahona*, June 2010, 4.



Because of the beauty of this piece of art, it became a gift for one of the royalties in China and adorned the halls of beautiful Asian palaces until it ended up at the museum in Taiwan.

It reminds me of Ether 12:27: “If men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. . . . My grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.”

After I saw the Jadeite Cabbage, this scripture began to take on new

light. We are all like this piece of jade, except that we are still in the process of being carved. We must trust the master carver, Jesus Christ, who will take our weaknesses and make them strengths. We, in our imperfect view, sometimes focus on our imperfections and then despair because we think we’ll never measure up. But our Savior, Jesus Christ, sees us as we can become. As we allow His Atonement to work in our lives, He will shape us into masterpieces who will one day live with the King of kings. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

HOW CAN I SEE MYSELF AS THE MASTER SEES ME?

It’s a challenge to see ourselves as the Lord sees us. He sees us as children of God with great potential and great worth. But we sometimes focus on our shortcomings. Our Father in Heaven has not created us to dwell on our flaws but rather to become beautiful masterpieces. Through the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Atonement, we can overcome our shortcomings.

Consider reading the following scriptures to learn how the Lord uses imperfect people to accomplish His work: Exodus 4:10–12; Jeremiah 1:4–10; 1 Nephi 4:1–6; Alma 26:12; Doctrine and Covenants 35:17–18.

LIZOCHKA'S HEART

By Marina Petrova

My husband and I joined the Church in Russia in 1995 and were sealed the next year in the Stockholm Sweden Temple. Our two young daughters were also sealed to us. Two years later we were blessed to have another daughter, Lizochka, born to us. Our lives were going well. We were all happy. But two days after her birth, our little one began to have trouble eating. In a month she gained only two-thirds of a pound (300 g).

The staff at the children's medical center told us to feed her more often. I saw that she wanted to eat but could not. Finally, my husband took her to the city hospital. The doctor immediately gave us a diagnosis—a birth defect in the heart. One heart valve did not work, and the poor blood flow to her lungs made it hard for her to breathe or eat.

She needed an operation, but in Russia the youngest children to receive this operation were two years old. Our daughter was only one month old. The doctor prescribed a treatment for her and said that later, when she was older, they would perform the operation.

One month later, Lizochka's health worsened dramatically, and we rushed

her to the hospital. I held her as we drove. She looked at me as if pleading for help. If I had not been a member of the Church, I don't know what I would have done. But my husband and I trusted the Lord and firmly believed that all would be well. I tried to calm her, saying, "Don't be scared of anything, my little one. God loves us. He will help us, and everything will be OK."

Finally we arrived. Holding her close to me, I ran to the admitting division. Lizochka's eyes began to close. She was barely breathing. Almost unable to speak, I told a doctor about my child, and the medical staff took her to the intensive care unit. The doctor said her lungs were beginning to swell, and they hooked her up to an artificial-respiration machine.

The next day we talked with the director of the cardio surgery division. He said, "I have done such operations but only on older children. How old is she now?"

"Two months," we told him.

"She already hurts a lot. She is so small, and the swelling of her lungs is complicating things, but we must not drag this on any longer. I have never done such an operation to a small

child. I will try to do all I can. You will have to buy an artificial double valve, but it is very expensive—about \$2,100. The operation will be in four days."

What were we to do? Neither we nor anyone we knew had such money. However, our situation came to the attention of others, and through their generosity and the Lord's mercy we were able to secure the funds. My husband bought the valve we needed to save the life of our child.

Not only did all the brothers and sisters of our branch pray and fast for our little daughter but so did the missionaries and many Latter-day Saints throughout the city. We felt their support. Sitting in the hall on the day of the operation, we felt the presence of the Holy Ghost and sensed the prayers of our brothers and sisters. We knew they were near us! And God was with us, guiding the surgeons. He would not leave us, and everything would work out.

When the surgeon came out after the operation, he, somewhat bewildered, told us, "Everything worked out. We put in the valve. I do not know how, but it succeeded." But we knew how it succeeded. Heavenly Father blessed him.



WHEN PRAYERS SEEM TO GO UNANSWERED

"It is so hard when sincere prayer about something you desire very much is not answered the way you want. It is difficult to understand why your exercise of deep and sincere faith from an obedient life does not grant the desired result. The Savior taught, 'Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name it shall be given unto you, *that is expedient for you.*' [D&C 88:64; emphasis added.] At times it is difficult to recognize what is *best* or *expedient* for you over time. Your life will be easier when you accept that what God does in your life is for your *eternal* good."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Using the Supernal Gift of Prayer," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2007, 9.

Lizochka stayed in the hospital three more days while the swelling of her heart and lungs went down. She had been cut open and sealed closed by only a thin membrane, and a few days later they operated again to close her chest and organs. Almost none of the doctors expected her to survive. But we believed in Heavenly Father and in His power, and we believed that if it was His will, she would recover.

Only God could have given us back our Lizochka. With each day, she got better. She stayed in the hospital another month, and now she is home with us.

God is a God of miracles. He hears our prayers, and during our hard times, He carries us. Trials strengthen our faith and teach us to believe, hope, and love. ■

The author now lives in Belgium.



By Elder
David A. Bednar
Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

Missionary, Family History, and Temple **Work**



At a solemn assembly held in the Kirtland Temple on April 6, 1837, the Prophet Joseph Smith said, “After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel.”¹

Almost precisely seven years later, on April 7, 1844, he declared: “The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead. The apostle says, ‘They without us cannot be made perfect’ [see Hebrews 11:40]; for it is necessary that the sealing power should be in our hands to seal our children and our dead for the fulness of the dispensation of times—a dispensation to meet the promises made by Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world for the salvation of man.”²

Some individuals may wonder how both preaching the gospel *and* seeking after our dead can be simultaneously the greatest duties and responsibilities God has placed upon His children. My purpose is to suggest

Preaching the gospel and seeking after our dead are complementary parts of one great work—a labor of love intended to change, turn, and purify the hearts of honest seekers of truth.



that these teachings highlight the unity and oneness of the latter-day work of salvation. Missionary work and family history and temple work are complementary and interrelated aspects of one great work, “that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him” (Ephesians 1:10).

I pray the power of the Holy Ghost will assist you and me as we consider together the marvelous latter-day work of salvation.

Hearts and Priesthood Ordinances

Preaching the gospel and seeking after our dead are two divinely appointed responsibilities that relate to both our hearts and to

priesthood ordinances. The essence of the Lord’s work is changing, turning, and purifying hearts through covenants and ordinances performed by proper priesthood authority.

The word *heart* is used over 1,000 times in the standard works and symbolizes the inner feelings of an individual. Thus, our hearts—the sum total of our desires, affections, intentions, motives, and attitudes—define who we are and determine what we will become.

The Lord’s purpose for missionary work is to invite all to come unto Christ, receive the blessings of the restored gospel, and endure to the end through faith in Christ.³ We do not share the gospel merely to increase the numerical size and strength of the latter-day Church. Rather, we seek to fulfill the



Simply performing and dutifully checking off all of the things on our lengthy gospel “to do” list does not necessarily enable us to receive His image in our countenance or bring about the mighty change of heart.

divinely appointed responsibility to proclaim the reality of the Father’s plan of happiness, the divinity of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the efficacy of the Savior’s atoning sacrifice. Inviting all to “come unto Christ” (see Moroni 10:30–33), experiencing the “mighty change” of heart (see Alma 5:12–14), and offering the ordinances of salvation to individuals in mortality not yet under covenant are the fundamental objectives of preaching the gospel.

Enabling the exaltation of the living and the dead is the Lord’s purpose for building temples and performing vicarious ordinances. We do not worship in holy temples solely to have a memorable individual or family experience. Rather, we seek to fulfill the divinely appointed responsibility to offer the ordinances of salvation and exaltation to the entire human family. Planting in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, even Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; turning the hearts of the children to their own fathers; and performing family history research and vicarious ordinances in the temple are labors that bless individuals in the spirit world not yet under covenant.

Priesthood ordinances are the pathway to the power of godliness:

“And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God.

“Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.

“And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh” (D&C 84:19–21).

Please consider the sobering significance of these verses. An individual *must* first pass through the gate of baptism and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost—and then continue to press forward along the path of covenants and ordinances that leads to the Savior and the blessings of His Atonement (2 Nephi 31). Priesthood ordinances are essential to fully “come unto Christ, and be perfected in him” (see Moroni 10:30–33). Without the ordinances, an individual cannot receive all of the blessings made possible through the Lord’s infinite and eternal atoning sacrifice (see Alma 34:10–14)—even the power of godliness.

The Lord’s work is one majestic work focused upon hearts, covenants, and priesthood ordinances.

Implications

This divine doctrine suggests two important implications for our work in the Church.

First, we may often give undue emphasis to separate categories of the work of salvation and the associated policies and procedures. I fear that many of us may focus so exclusively and intensely on specific facets of the Lord’s work that we fail to garner the full power of this comprehensive labor of salvation.

While the Lord seeks to gather all things together in one in Christ, we may often segment and specialize in ways that limit our understanding and vision. When carried to an extreme, priority is given to managing programs and enhancing statistics over inviting individuals to enter into covenants and receive ordinances worthily. Such an approach constrains the purification, the

joy, the continuing conversion, and the spiritual power and protection that come from “yielding [our] hearts unto God” (Helaman 3:35). Simply performing and dutifully checking off all of the things on our lengthy gospel “to do” list does not necessarily enable us to receive His image in our countenance or bring about the mighty change of heart (see Alma 5:14).

Second, the spirit of Elijah is central in and vital to the work of proclaiming the gospel. Perhaps the Lord was emphasizing this truth in the very sequence of events that occurred as the fulness of the gospel was restored to the earth in these latter days.

In the Sacred Grove, Joseph Smith saw and talked with the Eternal Father and Jesus Christ. This vision ushered in the “dispensation of the fulness of times” (Ephesians 1:10) and enabled Joseph to learn about the true nature of the Godhead and of continual revelation.

Approximately three years later, in response to earnest prayer on the evening of September 21, 1823, Joseph’s bedroom filled with light until it was “lighter than at noonday” (Joseph Smith—History 1:30). A personage appeared at his bedside, called the young boy by name, and declared “he was a messenger sent from the presence of God . . . and that his name was Moroni” (Joseph Smith—History 1:33). He instructed Joseph about the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. And then Moroni quoted from the book of Malachi in the Old Testament,



We do not worship in holy temples solely to have a memorable individual or family experience. Rather, we seek to fulfill the divinely appointed responsibility to offer the ordinances of salvation and exaltation to the entire human family.

with a little variation in the language used in the King James Version:

“Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. . . . And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming” (Joseph Smith—History 1:38–39).

Moroni’s instructions to the young prophet ultimately included two primary themes: (1) the Book of Mormon and (2) the words of Malachi foretelling the role of Elijah in the restoration “of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21).

Thus, the introductory events of the Restoration revealed a correct understanding of the Godhead, established the reality of continuing revelation, emphasized the importance of the Book of Mormon, and anticipated the work of salvation and exaltation for both the living and the dead.

Please now consider the role of the Book of Mormon in changing hearts—and of the spirit of Elijah in turning hearts.

The Book of Mormon in combination with the Spirit of the Lord is “the greatest single tool which God has given us to convert the world.”⁴ This Restoration volume of scripture is the keystone of our religion and is



Preaching the gospel and seeking after our dead are two divinely appointed responsibilities that relate to both our hearts and to priesthood ordinances.

essential in bringing souls to the Savior. The Book of Mormon is another testament of Jesus Christ—a vital confirming witness of the divinity of the Redeemer in a world that grows ever more secular and cynical. Hearts are changed as individuals read and study the Book of Mormon and pray with real intent to learn of the truthfulness of the book.

The spirit of Elijah is “a manifestation of the Holy Ghost bearing witness of the divine nature of the family.”⁵ This distinctive influence of the Holy Ghost bears powerful witness of the Father’s plan of happiness and draws people to search out and cherish their ancestors and family members—both past and present. The spirit of Elijah affects people both inside and outside of the Church and causes hearts to turn to the fathers.



Six videos are part of this article. Scan this QR code or go to lds.org/go/bednar1014 to see the first video of a story demonstrating this principle.

The time has come for us to capitalize more effectively on the potent combination of the mighty change of heart, made possible primarily by the spiritual power of the Book of Mormon, and the turning of hearts to the fathers, accomplished through the spirit of Elijah. A yearning for connection to our past can prepare an individual to receive the virtue of the word of God and fortify his or her faith. A heart turning to the fathers uniquely helps an individual withstand the influence of the adversary and strengthen conversion.


Watch the second video to view a story demonstrating this principle.

Principles

I now want to identify four principles about the spiritual power that results from changing and turning hearts.

- 1. Hearts and conversion.** Turning to the fathers awakens and prepares a heart for the mighty change. Thus, the spirit of Elijah helps in conversion.
Watch the third video to view a story demonstrating this principle.
- 2. Hearts and retention.** Turning to the fathers sustains and strengthens hearts that have experienced the mighty change. Thus, the spirit of Elijah helps in retaining new converts.
Watch the fourth video to view a story demonstrating this principle.
- 3. Hearts and reactivation.** Turning to the fathers softens a heart that has become hardened after experiencing the mighty change. Thus, the spirit of Elijah is key in reactivation.
Watch the fifth video to view a story demonstrating this principle.
- 4. Hearts and valiant missionaries.** A missionary who has experienced both the mighty change and the turning of the heart will be a more converted, consecrated, and valiant servant.
Watch the sixth video to view a story demonstrating this principle.

With a rapidly expanding and better-prepared missionary force, we simply cannot rely exclusively on past proselyting successes to determine our course and methods for the future. The Lord has inspired technologies and tools that enable



*The spirit of Elijah is
“a manifestation of
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nature of the family.”*

us to benefit from the oneness of missionary work and temple and family history work more than at any previous time in this dispensation. And it is no coincidence that these innovations have come forth at precisely the time they are so needed to advance missionary work all over the earth. The Lord’s work is one majestic work focused upon hearts that change and turn, on sacred covenants, and upon the power of godliness manifested through priesthood ordinances.

Summary and Testimony

The Lord declared, “I am able to do mine own work” (2 Nephi 27:21), and “I will hasten my work in its time” (D&C 88:73). We are witnesses of His hastening of His work.

We live and serve in the dispensation of the fulness of times. Recognizing the eternal importance of the distinctive dispensation in which we live should influence all that we do and strive to become. The work of salvation to be accomplished in these last days is grand, vast, essential, and urgent. How grateful each of us should be for the blessings and responsibilities of living in this specific season of the final dispensation. How humble we should be knowing that “unto whom much is given much is required” (D&C 82:3).

Preaching the gospel and seeking after our dead are complementary parts of one great work—a labor of love intended to change, turn, and purify the hearts of honest

seekers of truth. The artificial boundary line we so often place between missionary work and temple and family history work is being erased; this is one great work of salvation.⁶

Can we begin to understand the role of temple and family history work in helping an investigator or a less-active member obtain a deeper understanding of the plan of salvation? Do we recognize that one of the greatest influences on convert retention is the spirit of Elijah? Can we more fully appreciate the importance of heart-turning moments occasioned by the sharing of family stories as a means of finding people to teach by both members and missionaries? Can we help those we serve access more often the powers of godliness by participating worthily in ordinances such as the sacrament and baptisms and confirmations for the dead?

May you see clearly, hear unmistakably, and ever remember the importance of your service in the Lord’s work of changing, turning, and purifying hearts. ■

From an address given at the seminar for new mission presidents on June 25, 2013.

NOTES

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 330.
2. *Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 475.
3. See *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2004), 1.
4. Ezra Taft Benson, “A New Witness for Christ,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1984, 7.
5. Russell M. Nelson, “A New Harvest Time,” *Ensign*, May 1998, 34.
6. See Spencer W. Kimball, “The Things of Eternity—Stand We in Jeopardy?” *Ensign*, Jan. 1977, 3.



HOMIE

the Heart of Learning

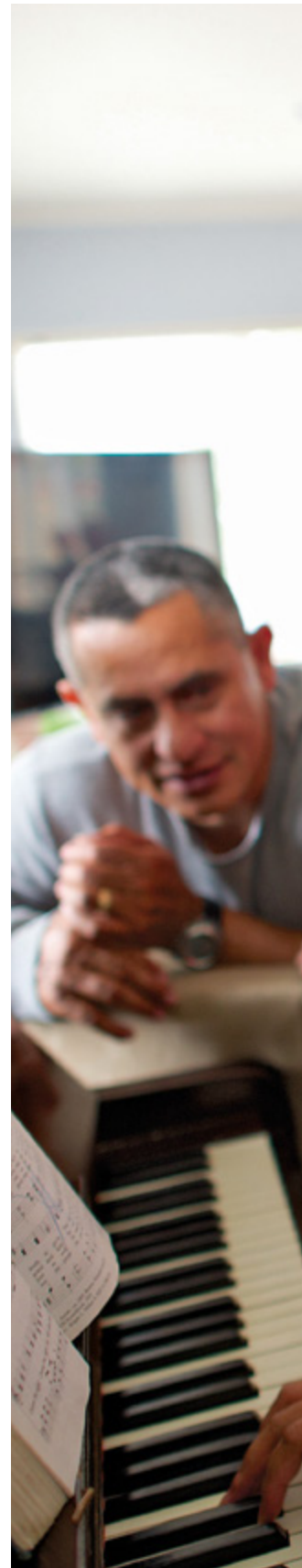
When learning at church supports learning at home, you build a strong foundation of gospel living.

Please be sure to do the assigned reading for next week's lesson." Do those words sound familiar? They often come from a pleading teacher at the end of a Church class.

And while it's definitely important to be prepared for your Sunday lessons, do you sometimes feel like your main goal in studying and pondering is so that you can be fully ready for Sunday?

Actually, it should be the other way around. All of the Church's "teaching, programs, and activities [are] home centered and Church supported."¹ That means our Church meetings are really meant to support individual and family learning. As Presiding Bishop Gary E. Stevenson taught, "The primary place of teaching and learning is the home."² When learning and teaching are centered in the home, they carry power that can lead to conversion.

That's the message of the 2014 annual auxiliary training, *Learning and Teaching in the Home and the Church*, available online at annualtraining.lds.org. "None of us are minimizing the in-chapel, in-meetinghouse teaching," says Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "We've all done that all of our lives, but we'd like it to be 24/7 out in the lives that we're living."³ As you incorporate that 24/7 learning into everyday moments in your family's life, you can establish a strong foundation for a "house of learning" (D&C 88:119) that will provide you and your family with spiritual shelter and protection.





LEARNING AT HOME

You may not always see immediate results, but when you take advantage of simple moments for learning and teaching in your daily routine, it can have a powerful effect. Here's how several families have noticed that influence in their lives.

Simple Moments

“There are times when we may feel awkward having formal conversations about some gospel-related topics. Informal teaching moments have truly blessed us to teach important lessons to our children. Also, there are far

more informal teaching moments in a day than formal teaching moments, so we really grab these opportunities to teach our children important principles. For example, I teach about honesty while grocery shopping. My

children learn principles easier when they see how to apply them.”

Mona Villanueva, Philippines



See another example in the video “The Power of Informal Teaching” at lds.org/go/221014000.





Bonding at Snack Time

“Informal teaching moments have helped me have a better relationship with my children. When we are sitting at the kitchen table having an after-school snack, we discuss what happened during their school day. Often one of them will say something that a friend said or how he or she felt when someone said or did something. I’m then able to share a personalized testimony and discuss how my child felt about the situation. I think by having open discussions when children are relaxed, they are more willing to discuss items of importance when the need arises because they have a level of trust, knowing that their parents will listen.”

Alyson Frost, Greece

Commutes and Conversations

“I drop my daughters off to school by bus every morning, so we have many opportunities to talk. On one recent occasion, we noticed a husband and wife having a disagreement. My daughters quickly turned to me and waited for me to comment. Instead I asked them how they felt about what had happened. They told me they thought a man should never talk to his wife that way. After that, we had a conversation about marriage and relationships. Our 30-minute bus trip ended up being very edifying and uplifting.”

Mario Lorenz, Guatemala

See more examples in the video “Learning and Teaching in the Home and the Church—the Home” at lds.org/go/231014000 (at 4:56–5:39).





A Circle of Caring

“My wife and I realize that it’s first our responsibility to teach our children and not the leaders’ responsibility, but we are grateful for what they do and we assist where we can. Our ward has great leaders who really focus on the youth and the children and do as much as they can to help them see their full potential based on what the parents have done. I’ve met with the bishop on a few occasions, and I have good communication with the youth leaders and often ask about my children and their progress. The fact that we communicate frequently about the progress of our children helps us all to understand how to help each of them.”

Jesse N. Arumugam, South Africa





CHRIST TAUGHT ON HILLSIDES AND IN HOMES

“The Savior [was] the

Master Teacher. . . . We would see most of His ministry being teaching. And yet almost none of that teaching was done in a church building. His teaching was out where the people were. It was in highways and byways and hillsides and seashores and in homes.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, in “Learning and Teaching in the Home and the Church—the Home” (2014 auxiliary training video), annualtraining.lds.org.

Strength in the Scriptures

“Scripture study helps me learn of Christ and His attributes so that I can become like Him. It also gives me a greater abundance of the Spirit, which guides me and teaches me how I can apply those things I have learned so that I may be prepared to face the challenges of life and the temptations Satan throws at me. Without this blessing in my life I know that I will fall short of my potential as a son of God.”

Nathan Woodward, England

LEARNING AT CHURCH

10 Principles Every Teacher Should Know

In addition to strengthening the power of learning and teaching in the home, we can also strengthen the classroom experience at church. As teachers apply these 10 principles, they will foster conversion in the lives of those they teach.

1. Counsel with parents, who have the primary role as teachers, to identify needs of class members, and then teach to those needs.
2. Prepare and teach by the Spirit. Identify questions and learning activities that will provide Spirit-led discussions and nurture class members spiritually.
3. Teach people, not lessons.
4. Focus on the core doctrines of the gospel.
5. Teach one or two key principles in depth rather than trying to cover all the lesson material.
6. Invite the Spirit by letting everyone participate (see D&C 88:122).
7. Include a powerful invitation to act—not just something to go home and read but something to go home and live.
8. Bear your testimony about the doctrine—at the end of the class and whenever the Spirit prompts you.
9. Live the gospel, and “set in order” your own home (see D&C 93:43–44, 50).
10. Find ways to let the teaching continue through informal moments in everyday life.

Learn more about these principles by watching the annual auxiliary training at annualtraining.lds.org.

NOTES

1. *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 1.4.
2. Gary E. Stevenson, in “The Ward Council—We’re All in This Together” (2014 auxiliary training video), annualtraining.lds.org.
3. Jeffrey R. Holland, in “Learning and Teaching in the Home and the Church—the Home” (2014 auxiliary training video), annualtraining.lds.org.

RESOURCES FOR EVERY HOME

Use the 2014 annual auxiliary training videos at annualtraining.lds.org to:

- **Strengthen yourself and your family.** As you watch these short videos, prayerfully consider how the principles they teach apply to your family situation.
- **Strengthen your ward.** You might watch this training in an upcoming stake leadership meeting, a ward fifth-Sunday

discussion, or a council meeting, according to the direction of your stake and ward leaders.

- **Strengthen your auxiliary.** The training resources also include auxiliary-specific training that stake or ward priesthood and auxiliary leaders can use to help you fulfill your calling in the Church.



Access these videos, along with related discussion documents, at annualtraining.lds.org.



UPON THE TOP OF THE Waters

I had been pleading with Heavenly Father to remove my anxiety and despair, but without these trials, I might not reach whatever “promised land” He was leading me to.

By Jon Warner

About six months after graduating from college, I started experiencing panic attacks, bouts of anxiety, and waves of depression. I had no idea where these feelings came from, but they were strong and debilitating.

I struggled to stay focused. At work, any new task brought such anxiety that I couldn't sit still. My mind would race, and my heart would beat so hard that I thought it would leap out of my chest. This would go on for days, and after returning home from work each day, I would collapse on the couch. Before I knew it, the evening was gone and another workday had begun.

These feelings persisted for months, even after I found a new job and sought professional help.

I prayed every morning on the way to work for the strength to just make it through the day and return home to my wife and daughter. I couldn't see an end to my struggle, and I often wanted to give up. Many days I begged heaven for help as my eyes filled with tears. I prayed with more sincerity than I ever had before, pleading with Heavenly Father to help me understand this trial and to remove it from me.

I felt lost in darkness and despair when I didn't feel the Spirit. But when the Spirit lifted me out of my hopelessness, I found the confidence to continue—if only until my next prayer. I came to rely on my Heavenly Father for more than just a prayer at mealtime or a casual nightly check-in. As a result, I grew closer to Him.

Tossed upon the Waves

In the middle of my anxiety and despair, I reread the account of the Jaredites crossing the “great deep” (Ether 2:25). I can only imagine their anxious anticipation as they entered their barges. Their journey might be perilous, but they knew they were headed to “a land choice above all other lands” (Ether 2:15).

Of their journey, we read:

“The Lord God caused that there should be a furious wind blow upon the face of the waters, towards the promised land; and thus they were tossed upon the waves of the sea before the wind.

“And it came to pass that they were many times buried in the depths of the sea, because of the mountain waves which broke upon them, and also the great and terrible tempests which were caused by the fierceness of the wind.

“. . . When they were encompassed about by many waters they did cry unto the Lord, and he did bring them forth again upon the top of the waters.

“And it came to pass that the wind did never cease to blow towards the promised land while they were upon the waters; and thus they were driven forth before the wind” (Ether 6:5–8).

These verses became personal to me. I felt that I was in my own barge, with winds of anxiety beating upon me and waves of depression swelling over me and burying me in the depths of despair. When I was “encompassed about” and would cry unto the Lord, I would break through the surface but would then be buried once more.

I read verse 8 again: “The wind did never cease to blow *towards the promised land* . . . and thus they were driven forth before the wind” (emphasis added). Then it hit me. The very wind that caused the mountainous waves to bury the barges also blessed the Jaredites on their journey. I had been pleading with Heavenly Father to calm the wind and waves, but without them, I might not reach whatever “promised land” He was leading me to.

These verses changed my outlook on life. My anxiety and depression had increased my reliance on Heavenly Father. Without the wind and waves, I might never have come to know God as I have—and the Jaredites might never have reached the promised land.

For now, a few years after this experience, my winds of anxiety are no longer gusting and my waves of depression have ceased to bury me. But if and when the tempest returns, I will call upon the Lord and be thankful, knowing that calm seas don’t carry barges to the promised land—stormy seas do. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.



NEVER LOSE FAITH

“How do you best respond when mental or emotional challenges confront you or those you love? Above all, never lose faith in your Father in Heaven, who loves you more than you can comprehend. . . .

“Faithfully pursue the time-tested devotional practices that bring the Spirit of the Lord into your life. Seek the counsel of those who hold keys for your spiritual well-being. Ask for and cherish priesthood blessings. Take the sacrament every week, and hold fast to the perfecting promises of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. . . .

“. . . Broken minds can be healed just the way broken bones and broken hearts are healed. While God is at work making those repairs, the rest of us can help by being merciful, nonjudgmental, and kind.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Like a Broken Vessel,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 40, 41.



CONVERSION
AND CHANGE IN

Chile

*The first baptisms took place in 1956.
Now the Church has 1 temple, 9 mis-
sions, 74 stakes, and almost 600,000
members in Chile.*

By Néstor Curbelo

Church History Adviser, South America South Area

During the 58 years of their history, members of the Church in Chile have shown their ability to change course, fine-tuning their lives to the direction indicated by the prophets. This spirit has contributed to the extraordinary growth of the Church there during the past half century. Today, Chile has nearly 600,000 members, making 1 out of every 30 Chileans a member of the Church.¹

An Apostle Visits Chile

In 1851, Elder Parley P. Pratt (1807–1857) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles arrived in Valparaíso with the intention of establishing the Church. However, he and his companions did not speak Spanish, they had very few financial resources, and the country lacked religious freedom, so they were unable to establish the Church.



Teachers and their fourth-grade students at the Church-sponsored school Colegio A. D. Palmer, circa 1966.

Elder Pratt recommended to President Brigham Young (1801–77): “The Book of Mormon and some cheap publications should be translated into Spanish and printed, and then the key be turned to these nations while a living Priesthood is accompanied by something for them to read—even those writings which have the promises of God, the prayers and faith of the ancients, and the power and Spirit of God to work with them in restoring the house of Israel.”²

The Church Is Established

Despite Elder Pratt’s earlier attempt, more than 100 years passed before the Church was permanently established in Chile. In 1956, Elders Joseph Bentley and Verle Allred were sent from the Argentina Mission to preach the gospel in Chile, now enjoying greater religious tolerance. In Santiago, these missionaries had the support of the Fotheringham family, members who had moved from Panama and had been hoping for missionaries to come.

The first baptisms were performed in Chile on November 25, 1956, in a pool at a country club in Santiago. Elder Allred recalls, “We went to the country club before the sun came up and had a service with prayer and short talks. I entered the water with Brother García; I baptized him first, and then eight other people after him. This was a very special occasion. What we all felt was unforgettable. . . . These members would be the pioneers of the Church in Chile and I believe that every one of them remained faithful until death: the Garcías, the Saldaños, and Sister Lanzarotti.”³

Calling Leaders

In February 1959, Elder Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles visited Chile and stressed the need for developing local leadership. One of the first local leaders was Carlos Cifuentes, who was a counselor to the mission president, Robert Burton.

Elder Julio Jaramillo, who later became an Area Seventy and a temple president, related this experience: “I received my first impression of Brother Cifuentes when I was invited to a priesthood meeting after my baptism. When the meeting began, he came up to the pulpit and the only thing I saw was his dirty, black fingernails. I thought, ‘How can this man be conducting a meeting alongside the mission president if he has dirty hands?’ That was until he began to speak and I forgot everything else when I felt his spirit. With simple words he delivered profound concepts to us. He was a heavy machinery mechanic and on Saturdays he worked late, then would

Commenting on the education program, Elder Eduardo A. Lamartine, a former Area Seventy and current Chile Church history adviser remarked, “The schools in Chile were a great influence in the academic and spiritual training of thousands of young people, and they contributed to the preparation of leaders and missionaries during the following years.”⁵

The seminaries and institutes program began in Chile in 1972. At first, students participated in a home-study program with weekly classes. Later on, more frequent classes were organized. These programs blessed the young people of the country and helped them prepare for service as full-time missionaries. Elder Eduardo Ayala, a former member

1851: Elder Parley P. Pratt travels to Valparaíso but is not able to establish the Church in Chile

► 1926: Elder Melvin J. Ballard, during a testimony meeting, prophesies on the future growth and strength of the Church in South America



► 1956: The first missionaries, Joseph C. Bentley and Verle M. Allred, arrive in Santiago; the first baptisms take place



clean his hands, but with the few means available at his shop was unable to remove all the grease. Then and there I learned to not judge people by appearances but rather to value them for what they really are.”⁴

Strengthening the Rising Generation

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Church in Chile was strengthened not only by increasingly experienced local leadership but also by new construction and education programs. These included the construction of chapels along with the establishment of Church schools, seminaries, and institutes.

In March 1964, the first two Church-run primary schools were founded in Chile. Ultimately several schools were opened, and enrollment reached more than 2,600 students. By the late 1970s and early 1980s, adequate public schools became more widely available, and the Church announced closure of the schools in Chile.

The institute of religion in Temuco is one of 50 such institutes in Chile.





President Gordon B. Hinckley addresses 48,000 Chilean Latter-day Saints in 1996 at a conference in Santiago.

of the Seventy, was one of the first seminary teachers and later worked for the Church Educational System in Chile. He said, “The Lord chose the young people who were there at that time and many of them are returned missionaries and great leaders with good families. . . . For me, seminary and institute was a means of salvation during times of so much strife in our country and I’m grateful I was called to work with the education system.”⁶

The First Stake

On November 19, 1972, Elder Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), then of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, organized the Santiago Chile Stake, with Carlos Cifuentes as president.

The preparation for the stake showed the character of the Saints in Chile and their willingness to follow the prophets. Elder Hinckley had arrived in Chile several months earlier to organize the stake. But after holding interviews, it was

postponed. At that time, many people were going through financial problems, and some members were experiencing difficulty in abiding by the law of tithing.

Elder Hinckley explained, “I returned six months later, and while I was interviewing, I found the blossoming of faith; they were once again walking in honesty before the Lord, the stake was organized, and ever since then they have grown and flourished.”⁷

Pioneers on the Borders

Today there are two stakes in Arica, the northernmost city in Chile. The story of Gladys and Juan Benavidez, the first converts in Arica, exemplifies the pioneer spirit and the divine influence in establishing the Church throughout Chile.

Brother Benavidez was introduced to the Church in 1961 when the wind blew some papers in his direction: “These turned out to be pages of *Reader’s Digest Selections* with

an extensive article about “The Mormons,” describing their life and beliefs,” he said.

Shortly after, he contracted a serious illness that required medical treatment in Santiago. “While there, I visited my sister and learned that she had become a member of the Church,” he said. “She invited me to a special conference. As I listened to the opening prayer and mentally followed the words, I felt a great joy throughout my entire body and recognized the influence of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the conference, missionaries took me up to

government. Church members suffered difficulties due to scarcity of food and medicine, frequent harassment of the missionaries, and negative media attention.

In 1973, the financial and social crisis gave rise to a military coup and dictatorship that lasted until 1990. Although Chile is a thriving democracy today, those two decades were a difficult period for members. Groups that opposed the military dictatorship attacked chapels and members because they thought the Church represented the

1957: The Church is officially recognized in Chile

1960: A powerful earthquake occurs in Concepción; the Church sends humanitarian aid

► *1961: The Chilean Mission is organized with Asael Delbert Palmer as president*



1962: Groundbreaking for the first LDS meetinghouse occurs in Santiago

shake hands with the visiting authority, Elder Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), then of the Quorum of the Twelve.”

Brother Benavidez went back to Arica and shared his experiences with his girlfriend, Gladys Aguilar, who is now his wife. A couple days later, Gladys saw two missionaries pass by her house. “We quickly went in search of them,” Brother Benavidez said. “On July 1, 1961, we were baptized, along with my wife’s family. Today we have children and grandchildren in the Church. I am so grateful to the Lord for that gust of wind that blew the information about the Church into my hands.”⁸

A Trying Period

In the 1970 elections, Dr. Salvador Allende became president and established a Marxist

interests of the United States government. Elder Ayala, a stake president at the time, said, “We would meet with the General Authorities, and they would tell us, ‘Please, apply wisdom, pray a lot, do the right things, so that the members will maintain order in the congregations.’”⁹

Notwithstanding the country’s financial difficulties and the political antagonism that divided Chilean society in the early 1980s, the Church grew rapidly. Between 1970 and 1985, the number of members in Chile expanded from 15,728 to 169,361.

The Santiago Temple

In 1980, the Saints were blessed with the announcement that a temple would be built in Santiago, Chile.



“As a young man 12 years of age, I became acquainted with and immediately came to know that the message of the gospel was true. Forty-six years have now gone by, throughout which I have been blessed, thanks to the dedicated work of so many leaders who did the best that they could. Upon getting to know and sharing with the new generations, I feel happy and trust that the Lord will continue blessing this country as the vision broadens which the prophets have had regarding Chile.”¹²

Elder Jorge F. Zeballos, a member of the Seventy from Chile



When President Spencer W. Kimball dedicated the temple lot, he was very weak; but his presence there demonstrated his love for the Saints of South America, with whom he had worked since 1959. Sister Adriana Guerra de Sepúlveda, who was interpreting for Sister Kimball at the event, said, “When I saw the prophet, a tiny person with an angelic face, I began to weep and could not find words to speak to him. It was the first time for me to be at the side of a living prophet. Seeing the Lord’s mouthpiece here

oversaw the reorganization, discontinuation, and merging of hundreds of wards and dozens of stakes. This reorganization and training were needed because of the rapid growth of the Church in the country. His leadership helped to strengthen the units and prepare the Church in Chile for the future.

In addition, Elder Holland made some important connections in Chile. Elder Carl B. Pratt of the Seventy, a counselor in that Area Presidency, described some of these important relationships: “Elder Holland established

1972: The first stake in Chile is organized in Santiago

1977: In Santiago, the first area conference is held with President Spencer W. Kimball and other General Authorities present



◀ 1981: A missionary training center is established in Santiago



◀ 1983: President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicates the Santiago Chile Temple



upon the earth and in my country was something marvelous.”¹⁰

The temple was dedicated in 1983, becoming the second in South America and the first in a Spanish-speaking country.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland in Chile

In August 2002, the First Presidency assigned two members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to preside over two Church areas: Elder Dallin H. Oaks was assigned to the Philippines, and Elder Jeffrey R. Holland to Chile. Elder Holland’s ministry and influence while in Chile is immeasurable, and its impact will remain for generations.

Elder Holland’s primary emphasis was to provide an example of leading in the Lord’s way. He helped train new leaders and



In response to the earthquake of 2010, Chilean youth and adults, Mormon Helping Hands, put together hygiene kits.



GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN CHILE



THE CHURCH IN CHILE

Wards and branches: 622
 Stakes: 74
 Missions: 9
 Temples: 1 (with 1 more announced)
 Family History Centers: 99



◀ 1990: Elder Eduardo Ayala, from Chile, is called to the Second Quorum of the Seventy



◀ 2002: Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles is called as the Chile Area President



▶ 2008: Elder Jorge F. Zeballos, from Chile, is called to the First Quorum of the Seventy

2009: Concepción Chile Temple is announced

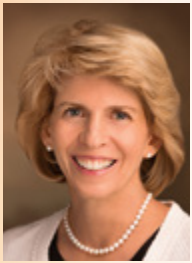
a close relationship with Ricardo Lagos [president of Chile] and his wife; they carried out several humanitarian aid projects. Elder Holland got to know the Apostolic Nuncio [a high-ranking Catholic official] and other important personalities in Chile.”¹¹

Trust in the Future

The efforts of Elders Parley P. Pratt and Jeffrey R. Holland, the sacrifices of the first missionaries who arrived in Santiago, the dedication of leaders like Carlos Cifuentes and other early pioneers of Chile, combined with the faith and dedication of hundreds of thousands who have joined the Church during more than half a century have built a strong foundation for the Church in Chile. Today the country is home to a temple (with another announced), a missionary training center, 9 missions, and 74 stakes. The future is unlimited in the spiritual work of inviting all to come unto Christ. ■

NOTES

1. See *Deseret News 2013 Church Almanac*, 454.
2. *Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*, ed. Scot Facer Proctor and Maurine Jensen Proctor (2000), 504.
3. Verle Allred, in Néstor Curbelo, *LDS in South America: Chile Sur*, vol. 1 (2008), 6.
4. Julio Jaramillo, in Néstor Curbelo, *LDS in South America: Chile*, vol. 1 (2006), 4–5.
5. Eduardo Adrian Lamartine Aguila, historic summary delivered to the author, Nov. 2013.
6. Eduardo Ayala, in Néstor Curbelo, *LDS in South America: Chile*, vol. 1 (2006), 44, 45.
7. Gordon B. Hinckley, in Rodolfo Acevedo A., *Alturas Sagradas: Templo de Santiago de Chile*, 100.
8. Néstor Curbelo, “Blossoming in the Desert,” *Church News*, Nov. 9, 1996, 8–9.
9. Eduardo Ayala, in Néstor Curbelo, *LDS in South America: Chile*, vol. 1 (2006), 33.
10. Adriana Guerra de Sepúlveda, in Néstor Curbelo, *LDS in South America: Chile* (2006), 16.
11. Carl B. Pratt, in Néstor Curbelo, *Colombia: investigación histórica*, vol. 1 (2010), 16.
12. Jorge F. Zeballos, in a letter sent to the author, Jan. 2014.



By Carol F. McConkie
First Counselor in the
Young Women General
Presidency

COURAGE TO **CHOOSE** **MODESTY**



What can we teach our sons and daughters to help them have the courage to choose modesty in a world that would mock them for their virtuous choices?



Why is modesty so important? Why would a hemline, a neckline, or a T-shirt matter to the Lord? I am the mother of five daughters and two sons, and as you can imagine, the topic of modesty has come up in our home once in a while. But over the years, I have learned that modesty is taught best by teaching the doctrine and setting a positive example. The doctrine will help our children understand why modesty is so important, and our example will demonstrate the blessings of modesty in happy ways.

What Is Modesty?

Modesty is a God-given principle that can help us learn to use our bodies appropriately here in mortality. The definition of modesty in *True to the Faith* is “An attitude of humility and decency in dress, grooming, language, and behavior.”¹ Modesty is not vain or boastful. Modest people do not use their bodies or their behavior to seek approval from the world or to draw attention to their own real or supposed accomplishments or desirable attributes.

Please remember that the principles of modesty shared here apply to both men and women, sons and daughters, and remember that even as we teach and exemplify modesty, we never condemn those who choose short skirts or “rainbow hair and the many splendored rings.”² Always we exemplify compassion and Christlike love for the individual while we remain loyal to the standards the Lord has set.

I testify that the choices we make to appear and behave modestly send a powerful message that we understand our

identity as sons and daughters of God and that we have chosen to stand in holy places.

I love this scripture: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? . . . The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Corinthians 3:16–17). Our bodies are the temples of our spirits. It is to this bodily temple that we invite the companionship of the Holy Ghost. I believe that when we choose to wear modest clothing and behave with a modest demeanor, *we wear and we live our testimony* of God the Eternal Father and of His Son, Jesus Christ. We witness by our physical appearance that we are disciples of Christ and that we live His gospel.

Why Is Modesty Important?

We live in a world of good and evil, and the physical body can be used for either righteous or wicked purposes. But we know that our precious bodies are a gift from God to each of us. They are sacred. Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught, “To those who know and understand the plan of salvation, defiling the body is an act of rebellion [see Mosiah 2:36–37] and a denial of our true identity as sons and daughters of God.”³ We choose to care for and protect our bodies so that we may be instruments in the hands of God to bring about His glorious purposes (see Alma 26:3). If we desire to stand for the Savior and do His work, we must ask ourselves, If the Savior stood beside us, would we feel comfortable in the clothing we wear?

Modesty in dress, appearance, thought, and behavior is evidence that we understand the covenants we have made that bless us, protect us, and empower us in our preparation to return to His presence. When we were baptized, we stepped out of the world and into the kingdom of God. Everything must be different for us. Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught: “By choosing to be in His kingdom, we separate—not isolate—ourselves from the world. Our dress will be modest, our thoughts pure, our language clean.”⁴

Modesty is a principle that will help keep us safely on the covenant path as we progress to the presence of God. Modesty in dress and appearance and in thought and behavior will help prepare us to make and keep sacred temple covenants. To bless and protect Adam and Eve, God gave them coats of skins to clothe them before sending them out of the garden. In like manner, God has given us a covering of covenants in mortality, symbolized by our sacred temple garments.

What Are the Blessings of Modesty?

What can we teach our sons and daughters to help them have the courage to choose modesty in a world that would mock and scorn them for their pure and virtuous choices? Do they see us using our bodies to draw attention or to glorify God?

Modesty in thought, word, appearance, and behavior helps us obtain three empowering and ennobling blessings.

1. Modesty invites the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost. Elder Hales has taught, “Modesty is fundamental to being worthy of the Spirit.”⁵

Let’s help our children understand that they will not want to do anything to deny themselves “the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost” (D&C 121:26). Help them know that precious and powerful spiritual gifts accompany His sacred companionship. God has promised, “I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy; . . . By this shall you



know, all things whatsoever you desire of me, which are pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive” (D&C 11:13–14). Knowledge, wisdom, and testimony; joy, peace, and happiness—these are some of the great blessings we can promise our children as we invite them to live modestly and be worthy of the Holy Ghost.

One of the challenges of modest dress is that fashions and socially accepted behaviors change regularly. The standards of the Lord never change. Teach young men and young women to be sensitive to the Spirit as they make choices about what to wear, say, and do. As they live close to the Spirit, they do not need to be like the world.

Our children have received the gift of the Holy Ghost, and they are traveling the covenant path that leads to the temple and will return them to the presence of God. They need us to assure them and exemplify for them that they will be guided, protected, comforted, and purified as they live worthy of the Holy Ghost.

2. We can teach our sons and daughters that modest appearance and behavior helps protect us from the destructive influences of the world. One of the most deceptive weapons used against all of us is the socially accepted attitude that morality is old-fashioned. Modesty is a defense against such evil influences and a protection



Teach young men and young women to be sensitive to the Spirit as they make choices about what to wear, say, and do. As they live close to the Spirit, they do not need to be like the world.

of chastity and virtue. Listen to these words in *For the Strength of Youth*: “Before marriage, . . . do not do anything . . . that arouses sexual feelings.”⁶ Immodest appearance and behavior will often arouse sexual feelings and will break down barriers and invite increased temptation to break the law of chastity.

Elder Hales has taught: “Modesty is at the center of being pure and chaste, both in thought and deed. Thus, because it guides and influences our thoughts, behavior, and decisions, modesty is at the core of our character.”⁷ Teach and exemplify modesty to help our young men and young women be prepared to defend and protect the procreative powers within them. Help them hold sacred and preserve the expression of love between a husband and wife for marriage.

3. Modesty enables us to “stand as witnesses of God at all times” (Mosiah 18:9). The Savior taught: “Hold up your

light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up” (3 Nephi 18:24). We have a divine mandate to be a beacon to the world, to demonstrate the joy of gospel living, to teach righteousness, and to build the kingdom of God on the earth. Each of us reflects the Light of Christ when we are modest and pure and keep the commandments. Modesty is a witness of our testimony of the Savior and of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

How beautiful and how blessed are they who are guided by the Holy Ghost, who protect themselves from worldliness, and who stand as witnesses of God to the world. And blessed are they who exemplify and teach the doctrine of modesty for all the sons and daughters of Zion.

As we have covenanted to follow the Savior and desire to receive the fulness of the blessings of His Atonement in our lives, there is really only one outfit that matters. Moroni records, “Awake, and arise from the dust, . . . yea, and put on *thy beautiful garments*, O daughter of Zion; . . . that the covenants of the Eternal Father . . . may be fulfilled” (Moroni 10:31; emphasis added).

The beautiful garments are the robes of righteousness, worn by those who have kept their covenants. Are we preparing our children to put on these beautiful garments?

I testify that salvation is in Christ and that those who have kept their covenants will “have a perfect knowledge of their enjoyment, and their righteousness, being clothed with purity, yea, even with the robe of righteousness” (2 Nephi 9:14). ■

From an address given on May 2, 2013, at the Brigham Young University Women’s Conference.

NOTES

1. *True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* (2004), 106.
2. Jeffrey R. Holland, “Israel, Israel, God Is Calling,” Church Educational System devotional, Sept. 9, 2012, cesdevotionals.lds.org.
3. David A. Bednar, “We Believe in Being Chaste,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 43.
4. Robert D. Hales, “The Covenant of Baptism: To Be in the Kingdom and of the Kingdom,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 8; *Liahona*, Jan. 2001, 8.
5. Robert D. Hales, “Modesty: Reverence for the Lord,” *Ensign*, Aug. 2008, 34; *Liahona*, Aug. 2008, 18.
6. *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), 36.
7. Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, Aug. 2008, 35; *Liahona*, Aug. 2008, 19.

MY PRAYER IN THE NORTH SEA

When I was 17 years old, we lived on an island in southern Norway called Andabeløy. My father converted to the Church on Andabeløy, and I was baptized in the ocean there.

I was a fisherman by that time and was well experienced in handling a boat. My father put me in charge of our maritime taxi service used by area residents.

One day in 1941 we got a call from the doctor in Flekkefjord, to the north. A woman who lived about two hours away by boat needed immediate medical attention. Dr. Hoffman asked

if I could take him to see her, but my parents were worried about a storm raging in the North Sea. We decided to pray, asking Heavenly Father what to do. We received an answer that I should proceed.

When I eased *Tryg*, my 31-foot (10 m) fishing boat, into the sea, the weather was bad and the waves were big. After picking up the doctor, I set out through the fjord into the open sea. We were to travel to a community just north of Lista, located on Norway's rocky southern coastline—famous for stormy weather and shipwrecks.

I steered through the storm until we got to a rocky inlet, about 40 feet (12 m) across, which led to our destination. The waves, so high I could not control the boat through the inlet, were rushing into the inlet and crashing against the rocks.

"What should we do?" the doctor asked over the gale.

"We have to pray about it," I replied.

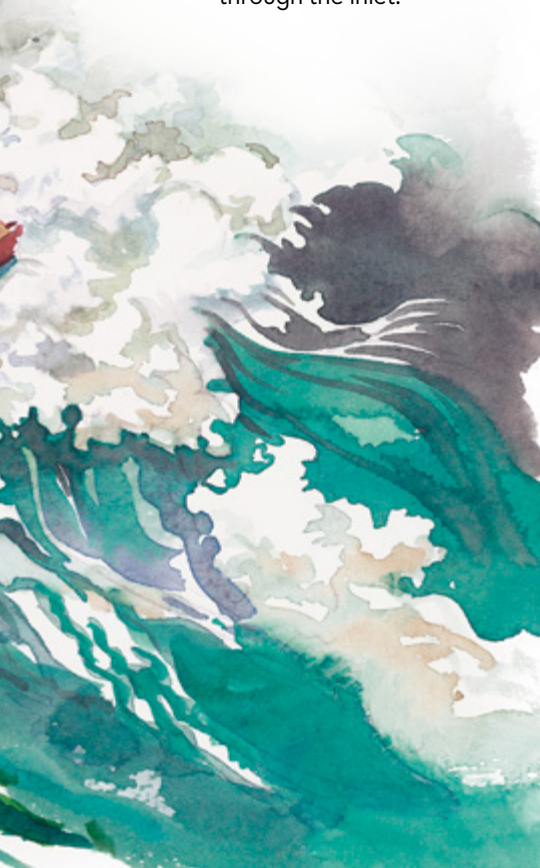
I paused and prayed, asking Heavenly Father for direction. As soon as I had said amen, an answer came to me clearly. I suddenly recalled a story an old fisherman had told me. He had



been fishing in this same area during a bad storm and couldn't get to shore. As he waited out the storm, he noticed a pattern in the incoming waves. After three great big waves washed in, a short period of calm followed—long enough for him to enter the inlet.

I had fished many times in this area but had never noticed a wave pattern. Nevertheless, I brought the boat to the front of the inlet, where we waited and watched as three big waves came in. Sure enough, a sudden calm followed. I glided the boat forward over the smooth water

The waves were so high I could not control the boat through the inlet.



of the inner bay and brought Dr. Hoffman safely to shore. He hurried to the ill woman while I waited in the boat, thankful Heavenly Father had answered my prayer.

When the doctor returned about an hour later, he declared, "We saved her life!"

Relieved by the news and the improving weather, I piloted the boat home without incident.

I bear witness that when we need help, we should pray. I know that Heavenly Father will answer. ■

Olaf Thorlief Jensen, Utah, USA

HE LOVES YOU

I was sitting in the corner of the celestial room by the organ during the dedication of the Memphis Tennessee Temple. President James E. Faust (1920–2007), a member of the First Presidency from 1995 to 2007, had come to dedicate the temple. He and several other leaders were seated behind the microphone. A local Church choir filed in and stood behind them.

A young woman I visit taught was a member of the choir. Throughout the meeting, I prayed that she would receive what she had come for. She had confided in me that she came to the temple dedication that day to find out her standing with the Lord. She had committed serious sins in the past, and though she had repented, she still

struggled to feel good about herself. She even struggled to feel good about singing in the choir.

I stared at President Faust, feeling that he, as a representative of the Lord in the First Presidency, ought to be able to do something. But how could I tell him, and how could he do anything? After the meeting, he would file out of the room just as he had come in, and there would be no introductions, no handshakes, and no words exchanged. I understood that he was busy and had travel arrangements, but still I prayed.

President Faust, deep in thought, looked at me for a while—the muscles in his eyebrows were knit together. When the meeting ended, a happy expression flooded his countenance with light.

He looked at me again and then suddenly stood up, turned around, and stretched his arm forward as far as it would go. He pointed directly at my friend. Then he said firmly and loudly, "The Lord loves you!"

President Faust's gesture was small and simple yet so powerful that it could have come only from the Holy Ghost communicating to him what I could not. Those few words blessed my friend and continue to sustain my faith that the Lord is mindful of the details of our lives and "that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass" (Alma 37:6). ■

Alice Victoria Weston-Sherwood,
Arkansas, USA

I HEARD THE CHILDREN

Clinical depression was something I never wanted to face again. But after I had been free of it for 12 years, it returned.

I was scared and distraught. I questioned Heavenly Father and prayed for the strength to make it through my trial. I also pleaded with Him that my depression would not last five years, as it had the last time.

My husband and I have three children, two sons and a daughter, who have blessed us with 13 grandchildren. Knowing the despair I faced, my daughter organized the family for a day of fasting and prayer. All the grandchildren, ages 1 to 10, wanted to pray for Grandma, and the three who had been baptized wanted to fast. It was such a comfort to know that my husband, children, and grandchildren would fast and pray on my behalf.

The next day when I awoke from a nap, the feeling of depression didn't

seem so strong. The next day it lifted even further. By the fifth day my depression had lifted completely. That evening, while I was contemplating how this miracle had happened, a voice touched my soul and said to me, "I heard the children." Heavenly Father had heard them in their innocence and had answered their prayers of humility, faith, and love.

The Savior taught:

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

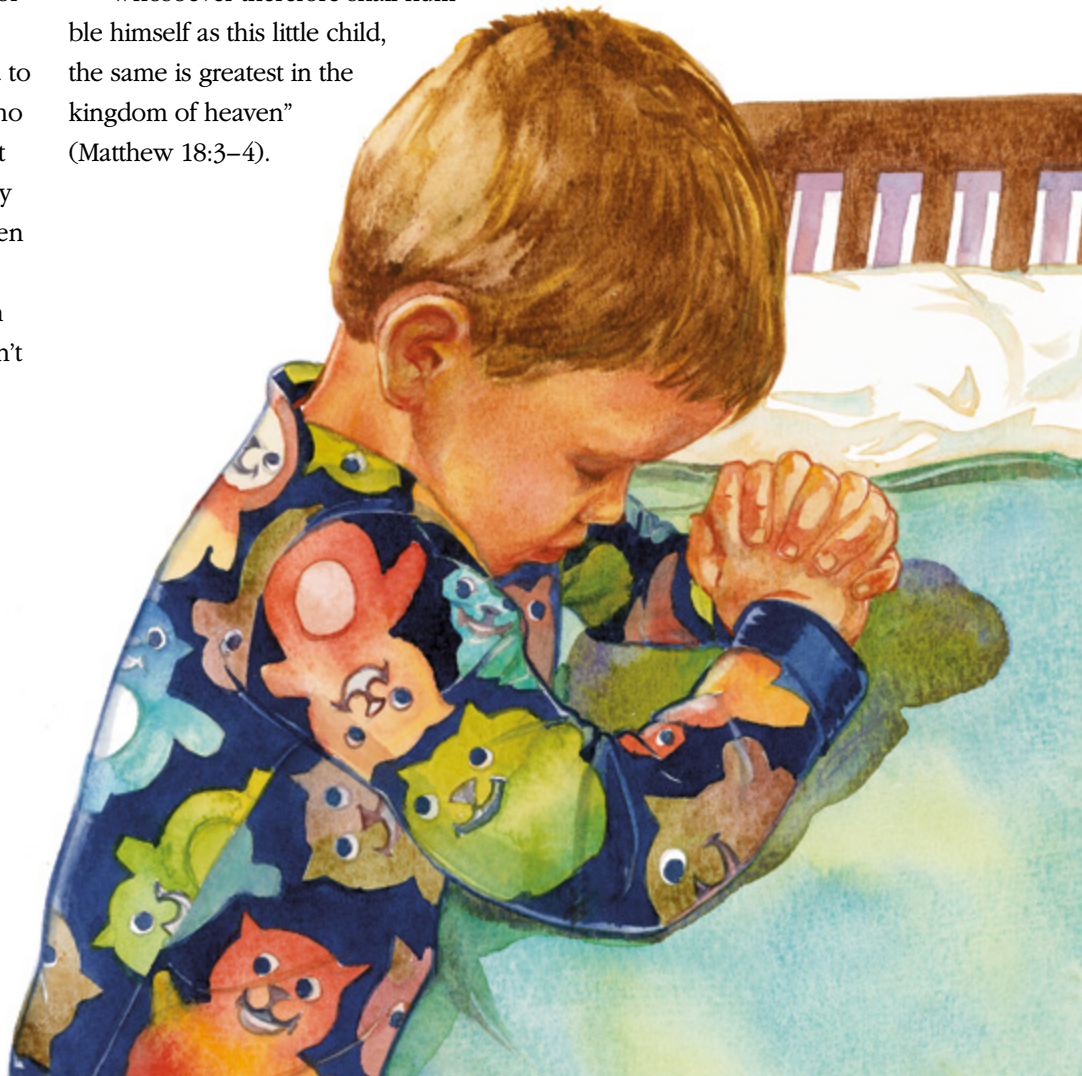
"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3-4).

I have corresponded with my grandchildren and thanked them for fasting and praying on my behalf. I told them how much I love them. I told them Heavenly Father had heard them and answered their prayers.

As my grandchildren grow in the gospel, I hope they will remember the time Heavenly Father said to their grandmother, "I heard the children." And I hope that experience will strengthen their testimony and help them stay strong in the gospel. ■

Joy Cromar, California, USA

All the grandchildren, ages 1 to 10, wanted to pray for Grandma, and the three who had been baptized wanted to fast.



HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE POISON

When I stepped out the front door to get the newspaper, I saw an unpleasant sight. A reddish mound of fire ants had formed in the night, rising through the crack between the lawn and the sidewalk.

Though my husband and I hadn't lived long in Texas, USA, I knew from painful experience that the ants' stinging bite, not their color, had earned them their nickname. I headed for the garage, where we kept the pesticide. I then read the instructions on the label.

"[This pesticide] is highly attractive to fire ants," it read. "They will carry it into their mound, feed it to their queen, and the colony will die." The label instructed me to sprinkle some granules on and around the mound. The ants would do the rest.

I was skeptical. The fire ants seemed pretty clever to me, able to build tall mounds in a single night. I doubted they would fall for disguised poison, but I sprinkled it on anyway.

A short while later I found the mound bustling with activity. I kept my distance but stooped to watch the fuss. They were as ecstatic as if it had just rained manna from heaven. They

were hoisting the white granules in their tiny pincers and knocking over one another in their haste to get the poison into their mound.

I watched in horrified awe. They were willingly taking poison into their home. Apparently, the words "highly attractive" had not exaggerated. Somehow the pesticide company had been able to make something bad—lethal even—look extremely good.

I had never seen a more striking example of how bad could be made to look good. It made me think of how Satan does the same thing. I was comforted to realize that although he can sprinkle his disguised poison around my home, he can't bring it in—unless I let him. So how could I keep it out?

One of my favorite scriptures came to mind: "For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil." With that Spirit, Mormon explains, we "may know with a perfect knowledge" whether something is of God or of Satan (Moroni 7:16).

That experience of watching those doomed ants filled me with gratitude that my husband and I could judge

and know for sure whether to allow something into our home. Our job was to teach our children to follow the Spirit of Christ so that they too could know poison when they came upon it.

As I stooped there, watching those insects transport every last granule into their mound, I vowed to do all I could to keep poison out of my home. ■

Alison L. Randall, Utah, USA

The label instructed me to sprinkle some granules on and around the mound. The ants would do the rest.



Standing Up FOR WHAT We Believe

We live in a world where many see evil as good and good as evil, and we must take a stand for good. Following are testimonies from young adults who stood up for what they believe. They did not argue or react with anger or unkindness. They showed “both courage and courtesy”¹ and, as a result, strengthened others (see 3 Nephi 12:44–45).





MY BROTHER REFUSED TO DRINK CHAMPAGNE

In France, military service is obligatory. My 20-year-old younger brother, Loïc, decided to go to reserve officers' school to become a lieutenant. At the end of his schooling, there was a swearing-in ceremony for new officers. Each in turn is to recite the regimental slogan. Then he is to drink a glass of champagne containing a rose—consuming both. This tradition started with Napoléon Bonaparte, and no officer since then had failed to participate.

Loïc told the colonel that his religious principles did not allow him to drink alcohol. An icy silence followed Loïc's request for an exemption. The colonel stood up. Instead of forcing Loïc to drink the champagne, he congratulated him for keeping his principles despite the pressure, saying he was proud to welcome this man of integrity into his regiment. They replaced the champagne, and Loïc participated in the swearing-in ceremony.

Pierre Anthian, France

I WAS INVITED TO A WILD PARTY

After college my sister Grace and I worked for a company with several other Latter-day Saints. Our employers were not members of the Church. When my sister became engaged, our employer planned a surprise bridal shower for her. I hoped she would respect our standards, but instead she ordered liquor, a male dancer, and a scandalous video.

Before the bridal shower, I felt the whispering of the Holy Ghost within me encouraging me to remind my boss of our standards. I grasped my Young Women medallion and thought of all the effort and sacrifices I had made when I was in Young Women to complete my Personal Progress. I prayed that I would be guided to stand a little taller at this time. I texted my employer my concerns, thinking that she might become offended. Nevertheless, my greatest desire was to please Heavenly Father.

When the party began, my boss didn't talk to me or even smile at me. However, she did cancel the dancer and the video.

In the days following the party, my boss didn't talk and laugh with me like she had before the party. However, I felt comfortable because I knew God was pleased with what I had done. About a week later, my relationship with my boss went back to normal. I know God softened her heart and helped her realize that I lived what I believed.

Lemy Labitag, Cagayan Valley, Philippines



I HEARD OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE IN CLASS

When I was about 18, I took a sewing class. One day three girls a few feet away from me started using offensive language. I didn't know if I should ignore them to avoid a conflict or if I should stand up for my standards and ask them to stop. Eventually, I said as nicely as possible, "Excuse me, but could you please watch your language?"

The biggest of the girls glared at me and said, "We'll talk however we want."

I said, "But do you really have to swear? It really offends me."

She said, "Then just don't listen."

I was starting to get upset and said, "It's hard not to listen when you're talking so loudly."

She said, "Get over it."

I gave up. I was frustrated with the girls, but even more frustrated with myself. I couldn't believe I'd let my tone get confrontational. The girls were still swearing, and now we were all angry.

After I'd calmed down, I saw that the girls were having trouble with their sewing machine. I knew what was wrong because I'd had the same problem earlier. So I showed them how to fix it. I saw the expression change on the biggest girl's face. "Hey," she said, "we're sorry." I couldn't believe it—she was apologizing. "I'm sorry too," I told her. "I shouldn't have gotten angry like that."

I went back to my sewing machine and didn't hear another swear word. That experience taught me that our words might not change others' attitudes, but kindness and service often can.
Katie Pike, Utah, USA



I DEFENDED SERVING A MISSION

I joined the Church when I was 19, the second of three sons and the only Latter-day Saint in my family. Shortly after being baptized, I began to feel the desire to serve a mission. After a year, the Spirit told me I should go. I talked with my mother, who felt it was not right that I go. I deferred for another year, but the desire to serve a mission never left me. During that year, I studied the scriptures, saved my money, prepared my papers, had all the medical exams, and—after everything else was completed—I waited on the Lord. Before long, I received a call to serve in the Brazil Campinas Mission.

My parents were still opposed. I fasted and prayed openly, telling Heavenly Father about all my fears. I asked Him to touch the heart of my earthly father. He did. To my surprise, my father attended the farewell party that my friends had prepared for me on the Saturday prior to my departure. And that Monday, my dad took me to the airport.

During my mission, I felt the love of God as I preached the gospel. My mom did not stop being a mother, and when I returned home, she was the first person to hug me.

I learned that serving a mission is much more than a duty; it is a privilege and a marvelous time of growth and learning.

Cleison Wellington Amorim Brito, Paraiba, Brazil



I BORE TESTIMONY OF GOD

As a freshman in our country's best university, I felt pressure to do my best. Persecution came, and I started to question my belief in the gospel as many of my professors expounded on what they professed to be "reality." Many of my classmates were affected. This environment made it difficult to uphold Christian values. I thought of quitting but decided it was better to stay. I reasoned that if there were only a few who qualified to enter this university, and among those few were only a few Latter-day Saints, then I should stay and stand for truth.

My biology professor, a self-professed atheist, taught science without any belief in a Supreme Creator. Yet the more I heard, the more it reinforced to me that there is a Supreme Being—God, our Father—who created all these things. Others argued that this idea didn't make any sense. Our discussions got more intense. I was anxious to raise my hand and explain I believe in God as the Creator.

The time came to give comments. At my school, it was normal for people to applaud, yell, or boo at those who presented their ideas. I stood boldly and said plainly to the opposing side: "Believing in God may not make any sense to you at the moment, but the day will come when it will all make sense to you as clearly as it does to me now."

Since that time, I've never received any boos when standing up for my beliefs. From that time forward, I progressed academically, socially, and spiritually. I started to become active in student activities, and I was elected to several school offices.

I learned that standing for truth even once greatly affects our future decisions.

Vince A. Molejan Jr., Mindanao, Philippines

NOTE

1. See Jeffrey R. Holland, "The Cost—and Blessings—of Discipleship," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2014, 6.

My Intertwined TESTIMONY

By Ivy Noche

Missionaries taught my family the gospel in our home in Singapore. My father did not join the Church, but my mother did. She taught us of Jesus Christ and of His gospel. Even as a child, I proudly told my friends that I was a Latter-day Saint.

I always trusted my mother's teachings. But when I became a young adult, a missionary asked me how many times I had read the Book of Mormon. I had been asked this question before, but this time I realized that because I had not read the Book of Mormon, I did not know whether it was true.

An Undeniable Fact

I could no longer dodge an undeniable fact: the truthfulness of the

For me, the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon are intertwined. If the gospel is true, then the Book of Mormon is true.

gospel of Jesus Christ and the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon are intertwined. If the gospel is true, then the Book of Mormon is true. Since I didn't know whether the Book of Mormon was true, I now felt uncertain of everything I had grown to believe in. Confusion filled my mind,

and the question—"Is the Book of Mormon true?"—remained in my heart.

My growing relationship with the Savior, Jesus Christ, also led me to a desire for the truth. The day I realized that I could not learn enough about Jesus Christ without seriously reading the Book of Mormon was the day I profoundly desired to know whether it was true.

Called as a Teacher

I prayed for guidance. During this time, my branch president called me to teach about the Book of Mormon in the Gospel Doctrine class. I accepted the calling because I felt it might be the Lord's answer to help me know the truth of the Book of

Mormon and to draw closer to the Savior.

Teaching was hard. After the first few Sundays, I knew that I would never be effective until I believed in the Book of Mormon.

Stories Unfolded Chapter by Chapter

I began studying the Book of Mormon each week and soon found joy in my reading. The stories in the Book of Mormon unfolded chapter by chapter and drew me closer to Jesus Christ.

I read of Christ's birth, which Nephi saw in a vision:

"And I beheld the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin, and she was exceedingly fair and white. . . .

"And [the angel] said unto me: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh" (1 Nephi 11:13, 18).

I read of the plan of happiness and learned that faith in Jesus Christ is necessary for our salvation. Amulek taught:

"I do know that Christ shall come among the children of men, to take

upon him the transgressions of his people, and that he shall atone for the sins of the world; for the Lord God hath spoken it.

". . . For according to the great plan of the Eternal God there must be an atonement made, or else all mankind must unavoidably perish" (Alma 34:8–9).

I read of Jesus Christ ministering to His other sheep in ancient America, and I knew that He is the God of all nations. He told the Nephites: "Ye are they of whom I said: Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (3 Nephi 15:21).

My Testimony Came Little by Little

As I read the Book of Mormon, my faith in Jesus Christ brightened and my understanding of His plan expanded (see Alma 32:28).

I testify that the Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion. The Holy Ghost has revealed to me that Joseph Smith is a true prophet who restored the Church of God upon the earth and who translated

the Book of Mormon from the gold plates. The Book of Mormon testifies of Jesus Christ and works hand in hand with the Bible. Together they testify that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God and that He is the God of *all* nations, not just one. ■

The author lives in Singapore.



THE KEystone OF OUR RELIGION

"Just as the arch crumbles if the keystone is removed, so does all the

Church stand or fall with the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. . . . If the Book of Mormon be true—and millions have now testified that they have the witness of the Spirit that it is indeed true—then one must accept the claims of the Restoration and all that accompanies it."

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), in *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service* (2004), 104.

FREE AGENCY OR MORAL AGENCY?

Wise use of agency keeps our choices open and improves our ability to choose correctly.

By Michael R. Morris
Church Magazines

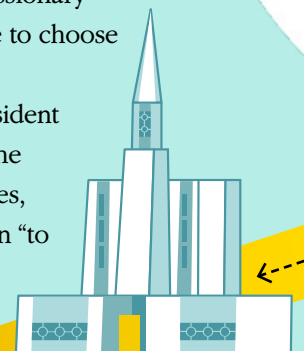
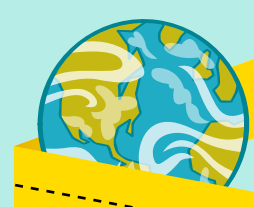
I still remember how anxious I was as I prepared to see my bishop about serving a mission. I wondered if I was good enough. Like the Prophet Joseph Smith, I wasn't "guilty of any great or malignant sins" (Joseph Smith—History 1:28), but I was nervous just the same.

I was nervous because I couldn't help but think about my friend Danny (name has been changed). For months Danny had been talk-

ing about how much he looked forward to serving a mission. But that changed after he met with the bishop.

Because Danny had engaged in unworthy behavior with several young women, he later told me, he had disqualified himself from full-time missionary service. He was no longer free to choose a mission.

Danny, in the words of President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, had fallen to Satan's temptation "to misuse [his] moral agency."¹



True freedom, as *For the Strength of Youth* teaches, comes when we use our agency to choose obedience. Loss of freedom, as Danny learned, comes from choosing disobedience.

“While you are free to choose your course of action, you are not free to choose the consequences. Whether for good or bad, consequences follow as a natural result of the choices you make.”²

Agents unto Ourselves

Because the scriptures teach that we are “free to choose,” “free to act,” and free to do things “of [our] own free will” (2 Nephi 2:27; 10:23; D&C 58:27; Helaman 14:30), we often use the term “free agency.”

But did you know that the phrase “free agency” does not appear in the scriptures? Instead, the scriptures teach “that every man may act in doctrine and principle . . . according to the *moral agency* which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins” (D&C 101:78; emphasis added).

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught: “The word *agency* appears [in scriptures] either by itself or with the modifier *moral*. . . . When we use the term *moral agency*, we are appropriately emphasizing the accountability that is an essential part of the divine

gift of agency. We are moral beings and agents unto ourselves, free to choose but also responsible for our choices.”³

President Packer adds, “Agency is defined in the scriptures as ‘moral agency,’ which means that we can choose between good and evil.”⁴ This God-given gift means we are “free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil” (2 Nephi 2:27).

Satan’s War against Agency

Because moral agency plays an important role in the plan of salvation, Satan sought to destroy it in the pre-mortal world. He was cast out for his rebellion and now seeks “to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will” (Moses 4:3–4).

Satan wants us to make choices that limit our freedom, lead to bad habits and addictions, and leave us powerless to resist his temptations. The beauty of the gospel is that it makes us aware of our choices and the consequences of those choices. Wise use of agency keeps our choices open and improves our ability to choose correctly.



The Savior’s Example

When the plan of salvation was presented in the Grand Council in Heaven, the Savior showed us how to use our moral agency correctly. He said, “Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever” (Moses 4:2). Because He was willing to do the will of the Father then and later in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross (see Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:42), Jesus paid the price for our bad choices and provided a way for us to be forgiven through repentance.

If we follow the Savior’s example, instead of saying, “I do what I want,” we will declare, “I do what the Father wants.”⁵ Using our moral agency this way will bring us freedom and happiness.

As I went to see my bishop for my first mission interview, I was grateful I had made good choices. A few months later I was serving the Lord in Guatemala—teaching others the plan of salvation and the vital role moral agency plays in that plan. ■

NOTES

1. Boyd K. Packer, “These Things I Know,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 8.
2. *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), 2.
3. D. Todd Christofferson, “Moral Agency,” *Ensign*, June 2009, 47.
4. Boyd K. Packer, “These Things I Know,” 8.
5. See Wolfgang H. Paul, “The Gift of Agency,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2006, 35.

“I’m trying to control my thoughts, but there are so many temptations. How can I have cleaner thoughts?”

Controlling your thoughts is difficult, but it *is* possible and brings blessings: “As you learn to control your thoughts, you can overcome habits, even degrading personal habits. You can gain courage, conquer fear, and have a happy life.”¹

Also consider these blessings:

- Clean thoughts will help your “confidence wax strong in the presence of God,” and “the Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion” (D&C 121:45–46).
- Clean thoughts will help you recognize inspiration, because the Holy Ghost speaks to your heart and mind (see D&C 8:2–3).
- Clean thoughts will help you obey the first great commandment: to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind (see Matthew 22:37).

There are many things you can do to have cleaner thoughts, as you’ll see from the ideas on these pages. But one of the main things you can do—and it’s a gradual process—is to overcome the “natural man.” The natural man or woman likes unclean thoughts. Here’s how to overcome it: “The natural man is an enemy to God . . . and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love” (Mosiah 3:19).

What is one thing you could do today to invite the Savior’s Atonement to bring about this change in your life?

NOTE

1. Boyd K. Packer, “Worthy Music, Worthy Thoughts,” *New Era*, Apr. 2008, 7; *Liahona*, Apr. 2008, 31.



Media and Friends

A good starting point is to choose uplifting movies, music, and literature. Choose

friends in whose company you can maintain worthy conversation and righteous activities. As you have more good things to think about, you will gradually find it easier to dismiss bad thoughts, and they will come less often.

Amber S., age 18, British Columbia, Canada

Prayer

Prayer brings me closer to our Heavenly Father and helps me concentrate on good thoughts. Daily scripture study strengthens my confidence in overcoming temptations; in the scriptures I can see examples of faithful disciples of Christ. Bearing my testimony also helps me keep my thoughts clean.

Dasha M., age 17, Kyiv, Ukraine



Scriptures

Reading the scriptures every morning before school helps. As soon as I get a bad thought,

I immediately replace it with something better. Instead of just saying, “No, don’t think that” (which is a good thing to do), replace it with a good thought. Remember, you are in control of your mind, not Satan. We are valiant sons and daughters of Heavenly Father and are



on a constant mission to improve ourselves.

Nick C., age 16, Arkansas, USA



Good or Right?

You cannot always control whether a thought comes, but you can control whether it stays. You can ask: Will this thought do me any good? Will it help me go in the right direction? When a tempting thought pops up, sing a good song, think of a fond memory, or pray. It's all about replacing the bad thoughts with something good.

Lisa P., age 17, Denmark



Lehi's Example

In 1 Nephi 15:27, Nephi tells his siblings that their father, in his vision of the tree of life, was surrounded by filthiness. But Lehi didn't notice the filthiness because "his mind [was] swallowed up in other things." This holds true for us today. If we desire to be filled with righteousness, pray for it, and focus on righteous things, then our minds will be so full of righteousness and virtue that the unclean thoughts won't have power to remain.

Hattie W., age 16, Arizona, USA

Hymns

The hymns can help us have cleaner thoughts. Good music elevates the spirit. When I am able to listen to

hymns, they always elevate me to a more calm and celestial sphere. They help me remember the love Heavenly Father has for each of us, and it becomes easier to avoid temptation.

Amanda A., age 18, Amazonas, Brazil

Family Scripture Study


When unclean thoughts come into my mind, I try to remember the scriptures my family and I read in the morning. Every morning at 6:00, my family reads the scriptures together. It's early, but it's a blessing and makes me feel stronger during the day.

Elena W., age 16, Switzerland



Sacrament

The sacrament prayer states that if we take upon us the name of Christ, keep His commandments, and always remember Him, we will always have His Spirit to be with us. By remembering Him, we



THINK ON THESE THINGS

"In this sometimes precarious journey through mortality, may we also follow that advice from the Apostle Paul which will help to keep us safe and on course: 'Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things' [Philippians 4:8]."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Looking Back and Moving Forward," Ensign or Liahona, May 2008, 90.

make the effort to push out earthly thoughts and focus on eternal ones. When we remember Him consistently, our thoughts, desires, and actions will change for the better.

McKay M., age 18, Utah, USA

UPCOMING QUESTION

"When my mom was sick, we fasted and prayed for her, but she died anyway. How can I make peace with that?"

Submit your answer and, if desired, a high-resolution photograph by November 15, 2014, at liahona.lds.org.

Click on "Submit Your Work" and enter the following information: (1) full name, (2) birth date, (3) email and mailing address, (4) ward or branch, (5) stake or district, (6) your permission. If you are under age 18, you will need permission from your parent/guardian in order to publish your response and photograph.

Responses may be edited for length or clarity.





SUNDAY LESSONS

This Month's Topic:
**Becoming More
Christlike**

How to Ask Questions That Matter

Asking the right questions can help open people's hearts to a testimony of the truth.

By **David A. Edwards**
Church Magazines

You have opportunities to teach all around you, whether in a minute-long conversation on a bus, in a lesson at church, in online comments, or in a deep one-on-one discussion with a friend.

So here's a tip for effective teaching in any situation: ask questions.

Good questions lead to good learning, and luckily, asking good questions is something you can study, practice, and learn to do well. Here's how.

Ask Questions That Matter

The questions that matter are the ones that make you think and feel deeply, the ones that lead you to truth, testimony, and change. They can cover a wide range of subjects, but they usually have a few things in common: (1) they're not superficial or merely factual (though they can be a follow-up to factual questions), (2) they have some connection to our everyday lives, and (3) they challenge us to give more than just a preprogrammed response.

Remember Why We Ask Questions

Questions engage us by introducing a gap that our minds then want to fill. Specifically, asking questions that prompt personal reflection can allow the following process to occur:

1. People become interested in what you're saying.
2. They use their agency to think about and express an answer.
3. This use of agency allows the Holy Ghost to testify to them of the truth.¹

With this process in mind, you'll get a sense for what kinds of questions to ask and which ones to avoid.

Example: Instead of just asking, "Why is reading the scriptures important?" you might ask, "How has studying the scriptures made a difference in your life?"

Remember You're Teaching People, Not Just Lessons

If you know the people you're teaching and think about their needs, you'll choose questions aimed at helping them, not just at getting certain ideas across.

Example: Instead of just asking, "What are the steps in the repentance process?" you might ask, "How do you make things right when you know you've done something wrong?"

Study and Think Deeply

To prepare to teach the gospel, study the scriptures and the teachings of modern prophets and apostles, and pray so that the Holy Spirit can be with you and those you teach (see D&C 42:14; 50:21–22).

Also, if you want to ask people questions that really make them think, you need to do that same kind of thinking yourself. Ponder what you study. You'll find that what gets you thinking most deeply are the questions you ask yourself along the way. Pay attention to the kinds of questions that make you really think. These are the questions that lead to greater insight and testimony, the same kinds of questions you could ask when you're helping others learn about the gospel.

Example: Instead of asking, "How do we obtain charity?" you might ask, "What do you think it means in Moroni 7:48 when it says to pray for charity 'with all the energy of heart'?"



Ease into Deeper Questions

Sometimes it's best to ease into questions requiring more thought and self-reflection, so you may want to ask an introductory question that's easy to answer and then follow it up with one or more questions that lead to more thoughtful responses. Here are some simple examples:

Introductory Question	Follow-up Question
How old was Joseph Smith when he went into the Sacred Grove?	When have you prayed to Heavenly Father with the kind of sincere desire that Joseph had?
Do you believe in God?	What role does God play in your life?
What have you done to serve others recently?	How does knowing that we're all children of God change the way you think about service?

If you seek the guidance of the Holy Ghost as you ask questions, you will be more likely to ask the right question at the right time. You never know. It might change someone's life. ■

NOTE

1. "You must exercise your agency to authorize the Spirit to teach you" (Richard G. Scott, "To Acquire Spiritual Guidance," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 8).

TIPS FOR ASKING QUESTIONS

- Wait for responses.
- Use follow-up questions to spark deeper thinking.
- Avoid questions that create controversy or encourage argument.
- Occasionally ask questions that prompt silent reflection.

For more tips, see *Teaching, No Greater Call: A Resource Guide for Gospel Teaching* (1999), 69–70.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Things to Ponder for Sunday

- Has anyone ever asked you a question that made you want to know more about the gospel or to change your life in some way?
- How did the Savior use questions when He taught?

Things You Might Do

- As you study the scriptures this week, write a list of some of the questions you think of.
- In church, ask a question as part of a class discussion.



By Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

HOW TO FIND STRENGTH AND SUCCESS

Some of you know what you want to be and where you want to go with your lives, and some of you don't. Some of you seem to have so many blessings and so many wonderful choices ahead of you. Others of you feel, for a time and for whatever reason, less fortunate and with fewer attractive paths lying immediately ahead.

But whoever you are and wherever you find yourself as you seek your way in life, I offer you "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Wherever else you think you may be going, I ask you to "come unto Him" (see Matthew 11:28–30) as the imperative first step in getting there, in finding your individual happiness and strength and success.

When Andrew and Philip first heard Christ speak, they were so moved, so spellbound that they followed Him as He left the crowd. Sensing that He was being pursued, Christ turned and asked the two men, "What seek ye?" (John 1:38). Other translations render that simply, "What do you want?"

They answered, "Where dwellest thou?" or "Where do you live?"

And Christ said, "Come and see." Just a short time later He formally called Peter and others of the new Apostles with the same spirit of invitation, "Come, follow me" (see Matthew 4:19).

It seems to me that the essence of our lives is distilled down to these two brief elements in these opening scenes of the Savior's mortal ministry. One element is the question, to every one of us, "What seek ye? What do you want?" The second is His answer as to how to get that. Whoever we are, and whatever our problems, His response is always the same, forever: "Come unto me." Come see what I do and how I spend my time. Learn of me, follow me, and in the process I will give you answers to your prayers and rest to your souls.

My beloved young friends, I know of no other way for you to succeed or to be happy or to be safe. I know of no other way for you to be able to carry your burdens or find what Jacob called "that happiness which is prepared for the saints" (2 Nephi 9:43).

That is why we make solemn covenants based on Christ's atoning sacrifice, and that is why we take upon us His name.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This is His true and living Church. He wishes us to come unto Him, to follow Him, to be comforted by Him. Then He wishes us to give comfort to others. May we have enough faith to accept the goodness of God and the mercy of His Only Begotten Son. May we come unto Him and His gospel and be healed. ■

From a Brigham Young University fireside given on March 2, 1997.

HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

"Jesus Christ wants us to follow Him. We need to help others and not forget that He will never, ever forget us."

Cecilia E., Philippines
.....

"To come unto the Savior, we must live up, as best as we can, to His example and let Him be unceasingly with us every moment of the day."

Allyson L., Arizona, USA
.....

Share your thoughts at lds.org/go/StrengthL10.



—FAMILY HISTORY—

I AM DOING IT

Getting started can be easy and fun. Youth around the world are doing family history and making a difference.

Where to start? Maybe you think that your relatives have already done all the work there is to do. Or maybe you are new to family history and it seems overwhelming. Whether you start by keeping a personal journal, preparing names for the temple, or learning from your living relatives, *you* can participate in family history in fun and meaningful ways.

Keeping a Personal Journal: Remembering Our Blessings

Keeping a journal is not easy. We often tell ourselves that we are too busy or too tired or that our lives aren't exciting enough to write about. I realized a few years ago that journal-keeping wasn't meant to be hard and that I could grow to love it.

I began by writing one thing a day. It didn't matter if it was really long or exciting; I just wrote whatever was on my mind or whatever had happened that day. It has already blessed my life.

One day someone in my family was struggling and I wasn't sure what to say to her, but then I was prompted to read her one of my journal entries. I was able to share a little piece of me that I had recorded in that little black journal, and I saw the way that it helped lighten her heart.

I guarantee if you will start by writing one thing down a day, it will bless your life. No matter how small or how big, writing down the blessings in your life can help you to remember them.

Gentry W., Utah, USA

Finding Joy in Family History: Searching for Ancestors

When I was baptized, I heard a lot about family history, but I didn't know how to do it or if I could. I decided to pray about it, and I felt that I should start working on it right away. I felt that my ancestors were anxious for me to begin and that they would help me find the information necessary to do the ordinances.

I began by taking a family history course, and a short time later I was called to be a family history consultant. I was nervous because I didn't know much about it, but I accepted the calling.

One day I visited my grandmother's sister, who had documents about my great-grandmother. She didn't want to share a lot of information because they had a tradition of not speaking about deceased relatives. She said the next day was the anniversary of my great-grandmother's death, and she was going to burn the documents. I asked if I could get some information from them first, and she let me. I knew then that Heavenly Father would help me continue my research.

As I served in the family history center near the temple, I continued to discover more about my family. I learned that two of my great-grandmother's grandparents were Italian immigrants who had a farm near São Paulo, Brazil. My family had lost contact with the relatives on the farm, but I found a cousin who was writing a book about the genealogy of our family. He gave me the book, which had taken him nine years to write. He said he didn't know why he should write it but felt it would help someone in the future. I know that it was the spirit of Elijah inspiring him.

My experiences taught me that we are doing a sacred work. Our ancestors are waiting for our help and are at our side to help us.

Gabriel D., Brazil



Doing Temple Work: Sacred Ordinances

I am a convert and the only Church member in my family. I've learned that one of the sacred ordinances is baptism for the dead. I went to the temple on a tour, and while listening to the host talk about the ordinances, I felt a still, small voice tell me to go to the family history center to submit a temple ordinance request for my mother, who had passed away. I was so happy when the FamilySearch account later confirmed that her temple work was done. It strengthened my testimony, and I know that one of the reasons why we are here on this earth is to help our ancestors receive the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

Marvin S., Philippines

Following the Prompting: Learning from Living Relatives

After graduating from high school, I felt impressed to visit all four of my grandparents. I had some free time, and I realized that I might not have this opportunity again, so I spent one week with each set of my grandparents.

I spent my time going through old boxes, reading old letters, and looking at old pictures. I recorded





PARTICIPATE IN SOMETHING ETERNAL

“Have you prayed about your own ancestors’ work? Set aside those things in your life that don’t really matter. Decide to do something that will have eternal consequences. . . .

“Anywhere you are in the world, with prayer, faith, determination, diligence, and some sacrifice, you can make a powerful contribution. Begin now. I promise you that the Lord will help you find a way. And it will make you feel wonderful.”

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Joy of Redeeming the Dead,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2012, 95.

my grandparents’ life stories, walked around cemeteries, and visited where my grandparents and their relatives had lived and worked. It was fun! I learned so much about my ancestors, my grandparents, my parents, and myself. I realized that I wouldn’t have the life that I have if it weren’t for my ancestors.

After my trip, I came back with about 1,000 of my ancestors’ names and have been able to do the temple work for many of them. Following the promptings of the Holy Ghost and visiting with my grandparents was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Shenley P., California, USA

Feeling at Home: Taking Names to the Temple

When I asked my dad for family history ideas in order to complete my Personal Progress, he explained that he had found some family names several years ago but had been unable to get the names ready to take to the temple on his own because of the demands on his time. My help could make it possible for these family members to receive temple blessings.

For the next few months, I spent Sunday afternoons and evenings entering names into the computer and learning family stories from my dad. We even ordered microfiche to find more information. Sometimes when it was difficult to read old films, I would say a silent prayer and then take paper out to trace the images. Out of obscurity, names appeared.

I eventually gathered a large collection of family names, and the youth in our ward helped complete the baptisms. My parents and other ward members then took the name cards to complete the other temple ordinances.

It seemed only a short time passed before I found myself preparing to go to the temple for my own endowment. I was excited but also nervous.

As we headed to the temple, my dad explained that he had found some of the family name cards I had prepared for my Personal Progress project. A few had been misplaced, so he brought the name cards for my mom, my fiancé, and him to finish. He shared with me their names, and I remembered them from my project.

As I made sacred covenants in the temple, I felt surrounded by loved ones on both sides of the veil. I felt a profound peace in knowing that I can be eternally united with my family. ■

Holly P., Idaho, USA




SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Share your family history experiences at lds.org/youth/family-history/experiences.

DISCOVER THEM, **DISCOVER YOU**

Your life has been generations in the making.
Find out where your story began.
Visit FamilySearch.org.





After interviewing me to serve a mission,
my stake president said, "Strange things will happen
in your life to try to get you to change your mind."

OPPOSITION TO MY MISSION

By Alcenir de Souza

I joined the Church at age 15, and four years later I submitted my missionary application. At the interview with my stake president, he complimented me for deciding to serve the Lord as a full-time missionary. Then that inspired leader said something that made a profound impression on me: "Brother, from now on, strange things will happen in your life to try to get you to change your mind about your decision to serve the Lord."

While waiting for my mission call, I was working as a trainee at Xerox. This work made it possible for me to obtain some of the things that I would need for the mission field and to help my mother with expenses at home. Things were going very well.

Unfortunately, "strange things" did begin to happen. First, my mother was assaulted and almost died from her injuries, but a kind Heavenly Father miraculously spared her life.

At that time, my mother, two younger sisters, and I were living in a rented house. We lived off my income and a small benefit that my mother received because of my father's death years before.

Some people, including Church members, would ask, "Are you going to have the courage to leave your mother like this and go on a mission?" Hearing this question over and over began to cause doubts in my heart.

One day my stake president called and told me that my mission call had arrived and

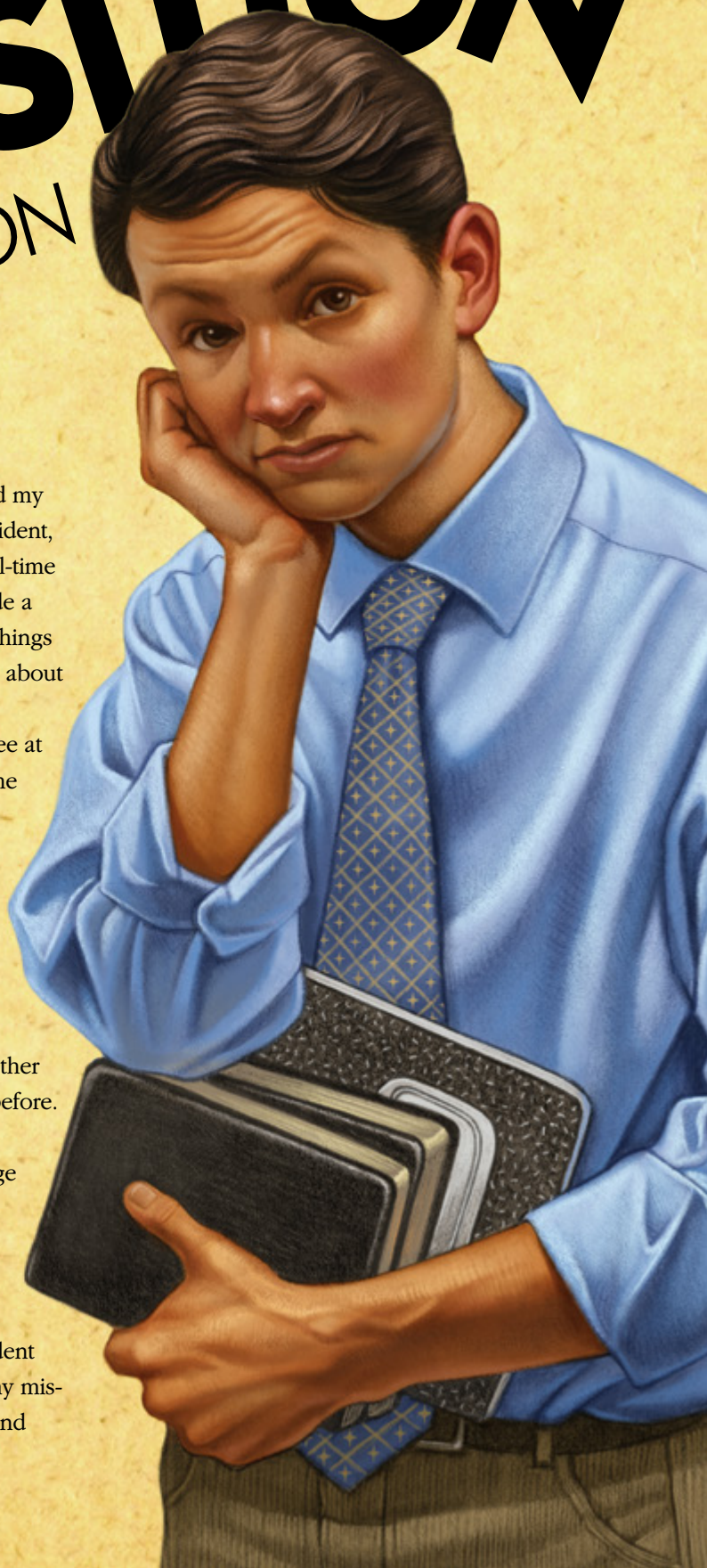
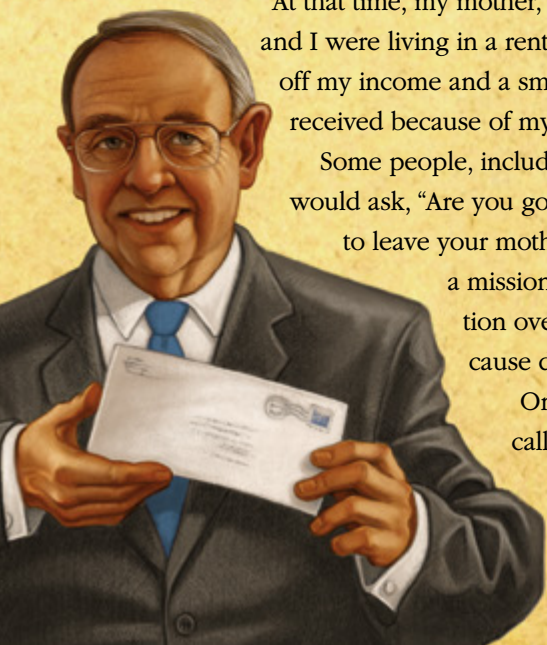


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG NEWBOLD



asked me to come to his office that evening so he could give me the much-awaited envelope from Church headquarters. I was both nervous and happy at the news.

On the same day, my manager at work asked to talk to me before lunch. When I entered his office, I was greeted in a friendly manner, and we talked for a few minutes about my training and what I had learned at the company. Then, that powerful man in the organization said something that was the dream of most of the people in the city: “You have done a good job here as a trainee, and we want to hire you and keep you on the team. What do you think?”

This was one of the most difficult decisions of my life. The seconds felt like eternity. It seemed that I could hear people asking me if I was going to abandon my mother without my financial support and go to the mission field.

Nevertheless, I remembered the things I had learned from the

scriptures and my Church leaders, and in a very sacred way, I knew with an unshakable certainty that God wanted me to serve as a full-time missionary of His Church. I knew that He would take care of my family, that I could trust Him, and that everything would be fine.

I explained the situation to my manager, and his reply still echoes in my mind: “I thought that you were such a level-headed young man, and here you are throwing away the opportunity of your life.”

I thanked him from the bottom of my heart for his offer, and 28 days later I reported to the missionary training center in São Paulo, Brazil.

During my mission, the Lord provided for my family’s needs through Church friends and in miraculous ways. My mother’s health was restored and new job opportunities arose for my sisters and her.

“Strange things” really do happen when we decide to serve the Lord. Yet I would humbly add my testimony to the testimonies of thousands of others who have embarked in the service of God that missionary service has profoundly affected my life. ■

The author lives in Manaus, Brazil.

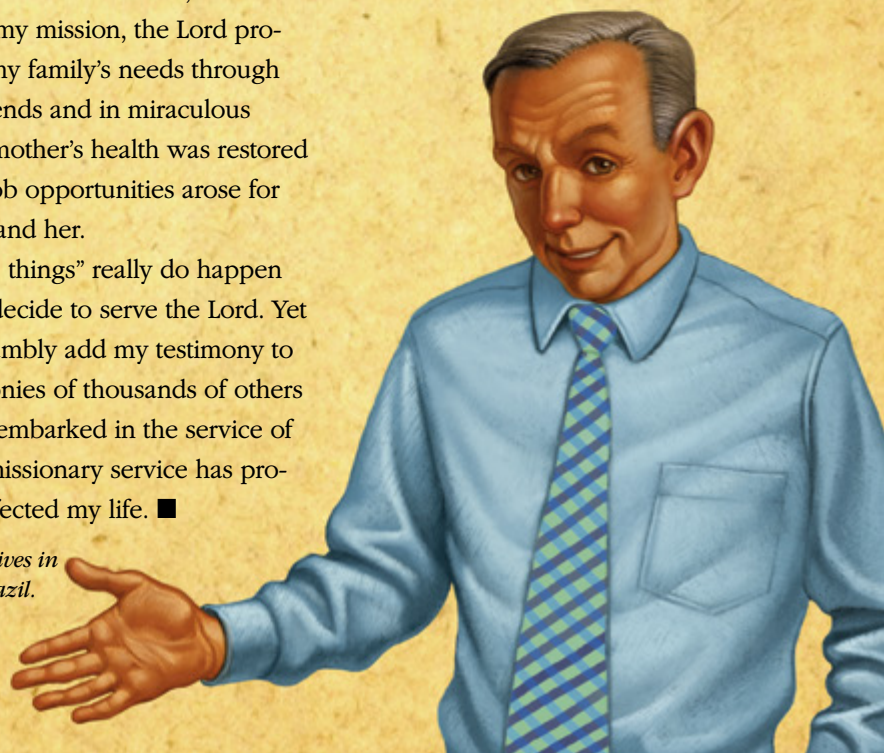


DON'T GIVE UP

“Opposition turns up almost anyplace something good has happened. It can happen when you are trying to get an education. It can hit you after your first month in your new mission field. . . .

“With any major decision there are cautions and considerations to make, but once there has been illumination, beware the temptation to retreat from a good thing. If it was right when you prayed about it and trusted it and lived for it, it is right now. Don’t give up when the pressure mounts.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence,” *Ensign*, Mar. 2000, 9; *Liahona*, June 2000, 38.





LEARNING MORE ABOUT WHAT'S IN STORE

Youth in Oslo, Norway, spent a day preparing for life as a full-time missionary.

By Cathrine Apelseth-Aanensen

Since President Thomas S. Monson announced the change in age for missionary service, youth all over the Church have eagerly responded not only to the invitation to serve but also to the invitation to *prepare* to serve. And one way to prepare is to learn more about what's in store when you become a full-time missionary.

Some youth in Norway did exactly that during a day-long "Missionary Experience" hosted by the Fredrikstad Ward of the Oslo Norway Stake.

Entering the "MTC"

The youth gathered at the meeting-house in a room that represented a missionary training center. "We received an assignment to learn about a country," says Jakob R. of the Moss Ward. "It gave us a feeling for what it must be like to receive a mission call and know that you could be called to a place that's different from what you are used to."

Meeting the "Mission President"

"Then we went next door to meet a returned missionary who was playing the role of a mission president," says Simon W. of the Oslo Ward. The returned missionary and other returned missionaries talked about what to expect while serving a mission. "I thought it was really neat to learn from returned missionaries what to expect during a full-time mission," Simon says. Participants also received a name badge, were assigned a companion, and were instructed to remain with their companion at all times.

Developing Skills

Workshops taught the youth about developing spiritually but also about managing temporal needs such as



IMAGE OF FRAMES BY LUKAS_ZB/ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

doing laundry, following a budget, and staying in good physical condition.

“I particularly enjoyed the workshop about how to start gospel conversations,” says Inger Sofie J. of the Oslo Ward. “That’s something I can start doing right now.”

“I enjoyed discussing how to use *Preach My Gospel*,” says Karl Frederik O. of the Fredrikstad Ward. “I had always thought that missionaries had their own list of scriptures to learn, but I found out that what I’m already doing in seminary will help me as a missionary and so will what I’m already studying in *Preach My Gospel*.”

Many young men said that one of the most memorable workshops included hands-on experience with ironing a white shirt. “It reminded me that there are a lot of practical skills I can work on to get ready for a full-time mission,” says Jakob.

“I learned that there is a lot I can be doing right now to join with the full-time missionaries serving here so that we are all part of the same team,” says Sarah R. of the Sandvika Ward. “Members are missionaries too.”

As a reminder that missionaries serve all over the world, refreshments featured recipes from a variety of nations. “That reminded me that I should try new foods now so that I’m used to trying things I don’t eat all the time. That will help me to adjust more quickly if I am called to a place where they eat things I’m not used to,” says Simon.

Getting Ready

“At the end of the day, after we heard the testimonies of two of the youth and two newly returned missionaries, we sang the hymn ‘Called to Serve,’” says Liss Andrea O. of the Fredrikstad Ward. “I felt that if I keep singing this hymn all the time, I will have a constant reminder that when we are missionaries, we are serving Heavenly Father and He will bless us.”

By the end of the day, the youth in the stake understood that not only are they preparing for a full-time missionary experience but that they can have missionary experiences right now and through the rest of their lives. ■

The author lives in Oslo, Norway.

WHAT IS MISSIONARY LIFE LIKE?

Discover more about preparing for missionary service with videos, other resources, and answers to frequently asked questions at youth.lds.org (click “Missionary Preparation”).



THE MOST IMPORTANT PREPARATION

“The single most important thing you can do to prepare for a call to serve is to become a missionary long before you go on a mission.”

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Becoming a Missionary,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2005, 45.



SERVING Now to SERVE Later

By Miche Barbosa

Based on a true story

*“Serve the Lord with all your heart”
(1 Samuel 12:20).*

“I’ll race you to the church!”
Mórmon said, pointing to
the church steeple poking out
above the palm trees. Then he ran
as fast as he could to stay ahead

of his younger brother, Morian.

The boys and their parents had
already walked about a mile from
their home, but Mórmon and Morian
were still racing hard when they

reached the metal gate outside their
ward meetinghouse. They stopped to
catch their breath.

Before they could decide who
won, a boy called out to them,
“Want to play *futebol*?”

Mórmon loved *futebol*, but he and
his family were going to clean the
ward building so it would be ready
for church the next day.

Mórmon shook his head. “Not
now—maybe later!” he called back.

Soon Mórmon and Morian were
working hard. Mórmon moved
chairs and swept floors with his dad
while Morian mopped floors with
his mom.

Later the boys were washing
mirrors in the bathroom together.
“I didn’t think I’d like cleaning the
church, but it’s fun,” Morian said.
“What about you, Mórmon? Is that
why you came instead of playing
futebol?”





Mórmon thought about his dad. He was the bishop of their ward, but he still took time to help clean the meetinghouse.

“I’m here because I want to be like Dad,” Mórmon said.

Then he thought about the missionaries in his ward. They were busy knocking on doors and sharing the Book of Mormon with others. They would invite people to come to church at the building the boys were cleaning.

“I’m here because someday I want to serve a mission too,” Mórmon thought. “I can help the missionaries by getting the church ready.”

Mórmon thought about tomorrow, when he and his brother would get up at 6:00 a.m., walk to church in their white shirts and ties, and prepare the chairs and songbooks in the Primary room.

“I’m here because I want to serve in a Church calling,” he thought.

Mórmon thought about how he would soon be a deacon. He would pass the sacrament and do many other things to serve.

“I’m here because next year I will receive the priesthood, and I want to do everything I can now to get ready.”

Mórmon had already done

something to prepare for the priesthood: he had earned his Faith in God Award. He was already learning to live the gospel and serve others.

Finally he looked at his brother’s reflection in the mirror and smiled.

“I’m here because I love the Lord,” he said, “and because serving now will help me get ready to serve later.” ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.

PREPARING FOR THE PRIESTHOOD



Tips from David L. Beck, Young Men general president:

- Invite the Spirit into your life and choose friends who help you choose the right. Live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.
- Learn about what your duties will be as a deacon. Read about the priesthood in *Fulfilling My Duty to God* and *True to the Faith*. Attend a Priesthood Preview in your ward or branch.
- Prepare to go to the temple to do baptisms for the dead.
- Get excited for fun activities and devotionals with other youth.
- Know that Heavenly Father trusts you and is counting on you. Discover how much you can do with His help!

MATHILDE

Gets Ready for Young Women

By Jenn Wilks, Utah, USA

Mathilde was excited about going into Young Women soon, but she wasn't quite sure what to expect. So she talked to her grandma. Her grandma is Sister Bonnie Oscarson, the Young Women general president. She had some great advice to share!

Ask your mom or grandma or one of the women in your ward what they remember about Young Women. You might find out some fun things.

FUN FACT

Mathilde calls her grandma "Mo," which is short for *moder*, the Swedish word for mother.

Then . . .



When Sister Oscarson was in Young Women, she earned badges by completing different achievements. She sewed them onto a special cloth band, along with a flower that represents faithfulness.





SISTER OSCARSON'S TIPS FOR GETTING READY!

- Develop a relationship with your Heavenly Father by praying and reading the scriptures.
- Find out about the Personal Progress program.
- Read the scriptures, *For the Strength of Youth*, and the *Liahona*.
- Start learning the Young Women theme. You'll be repeating it every week along with all the young women.

WE ARE DAUGHTERS of our Heavenly Father, who loves us, and we love Him.
 WE WILL "STAND as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places" (Mosiah 18:9) as we strive to live the Young Women values, which are:

**FAITH · DIVINE NATURE
 INDIVIDUAL WORTH · KNOWLEDGE
 CHOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
 GOOD WORKS · INTEGRITY
 AND VIRTUE.**

WE BELIEVE as we come to accept and act upon these values, WE WILL BE PREPARED to strengthen home and family, make and keep sacred covenants, receive the ordinances of the temple, and enjoy the blessings of exaltation.



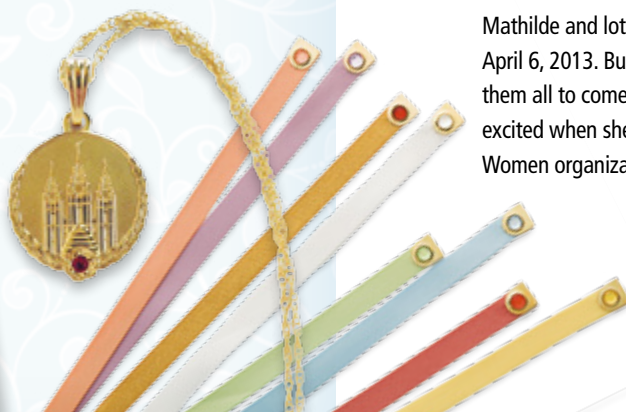
... and Now



This necklace will remind you to be a light for others and to stand for truth and righteousness.

You'll also earn ribbons by completing Personal Progress experiences and projects.

Then you'll receive the Young Women Recognition, which includes a medallion.



NEW BEGINNINGS

Mathilde went to a special activity called New Beginnings. They had a fun lesson and learned about Personal Progress.

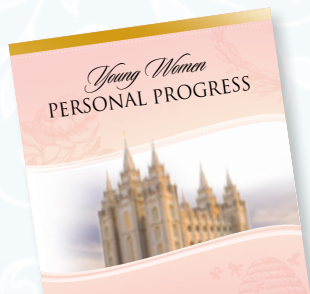
Mathilde is also working on her Faith in God Award and memorizing the Articles of Faith.

MATHILDE CAN'T WAIT FOR . . .

- Activities every week.
- Getting to know the other girls in Young Women.
- Going to Young Women camp.

A SPECIAL MEMORY

Mathilde and lots of her cousins were in the Conference Center on April 6, 2013. But they didn't know why their grandma had invited them all to come to general conference. They were surprised and excited when she was sustained as the president of the Young Women organization!



Our Time to Shine

Boldly ♩. = 58-68

Words by Jan Pinborough
Music by Janice Kapp Perry

F C F Gm7 C7 F

Girls
1. Like Es-ther of old I'll stand, true to the Lord's com-mands, De-
2. Like A-bish I'll serve with might, spread-ing the gos - pel light. I'll

B♭ C7 A7 Dm G7 C7

Boys
fend-ing with cour-age and serv-ing with faith in Heav-en - ly Fa - ther's plan. Like
tell those I meet of its won-der - ful truths. My faith in the Lord burns bright. Mo -

F C F Gm7 C7 F

Ne - phi of old I'll stand, bless-ing my fel - low man, Pro -
ro - ni, who stood for right, nev - er gave up the fight. Like

B♭ C7 A7 Dm Gm7 C7 F *Chorus*

Girls & Boys
tect-ing with hon-or and show-ing res-pect for Heav-en - ly Fa - ther's plan.
him I will strive to be no - ble and true. I'm hold-ing my ban - ner high. It's our

B♭ F C F B♭ F Gm7 C7 F

time to shine, our time to pre-pare. We have learned God's word. We're read-y to share!

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I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

I can strengthen my family by

You Can!



Decorate a clean, empty can with this label (at right) and some photos or drawings. Fill in the word strips with ideas about how you can strengthen your family. Cut out the word strips and put them in the can. Each day choose a word strip from the can and do what it says. As you try to live your ideas, you can make a difference in your family!



SPECIAL WITNESS



By Elder
Quentin L. Cook

Of the Quorum of the
Twelve Apostles

*The members of the
Quorum of the Twelve
Apostles are special
witnesses of Jesus Christ.*

How can I help with family history work?

*Elder Cook suggests having
a Family Tree gathering.*

Here's how!

Have everyone in your family bring family histories, stories, and photos. Include special things that belonged to your grandparents and parents.

It's exciting to learn about the lives of family members—where they came from and how they lived.

Find out what temple ordinances still need to be done and make assignments for the temple work.

Help scan and upload these stories and photos to Family Tree at FamilySearch.org.





I'm Bárbara from Chile

From an interview by
Amie Jane Leavitt

Bárbara lives in Chile, a country on the western coast of South America. It is long and skinny and shaped like a ribbon. Some areas are hot and dry (like the Atacama Desert), and some are tropical and wet (like Easter Island). She lives in Chile's capital, Santiago. ■

The author lives in Utah, USA.



I am the only member of the Church in my school class. This gives me chances to tell my friends about Jesus Christ and the Book of Mormon. One time my best friend asked me to teach her how to pray. So I did. Then we both said a prayer over lunch at school.



I am nine years old and have two younger brothers. I try to be a good older sister and help take care of them and play games with them. I like taking care of children. I want to be a teacher when I grow up.

In 2013 I turned eight and was baptized and confirmed by my dad. I was so excited! It was a special experience that I'll always remember.



*¡Hola,
amigos!**

** "Hello, friends!" in Spanish*

We celebrate fun holidays in Chile. September 18th is Independence Day, and the 19th is Armed Forces Day. During these two days, we dance our national dance called "La Cueca" and eat yummy meat turnovers called empanadas.



On the weekends, my family loves to hike and drive four-wheelers in the mountains near our home. We also like to go to the beach.



We have a special Christmas meal—tomatoes stuffed with tuna. In Chile, Santa Claus comes at exactly midnight on Christmas Eve. We even get to stay awake until he comes!



I LOVE TO SEE THE TEMPLE

The Santiago Chile Temple was the first temple built in a Spanish-speaking country. It was dedicated September 15, 1983. It was the second temple built in South America.



READY TO GO!

Bárbara's bag is packed with some of her favorite things. Which of these things would you pack in your bag?



OUR PAGE



One day, shortly before I was baptized, I was at my grandmother's house when she went to the basement to get something. She tripped and fell and couldn't get up. She called to me, but I was watching TV and didn't hear her. After about 10 minutes, I heard my name quietly, "Tom!" I went to look for her and found her lying on the floor. I was not strong enough to help her up, so I ran to a neighbor's house. She came and helped Grandmother up.

Grandmother told me, "Tom, that was the Holy Ghost that you heard. I was too far away for you to hear me."

I know it was the Holy Ghost who whispered to me. Now I am baptized, and I am glad to have the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Tom R., age 8, Germany



Liu C., age 7, Ecuador



Natalia A., age 10, Colombia



Thierry M., age 7, from Brazil, likes attending Primary and singing hymns. She knows that the temple is the house of the Lord.



Olivia I., age 8, from Romania, likes to help her mother clean the house. Her mother teaches her and 13 of her friends, and when they take a break she likes to pretend that she is the teacher. She likes to go on trips with her parents and spend time with her grandparents. When she was baptized she felt very close to Heavenly Father, and she is grateful that she can have the Holy Ghost to help her make decisions. Her favorite Primary song is "Follow the Prophet" (Children's Songbook, 110).



You can submit your drawing, photo, or experience online at liahona.lds.org, by email to liahona@ldschurch.org with "Our Page" in the subject line, or by mail to:

Liahona, Our Page
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT, 84150-0024, USA

Each submission must include the child's full name, gender, and age (3 to 11 years old) plus the parent's name, ward or branch, stake or district, and the parent's written permission to use the child's photo and submission (email is acceptable). Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.



By Elder Adrián Ochoa
Of the Seventy

Look Up



“Watch ye therefore, and pray always” (Luke 21:36).

When I was eight, my two cousins and I were sent to a nearby town to get groceries. Looking back, I am amazed how much confidence my grandmother and my aunt and uncle had in us. The morning skies were bright and clear as we left on our three horses.

In the middle of the prairie, we decided to get off our horses and play marbles. We were so interested in our game that we did not look up to see the dark clouds covering the sky. By the time we realized that a storm was

coming, we didn’t even have time to get on our horses. Heavy rain and hail hit us so hard that all we could do was unsaddle the horses and take cover under the saddle blankets. Then our horses ran away.

Horseless, wet, and cold, we started walking as fast as we could toward a nearby town. It was late when we found a home and knocked on the door. The family there dried us off, fed us delicious bean burritos, and then put us to bed in a room with a dirt floor.

My cousins and I woke up in the morning to a bright sun and beautiful

sky. A man knocked on the door looking for three lost boys. I will never forget what we saw on our way home—a crowd of people who had been looking for us all night. In front of them all were my loving grandmother and my uncle and aunt. They hugged us and cried, happy they had found their lost children.

Our loving Heavenly Father is mindful of us. He is anxiously awaiting our return home. There are signs of spiritual storms all around us. Let us look up and prepare ourselves by strengthening our testimonies every day. ■

From “Look Up,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 102.

A Family Team



It's easier to win when everyone works together.

By Sheralee Hardy

Based on a true story

“When we’re helping, we’re happy” (Children’s Songbook, 198).

Ammon sighed as he and Dad left the football game. “I don’t get it,” he said. “We have so many good players. Why can’t we score?”

Dad was a good football player. Maybe he could help.

“I think you need to

learn to work as a team,” Dad said. “You all want to score goals, right?”

“Yes,” Ammon said. “But we can’t all be the one to score. Is that what you mean?”

Dad nodded. “You can’t score a goal on your own. First the defenders need to take the ball from the other team, right?”

Ammon laughed. “It’s pretty hard to score if

you don’t have the ball.”

“Right,” Dad said. “Then the defenders give it to someone who can score. No one can do it alone.”

“I guess,” Ammon said.

When they got home, Mom was holding the baby while she made dinner. “How was the game?” she asked.

“We lost again,” Ammon said. “But we’ll do better next time.”



“That’s a good attitude,” Mom said.

“I’m starving!” Miguel shouted as he, Samuel, and Lucas ran in.

“Boys, can you help set the table and put the toys away?” Mom asked.

All four boys groaned.

“But I didn’t play with the toys,” Samuel said.

“It will take forever!” Miguel wailed.

Dad laughed. “I think our family has the same problem as Ammon’s team.”

“What’s that?” Samuel asked.

“We aren’t working together,” Ammon said.

“We all want to score a goal by eating dinner. But we’re leaving it all to Mom.”

“Right!” Dad said. “How can we work as a team?”

Ammon had an idea. “What if Samuel and I set the table? The other boys can pick up the toys.”

“Great idea!” Dad said.

Soon dinner was ready. Ammon folded his arms for prayer. He was glad his family had worked as a team. He hoped his football team could do the same. ■

The author lives in Alberta, Canada.



By Elder
M. Russell Ballard
Of the Quorum of
the Twelve Apostles

DECEPTIONS

Autumn is a particularly exciting time for the fly fishermen, for this is the time trout are driven by an almost insatiable hunger to feast in order to fortify their bodies against the scarcity of winter food.

The goal of the fly fisherman is to catch trout through skillful deception. The adept fisherman studies trout behavior, weather, the water current, and the types of insects trout eat and when those insects hatch. He will often craft by hand the lures he uses. He knows these artificial insects embedded with tiny hooks need to be a perfect deception because the trout will identify even the slightest flaw and reject the fly.

What a thrill it is to watch a trout break the surface of the water, inhale the fly, and resist until it is finally exhausted and reeled in. The test is the pitting of the fisherman's knowledge and skill against the noble trout.

The use of artificial lures to fool and catch a fish is an example of the way Lucifer often tempts, deceives, and tries to ensnare us.



Like the fly fisherman who knows that trout are driven by hunger, Lucifer knows our "hunger," or weaknesses, and tempts us with counterfeit lures which, if taken, can cause us to be yanked from the stream of life into his unmerciful influence. And unlike a fly fisherman who catches and releases the fish unharmed back into the water, Lucifer will not voluntarily let go. His goal is to make his victims as miserable as he is.

One of the main methods he uses against us is his ability to lie and deceive to convince us that evil is good and good is evil. Right from

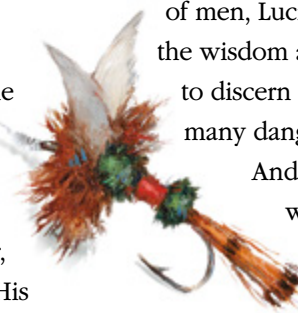
the very beginning in the great Council in Heaven, Satan "sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him" (Moses 4:3).

The battle over man's God-given agency continues today. Satan and his minions have their lures all around us, hoping that we will falter and take his flies so he can reel us in with counterfeit means.

Brothers and sisters, may we all be aware of the artificial flies being presented to us by the counterfeit fisher of men, Lucifer. May we have the wisdom and spiritual insight to discern and refuse his many dangerous offerings.

And for those of you who have fallen prey to any kind of addiction, there is hope because God loves all of His children and because the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ makes all things possible. ■

*From "O That Cunning Plan of the Evil One,"
Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2010, 108-110.*



INSIGHTS



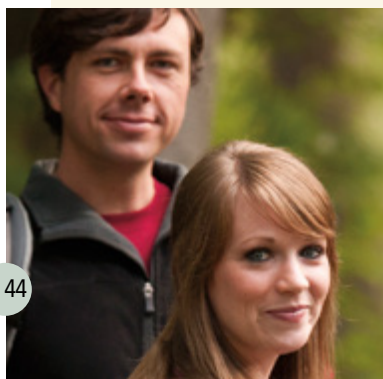
Am I a pioneer today?

“While we honor those pioneers who walked across the plains to the Salt Lake Valley, there are far more pioneers living today. They don’t push handcars, but they are exactly the same in so many ways: They have heard the voice of the Lord through the Book of Mormon and through their personal prayers. With faith and repentance they have stepped into the waters of baptism and firmly planted their feet in the rich gospel soil. As disciples of Christ, they have been willing to sacrifice for what is right and true. And with the gift of the Holy Ghost, they are holding steady in their course toward eternal life.”

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Come unto Him,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2009, 80.

Also in This Issue

FOR YOUNG ADULTS



p. 44

Standing Up FOR WHAT We Believe

Five young adults share how they defended their faith in the face of opposition.

FOR YOUTH

How to Ask Questions That Matter

Questions can be great teaching tools—if you phrase them the right way. This article will show you how.



p. 54

FOR CHILDREN



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Welcome to Young Women

Sister Bonnie L. Oscarson and her granddaughter Mathilde share some things you can look forward to in Young Women.

