

Liahona

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Preaching His
Gospel, p. 10

Finding Jobs,
Lifting Lives, p. 42

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Tithing Go? p. F8



Liahona



ON THE COVER
Photography by Matthew Reier, posed by models.



THE FRIEND COVER
Illustrated by Mark Robison.

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Family Home Evening Ideas



*This page can help you use
the Liahona to enhance your
teaching in the classroom
as well as in the home.*

"Elders in My English Class,"

p. 9: Invite family members to tell
about times when they have been
asked questions about Church teach-
ings. Read Anette's experience, and
discuss what she did to share the
gospel. Testify of the need to trust
in the Lord as we share His gospel.

"Personal Consecration," p. 16:

Make a list of the examples of conse-
cration mentioned in the article.
Ask family members to explain what
they learned from these examples.
Choose a principle of the gospel the
family would like to be more com-
mitted to and plan ways to live this
commitment.

"The Twelve Apostles," p. 26:

Choose a few statements in the article
that describe Apostles. Read each
statement until the family guesses
what is being described. You may want
to show pictures of today's Apostles
(see a recent May or November issue
of the *Liahona*). Read aloud portions
of the article that tell about the role of
an Apostle. Review the last three para-
graphs, and testify of the promise in
D&C 132:45.

"Avoiding the Devil's Throat,"

p. F2: Make a line on the floor
using string or tape. Place

something just out of reach of a per-
son on one side of the line. Ask him or
her to pick up the item without cross-
ing the line. Use this article to discuss
how Satan tries to entice us to cross
the line.

"The Windows of Heaven," p. F10:

Display an item of clothing that would
be too small for anyone in the family to
wear. Invite family members to imagine
what it would be like to wear that item.
Read this story. Discuss the blessings of
paying a full tithe. Share an experience
of how paying tithing has opened the
windows of heaven for you.

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The Profound Power of Gratitude

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

While journeying to Jerusalem, Jesus “passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

“And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

“And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

“And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

“And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

“And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

“There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

“And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.”¹

From the 30th Psalm, David pledges, “O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.”²

The Apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Corinthians, proclaimed, “Thanks be unto

God for his unspeakable gift.”³ And to the Thessalonians, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God.”⁴

Do we give thanks to God “for his unspeakable gift” and His rich blessings so abundantly bestowed upon us?

Do we pause and ponder Ammon’s words? “Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, whatsoever land they may be in; yea, he numbereth his people, . . . over all the earth. Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever.”⁵

Robert W. Woodruff, a prominent business leader of a former time, toured the United States giving a lecture which he entitled “A Capsule Course in Human Relations.” In his message, he said that the two most important words in the English language are these: “Thank you.”

Gracias, danke, merci—whatever language is spoken, “thank you” frequently expressed will cheer your spirit, broaden your friendships, and lift your lives to a higher pathway as you journey toward perfection. There is a simplicity—even a sincerity—when “thank you” is spoken.

The beauty and eloquence of an expression



Do we give thanks to God for His rich blessings so abundantly bestowed upon us?

of gratitude is reflected in a newspaper story of some years ago:

The District of Columbia police auctioned off about 100 unclaimed bicycles Friday. "One dollar," said an 11-year-old boy as the bidding opened on the first bike. The bidding, however, went much higher. "One dollar," the boy repeated hopefully each time another bike came up.

The auctioneer, who had been auctioning stolen or lost bikes for 43 years, noticed that the boy's hopes seemed to soar higher whenever a racer-type bicycle was put up.

Then there was just one racer left. The bidding went to eight dollars. "Sold to that boy over there for nine dollars!" said the auctioneer. He took eight dollars from his own pocket and asked the boy for his dollar. The youngster turned it over in pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters—took his bike, and started to leave. But he went only a few feet. Carefully parking his new possession, he went back, gratefully threw his arms around the auctioneer's neck, and cried.

When was the last time we felt gratitude as deeply as did this boy? The deeds others perform in our behalf might not be as poignant, but certainly there are kind acts that warrant our expressions of gratitude.

The song frequently sung in the Sunday School of our youth placed the spirit of thanksgiving into the depths of our souls:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings; name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.⁶*

Astronaut Gordon Cooper, while orbiting the earth over 40 years ago, offered this sweet and simple prayer of thanks: "Father, thank You, especially for letting me fly this flight. Thank You for the privilege of being able to be in this position: to be up in this wondrous place, seeing all these



**Orbiting the earth,
astronaut Gordon
Cooper prayed,
"Father, thank You,
especially for letting
me [see] all these
many startling,
wonderful things that
You have created."**

many startling, wonderful things that You have created."⁷

We are thankful for blessings we cannot measure, for gifts we cannot appraise, "for books, music, art, and for the great inventions which make these blessings available[;] . . . for the laughter of little children[;] . . . for the . . . means for relieving human suffering . . . and increasing . . . the enjoyment of life[;] . . . for everything good and uplifting."⁸

The prophet Alma urged, "Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day."⁹

I would like to mention three instances where I believe a sincere "thank you" could lift a heavy heart, inspire a good deed, and bring heaven's blessings closer to the challenges of our day.

First, may I ask that we express thanks to our parents for life, for caring, for sacrificing, for laboring to provide a knowledge of our Heavenly Father's plan for happiness.

From Sinai the words thunder to our conscience, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."¹⁰

I know of no sweeter expression toward a parent than that spoken by our Savior upon the cross: "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

"Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."¹¹

Next, have we thought on occasion of a certain teacher at school or at church who seemed to quicken our desire to learn, who instilled in us a commitment to live with honor?

The story is told of a group of men who were talking about people who had influenced their lives and for whom



they were grateful. One man thought of a high school teacher who had introduced him to Tennyson. He decided to write and thank her. In time, written in a feeble scrawl, came the teacher's reply:

"My Dear Willie:

"I can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my 80s, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and like the last leaf lingering behind. You will be interested to know that I taught school for 50 years, and yours is the first note of appreciation I have ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning, and it cheered me as nothing has for years."

We owe an eternal debt of gratitude to all of those, past and present, who have given so much of themselves that we might have so much ourselves.

Third, I mention an expression of "thank you" to one's peers. The teenage years can be difficult for the teens themselves as well as for

their parents. These are trying times in the life of a boy or a girl. Each boy wants to make the football team; each girl wants to be the beauty queen. "Many are called, but few are chosen"¹² could have an application here.

Let me share with you a modern-day miracle which occurred several years ago at Murray High School near Salt Lake City, where every person was a winner and not a loser was to be found.

A newspaper article highlighted the event. The article was entitled "Tears, Cheers and True Spirit: Students Elect 2 Disabled Girls to Murray Royalty." The article began: "Ted and Ruth Eyre did what any parents would do.

"When their daughter, Shellie, became a finalist for Murray High School homecoming queen, they counseled her to be a good sport in case she didn't win. They explained only one girl among the 10 candidates would be selected queen. . . .

"As student body officers crowned the

After the homecoming queen's father escorted her onto the floor, the school's vice principal said, "Tonight . . . the students voted on inner beauty."



Long lines of automobiles filled with grieving occupants drove ever so slowly past the home that was the scene of the accident. As we drove by, we felt we were on holy ground.

school's homecoming [royalty] in the school gym Thursday night, Shellie Eyre experienced, instead, inclusion. The 17-year-old senior, born with Down syndrome, was selected by fellow students as homecoming queen. . . . As Ted Eyre escorted his daughter onto the gym floor as the candidates were introduced, the gym erupted into deafening cheers and applause. They were greeted with a standing ovation."

Similar standing ovations were extended to Shellie's attendants, one of whom, April Perschon, has physical and mental disabilities resulting from a brain hemorrhage suffered when she was just 10 years old.

When the ovations had ceased, the school's vice principal said, "Tonight . . . the students voted on inner beauty.' . . . Obviously moved, parents, school administrators and students wept openly."

Said one student, "I'm so happy, I cried when they came out. I think Murray High is so awesome to do this."¹³

I extend a heartfelt "thank you" to one and all who made this night one ever to be remembered. The Scottish poet James Barrie's words seem appropriate: "God gave us memories, that we might have June roses in the December of our lives."¹⁴

One hot August day some years ago, there occurred a tragedy in Salt Lake County. It was reported in the local and national press. Five beautiful little girls—so young, so vibrant, so loving—hiding away, as children often do in their games of hide-and-seek, entered the trunk of a parent's car. The trunk lid was pulled shut, they were unable to escape, and all perished from heat exhaustion.¹⁵

The entire community was so kind, so thoughtful, so caring in the passing of those five little girls. Flowers, food, calls, visits, and prayers were shared with their families.

On the Sunday after the devastating event occurred, long lines of automobiles filled with grieving occupants drove ever so slowly

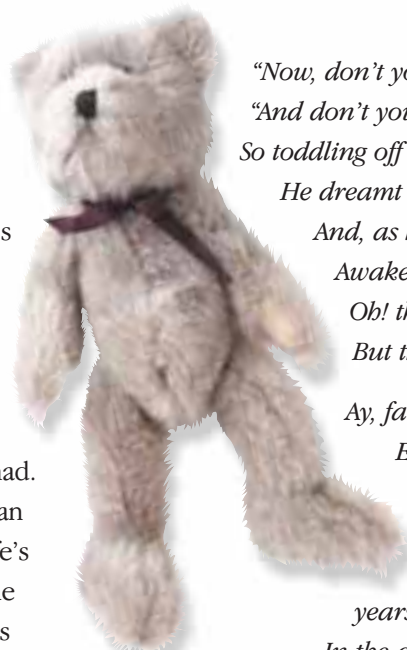
past the home that was the scene of the accident. Sister Monson and I wished to be among those who expressed condolences in this way. As we drove by, we felt we were on holy ground. We literally crept along at a snail's pace along the street. It was as though we could visualize a traffic sign reading, "Please drive slowly; children at play." Tears filled our eyes and compassion flowed from our hearts. In two of the three families involved, the deceased children were all the children they had.

Frequently death comes as an intruder. It is an enemy that suddenly appears in the midst of life's feast, putting out its lights and gaiety. It visits the aged as they walk on faltering feet. Its summons is heard by those who have scarcely reached midway in life's journey, and often it hushes the laughter of little children.

At the funeral services for the five little angels, I counseled: "There is one phrase which should be erased from your thinking and from the words you speak aloud. It is the phrase 'If only.' It is counterproductive and is not conducive to the spirit of healing and of peace. Rather, recall the words of Proverbs: 'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.'¹⁶"

Before the closing of the caskets, I noted that each child held a favorite toy, a soft gift to cuddle. I reflected on the words of the poet Eugene Field:

*The little toy dog is covered with dust,
But sturdy and staunch he stands;
And the little toy soldier is red with rust,
And his musket moulds in his hands.
Time was when the little toy dog was new,
And the soldier was passing fair,
And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue
Kissed them and put them there.*



The poet wrote of toys left to wonder about their small master, called away in death. God in His infinite mercy has not left grieving loved ones to wonder. He has provided truth.

*"Now, don't you go till I come," he said,
"And don't you make any noise!"
So toddling off to his trundle-bed
He dreamt of the pretty toys.
And, as he was dreaming, an angel song
Awakened our Little Boy Blue,—
Ob! the years are many, the years are long,
But the little toy friends are true!
Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,
Each in the same old place,
Awaiting the touch of a little hand,
The smile of a little face.
And they wonder, as waiting the long
years through,
In the dust of that little chair,
What has become of our Little Boy Blue
Since he kissed them and put them there.¹⁷*

The little toy dog and the soldier fair may wonder, but God in His infinite mercy has not left grieving loved ones to wonder. He has provided truth. He will inspire an upward reach, and His outstretched arms will embrace you. Jesus promises to one and all who grieve, "I will not leave you comfortless:

I will come to you."¹⁸

There is only one source of true peace. I am certain that the Lord, who notes the fall of a sparrow, looks with compassion upon those who have been called upon to part—even temporarily—from their precious children. The gifts of healing and of peace are desperately needed, and Jesus, through His Atonement, has provided them for one and all.

The Prophet Joseph Smith spoke inspired words of revelation and comfort:

"All children who die before they arrive at the years of accountability are saved in the celestial kingdom of heaven."¹⁹

"The mother [and father] who laid down [their] little child[ren], being deprived of the privilege, the joy, and the

satisfaction of bringing [them] up to manhood or womanhood in this world, would, after the resurrection, have all the joy, satisfaction and pleasure, and even more than it would have been possible to have had in mortality, in seeing [their] child[ren] grow to the full measure of the stature of [their] spirit[s].”²⁰ This is as the balm of Gilead to those who grieve, to those who have loved and lost precious children.

The Psalmist provided this assurance: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”²¹

Said the Lord: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. . . . In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am, there ye may be also.”²²

I express my profound thanks to a loving Heavenly Father who gives to you, to me, and to all who sincerely seek, the knowledge that death is not the end, that His Son—even our Savior Jesus Christ—died that we might live. Temples of the Lord dot the lands of many countries. Sacred covenants are made. Celestial glory awaits the obedient. Families can be together forever.

The Master invites one and all:

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

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”²³ ■

NOTES

1. Luke 17:11–19.
2. Psalm 30:12.
3. 2 Corinthians 9:15.
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
5. Alma 26:37.
6. Johnson Oatman Jr. (1856–1922), “Count Your Blessings,” *Hymns*, no. 241.
7. *Congressional Record*, 88th Cong., 1st sess., 1963, 109, pt. 7:9156.
8. “Three Centuries of Thanksgiving,” *Etude Music Magazine*, Nov. 1945, 614.
9. Alma 37:37.
10. Exodus 20:12.
11. John 19:26–27.
12. Matthew 22:14.
13. Marjorie Cortez, *Deseret News*, Sept. 26, 1997, pp. A1, A7.
14. In Laurence J. Peter, *Peter’s Quotations: Ideas for Our Time* (1977), 335.
15. See “5 Little Girls Die in [West Valley] Car Trunk,” *Deseret News*, Aug. 8, 1998, pp. A1, A7; Lucinda Dillon and Spencer Young, “Cars Pass Site of Tragedy in Solemn Stream,” *Deseret News*, Aug. 9, 1998, pp. A1, A5.
16. Proverbs 3:5–6.
17. “Little Boy Blue,” in Jack M. Lyon and others, eds., *Best-Loved Poems of the LDS People* (1996), 50.
18. John 14:18.
19. D&C 137:10.
20. Quoted in Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 453.
21. Psalm 30:5.
22. John 14:27, 2–3.
23. Matthew 11:28–29.

IDEAS FOR HOME TEACHERS

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

1. Consider following up with family members on President Gordon B. Hinckley’s challenge in last month’s First Presidency Message to read the Book of Mormon (see “A Testimony Vibrant and True,” *Liahona* and *Ensign*, Aug. 2005, 2). You could ask family members to share something they have learned or tell about ways their study has been a blessing. Bear testimony of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon.
2. Discuss one or two accounts and scripture references

(see the notes at the end of this article) from President Monson’s message. Ask family members to tell what they learn about the power of gratitude from these accounts and scriptures. Ask family members to discuss specific blessings they are grateful for. Express your gratitude for the Lord and His blessings.

3. Read or tell in your own words the news article about Murray High School and the account regarding the deaths of five little girls. Ask what these illustrations teach about gratitude. Who was truly grateful in these accounts, and how did they show it? Invite each family member to express gratitude for something that has happened to him or her recently.

Elders in My English Class

BY ANETTE MALZL KNAPP

I was nervous and insecure as I walked to my new classroom with 30 other girls who did not know each other. I would be attending school with them in a Catholic private school for the next five years. First thing, our teacher asked if everybody had been christened in the Catholic Church. As I was the only one to say no, everybody's eyes were directed at me.

That was my first day in a new school in Salzburg, Austria, a school managed by nuns. I quickly became used to the crucifixes hanging in each classroom, the morning devotionals, and the nuns. However, it was unusual for my schoolmates to have a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with them. They were curious to learn what I believed. I was not able to answer all their questions precisely. I wondered how I could receive permission to invite the missionaries.

This opportunity finally presented itself. We did not have a native speaker in our English class one year. I asked my classmates if it was a good idea to invite the missionaries. Then I asked the missionaries if they were allowed to come to schools. And finally I asked my English professor if they could come. I passed out a list on which everyone wrote what she would like the missionaries to talk about. I was amazed to see that the


majority wanted to know why they had decided to go on missions, what kind of work they were doing, and how our Church differed from other churches.

Elder Allen and Elder Jones came to class and took most of the class period talking about the Church. It was awesome! After they left, I was bombarded with even more questions.

That year I was no longer the only member of the Church in my school. Because of two of my Latter-day Saint friends who began attending the school, the song "A Child's Prayer" (*Children's Songbook*, 12–13) is now part of the music teacher's repertoire.

It was not as difficult as I expected to talk about the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am so grateful to Heavenly Father for His Son, Jesus Christ, and for His wonderful gospel. I am also grateful for every opportunity to share my testimony by the Holy Spirit. ■

Anette Malzl Knapp is a member of the Graz Ward, Vienna Austria Stake.



The missionaries could help us with our English, and they could help me answer all the questions my friends had about the Church.

Preaching His Gospel

Take a look at the Church's new guide to missionary service.

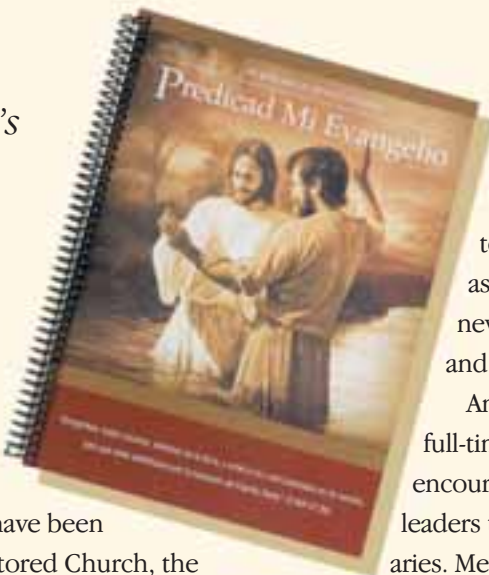
BY SHANNA BUTLER, ADAM C. OLSON, AND ROGER TERRY
Church Magazines

The guidance of the Holy Ghost has always been critical in missionary work. Although various teaching methods and materials have been used since the organization of the restored Church, the scriptural direction hasn't changed: "If ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach" (D&C 42:14).

In an effort to improve missionaries' reliance on the Spirit, Church leaders have implemented the *Preach My Gospel* manual. The manual replaces the six discussions used since 1985, introduces new teaching methods, and emphasizes more effective planning. The manual also replaces the *Missionary Guide*, the discussions for new members, and the missionary gospel study program.

"This manual is a guide to what a missionary needs to know and to become in order to be a teacher empowered to declare the message of the Restoration to the people of the world," said Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in a seminar for new mission presidents.

Missionaries no longer memorize discussions for investigators and new members. Instead they study and learn



gospel doctrines and principles in five basic lessons and create individualized lesson plans for each investigator or new convert. Other important aspects of missionary work taught in the new manual are planning, goal setting, and using time wisely.

And *Preach My Gospel* is not only for full-time missionaries. The new manual encourages members and ward and branch leaders to work more closely with the missionaries. Members will find *Preach My Gospel* useful as they assist the missionaries by giving referrals, inviting the missionaries to teach investigators in their homes, and helping in many other ways.

"[*Preach My Gospel*] will require greater effort on the part of the missionaries," President Gordon B. Hinckley told mission presidents in a satellite broadcast. "It will require much of prayer and much of study. . . . If there is better teaching in the conversion process, there will be greater retention of those who are baptized."

How Youth Can Prepare

The *Preach My Gospel* manual begins with these words from the First Presidency:

"Dear Fellow Missionary:

"We compliment you on the great opportunity you have to be a missionary. There is no more compelling

work than this, nor any which brings greater satisfaction.”¹

Becoming that future missionary is going to take some real work in the here and now. It will take study and practice and prayer.

“You can’t do missionary work without the Spirit,” says Sister Mary C. Memory of the New York New York North Mission.

Preach My Gospel helps missionaries teach the gospel using their own words. The missionaries have to be worthy of the Spirit so they know what and how to teach.

“I’m learning to feel the message in my heart,” says Elder Mason Warr, serving in the Perú Lima East Mission. “I listen to the Spirit to know what to teach.”

Elder Nicolas Gervic, serving in the New York New York North Mission, agrees: “You teach from the heart.” Elder Gervic is doing well using the new book, but he wishes he had been more prepared to teach.

Gaining a solid testimony of the gospel and the Restoration is essential preparation, says Elder Travis D. Hollingshead, Elder Gervic’s companion. “I really didn’t understand the Restoration before my mission. I knew how important it is, but I didn’t realize how important it is in my life.”

Elder Hollingshead says *Preach My Gospel* has helped him learn the gospel better so he can teach it better. He is also glad he went to seminary and studied the scripture mastery

The first words in Preach My Gospel are from the First Presidency. They love you and know you will be blessed as you prepare to be the great missionary they know you can be.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN LUKE, POSED BY MODELS

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



- Help children develop good study habits.
- Have family prayer, scripture study, and family home evening.
- Allow children to teach family home evening lessons.
- Live principles that missionaries teach.

- Emphasize attending seminary, reading the Book of Mormon, and gaining a testimony.
- Help children learn to set goals and make commitments.
- Limit time spent on TV and video games.
- Invite missionaries to teach in your home.

curriculum. “I am able to answer questions using the scriptures rather than using my own words.” To help them prepare for their missions, he encourages youth to “read the Book of Mormon and gain a testimony of it.”

Elder Paul A. Mann says “Amen!” when Elder Hollingshead talks about seminary. He and his companion, Elder Joel D. Rodriguez, are serving in Yonkers, New York. “Seminary gives you a real understanding of the gospel,” he says. He knows you need to gain a testimony before you can share it with others.

Elder Rodriguez agrees: “Get a testimony of what the gospel is and who Joseph Smith was.” It is easier to teach from the heart when you feel the truth of what you are saying and you really know the gospel.

Elder Mauricio Chavez of the Perú Lima East Mission emphasizes the importance of learning to plan well. “It takes a little longer to plan now,” he says, “but it is more effective. This planning is helping our investigators develop stronger testimonies.”

Elder Chavez’s companion, Elder Ben Beeson, explains, “Because of our planning, we always know how our investigators are progressing.”

The mission preparation these missionaries stress most is staying worthy of the companionship of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, they could not teach effectively (see D&C 42:14).

Sister Valeree Price, Sister Memory’s companion, says,



“I wish I had prepared better for my mission by putting more emphasis on things that are important.”

“Yes,” says Sister Memory, “we can quote movies, but it’s hard to quote the scriptures. What a waste!”

Elder Jon Hitchcock, serving in the Perú Lima East Mission, says, “The wonderful thing about *Preach My Gospel* is that everything is in a step-by-step progression. It teaches you how to teach people the gospel, how to feel the Spirit, how to convey feelings, and how to get commitments. It allows you to customize the lessons and make sure you really connect with each person one-on-one.”

The sisters and elders know that teaching from their hearts is challenging. They have to have the Spirit with them always, they have to know the gospel, and they have to carefully plan their lessons and days. But they also know that their

preparation is the foundation of their success and that it will help to bring more of Heavenly Father’s children to a knowledge of His gospel.

Visible Results

Preach My Gospel has produced significant results. Success is greater, however, among those missionaries who are most prepared. The best-prepared missionaries, says President Wynn R. Dewsnup of the Utah Ogden Mission, are “those who have had personal spiritual experiences, who have felt the power of personal prayer in their lives, who have been able through personal study and prayer to come to know the Savior in a much more personal manner.”

“Those who have been in the habit of being obedient,

who have studied the gospel before their mission, and who have had opportunities in church or seminary to teach it are better prepared to use *Preach My Gospel* when they get here,” says President Brian D. Garner of the California Carlsbad Mission.

Mission presidents agree that *Preach My Gospel* has had a dramatic effect on the way missionaries carry out the Lord’s work. “The most visible change we have seen in our missionaries,” says President Kelend I. Mills of the Japan Fukuoka Mission, “has been their ability to be flexible. In response to specific needs they see in an investigator, missionaries feel more now that it is appropriate, even expected, that they should adjust the message and the approach to meet those needs.”

Glendon Lyons, former president of the Perú Lima East Mission says, “The principles in chapter 8 of *Preach My Gospel* are helping the missionaries learn the discipline of keeping records, establishing goals, and accomplishing those goals. This helps them have greater order in their lives and will continue to bless them after their missions.”

“The most visible evidence of the benefits of *Preach My Gospel* has been that the missionaries all seem to be leaders,” says President Jeffrey R. Morrow of the New York New York South Mission. One elder wrote in a weekly report to President Morrow, “I have had two or three times more success in the past six months than in the previous year.”

President R. Brent Ririe of the Idaho Boise Mission concurs: “*Preach My Gospel* has been a tremendous lift to the work. Everything is up—baptisms, obedience, faith, member missionary activity. It is a great day to be a full-time or member missionary.”

Parents

So what can parents do to help their sons and daughters enter the mission field prepared to teach by the Spirit? President Nelson M. Boren of the New York New York North Mission emphasizes the importance of “daily family prayer, daily family scripture study, and weekly family home evening.”

“The best thing parents can do to help their children prepare to use *Preach My Gospel* effectively is to live the doctrines and lifestyle found in it,” says R. Gene Moffitt, former president of the California Anaheim Mission.

“Although specifically inspired and prepared for full-time missionary service,” says President Ririe, “*Preach My Gospel* ought to become a ‘centerpiece’ resource in every Latter-day Saint home. It is a tremendous resource

Left: Sisters Memory and Price teach from Preach My Gospel. President Lyons teaches missionaries to use Preach My Gospel. Below: Elders Warr and Hitchcock practice teaching at the MTC. Elders Hollingshead and Gervic prepare during companion study time.



LEFT: PHOTOGRAPH OF MOTHER AND SON BY JOHN LUKE. POSED BY MODELS. PHOTOGRAPH OF SISTER MISSIONARIES BY SHANNA BUTLER. PHOTOGRAPH OF TEACHING BY MARVIN K. GARDNER. RIGHT: PHOTOGRAPH BY SHANNA BUTLER. INSET: PHOTOGRAPH BY MARVIN K. GARDNER.



PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

- Develop a deep love for and a knowledge of the restored gospel, especially of the Savior, the Prophet Joseph Smith, and the Book of Mormon.
- Gain your own testimony, be worthy of the companionship of the Spirit, and heed His promptings.
- Practice having a good attitude and being kind to others, especially your siblings.
- Gain a strong desire to serve.

SCRIPTURE BASICS

- Study the Book of Mormon daily, and know it well.
- Go to seminary! Learn the scripture mastery verses.
- Learn how to use scripture tools such as the Topical Guide or Guide to the Scriptures.

SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS

- Learn how to do simple chores like making your bed, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of your clothing.
- Eat well, stay healthy, and take care of yourself.

- Try to do well in school so you know how to study.
- Take a missionary preparation class.
- Work with the missionaries when possible.
- Obtain the *Preach My Gospel* book (item no. 36617), and start studying it.
- Learn a second or third language.
- Save up and know how to budget your money.

TEACHING AND PLANNING BASICS

- Learn to use a simple planner and be organized. Plan your homework and your time.
- Fulfill your Church callings. Be a good home teacher.
- Develop teaching skills. Share the gospel whenever you have the opportunity.
- Use your Duty to God and Personal Progress requirements to gain teaching experiences.
- Use opportunities in family home evening or other settings to learn to teach.
- Practice setting and achieving goals.

for family home evening lessons, personal gospel study, and gospel reference. Our 13-year-old son recently received a personal copy and has loved reading, studying, and marking the lessons in chapter 3. He has been inspired by the simplicity and beauty of the gospel and the order in which it would be taught to his friends who aren't members of the Church."

President Morrow counsels parents to "emphasize the importance of developing a testimony of the message of the Restoration, of living obediently, and of assimilating the ethic of hard work into their daily lives." Goal setting is also important, he says, and suggests that "goals for academics, sports, and even earning money will help prospective missionaries learn this important skill."

Developing good study habits can be crucial for a prospective missionary. President Christopher B. Munday of the England Birmingham Mission emphasizes the importance of personal and companion study time: "A mission is made or broken between the hours of 6:30 and 9:30 a.m., when the missionary studies the gospel."

Teachers and Leaders

Mission presidents agree that one of the most important things a teacher of young people can do to help them prepare for missionary service is to give them the opportunity to teach. Several mission presidents mentioned that young people learn how to teach by the Spirit largely by watching those who know how to teach in this manner. This places a great responsibility on the teachers of youth. If they understand that the way they teach their classes from week to week can affect thousands of people who will be investigating the Church, they will seek the Spirit



Elders Rodriguez and Mann discuss how to teach a principle found in *Preach My Gospel* to an investigator.

and make every effort to teach with power.

Many teachers and leaders are returned missionaries. President Steven C. Meek of the Mexico Mexico City South Mission says, “They need to

share with their young people the life-changing experiences that happened to them on their missions.”

“Always, always, be an example of what a missionary should be,” says President Ririe. “Maintain dignity in all you do and say. Maintain dress and grooming standards that are consistent with how a missionary should appear. Include the youth in the ward or branch mission plan, and include missionary work on every youth agenda. Be a missionary-minded youth leader.”

President Dewsnup counsels bishops and branch presidents to allow prospective missionaries to speak as often as possible in sacrament meeting or other meetings. “Young men should be encouraged to obtain their Duty to God Award. Encourage them to continue reading the Book of Mormon and to gain a personal testimony of it,” he suggests. “Also give them the opportunity to be involved in baptismal services. There is a great missionary feeling and an outpouring of the Holy Ghost during baptismal services.”

“Get the young people out with the missionaries to teach, to tract, or to visit active members to ask for referrals,” adds President Moffitt. “Probably the best resource for helping young

people serve missions and be well prepared for their missions is the missionaries themselves.”

An Inspired Program

“I am so grateful for *Preach My Gospel*,” says President Boren. “Not only will missionaries be better missionaries, bring more souls unto Christ, and be happier in their service, but the skills and attitudes they learn will help them become better fathers, mothers, husbands, and wives and also better sons and daughters of God. This is more than a manual for doing missionary work. Its teachings are much deeper than that.”

In *Preach My Gospel*, the First Presidency gives this challenge: “Rise to a new sense of commitment to assist our Father in Heaven in His glorious work. . . . The Lord will reward and richly bless you as you humbly and prayerfully serve Him. More happiness awaits you than you have ever experienced as you labor among His children.”²

Missionaries and mission presidents testify this is true. ■

NOTES

1. *Preach My Gospel* (2004), v.
2. *Preach My Gospel*, v.

WHAT TEACHERS AND LEADERS CAN DO



- Give young people opportunities to teach their peers.
- Teach by the Spirit— young people learn by example.
- Share your life-changing experiences.
- Involve prospective missionaries in baptismal services.
- Give young people a copy of *Preach My Gospel*.
- Encourage reading the Book of Mormon and gaining a testimony.
- Ask prospective missionaries to speak in meetings.
- Help young people learn leadership skills by giving them opportunities to serve.
- Encourage exchanges with the full-time missionaries.

Personal Consecration



Our willingness to put everything on the altar is a sign between us and God that we submit to His will in all things.

BY ELDER STEPHEN B. OVESON
Of the Seventy
AND DIXIE RANDALL OVESON

A story has been told about a chicken and a pig who found themselves discussing their contributions to the farmer's breakfast table. The hen bemoaned having to donate her eggs for the breakfast. The pig replied, "Yes, but for you, it's just a small sacrifice. For me, it's a total commitment!"

This anecdote contains obvious lessons for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We might ask ourselves whether we are the kind of people who feel that giving an occasional egg or two toward the building of the kingdom is sufficient or whether we want to be categorized among those who consecrate their all in this endeavor.

We can assume that true conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ will have outward manifestations in the actions of members of the Church. That is to say, those who have received a spiritual witness resulting in a strong testimony normally desire to live gospel principles to the fullest. They will be found doing whatever is necessary to magnify their callings, pay a full tithe and generous fast offering, keep the Sabbath day holy,

hold family home evening, study the scriptures, and so on. All of these worthy acts, along with almost countless others, constitute personal efforts by those who are consecrated members of the Church.

Disciplining our spirits in this way prepares us for celestial living. The Lord tells us in Doctrine and Covenants 88:22, "He who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory." Latter-day Saint scholar Hugh Nibley said, "The main purpose of the Doctrine and Covenants, you will find, is to implement the law of consecration." He further taught, "This law, the consummation of the laws of obedience and sacrifice, is the threshold of the celestial kingdom, the last and hardest requirement made of men [and women] in this life."¹

More Than Tithing

When we discuss the subject of consecration, the first thing that often comes to mind is the consecration of our temporal means. What is currently required in this regard is to pay our tithes and offerings as a preparatory step in learning to return to the Father a portion of what He has given us. But the law of consecration goes beyond the mere payment of tithes and offerings or the consecration of monies and properties to the Lord. "The

law of consecration,” said Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–85) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “is that we consecrate our time, our talents, and our money and property to the cause of the Church; such are to be available to the extent they are needed to further the Lord’s interests on earth.”²²

In the 1820s, *consecrate* was defined as “to make or declare to be sacred, by certain ceremonies or rites; to appropriate to sacred uses; to set apart, dedicate, or devote, to the service and worship of God.”²³ Members of the Church today, in living the law of consecration, are expected “to appropriate [themselves] to sacred uses.” Doing so requires them to dedicate their time, talents, and possessions to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and

its purposes. Perhaps we may never be asked to give all, but our willingness to put everything on the altar is a sign between us and God that we submit to His will in all things.

When we served in the Church in South America—first as mission president and companion in the Argentina Buenos Aires South Mission and then when Elder Oveson served in the Area Presidency in Chile—we observed many acts that we consider to be examples of consecrated service to our Heavenly Father and His children. We will share a few of these experiences.

“Next Time We’ll Do Better”

Early in our 1996 to 1999 mission experience, we learned of a group of Cambodian

Typical of countless missionary couples, couples who served with us worked in temples, helped members with home repair, served as medical advisers, and participated in activation efforts.



ILLUSTRATED BY DANIEL LEWIS

immigrants who lived in Longchamps, near Buenos Aires, Argentina. One family was being taught the discussions. When it came time for the missionaries to introduce the law of the fast, they explained it in words similar to the following: “Fasting is a 24-hour period in which we do not eat or drink anything, putting our bodies in submission to our spirits. We use the time to read the scriptures, pray, and engage in other uplifting activities, culminating in attending fast and testimony meeting, where we then give to the bishop of our ward the monetary equivalent of the food from which we have abstained in order that he may distribute it among the poor and needy.”

After this explanation the missionaries suggested that because the following Sunday was the first Sunday of the month, the family might like to try fasting. The father agreed and the missionaries left the home.

The following Monday evening, the elders returned to give another discussion, at which time they asked for a report on the family’s experience with fasting. The father rather apologetically explained that they had tried and would surely try again. He said, “We began our fast in the afternoon with a prayer, followed by scripture reading and a discussion. We continued in this way until early the following morning. I regret to say that some of the younger children fell asleep during the night. We were very tired but showered in the morning and prepared to go to church, where our spirits were revived and filled with the beautiful testimonies that were given. Perhaps next time we’ll do better, and the children will be able to stay awake with us all night.”

The missionaries were astounded. “You mean you didn’t go to sleep during the whole 24-hour period?”

“No,” replied the father. “You didn’t mention sleeping.”

As you might imagine, the members of this wonderful, humble family were soon baptized members of the

Church. They brought several other families to hear the missionaries, and other conversions resulted. Whenever we think of this incident, it reminds us of how much there is to learn about consecration from people who humbly seek to be obedient.

“I See Much Good in This Elder”

We also learned a beautiful lesson about consecration from one of the assistants to the president in our mission.

A decision had been made that one of our missionaries needed to be sent home early from his mission. He had been disobedient on several occasions despite counseling, contracts, and repeated warnings. The airplane ticket had been purchased, and the appropriate approvals were obtained from the South America South Area Presidency and the Missionary Department to send this missionary home.

When the assistants brought the missionary in for his final interview, he protested loudly and tearfully that he did not want to go home. He promised to improve and said he would sign yet another contract. In desperation, President Oveson called the two assistants and Sister Oveson into his office

and asked the elder to wait outside while the possible courses of action were discussed. Sister Oveson, somewhat out of patience with the situation, believed that sending him home was the only reasonable thing to do. “If he is allowed to stay,” she maintained, “the other missionaries might think that obedience is not important.”

One of the assistants said, “I have to agree with Hermana Oveson. I don’t think we really have a choice.”

When President Oveson asked the other assistant for his opinion, the assistant said, “I see much good in this elder. President, if you will let me go back out into the field, I will take him for my companion for the rest of my mission. I will take responsibility for him and help

**Regarding the law
of consecration,
Hugh Nibley taught,
“This law, the
consummation of the laws
of obedience and sacrifice,
is the threshold of the
celestial kingdom, the last
and hardest requirement
made of men [and women]
in this life.”**



him to become a loving and obedient missionary.”

We all had tears in our eyes by the time this elder finished his remarks. We could not believe that anyone could be so loving and caring, especially a 20-year-old missionary. The decision was made to do as he requested. He found it exceedingly difficult at first, but slowly his junior companion learned a great deal from him and became a trustworthy missionary. When the senior companion went home, his companion stayed to finish his mission, becoming in time a senior companion and a trainer before he was honorably released. The follow-up to this true experience is that this once-wayward elder has since married and been sealed in the temple. He and his wife now have a son. They are active in the Church and are helping to build the kingdom. What a difference a consecrated, Christlike person made in the life of this missionary and his future family!

Other Examples

There are countless examples of consecration in the lives of missionary couples. Many of them serve in temples or as area welfare agents, area medical advisers, executive secretaries to Area Presidencies, or family history missionaries. Couple missionaries, in whatever capacity, are as precious as gold.

We had the great blessing of having several couple missionaries serve with us in the Argentina Buenos Aires South Mission. A typical example is one couple who activated members, taught music, helped repair homes, and gave many hours of devoted service. Their example reflects the potential value of couple missionaries who understand the law of consecration and the need to appropriate our lives to sacred purposes.

We have met many other consecrated Church members who exemplify dedication and faithfulness. Some time ago a group of Saints from Punta Arenas, Chile, went to the

When asked what should be done with the disobedient elder, the assistant responded, “I will take responsibility for him and help him to become a loving and obedient missionary.”



Hermiana Álvarez from Punta Arenas, Chile, exemplifies the dedication and faithfulness of Saints who sacrifice to do vicarious work for the dead.

Santiago Chile Temple. This trip requires some 80 hours by bus and often uses up the only vacation time people have during the year. One member of the group was a woman named Hermiana Álvarez, who is less than four feet (1.2 m) tall and has difficulty walking. She carried with her some 27 family names for whom she wanted to do the vicarious work. What a thrill it was to be able to help her fulfill her worthy dream and to realize the extent to which so many Saints dedicate themselves to living and defending the principles of the gospel as a reflection of the law of consecration.

For some, proving themselves truly dedicated to the Lord's work might be demonstrated in their unflinching faithfulness in the face of seemingly insurmountable adversities. As the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, "God hath said that He would have a tried people, that He would purge them as gold."⁴ We have known amazing parents who have remained steadfast as they learned of the death of their

missionary son or daughter. We think of those who draw ever closer to the Lord as they are faced with the loss of a spouse to death or divorce or those who must deal with unemployment or the heartbreak of a wayward child. Others may find that caring for aging parents or less-able children is the path they currently follow to give consecrated service. Certainly, there are times and seasons in our lives that permit us more or less personal time to donate to this lifelong quest. There are multitudes of ways in which we may appropriate ourselves to sacred uses.

A Zion People

Whenever scriptural reference is made to those who, as a society, have learned to live the law of consecration to the fullest, we read about a pure and peaceful people, devoid of strife and contention—a Zion people. The people of Enoch became such a people. We read in Moses 7:18, "And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them."

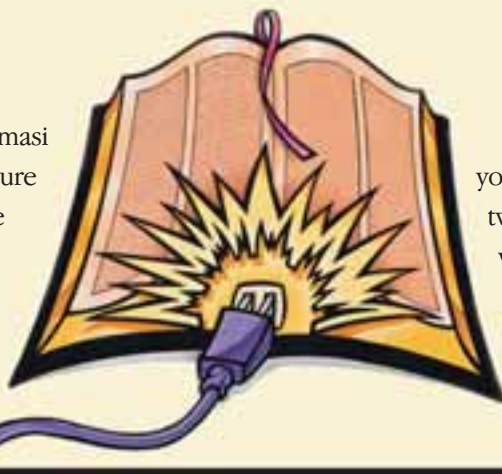
Our consecration will not happen with one single act. In this endeavor, those who willingly accept calls to be nursery leaders, Cub Scout den mothers, early-morning seminary teachers, Scoutmasters, or other time-consuming but sometimes perceived low-profile callings in the Church surely are examples of what consecration is all about.

In the long run, offering ourselves for sacred uses might simply mean maintaining a consistent attitude of meek willingness to offer all we are capable of giving at any given time while we help those about us do the same. Consecration seems to be a day-to-day process of dedication, humility, refinement, and purification as we follow the example of the most consecrated person of all time—our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ. ■

NOTES

1. "How Firm a Foundation! What Makes It So," in *Approaching Zion*, vol. 9 of *The Collected Works of Hugh Nibley* (1989), 174, 168.
2. "Obedience, Consecration, and Sacrifice," *Ensign*, May 1975, 50.
3. See *Noah Webster's First Edition of an American Dictionary of the English Language* (1967), "Consecrate."
4. *History of the Church*, 3:294.

The seminary students of the Kumasi Ghana Stake like learning scripture mastery verses. They have some great ideas to share on how you can memorize them and use them to bless your life.



⚡ Memorize two lines at a time until you know them well; then keep adding two more until you know the whole verse.

The Blessings of Scripture Mastery

⚡ “Learning the scriptures has helped me face spiritual prob-

lems, broaden my faith, and overcome many temptations.”

⚡ “They help me have knowledge when I have to give talks or bear my testimony.”

⚡ “Even when my scriptures are not with me, I have some of them in my mind.”

⚡ “I am able to quote verses from the scriptures with-

out any mistakes.”

⚡ “Scripture mastery has helped me to obey the Lord’s commandments and to magnify my duties in the priesthood.”

⚡ “The scripture mastery verses answer questions normally asked by investigators, so I can take care of situations I encounter and teach others the gospel now without being nervous.”

⚡ “I can find them much faster now when I need to look them up.”

⚡ “It has helped me in my schoolwork to have spent time memorizing.

Also I like having scriptures in my head to think about.”

⚡ “I want to get 100 scriptures in my mind so I can prepare myself to go on a mission.” ■

Memory Helps

⚡ Pray for the Spirit to be with you when you study. The Spirit will “bring all things to your remembrance” (John 14:26).

⚡ Write the scripture on a card, and read it over and over. Make a goal to memorize a scripture every few days.

⚡ Ask your parents for help. They can quiz you on whether you really know the verse.

⚡ Ponder the verse, and be sure you understand it. Reading the whole chapter it is included in can help.

⚡ Write the verse down over and over until you have learned it perfectly.

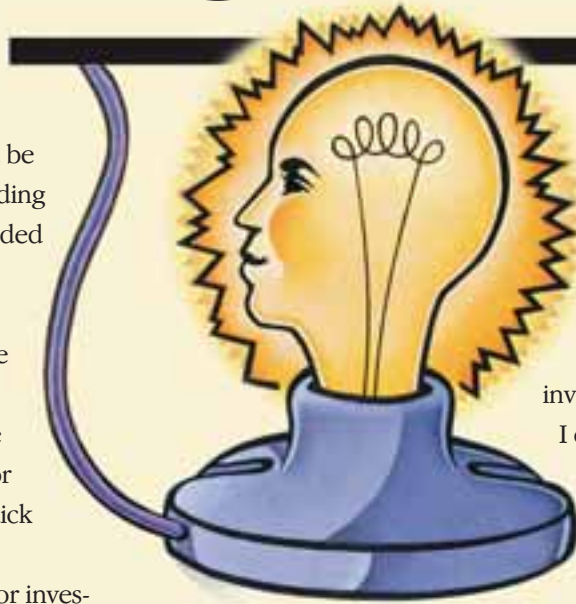
⚡ Choose a certain time of day to study the verses for a set amount of time, and stick to your plan.

⚡ Teach family, friends, or investigators about the verse.

⚡ Obey what the verses teach so you can gain a testimony of the principles in them.

⚡ Make up a song with the words of the verse. Sing it to yourself over and over.

SEMINARY SCRIPTURE POWER



DATE (A.D.)

1847

1848

1849

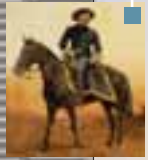
1850

1860

CHURCH HEADQUARTERS

Winter Quarters, Nebraska: July 1846–May 1848

Salt Lake City, Utah: Sept. 1848–



JULY 1846 The Mormon Battalion began its historic march to California on behalf of the United States government.

SEPT. 1846 Church leaders established Winter Quarters as a way station for the Saints traveling west.

APR. 1847 The first pioneer company, led by Brigham Young, began its trek west from Winter Quarters.

1847–57 The Saints established about 100 colonies in the American West.

JULY 21–24, 1847 The first pioneer company arrived in the Salt Lake Valley.



1849–50 Missionary work was greatly expanded in Europe and began in Hawaii.

DEC. 27, 1847 In Kanesville, Iowa, the First Presidency was sustained in a conference of the Church, with Brigham Young as second Church President.

SEPT. 1849 The Perpetual Emigrating Fund was established to assist Saints traveling to the Salt Lake Valley.

OCT.–NOV. 1856 Severe snowstorms trapped the Willie and Martin handcart companies in Wyoming. Many were saved by courageous rescuers from the Salt Lake Valley.

SEPT. 9, 1850 Utah and some of its surrounding areas became a territory of the United States.



SOME DATES ARE APPROXIMATE.

Doctrine and Covenants

TIMES AT A GLANCE

CHART 3: SECTION 138 AND OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS 1 AND 2

See *Doctrine and Covenants* section headings for historical background and History of the Church references.

PEOPLE IN CHURCH HISTORY

■ **1866–67** The Relief Society was reestablished, with Eliza R. Snow as president.

■ **MAY 10, 1869** The transcontinental railroad was completed, enabling Saints to gather more quickly and easily in the American West.



■ **NOV. 28, 1869** The forerunner to the current Young Women organization was established.



■ **JUNE 10, 1875** The forerunner to the current Young Men organization was founded.

■ **MAY 17, 1884** President Taylor dedicated the Logan Utah Temple.



■ **SEPT. 1898** Lorenzo Snow was sustained as fifth President of the Church.

■ **MAY 1899** While seeking wisdom in prayer on how to solve the Church's financial problems, President Snow received a revelation emphasizing the law of tithing.

■ **AUG. 1901** A mission was opened in Japan.

■ **OCT. 1901** Joseph F. Smith became sixth President of the Church.

■ **1906** President Joseph F. Smith became the first Church President to visit Europe.

■ **1908–9** Weekly ward priesthood meetings and age requirements for the ordination of worthy young men began.

SALT LAKE CITY Utah

■ **APR. 6, 1877** The St. George Utah Temple was dedicated.



■ **AUG. 29, 1877** The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with John Taylor as President, led the Church.

■ **JULY 25, 1887** Wilford Woodruff led the Church as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.



■ **MAY 17, 1888** President Woodruff dedicated the Manti Utah Temple.

■ **APR. 7, 1889** Wilford Woodruff was sustained as fourth President of the Church.

■ **AUG. 25, 1878** The first meeting of the Primary was held.



Section number (see also circled numbers above), date the section was given, and situation that brought forth the revelation:

138. Oct. 3, 1918 President Joseph F. Smith was studying the scriptures in order to understand our postmortal existence.

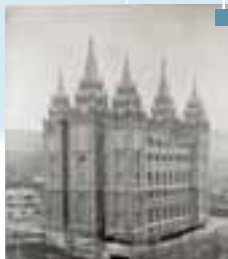
***Official Declaration 1. Sept. 24, 1890**

President Wilford Woodruff sought for a solution to the problems resulting from persecution of those practicing plural marriage.

****Official Declaration 2. June 1, 1978** President Spencer W. Kimball desired to know the will of the Lord concerning extending the blessings of the priesthood to all worthy male members.

1*

■ **APR. 6, 1893** President Woodruff dedicated the Salt Lake Temple.



■ **JAN. 4, 1896** Utah became a state in the United States of America.

■ **1898** The first full-time sister missionaries were set apart.



JOSEPH F. SMITH
1838–1918



HEBER J. GRANT
1856–1945



GEORGE ALBERT SMITH
1870–1951



DAVID O. MCKAY
1873–1970



JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH
1876–1972

LEFT: ILLUSTRATED BY ROBERT T. BARRETT; TOP (FROM LEFT): COLONEL COOK LOOKS TOWARD THE WEST, BY WILLIAM MAUGHAN; IN EMIGRATION CANYON—JULY 24, 1847, BY VALOY EATON; RED BUTTES CAMP BY JOSEPH BRICKEY; PHOTOGRAPH OF RAILROAD BY ANDREW JOSEPH RUSSELL; PHOTOGRAPH OF BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY COURTESY OF UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MAY NOT BE COPIED; PHOTOGRAPH OF ST. GEORGE UTAH TEMPLE BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN; PHOTOGRAPH OF MANTI UTAH TEMPLE BY JOHN TELFORD, MAY NOT BE COPIED; MAP BY MOUNTAIN HIGH MAPS; BOTTOM: PHOTOGRAPH OF GEORGE ALBERT SMITH COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, J. WILLARD MARRIOTT LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Salt Lake City, Utah: Sept. 1848—

1912 The first seminary classes were established.

APR. 27, 1915 The First Presidency urged members to hold regular family home evenings.

NOV. 1918 Heber J. Grant became seventh President of the Church.

1926 The first institute of religion program for college students was opened.



JULY 15, 1929 The Tabernacle Choir held its first radio broadcast.

1930 The Church celebrated its 100th anniversary.

APR. 7, 1936 The welfare program was launched.

1939–40 Because of World War II, missionaries began to be evacuated from Europe, the Pacific, and other areas.

MAY 1945 George Albert Smith became eighth President of the Church.

1947 Church membership passed the one million mark.

APR. 1951 David O. McKay was sustained as ninth President of the Church.

1952–61 Missionary work was expanded in many areas of the world. President McKay taught, "Every member a missionary."

1955–58 Outside North America and Hawaii, the first stakes were organized and the first temples dedicated.

SEPT. 1955 The Church College of Hawaii opened.

1961 The priesthood correlation program was instituted.

SEPT. 1967 The first regional representatives were called.

JAN. 1970 Joseph Fielding Smith was sustained as tenth President of the Church.

1971 Church membership exceeded three million.

JULY 1972 Harold B. Lee was sustained as eleventh President of the Church.

DEC. 1973 Spencer W. Kimball became twelfth President of the Church.

1974 President Kimball urged members to "lengthen our stride" and "enlarge our vision" of missionary work worldwide.

1975–76 The First Quorum of the Seventy was reorganized to serve as a General Authority quorum.

1979–81 New editions of the scriptures with improved study helps were published in English.

1980 A three-hour-block Sunday meeting schedule was instituted.

1982 Church membership exceeded five million.

JUNE 24, 1984 Area Presidencies were organized to strengthen Church government on the local level.

AUG. 1985 A new hymnbook in English was published and became the basis for new hymnbooks in many languages.

NOV. 1985 Ezra Taft Benson became thirteenth President of the Church.

1985 The humanitarian relief program began to be greatly expanded to provide food, clothing, and medical supplies to the needy around the world.

1986 Church membership reached six million.

1986–87 President Benson emphasized the importance of studying the Book of Mormon.

MAY 15, 1988 The first stake in western Africa was organized.

1988–91 Missionary work expanded into Eastern Europe.

MAY 16, 1989 The Brigham Young University Jerusalem Center was dedicated.

JUNE 1994 Howard W. Hunter became fourteenth President of the Church.

MAR. 1995 Gordon B. Hinckley became fifteenth President of the Church.

APR. 1, 1995 The first Area Authorities were called.

SEPT. 23, 1995 "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" was issued.

APR. 4, 1997 The first Area Authority Seventies were called.

1997 Church membership exceeded 10 million.

1998 The dedication of the first smaller temples began making the blessings of regular temple attendance available to more members.



MAY 24, 1999 The FamilySearch™ Web site was launched.

JAN. 1, 2000 The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles published their testimony in "The Living Christ."

OCT. 2000 President Hinckley dedicated the 21,000-seat Conference Center.

MAR. 31, 2001 President Hinckley announced the creation of the Perpetual Education Fund to help young Latter-day Saints receive education and training.

JUNE 27, 2002 The rebuilt Nauvoo Illinois Temple was dedicated.

SEPT. 2005 One hundred and twenty-two temples are in operation.



HAROLD B. LEE
1899–1973



SPENCER W. KIMBALL
1895–1985



EZRA TAFT BENSON
1899–1994



HOWARD W. HUNTER
1907–95



GORDON B. HINCKLEY
1910–

Rejoice in the Book of Mormon



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

D&C 17:6: “[Joseph Smith] has translated the book, . . . and as your Lord and your God liveth it is true.”

How Can I Increase in Spiritual Capacity as I Rejoice in the Book of Mormon?

President Gordon B. Hinckley:

“If each of you will observe this simple program [of reading the Book of Mormon by the end of the year], regardless of how many times you previously may have read the Book of Mormon, there will come into your lives and into your homes an added measure of the Spirit of the Lord, a strengthened resolution to walk in obedience to His commandments, and a stronger testimony of the living reality of the Son of God” (“A Testimony Vibrant and True,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, Aug. 2005, 6).

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

“Each individual who prayerfully studies the Book of Mormon can also receive a testimony of its divinity. In addition, this book can help with personal problems in a very real way. Do you want to get rid of a bad habit? Do

you want to improve relationships in your family? Do you want to increase your spiritual capacity? Read the Book of Mormon! It will bring you closer to the Lord and His loving power. He who fed a multitude with five loaves and two fishes—He who helped the blind to see and the lame to walk—can also bless you! He has promised that those who live by the precepts of this book ‘shall receive a crown of eternal life’” (“A Testimony of the Book of Mormon,” *Liabona*, Jan. 2000, 85; *Ensign*, Nov. 1999, 71).

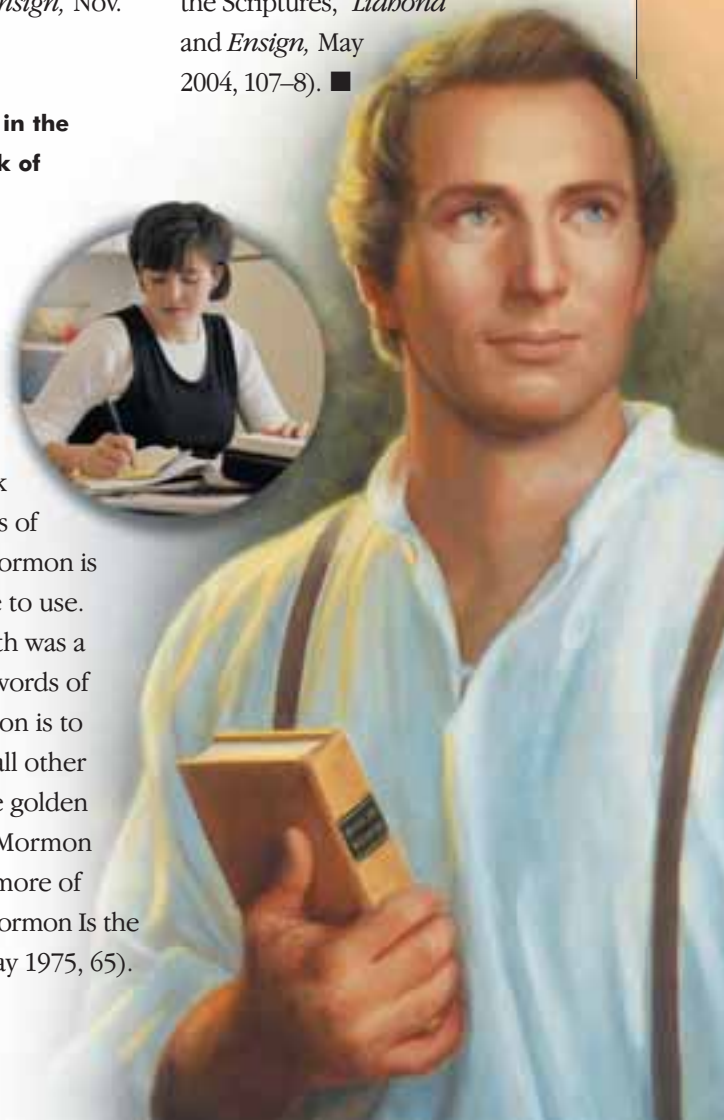
How Can I Share My Joy in the Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon?

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994):

“We, the members of the Church, and particularly the missionaries, have to be the . . . tellers and testifiers, of the Book of Mormon unto the ends of the earth. The Book of Mormon is the great standard we are to use. It shows that Joseph Smith was a prophet. It contains the words of Christ, and its great mission is to bring men to Christ and all other things are secondary. The golden question of the Book of Mormon is ‘Do you want to learn more of Christ?’” (“The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God,” *Ensign*, May 1975, 65).

Julie B. Beck, first counselor in the Young Women general presidency:

“The Lord has told us that our time should ‘be devoted to the studying of the scriptures’ (D&C 26:1) and that ‘the Book of Mormon and the holy scriptures are given . . . for [our] instruction’ (D&C 33:16). Every woman can be a gospel doctrine instructor in her home, and every sister in the Church needs gospel knowledge as a leader and teacher. If you have not already developed the habit of daily scripture study, start now and keep studying in order to be prepared for your responsibilities in this life and in the eternities” (“My Soul Delighteth in the Scriptures,” *Liabona* and *Ensign*, May 2004, 107–8). ■



The Twelve Apostles



I certify to you that the 14 men with whom I share the ordination are indeed Apostles. In declaring this, I say no more than the Lord has taught, no more than may be revealed to anyone who seeks with a sincere heart and real intent for an individual witness of the Spirit.

The eighth in a series of articles about priesthood quorums and their purposes.

BY PRESIDENT BOYD K. PACKER

Acting President of the Quorum
of the Twelve Apostles

In the course of organizing His Church, Jesus “went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

“And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”¹ They were called from the ordinary paths of life.

Peter was the first called, and the Lord said to him, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”² This same sacred authority is inherent in the ordination of every Apostle.

Paul taught that the apostles and prophets were called “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,” and he declared that these offices would endure “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God.”³

The Apostles in time were gone and, with them, the keys. Paul had prophesied of men being “carried about with every wind of doctrine.”⁴

And so it was; instead of unity of faith, there came division and disunity.

It was in this circumstance that young

Joseph Smith prayed to know which of all the churches was true and which he should join.

Joseph’s vision of the Father and the Son opened this dispensation. Then came the Restoration of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ with the same organization that existed in the primitive Church, built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets.⁵

Some suppose that the organization was handed to the Prophet Joseph Smith like a set of plans and specifications for a building, with all of the details known at the beginning. But it did not come that way. Rather, it came a piece at a time as the Brethren were ready and as they inquired of God.

The Melchizedek Priesthood, the consummate authority given to man from God, was restored under the hands of Peter, James, and John. By them, the Lord said, “I have ordained you and confirmed you to be apostles, and especial witnesses of my name, and bear the keys of your ministry and of the same things which I revealed unto them;

“Unto whom I have committed the keys of my kingdom, and a dispensation of the gospel for the last times.”⁶

The First Presidency was in place by 1833; then two years later, in February of 1835, came the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. And that is as it should be. The First Presidency came first in sequence and stands first in authority. And, true to the pattern, it was made of men called from the ordinary pursuits of life.

With the First Presidency and the Quorum



Above: The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—seated are President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President; Elder L. Tom Perry; Elder Russell M. Nelson; Elder Dallin H. Oaks; Elder M. Russell Ballard; and Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin. Standing are Elder Richard G. Scott; Elder Robert D. Hales; Elder Jeffrey R. Holland; Elder Henry B. Eyring; Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf; and Elder David A. Bednar. Right: The First Presidency—President Gordon B. Hinckley (center); President Thomas S. Monson, First Counselor (left); and President James E. Faust, Second Counselor (right).



of the Twelve in place, with the offices of the Seventy and the Presiding Bishopric revealed, the proper order of things prevails. But there is a difference.

Perhaps President J. Reuben Clark said it best: “Some of the General Authorities [the Apostles] have had assigned to them a special calling; they possess a special gift; they are sustained as prophets, seers, and revelators, which gives them a special spiritual endowment in connection with their teaching of the people. They have the right, the power, and authority to declare the mind and will of God to his people, subject to the over-all power and authority of the President of the Church. Others of the General Authorities are not given this special spiritual endowment.” The resulting limitation “applies to every other officer and

member of the Church, for none of them is spiritually endowed as a prophet, seer, and revelator.”⁷

Furthermore, President Clark said that among those of the Twelve and the Presidency, “only the President of the Church, the Presiding High Priest, is sustained as Prophet, Seer, and Revelator for the Church, and he alone has the right to receive revelations for the Church, either new or amendatory, or to give authoritative interpretations of scriptures that shall be binding on the Church, or change in any way the existing doctrines of the Church.”⁸

It took a generation of asking and receiving before the order of things as we know it today was firmly in place. Each move to perfect that order has come about in



Above: “[Jesus Christ] called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.”



Left: Elder Richard G. Scott and Elder Russell M. Nelson greet Fidel Francis Bogler and his family in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

response to a need and in answer to prayer. And that process continues in our day.

“The Twelve are a Traveling Presiding High Council, to officiate in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Presidency of the Church, agreeable to the institution of heaven; to build up the church, and regulate all the affairs of the same in all nations.”⁹

Where the First Presidency cannot go, the Twelve are sent “to unlock the door of the kingdom in all places.”¹⁰ They are commissioned to go to all the world, for the word *Apostle* means “one [who is] sent forth.”¹¹

“Wherefore,” the Lord said, “in whatsoever place ye shall proclaim my name an effectual door shall be opened unto you, that they may receive my word.”¹² And He promised, “Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.”¹³

The Twelve Apostles “are called to be . . . special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world.”¹⁴ Each carries that certain witness that Jesus is the Christ. President

Joseph Fielding Smith taught that “every member of the Church should have the impressions on his soul made by the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Son of God indelibly pictured so that they cannot be forgotten.”¹⁵

From Nephi we know that “angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost.”¹⁶ Mormon told us that “the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, and to fulfil and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men.” Mormon further explained that angels accomplish their ministry “by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of him.

“And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men.”¹⁷

There is a power of discernment granted “unto such as God shall appoint . . . to watch over [His] church.”¹⁸ To discern means “to see.”

President Harold B. Lee told me once of a conversation

he had with Elder Charles A. Callis of the Quorum of the Twelve. Brother Callis had remarked that the gift of discernment was an awesome burden to carry. To see clearly what is ahead and yet find members slow to respond or resistant to counsel or even rejecting the witness of the apostles and prophets brings deep sorrow.

Nevertheless, “the responsibility of leading this church” must rest upon us until “you shall appoint others to succeed you.”¹⁹

He warned us of those few in the Church “who have professed to know my name and have not known me, and have blasphemed against me in the midst of my house.”²⁰

“Thy voice,” the Lord commanded the Twelve, “shall be a rebuke unto the transgressor; and at thy rebuke let the tongue of the slanderer cease its perverseness.”²¹

Some few within the Church, openly or perhaps far worse, in the darkness of anonymity, reproach their leaders in the wards and stakes and in the Church, seeking to make them “an offender for a word,”²² as Isaiah said. To them the Lord said: “Cursed are all those that shall lift up the heel against mine anointed, saith the Lord, and cry they have sinned when they have not sinned . . . but have done that which was meet in mine eyes, and which I commanded them.

“But those who cry transgression do it because they are the servants of sin, and are the children of disobedience themselves. . . .

“ . . . Because they have offended my little ones they shall be severed from the ordinances of mine house.

“Their basket shall not be full, their houses and their barns shall perish, and they themselves shall be despised by those that flattered them.

“They shall not have right to the priesthood, nor their posterity after them from generation to generation.”²³

That terrible penalty will not apply to those who try as best they can to live the gospel and sustain their leaders. Nor need it apply to those who in the past have been guilty of indifference or even opposition if they will repent, confess their transgressions, and forsake them.²⁴

Recently President Hinckley reminded the Brethren that, while we are men called from the ordinary pursuits of life, there rests upon us a sacred ministry. And we take comfort in what the Lord said to the original Twelve: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you.”²⁵

While each feels his own limitation, there is strength in unity. Never in the history of the Church have the Brethren of the Presidency and the Twelve been more united.

Each week we meet together in the temple. We open the meeting by kneeling in prayer, and we close with prayer. Every prayer is offered in the spirit of submission and obedience to Him who called us and whose servants and witnesses we are.

The Lord requires that “every decision made by either of these quorums must be by the unanimous voice of the same” and that “the decisions of these quorums . . . are to be made in all righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart, meekness and long suffering, and in faith, and virtue, and knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity.”²⁶ This we earnestly strive to do.

We know that we hold the power of the priesthood “in connection with all those who have received a dispensation at any time from

The Twelve are a Traveling Presiding High Council, to officiate in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Presidency of the Church, agreeable to the institution of heaven; to build up the church, and regulate all the affairs of the same in all nations.”

Where the First Presidency cannot go, the Twelve are sent “to unlock the door of the kingdom in all places.” They are commissioned to go to all the world, for the word Apostle means “one [who is] sent forth.”



THE APOSTLESHIP

“The keys of the eternal priesthood, which is after the order of the Son of God, is comprehended by being an apostle. All the priesthood, all the keys, all the gifts, all the endowments and everything preparatory to entering back into the presence of the Father and of the Son, is composed of, circumscribed by, or I might say incorporated within the circumference of the apostleship.”

**President Brigham Young (1801–77),
Teachings of Presidents of the Church:
Brigham Young (1997), 138.**

the beginning of the creation.”²⁷ We think of those who have preceded us in these sacred offices, and at times we feel their presence.

We are overcome with what the Lord said of those who hold these sacred callings: “Whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.”²⁸

During a very difficult time, the Lord gave the sternest warning that I know of in all scripture. It had to do with the building of the Nauvoo Temple. The Saints knew from experience that to proceed to build a temple would bring terrible persecution, so they delayed. The Lord extended the time and said, “If you do not these things at the end of the appointment ye shall be rejected as a church, with your dead, saith the Lord your God.”²⁹

Often overlooked in that revelation is a marvelous promise: “If my people will hearken unto my voice, and unto the voice of my servants whom I have appointed to lead my people, behold, verily I say unto you, they shall not be moved out of their place.”³⁰

Remember this promise; hold onto it. It should be a great comfort to those struggling to keep a family together in a society increasingly indifferent to, and even hostile toward, those standards which are essential to a happy family.

The promise is a restatement of what the Lord told the multitude: “Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants.”³¹

I repeat the promise that those who hearken to the voice of these men whom the Lord has raised up “shall not be moved out of their place.”³²

But the promise was followed with this caution: “But if they will not hearken to my voice, nor unto the voice of these men whom I have appointed, they shall not be blest.”³³

The most precious thing we have to give is our witness of the Lord, our testimony of Jesus Christ.

I certify to you that the 14 men with whom I share the ordination are indeed Apostles. In declaring this, I say no more than the Lord has taught, no more than may be revealed to anyone who seeks with a sincere heart and real intent for an individual witness of the Spirit.

These men are true servants of the Lord; give heed to their counsel.

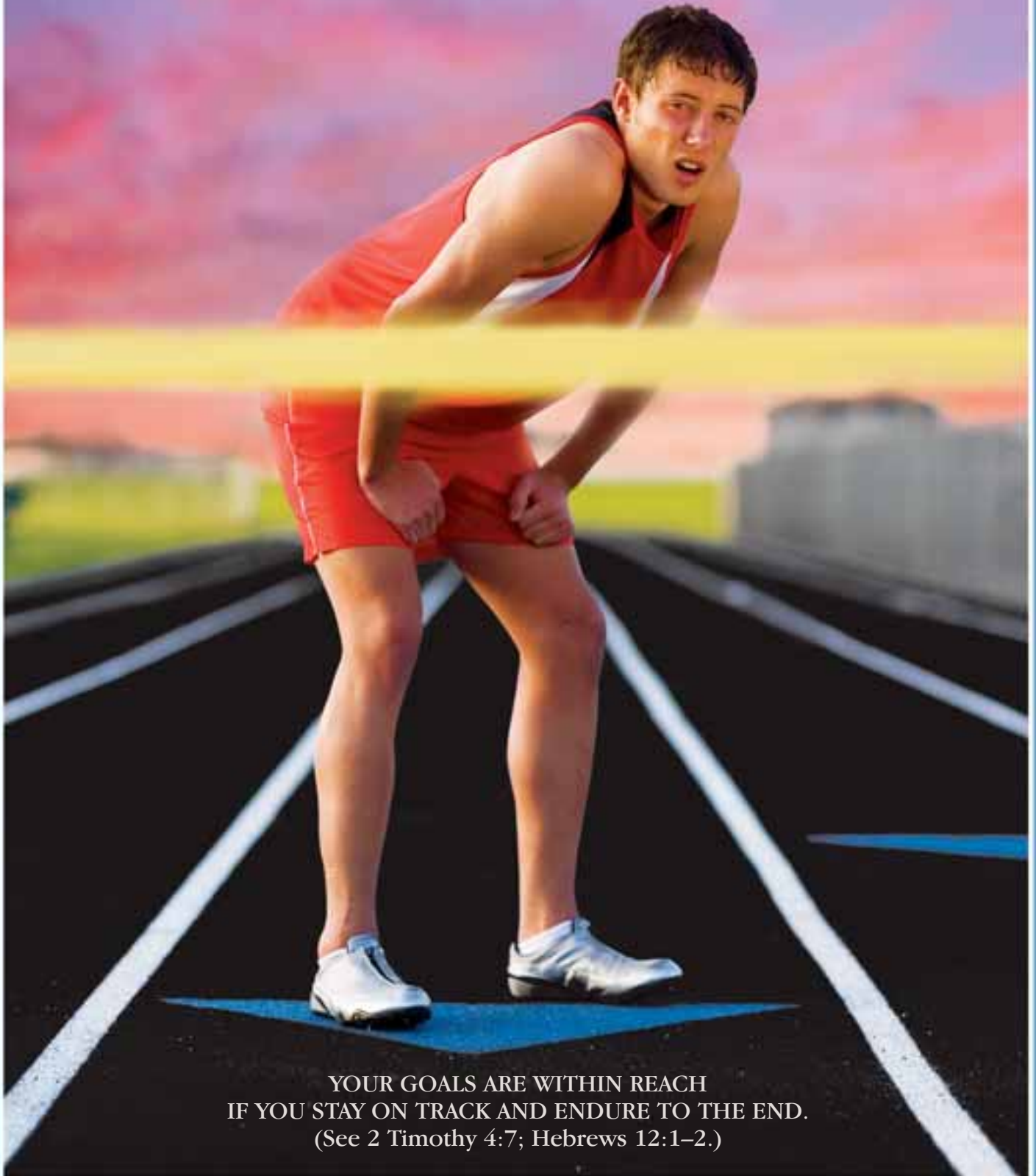
So, too, with the Seventy, who as especial witnesses carry an apostolic responsibility, and the Bishopric, worthy men of God. So, too, with the brethren and sisters across the world who are called to lead, who have earned that knowledge precious above all else.

There are limits to what the Spirit permits us to say.³⁴ And so I close with my witness, my special witness, that Jesus is the Christ, that through a prophet-president He presides over this, “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.”³⁵ In the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■
An October 1996 general conference address.

NOTES

1. Luke 6:12–13.
2. Matthew 16:19.
3. Ephesians 4:12–13.
4. Ephesians 4:14.
5. See Ephesians 2:20; Articles of Faith 1:6.
6. D&C 27:12–13.
7. “When Are Church Leader’s Words Entitled to Claim of Scripture?” *Church News*, July 31, 1954, 9–10.
8. *Church News*, July 31, 1954, 10.
9. D&C 107:33.
10. D&C 112:17; see also D&C 107:35; 124:128.
11. See Bible Dictionary, “Apostle,” 612.
12. D&C 112:19.
13. D&C 112:10.
14. D&C 107:23.
15. “The Twelve Apostles” (unpublished address to seminary and institute faculty, June 18, 1958), 6.
16. 2 Nephi 32:3.
17. Moroni 7:31–32.
18. D&C 46:27.
19. Draft declaration of the Twelve Apostles, reporting March 1844 meeting of Twelve, Brigham Young Papers, Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
20. D&C 112:26.
21. D&C 112:9.
22. Isaiah 29:21; see also 2 Nephi 27:32.
23. D&C 121:16–17, 19–21.
24. See D&C 58:43.
25. John 15:16.
26. D&C 107:27, 30.
27. D&C 112:31.
28. D&C 68:4.
29. D&C 124:32.
30. D&C 124:45.
31. 3 Nephi 12:1.
32. D&C 124:45.
33. D&C 124:46.
34. See Alma 12:9.
35. D&C 1:30.

FINISH



YOUR GOALS ARE WITHIN REACH
IF YOU STAY ON TRACK AND ENDURE TO THE END.
(See 2 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 12:1-2.)

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW REIER, POSED BY MODEL

Helping Home Evening Succeed

Teens in the Philippines are learning that they play a big part in having good family home evenings.

BY ADAM C. OLSON
Church Magazines

Lehi, the Book of Mormon prophet, never saw a PowerPoint presentation during his travels from Jerusalem to the promised land, so Erika Santillan isn't sure what Lehi would think about being in one. But Erika's family thought it was great.

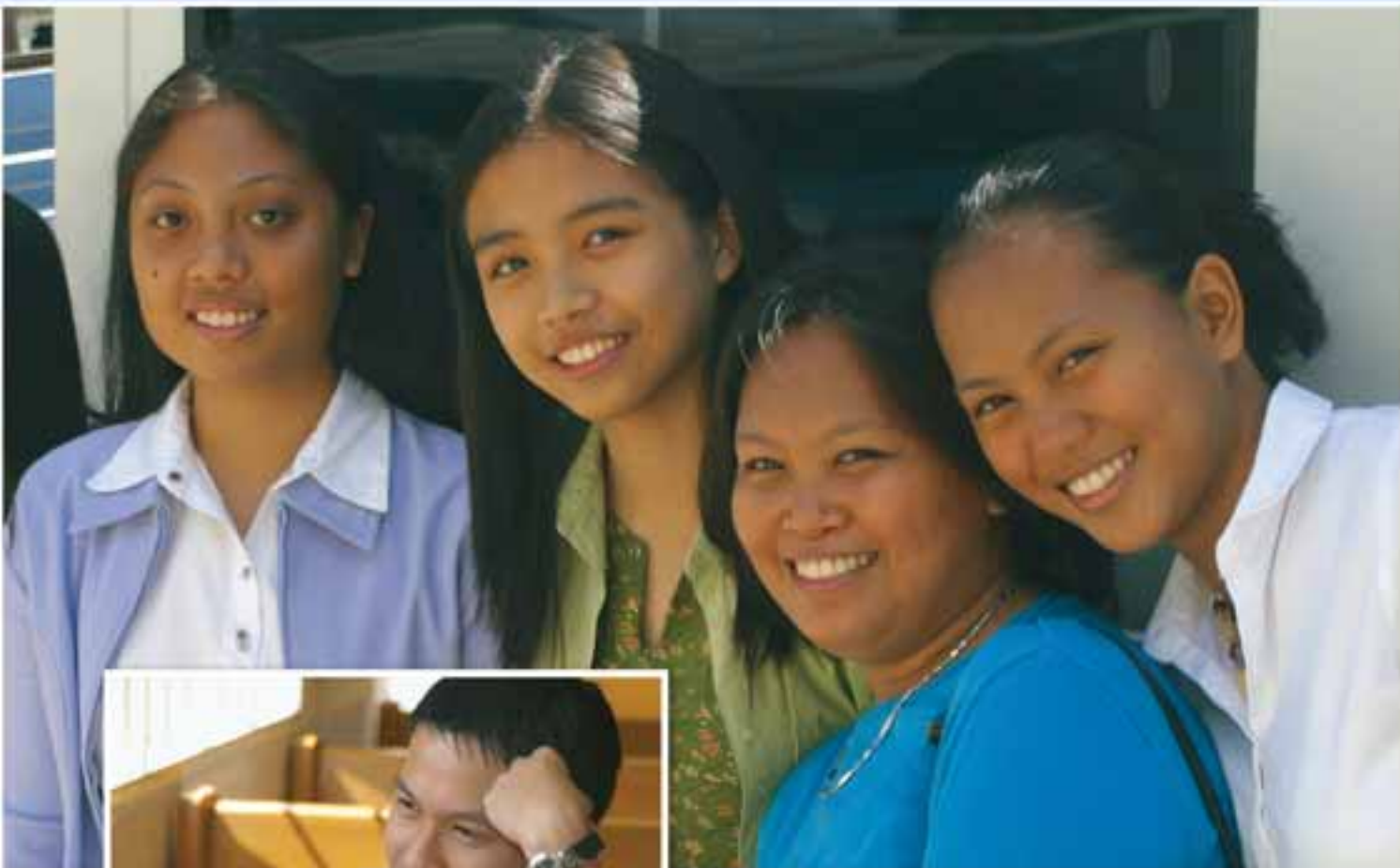
Erika, a Laurel in the Cainta Second Ward, Taytay Philippines Stake, enjoys family home evening, but she admits that sometimes it's easier to be interested in some lessons than others. So when it was her turn to give the lesson, on Lehi's dream in 1 Nephi 8, she wanted to make it fun.

"We watched a Church video and talked about it," she says. "Then I did a PowerPoint presentation on Lehi's dream to help us visualize it better." She grins. "It was really high tech."

Erika's enthusiasm and creativity didn't just help her family understand the scriptures better; it helped them enjoy other blessings of family home evening too.

Youth all over the Philippines are learning that they play a big part in making family home evening successful.





The Secret to Success

Filipino youth are some of the many around the world who have discovered the secret of a successful family night: the more you're willing to put into it, the more you're likely to get out of it.

It all begins with having a good attitude and being willing to participate, according to Michel Angelene Ramirez, a Laurel in the Taytay First Ward: "It helps make it fun."

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has encouraged youth to play a role in making family home evening successful:

"The full burden of planning and preparing for family home evenings should not be left to parents alone. The most successful ones I have

witnessed are when the youth of the family take an active part.

"I call on you great deacons, teachers, and priests, you Beehive girls, Mia Maids, and Laurels to make a major contribution in the success of your family home evenings" ("Therefore I Was Taught," *Ensign*, May 1994, 37).

Your participation doesn't have to be a high-tech computer presentation. These Filipino youth are finding simple ways to contribute each week. Just offering a prayer, reading a scripture, leading the music, or being in charge of a treat or activity can bring a spirit of harmony and set a good example for brothers and sisters.

And then there's giving the lesson. It makes some nervous, but giving a lesson can be a good experience. "I still remember the first lesson I gave," says 17-year-old Milliza Anne Ramirez, who goes by Li-anne. "It was on how kindness begins with me."

These youth in the Philippines don't just enjoy family home evening; they enjoy making it fun.

Opposite page: Kyla Medes. Above: Erika Santillan, Kyla, Milliza Anne Ramirez, and Michel Angelene Ramirez. Inset: Dwayne José.

"I remember one lesson I taught," says Li-anne's sister Michel Angelene. "I gave the lesson using the poster on foul language [see *New Era*, Apr. 1991, 15]. We videotaped the lesson so we could send it to some of our relatives. We still watch it sometimes," she laughs.

"Participating in family home evening helps our family become closer," says Kyla Medes, a Mia Maid in the Taytay First Ward.

The Blessings of Success

These Filipino youth have discovered that holding

family home evening brings some specific blessings to their families, including increasing communication between family members,

communicate," says Michel Angelene. "When we communicate, it brings us closer together."

The youth are especially grateful for the opportunity home evening gives them to speak openly with their parents. "It lets me talk to them about serious things," Erika says. "Family home evening is a great way to talk with your family."

These blessings strengthen families and can bring family members closer together. Even though it's sometimes hard to pull off a family night when the world is pulling everyone in different directions, the effort is worth it.

"Every time we have family home evening, it helps us through the week," says Dwayne José, a priest in the Cainta First Ward. "If we don't have it, my week feels incomplete." ■



SOMETHING WONDERFUL

"Out of those simple little [family home evening] meetings, held in

the parlor of our old home, came something indescribable and wonderful. Our love for our parents was strengthened. Our love for brothers and sisters was enhanced. Our love for the Lord was increased. An appreciation for simple goodness grew in our hearts. These wonderful things came about because our parents followed the counsel of the President of the Church."

President Gordon B. Hinckley, "Family Home Evening," *Liahona and Ensign*, Mar. 2003, 3.

MONDAY NIGHT IN MANILA

BY ADAM C. OLSON

Church Magazines

Monday night in Manila doesn't seem much different at first glance than any other night. Traffic in the city moves like a million ants all trying to use the same narrow tree branch to crawl in two different directions at once. Except these ants honk.

We were trying to get to the Velascos' house so I could see a Filipino family home evening in action, but rush hour wasn't cooperating. Finally our guide announced he was taking a shortcut, and we pulled onto a narrow street packed with people buying and selling items at small roadside stands. The shoppers were enjoying themselves, laughing and calling out to one another. They paid little attention to our compact car inching its way through their open-air shopping center.

When we finally arrived at the Velascos' at the other end of the market, the contrast was astonishing. As we walked into their home, the hustle and bustle outside seemed to simply fade away.

They hadn't sat down for a lesson yet, but family night had already started. Six-year-old Stephen sat on Sister Velasco's lap while she and Brother Velasco chatted with Grandma and Grandpa. Kevin and Kirby, 14, laughed about something 15-year-old Naomi had said. Katrina, 11, was setting out the scriptures and hymnbook.

After we had met everyone, the family sat down together. Grandpa offered an opening prayer. Brother Velasco talked about talents. During the discussion the family switched easily between Tagalog and English whenever one language suited better than the other. Katrina and Naomi took turns reading the parable of the talents from Matthew 25:14–30. Brother Velasco pulled out his guitar and shared one of his talents in song, then passed the guitar to Kirby, who played a song too. Sister Velasco helped Stephen say the closing prayer, and everyone stepped into the



kitchen for a special treat, homemade pizza.

While everyone was chewing, I had the chance to ask them their feelings about family home evening.

"What's your favorite part?" I asked Kirby.

Unfortunately, he had just taken a bite. "The refreshments," he said around the mouthful. Everyone laughed.

"The laughter," Naomi said as their fit of the giggles passed.

"What has it done for your family?"

"It has helped us bond," Kevin said. "That's what happens when you share your thoughts and feelings."

It was a good answer, but I wanted to make sure he wasn't saying it just because I was there. "Does it really?" I asked.

They all nodded. "Because of family home evening, we have become closer," Naomi answered. "We're more friendly to each other."

That was obvious. The blessings of family home evening were obvious too. And it was with great reluctance that I said good-bye and stepped back out into the endless rush of a busy world. ■



Every Monday night the Velasco family steps out of the world to enjoy time together. Top: Kirby, Kevin, Brother Charles Velasco, Katrina, Sister Janette Velasco, Stephen, and Naomi read an article from the Liahona. Above: Kirby plays the guitar.



STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

HAPPINESS IN FAMILY LIFE

A continuing series giving insights for your study and use of "The Family: A Proclamation to the World."

"Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities."¹

Achieving Happiness

A happy family life is a primary goal not only here in mortality but in the eternities to come, and mothers and fathers have an obligation to do everything possible to make that goal a reality. Recognizing our limitations because of the agency of others, Elder Henry B. Eyring of



the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said: "We cannot control what others choose to do, and so we cannot force our children to heaven, but we can determine what we will do. And we can decide that we will do all we can to bring down the powers of heaven into that family we want so much to have forever."²

Teaching in the Home

"Parents are the master teachers," said Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "They do their most effective teaching by example. The family circle is the ideal place to demonstrate and learn kindness, forgiveness, faith in God, and every

other practicing virtue of the gospel.”³

Helping children mature into spiritually committed adults is no easy matter in today’s world, but parents are not alone. They are partners with Heavenly Father. To missionaries the Lord promised, “I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up” (D&C 84:88). Parents—because the teaching of their own children is perhaps the most important missionary labor—can feel confident of similar promises.

President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) once taught: “There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or to be the mirror that reflects it. We parents can be both.”⁴ As parents seek the Lord’s Spirit in their lives, their example will shine brightly for their children and their goodness will be a reflection of a far greater light.

Discipline

Sometimes children need correction and discipline. Thus, parents should study carefully Doctrine and Covenants 121:41–44. President Gordon B. Hinckley has also given wise counsel: “There is need for discipline with families. But discipline with severity, discipline with cruelty, inevitably leads not to correction but rather to resentment and bitterness. It cures nothing and only aggravates the problem.”⁵

“Children cannot be forced into obedience,” explained President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency. “Our best method for correcting children when they have done wrong is by firmness, love, patience, kindness, persuasion, and reason.”⁶

Family Togetherness

Families grow stronger as they spend time together. Elder Oaks explained:

“Families should pray together, kneeling night and morning to offer thanks for blessings and prayers for common concerns.



As parents seek the Lord’s Spirit in their lives, their example will shine brightly for their children.

“Families should worship together, participating in church services and family devotionals.

“Families should study and learn. . . .

“Families should work together. . . .

Families should also play together, so that happy recreational experiences are associated with the activities of the family.

“Families should counsel together, treating all matters of concern to the family and its members.

“Families should eat together. Mealtime

is a natural time for the family to assemble and communicate. It is a shame for such an opportunity to be lost in family bickering or to be fragmented by family members seizing food and scattering to the four corners as if the family kitchen were a fast food outlet.”⁷

Service and Love

Sometimes, in spite of every good effort by parents to teach their children and to build unity in the family, children struggle and even rebel. Those who find feelings are strained in their family, that they are temporarily losing the battle for happiness, can put this promise from Elder Eyring to the test: “I promise you that if you’ll use your gifts to serve someone else, you’ll feel the Lord’s love for that person. You’ll also feel his love for you.”⁸ Sometimes all we can do as parents is to love and serve, expecting no immediate return. But these efforts will bring peace. And eventually, when the storm has passed and feelings have softened, they may also bring the fruit we desire most—happiness in our families now and in the eternities. ■

NOTES

1. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Liabona*, Oct. 2004, 49; *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, 102.
2. “The Family,” *Liabona*, Oct. 1998, 22; *Ensign*, Feb. 1998, 18.
3. “Parental Leadership in the Family,” *Ensign*, June 1985, 9.
4. In Conference Report, Stockholm Sweden Area Conference 1974, 49.
5. “Behold Your Little Ones,” *Liabona*, Mar. 2001, 5; *Ensign*, June 2001, 4.
6. “Challenges Facing the Family,” *Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting*, Jan. 2004, 3.
7. *Ensign*, June 1985, 10–11.
8. *To Draw Closer to God* (1997), 88.

We Rejoiced in Her Healing

By Magdalena Peñate de Guerra

On June 2, 2002, my little granddaughter, Susan Melina, who was only seven months old, became ill, and her parents took her to the hospital. The doctors diagnosed her with a kidney infection. She also developed a serious bacterial infection that spread throughout her system, causing damage to her heart, liver, spleen, kidneys, lungs, and nervous and digestive systems. She was so ill she was admitted to intensive care.

The doctors advised her parents to prepare

themselves because she could die at any time. She remained in intensive care for 26 days, during which time she was given antibiotics and many transfusions. Meanwhile, we, her family, fasted often and asked God for a miracle, for a complete healing—if it was His will. Two priesthood brethren anointed and blessed her.

The doctors advised Susan Melina's parents to prepare themselves because she could die at any time.

When Susan Melina had been in the hospital for two weeks, her mother became ill also and had emergency surgery for appendicitis. This was a difficult trial for the whole family.

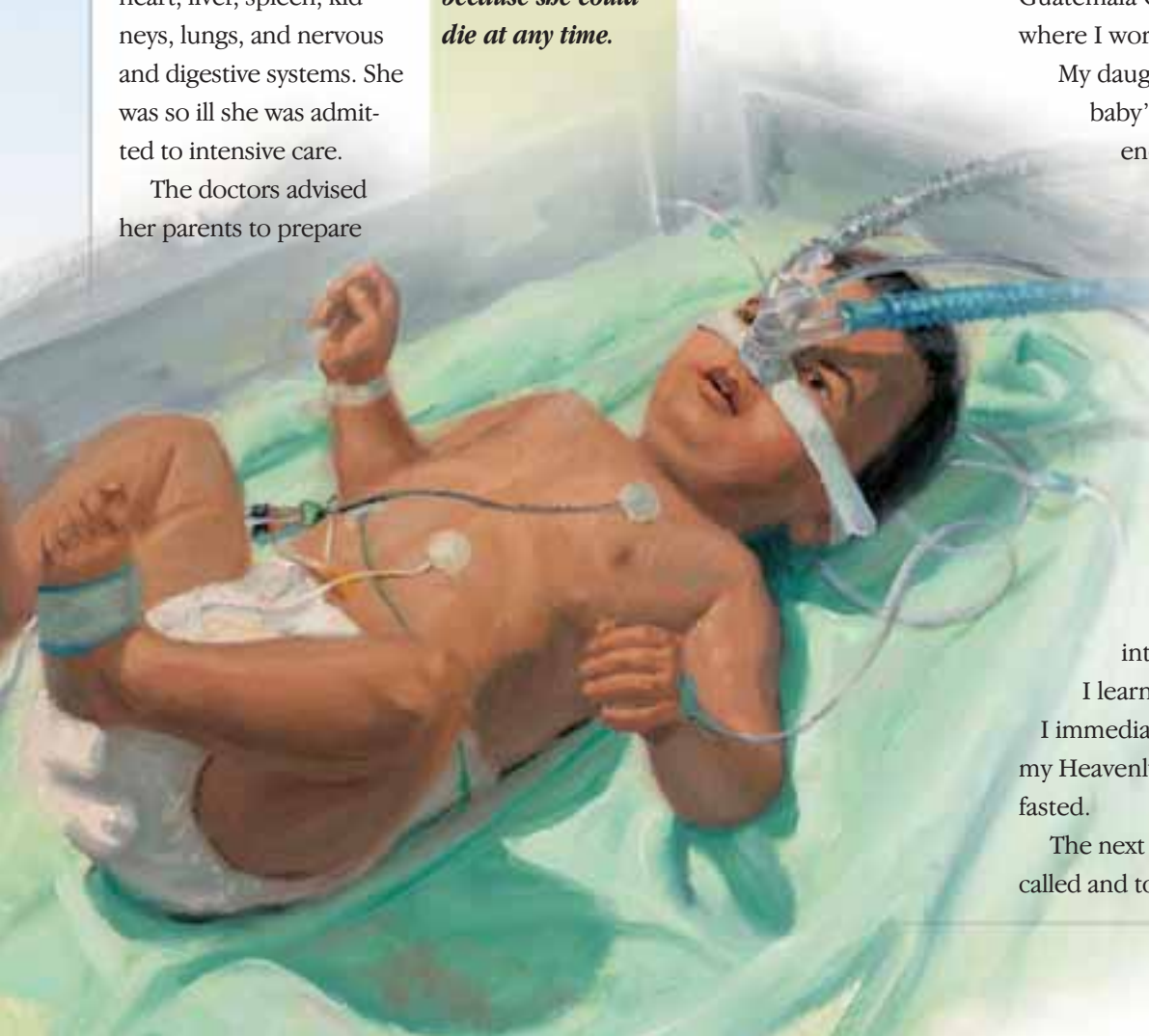
Twenty days after Susan Melina entered the hospital, she was no better. But because of the generosity of a person we didn't even know, her parents were able to move her to a private hospital where she would receive better care.

One Saturday at noon I received a telephone call from my daughter, Susan Carolina. I was in the Guatemala City Guatemala Temple, where I work in a custodial position.

My daughter told me that her baby's condition had worsened and that the infection had now lodged in one of the ventricles of her heart. According to the doctors, it was hard to do anything to help her because she was completely malnourished. She was so ill that it was dangerous to hold her because it could cause internal bleeding. When

I learned about the situation, I immediately began to pray to my Heavenly Father. Once again I fasted.

The next day, Sunday, my daughter called and told me that the bacteria



had completely disappeared. The doctors were releasing Susan Melina on Monday because she was out of danger.

As we rejoiced in this great miracle, we realized that every prayer of faith is not answered so quickly in the way we desire. But I am infinitely grateful to Heavenly Father. I have no doubt that He lives and hears our prayers. ■

Magdalena Peñate de Guerra is a member of the Villa Canales Ward, Guatemala City Guatemala Villa Hermosa Stake.

I Will Get Rid of Them

By John Jairo Montoya

I was 20 years old and had spent most of my life as a member of my parents' church. But for three years I had not gone to church because I was considering other religious and moral philosophies—although none of them felt right to me.

One day when I arrived at my parents' house, my brother and my best friend were there. They said some young women had come to visit and had left a book with my brother. My brother had asked my best friend to be at the house when they came back. He wanted him to be the one to tell them not to come anymore.

But when the missionaries returned, my friend said, "Come back

in three days because I want to hear the discussions."

My brother was furious. I asked my friend what he had been thinking, and he just said, "Well, they are very beautiful, and they have a nice way of talking about Jesus Christ."

"Well, I will get rid of them," I replied arrogantly.

Two weeks went by without my being able to do so. They were now visiting my brother and my sister and many of my friends. They were surrounding me on all sides, and I didn't even know who was

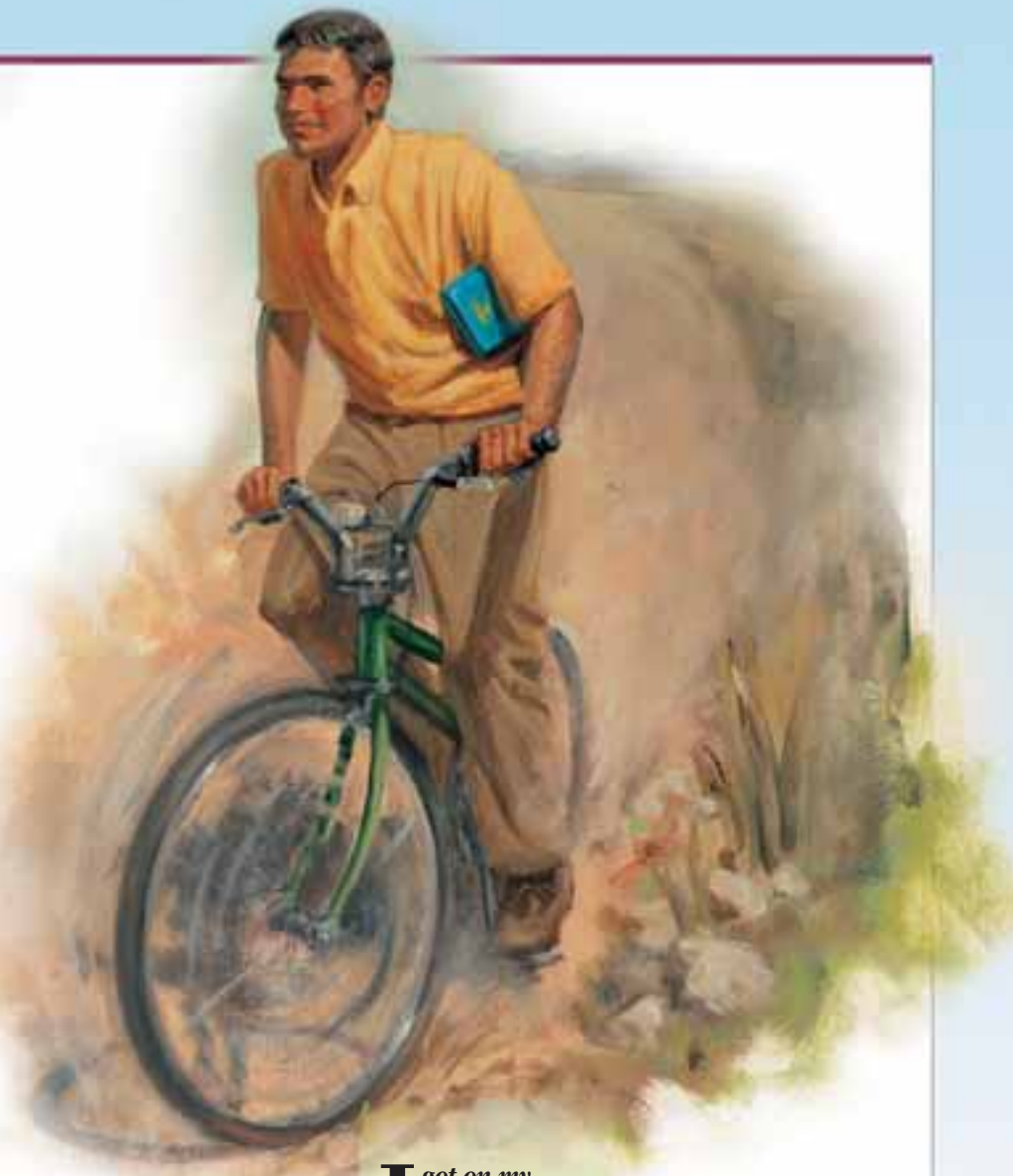
I got on my bicycle, returned to the city, and got to the meetinghouse as quickly as I could.

responsible for what felt like an ambush.

The following week, my brother told me that two of my friends had already been baptized and that another was going to be baptized that Sunday. I agreed

to go to church on Sunday just to see my friend's baptism. "But this is crazy," I said to myself.

That Sunday I finally met the two missionaries who had been giving me so many headaches. At the end of the baptismal service they came up to me, gave me a Book of Mormon, and



invited me to hear the first discussion. On the inside I was resisting and shouting, “No!” But on the outside I was crying, and I said, “Yes,” to all their invitations.

A week later, there I was watching another of my friends be baptized. And on the following Sunday, my best friend and I also entered the waters of baptism.

Almost a month went by. I felt a need not just to believe, but to know for sure that these things were true. One Sunday morning I decided not to go to church but to go somewhere else and pray. I headed toward a hill about six miles (9 km) from the city. When I got there I found a place off the beaten path where I could be at peace. After almost an hour of reading the Book of Mormon, pondering, praying for an answer, and intending to stay there until I received one, something strange started happening. I felt a desire to go to church. My heart was beating rapidly. That was my answer.

Almost in spite of myself, I got on my bicycle, returned to the city, and got to the meetinghouse as quickly as I could. To my great surprise, the meetings were just starting.

Ever since then I have known that this is the true gospel of Jesus Christ and that this is His Church. It’s a message I shared as a full-time missionary, trying to be the same kind of missionary as those sisters I couldn’t get rid of. ■

John Jairo Montoya is a member of the Cartago Ward, Pereira Colombia Stake.

How Could They Forgive Me?

By Angelique Petrick

One evening several years ago as I was driving home from work after having picked up my two children, I momentarily lost consciousness. When I came to, I found myself looking up over the dashboard just in time to see a pickup truck right in front of me. The collision caused me to lose consciousness again. When I awoke, my vehicle was on its side and my children were screaming.

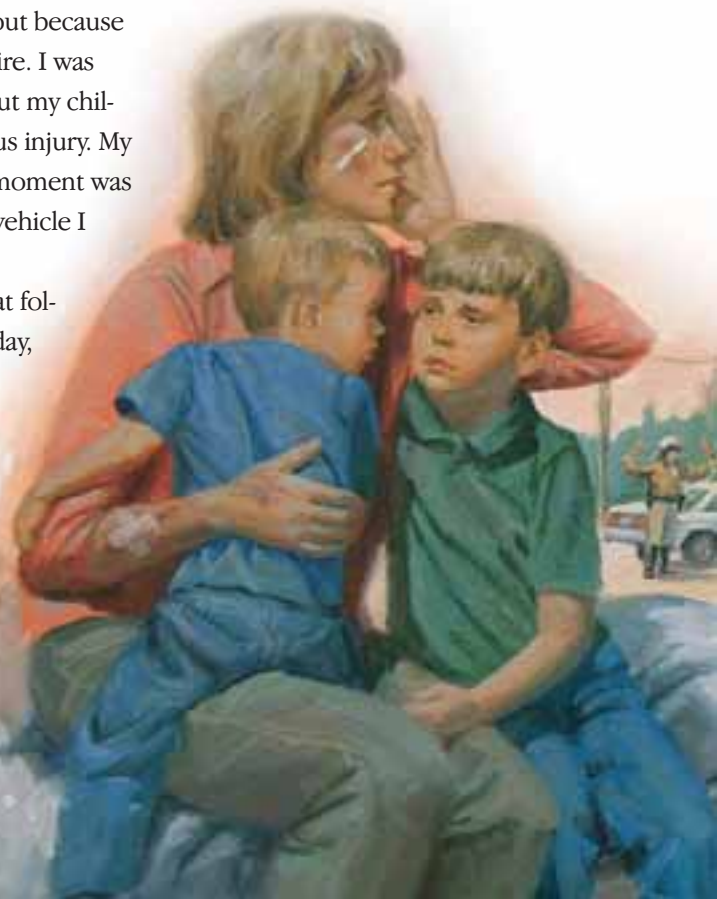
Several people rushed to help me and my children get out because our car’s engine was on fire. I was extremely sore all over, but my children and I escaped serious injury. My greatest concern at that moment was for the occupants of the vehicle I had hit.

Through the hours that followed and into the next day, my attempts to find out about the people in the other vehicle didn’t succeed. Finally, a hospital social worker came to my room and informed me that the driver of the other vehicle had been killed. I was devastated.

In the days following

the accident I took time off work to recover physically, mentally, and emotionally. I also learned what had happened. I had crossed the center line into oncoming traffic and had hit a vehicle head-on. I also learned that the wife of the man who had lost his life had been a passenger in the vehicle and had been seriously injured. They had a large family, and although most of the children were grown and on their own, some were still at home. It was so disturbing for me to think that I had caused another human being to lose his life, a wife to lose her husband, children to lose their father, and grandchildren to lose their grandfather.

My physical wounds were healing, but the mental and emotional wounds were not. I kept asking myself, “Why



did this happen?" I knew it had been an accident, but that did not make me feel any better. I was unable to sleep or cope with life. I couldn't bear the thought of what the other driver's family must be feeling.

I tried to get on with life and return to normal, but nothing seemed to work. All I could do was pray. I remember pleading for Heavenly Father to take this pain and suffering from me because I knew I could not continue on like this and fulfill my most precious callings as a wife and mother.

Then one day my doorbell rang. I opened the door to find a man standing on my porch. He had a very solemn and uneasy look on his face. Without saying a word, he handed me a box and an envelope. Accepting the gifts, I stood there, waiting for him to say something. After a moment I asked the man if I knew him. He shook his head and introduced himself. I instantly felt a lump in

my throat as I recognized his last name. He was the eldest son of the man who had died in the accident.

I invited him in, and we talked for a long time. Our families had several common acquaintances, and he had heard through them what a difficult time I was having. He said his wife had asked him how he would feel if he were in my shoes, and that brought him to my doorstep. He told me his family knew it was an accident, and they knew their father and husband had received a call home from our Heavenly Father. He let me know his mother was going to be fine. We then hugged and cried for a time.

My children and I escaped serious injury, but I was concerned about the occupants of the vehicle I had hit.

The envelope he gave me contained a card expressing that their prayers and thoughts were with my family and me. The box contained a small shelf plaque that reads:

"Dear God,

"We work and pray, but at the end of the day, no matter how hard we try, there are still many reasons to cry.

So please send us angels to comfort us in our fears and help us turn the small successes into cheers. Amen."

My prayers had been answered. I was able to sleep that night for the first time in the two weeks since the accident.

Since then I have seen this man and his wife from time to time, and they always ask how we are doing and if there is anything we need. I remain humbled by their thoughtfulness and unselfishness.

One general conference Sunday, between the morning and afternoon sessions, my doorbell rang again. It was not only this man, but also his mother and younger brother. They did not stay long, but I cherish their visit. Once again they came bearing a gift—a beautiful painting of Christ with this scripture inscribed on it: "I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:29). The mother and I hugged and cried.

This family has taught me a kind of forgiveness and love that I never knew. I testify that through others our Heavenly Father and our Savior can convey Their love to us. I know Heavenly Father hears and answers prayers, and I now know that sometimes we have to let the atoning sacrifice of the Savior take away our pain when we have done all we can do. I am thankful that this family was able to feel and follow the promptings of the Spirit to answer my prayers. ■

Angelique Petrick is a member of the White Pine Ward, Tooele Utah East Stake.





Finding Jobs, Lifting Lives

The Church's employment programs have an international reach—and a long-term ability to lift the people they touch.

BY NEIL K. NEWELL
Welfare Services Department

Yanira Torres of El Salvador had seen better days. Her husband had left her, she was living with her parents, and she was unemployed and without income. To make matters worse, her young daughter was sick and required constant care.

As a member of the Church, she had heard about LDS Employment Resource Services—there was an office in San Salvador—but until her daughter's health improved, she couldn't look for a job, let alone accept a full-time position.

Although Yanira's father, José, was unemployed himself and not a member of the Church, he offered to visit the LDS employment

office and see what he could learn to help his daughter. "Maybe I can bring you something from the center that might be useful to you," he said.

That decision would change his life.

José enrolled in the Career Workshop and began applying the principles he learned there. Within six months, he had

not only found a great job

in accounting, but he and his wife had been baptized members of the Church.

For her part, Yanira—after her daughter's health improved—also applied what she learned at the center and found a job as a receptionist.

Rudy Rodríguez, LDS employment center manager in San Salvador, El Salvador, says that "when a family is out of work, mothers and fathers can look at each other and wonder, 'What do we feed our family today?' Worry consumes their days and haunts their nights, leaving little time for other pursuits.

And when they finally get that job—that opportunity to care for themselves and their children—it revolutionizes their lives.”

As revolutions go, this has been a quiet one.

Opening employment centers in various locations is not an activity that attracts the attention of many Church members, says Harold C. Brown, managing director of Church Welfare Services. “But it is making a significant difference in the lives of people.”

In 1999 the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles approved a significant increase in the number of employment centers in international areas of the Church in order to assist people in acquiring marketable skills to get a good job, start a small business, or improve a small business. Six years later, Church employment offices operate in 43 countries throughout the world. In 2004 they helped more than 200,000 people discover new avenues of education, employment, and self-employment.

The international employment efforts are a welcome help to members of the Church who live in countries where unemployment and underemployment rates are at extreme levels. In many countries, there are no comparable services to help members improve their economic condition. As a result, the Church’s efforts have blessed the lives of thousands of families, returned missionaries, and local Church leaders.



International Employment Resource Centers

Timothy Q. Sloan, director of LDS Employment Resource Services, is clear about what employment resource centers should look like anywhere in the world. “Our offices are professionally furnished and centrally located,” he says. “They are equipped with computers and Internet connections so that job seekers can search for job leads and review job search information. Also available are information on local schools and resources for the self-employed. More important, the office and volunteer staffs create an atmosphere where unemployed members who feel discouraged or hopeless can come and feel welcome and get help.”

Church volunteers and missionaries staff most of the offices, but some offices have full-time, paid employees. These employees are expected not only to assist those who come looking for work or to start a business, but also to spend time building links with local business, education, and government leaders.

Above: Employment programs have blessed not only Yanira Torres and her daughter but also Yanira’s parents (inset). Below: Many find hope in the employment resource center in Asunción, Paraguay.



Thousands of jobs, educational grants, and scholarships have been identified as a result of this networking.

Marco Flores, LDS Employment Resource Services manager in Mexico City, talks of one company that finally agreed to interview applicants from LDS employment: “Soon after, they called me back and said, ‘The people you sent don’t smoke or drink. They are honest. They dress like professionals. And what’s more, you don’t charge us for this service! How do you do it?’”

They could scarcely believe this was a service the Church provided at no cost to their company. After hiring several members of the Church, the company now calls LDS employment services more regularly. “We have a job opening,” they say. “We want a Latter-day Saint to fill it.”

Paulo Araujo, an employment manager in Brazil, explains that one of the issues of importance in his country is the number of returned missionaries unable to find work. “Far too many don’t have a high school diploma,” he says.

Brother Sloan remembers traveling to Brazil and visiting several schools that provide training to help adults obtain a high school diploma. “One of them was particularly impressive. Ninety percent of students who attended this six-month course successfully graduated.”

Although the school was doing well financially, it still had many empty desks. “If we could only fill them,” the school’s director said. Brother Sloan told the director about returned missionaries who might be interested in attending the school. “What if we were to suggest to these young men and women that they consider your school so they could get their high school diploma?” he asked.

“Oh, we would be delighted to have students such as this!” the director replied.

“If we were to send you groups of students, would it be possible to receive a discount of 10, 20, or even 50 percent on their tuition?”

Yes, the director said, such a thing was indeed possible.

At the end of the discussion they agreed on a 45 percent grant that would be applied toward tuition. With that discount in hand, more than half of the returned missionaries who enrolled in the school also applied for help from the Church’s Perpetual Education Fund, which provides loans to members in developing areas. This arrangement made their education possible.

LDS employment centers work hand-in-glove with the Perpetual Education Fund, explains Brother Sloan.

“PEF student applicants are required to enroll in the Career Workshop, where they can explore career and school options. LDS Employment Resource Services helps PEF students find part-time jobs and identify supplemental funding such



as grants, scholarships, or loans. After students graduate, LDS Employment Resource Services helps them find full-time work that will support them and their families.”

As employment center managers look for opportunities in the community, remarkable things happen. In Peru, job placements have nearly doubled over the past three years. Benedicto Pacheco, LDS Employment Resource Services manager, says the secret is developing long-term relationships with companies and with government agencies. In Lima, Peru, for example, the Church employment office has established a strategic alliance

with the government. The LDS employment office has access to the government's job database, which lists more than 250 new job openings every day; the employment office is considered a key player in finding people to fill those positions. And it's not

merely the lower-paying jobs that are filled. Recently the LDS employment center in Lima placed 40 people in executive positions. These people will not only be better able to support their families, they can also serve as tremendous ambassadors for the Church.

Employment resource centers also conduct classes in developing a small business. "The problem many people in my country have," Brother Pacheco says, "is that the only job they can find is one they create themselves. So we offer the Self-Employment Workshop that helps them start their own businesses. This year, more than 150 people in Peru have started their own microenterprise businesses using knowledge and resources provided by LDS employment resources."

Workshops

The Career Workshop is another vital tool that helps people articulate their goals and identify talents and skills. For most, this is an exciting discovery process that creates hope and motivation. The workshop develops specific, usable skills that provide a tremendous advantage when looking for employment or

a school to attend—an edge that can often mean the difference between a rewarding career or frustration and discouragement.

One South American stake president, for example, had spent a painful year looking for a job before finally enrolling in the Career Workshop. As a result of what he learned, he made some changes in the way he dressed, rewrote his résumé, prepared a 30-second introduction, and practiced interviewing. Armed with the skills he learned, he found a position as chief financial officer in a large business.

The Self-Employment Workshop is a new program that is having a positive impact on families in Africa, Asia, and Latin America who want to start or improve small businesses. The workshop teaches basic principles and strategies that help businesses grow. It also introduces members to local resources such as microcredit organizations that help small businesses get started or training institutions that can enhance the chance for success.

The Career Workshop and the Self-Employment Workshop are



Far left: In the employment resource center in Guatemala City, a tutor helps a young man learn English. Above: In Brazil these students were able to work toward their high school diplomas with financial help from the Perpetual Education Fund and their school. Below: Many employment centers sponsor job fairs such as this one in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.





held regularly at most LDS employment centers throughout the world and are available to members and their friends. Additionally, ward and stake (or branch and district) employment specialists may offer the workshops for members in their areas. All it takes to enroll is to call the employment specialist or the nearest LDS Employment Resource Services Center. The course runs 2 to 3 days and lasts 10 to 12 hours.

Although LDS Employment Resource Services focuses primarily on members of the Church, people of other faiths may come to the centers also. “As people come in and see how we love each person and how we reach out to help people of all faiths, often their hearts are touched,” says Paulo Araujo. “In the past few years, I would say 200 people in Santiago, Chile, alone have been baptized after becoming aware of the Church through LDS employment.”

A Force of Volunteers

The work of LDS Employment Resource Services depends to a large extent on the help of volunteers.

The day after the employment resource center opened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 15 volunteers (10 of them full-time homemakers) arrived unannounced. “We just want to help,” they said. They knew how the office could bless the lives of their brothers and sisters, their children, their neighbors, and they wanted to be part of it.

In employment resource centers throughout the world, volunteers give more than a million hours per year helping those who are at a critical crossroad in their lives. Some volunteers give a few hours a week to teach a workshop or coach a job seeker. Others serve as Church-service or full-time missionaries.


“Every day, mothers, fathers, and children fall to their knees and plead with the Lord for help in finding employment,” says Brother Brown.

“When that job finally comes, when the mother and father can at last feed their children and provide a place to call home—when that happens, nearly everything in their lives changes for the better.”

As families become stabilized and self-reliant, they are in a stronger position to serve and build the kingdom of God. By reaching out to the unemployed and unskilled, says Brother Sloan, “we can help anchor the Church in the first and second generations, and the spirit of self-reliance can take root in the homes of the members of the Church.” ■

For information on LDS Employment Resource Services available in your area, contact your employment specialist or your ward or branch leaders.

Facts on LDS Employment Resource Services

Countries outside of the United States and Canada with employment operations	41	
Employment centers in international areas (paid and volunteer staffs)	156	
Employment centers in the United States and Canada (paid and volunteer staffs)	103	

EMPLOYMENT CENTER SERVICE HOURS IN 2004

	International	U.S. and Canada	Total
Missionary hours	269,781	461,227	731,008
Volunteer hours	296,379	54,737	351,116
Total	566,160	515,964	1,082,124

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS IN 2004

	International	U.S. and Canada	Total
Job placements	66,858	78,714	145,572
Self-employment placements	6,339	3,093	9,432
Education enrollments	31,889	13,941	45,830
Total	105,086	95,748	200,834

Did You Know?

It Happened in September

September 21–22, 1823:

The angel Moroni visited Joseph Smith and told him about the gold plates.



September 1, 1901: President Heber J. Grant (1856–1945) dedicated Japan for the preaching of the gospel.

September 7, 1958: President David O. McKay (1873–1970) dedicated the London England Temple.

September 23, 1995: President Gordon B. Hinckley presented for the first time the proclamation on the family, in a general Relief Society meeting.

Write Away!

If you have an item you think would look great on this page, why not send it to us? We're always looking for fun ideas.

Remember to send photos too, if you have some to go with your brief article.

You can submit your article, quiz, or tip to:

Did You Know?

Liabona

Room 2420

50 East North Temple Street

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA

Or e-mail:

cur-liahona-imag@ldschurch.org

Leadership Tip

If you want to be a good leader, the Savior taught that first you must become a good servant and follower. In the New Testament, even Jesus Christ's Apostles sometimes had a hard time understanding this principle. In Mark we read that they "disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest" (Mark 9:34).

So the Savior called the Twelve Apostles together and told them, "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

Follow the example of the Savior, and lead out in your quorums, classes, families, and communities by serving others.

WEEK OF SERVICE IN FIJI

Teens from the Nausori Fiji, Suva Fiji, and Suva Fiji North Stakes wear special ponchos when they perform acts of service in the community. The logos on these ponchos display the name of the Church so people will know what brings these youth together to give of themselves.

Students of the Fiji LDS Church College, a secondary school sponsored by the Church, recently took part in a seminary week of service. Along with service projects at a school, a hospital, a health care clinic, a vocational training center for children with disabilities, and the Suva Fiji Temple, there were scripture-based programs and activities on campus.

BACKGROUND © PHOTODISC; ABOVE, THE ANGEL MORONI APPEARING TO JOSEPH SMITH IN HIS BEDROOM, BY TOM LOVELL; BELOW: PHOTOGRAPHY BY ORLO K. SPENCER AND DELOY SQUIRE





Spiritual Tool

We want to thank the *Liabona* magazine. The children's section has really made it easier for us to teach the gospel to our young children. It is encouraging to know that they are getting messages from our leaders even at their tender ages. They like this section, and they give lessons using the drawings and photographs. They wait anxiously for the magazine to come each month. We consider the *Liabona* a great spiritual tool, and our family home evenings have been better since we started using it.

*Poncio Calderón family,
El Frutal Ward,
Villa Nueva Guatemala Stake*

President Hinckley Is a Prophet

I am grateful for the *Liabona* magazine. I was especially impressed with the article "At Home with the Hinckleys" in the October 2003 issue. I could see such love and tenderness in President Hinckley's face, and I know he is a prophet of God. Thank you for such inspiring messages. They help us live righteously in this wicked world.

*Aracely B. Gómez Aguirre,
Vizcaya Ward,
San José Costa Rica La Sabana Stake*

Happy to Be Missionaries

I am writing to thank you for the wonderful things you publish in the *Liabona*. The messages from our leaders are very comforting, and I have learned many principles that I use in my daily life.

My wife and I share the magazine with many people who are not members of the Church, and we give subscriptions to our neighbors who are of other faiths. It makes us happy to be missionaries in this way. I know that Jesus Christ leads this Church, and I love working to help it grow.

*Andrés Ernesto Gioiosa,
Santa Rosa Third Ward,
Santa Rosa Argentina Stake*

Touched My Heart

I am grateful for the *Liabona* I receive each month. It strengthens my testimony and helps my family's spiritual growth. An article that touched my heart in particular was the First Presidency Message "Fathers, Mothers, Marriage," by President James E. Faust in the August 2004 issue. I know that Heavenly Father loves us and is concerned about families.

*Valcilandia Muniz dos Santos,
Califórnia Ward,
Itabuna Brazil Stake*

A Favorite Gift

After the standard works, the thing I most like to read is the *Liabona*. It is a blessing to be able to take time to search the messages and understand



the Lord's will. I feel the Spirit when I read, and my testimony of revelation through our prophet is strengthened. The teachings I find here provide guidance for my life, and they have helped me in my daily challenges. It is the one magazine where I can be sure of finding only good things, and it is one of my favorite gifts to give friends and investigators.

*Luis Eduardo Acosta H.,
El Vallado Ward,
Cali Colombia Jardín Stake*

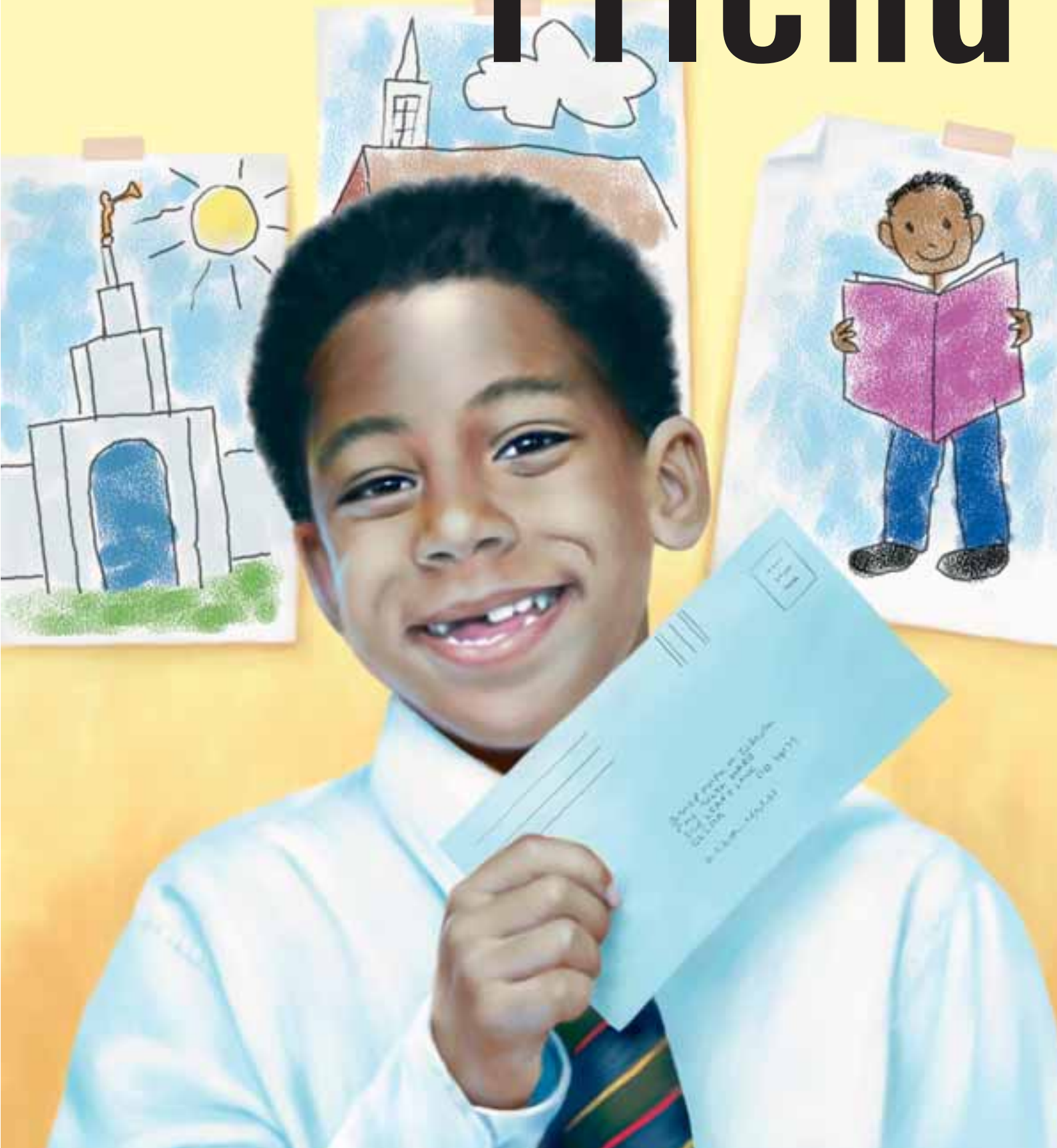
Answers to My Questions

I find answers to my questions in every issue of the *Liabona*. When I read the magazine I feel peace, love, and warmth, and I am grateful for the great blessings Heavenly Father promises each of us.

I am so grateful that there will be a temple here in Panama. I have set a goal to do work for the dead and to be sealed to my family for eternity. The magazine helps me progress and remain faithful in the gospel so I can meet this goal.

*Diana Isabel Díaz Gómez,
Bella Vista Ward,
Panama City Panama Stake*

the Friend



Avoiding the Devil's Throat



President Faust teaches us to be cautious and stay as far away from temptation as we can.

BY PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

As a young man I served a mission to Brazil. It was a marvelous experience. One of the wonders of the world in that great country is Iguacu Falls. In the flood season, the volume of water spilling over the brink is the largest in the world. One part of the falls, where the deluge—the overflow of water—is the heaviest, is called the Devil's Throat.

Years ago, reckless boatmen would take passengers in canoes to stand on rocks and look down into the Devil's Throat. The water above the falls is usually calm and slow moving and the atmosphere tranquil. Only the roar of the water below forewarns of the danger lurking just a few feet away. A sudden, unexpected current could take a canoe into the rushing waters, over the cliff, and down into the Devil's Throat. Those foolish enough to leave the canoes to stand on these treacherous wet rocks could so easily lose their footing and be swept away into the swirling currents below.

Some of you think of yourselves as dare-devils, ready to take on almost any challenge. But some activities will take you down into the Devil's Throat. The only safe

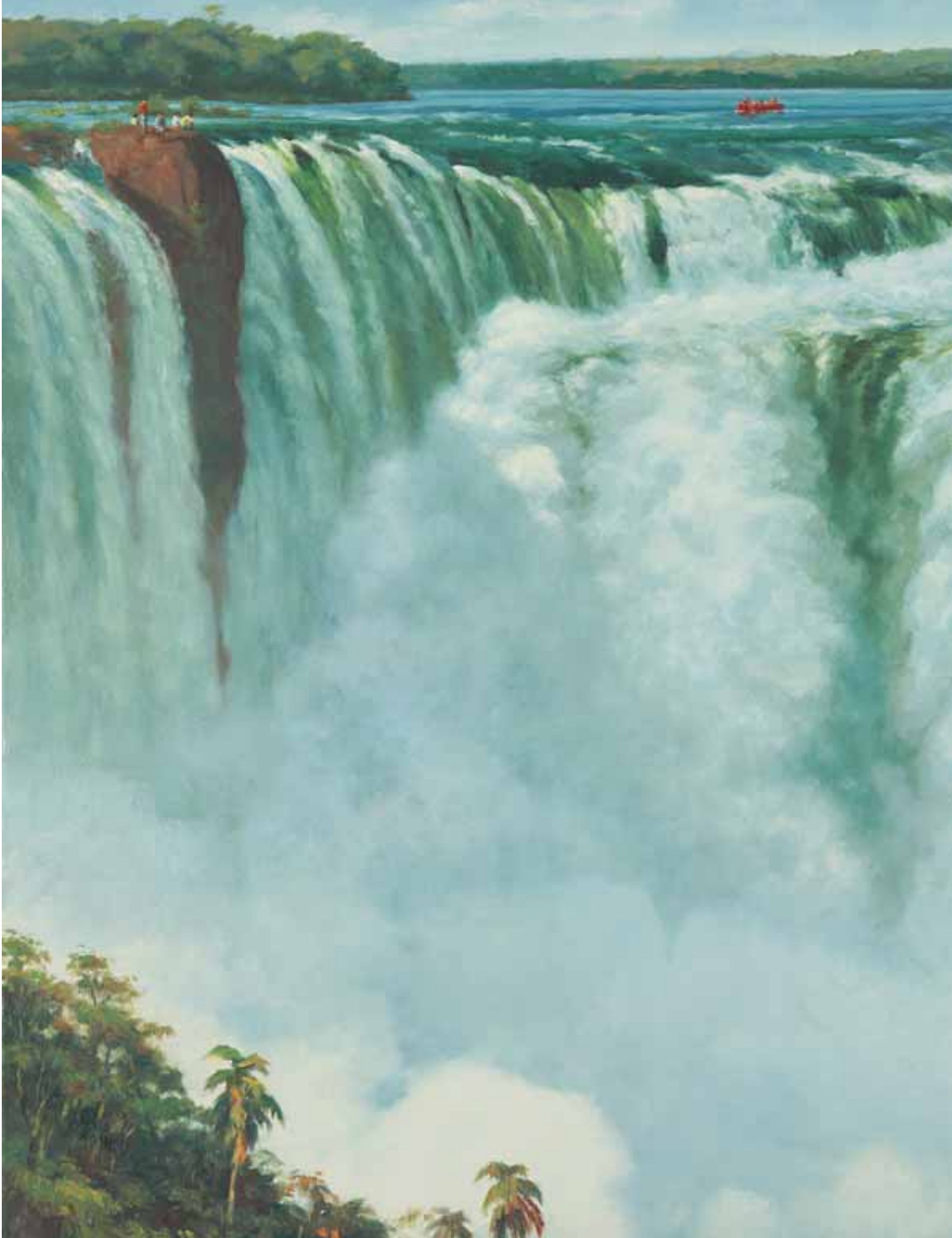
course is to stay well away from danger. President George Albert Smith (1870–1951) strongly cautioned, “If you cross to the devil's side of the line one inch, you are in the tempter's power, and if he is successful, you will not be able to think or even reason properly, because you will have lost the spirit of the Lord” (*Sharing the Gospel with Others*, sel. Preston Nibley [1948], 43).

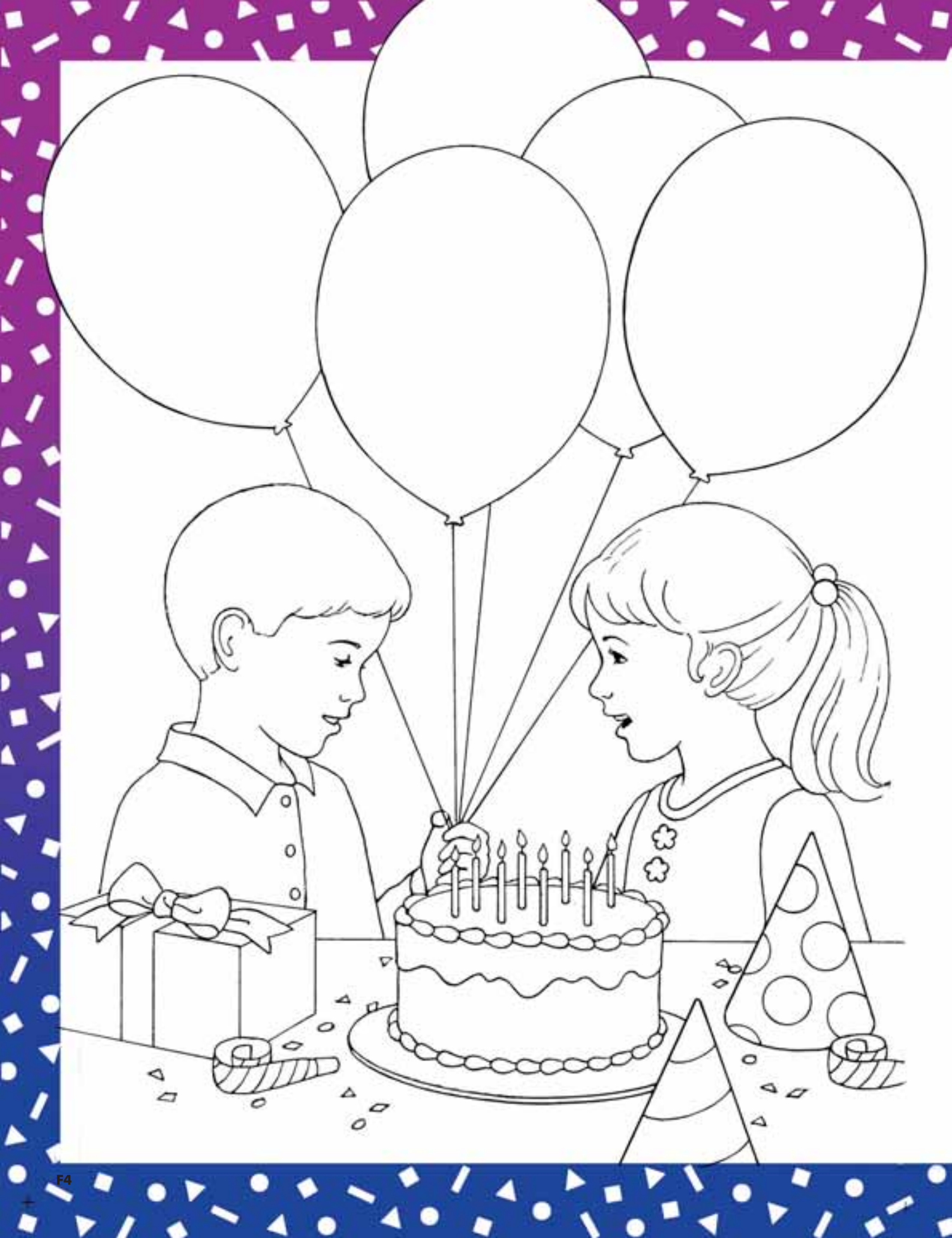
Some of Satan's most appealing messages are: everyone does it; if it doesn't hurt anybody else, it's all right; if you feel there is no harm in it, it's OK; it's the “cool” thing to do. Satan is the master deceiver. His disguise is so perfect that it is hard to recognize him or his methods.

You young people will need to become stronger spiritually and morally in order to withstand the temptations and snares of the world. Perhaps this is why such special spirits have been reserved for this time.

We are living in a challenging time, and it is a time for us to stand firm. We should go forward in a spirit of faith and not be fearful of anything except being too close to the Devil's Throat. We will be strengthened and preserved if we follow the counsel and direction of President Gordon B. Hinckley, our prophet, seer, and revelator. ●

From an April 2003 general conference address.





CHOOSE THE RIGHT WAY AND BE HAPPY

“We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul— We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things” (Articles of Faith 1:13).

BY MARGARET LIFFERTH

First Counselor in the Primary General Presidency



Do you attend a CTR class in Primary? Do you have a CTR ring? Our CTR ring reminds us to choose the right. Maybe you attend a Valiant class in Primary. Do you know what it means to be valiant? To be valiant means to be strong, faithful, and brave. Have you ever had to be valiant or brave when choosing the right? As a young boy, Joseph Smith learned that choosing the right is not always easy.

When Joseph was 14, he was confused about which church to join. Joseph read that people could ask God (see James 1:5).

Joseph Smith went to a grove and knelt in prayer. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ came to Joseph Smith and told him that he “must join none of [the churches]” (see Joseph Smith—History 1:16–19).

Joseph went home and told his mother what had happened, and she believed him. However, when Joseph related his experience to the leaders of different churches, none of them believed him.

But Joseph was valiant in telling the truth. He said, “Though I was hated and persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true” (Joseph Smith—History 1:25).

As we celebrate the 200th birthday of Joseph Smith this year, we can remember him and follow his example in choosing the right.

Choose the Right Coloring Activity

On page F4 write a sentence or draw a picture on each of the balloons that tells or shows ways you are choosing the right.

Sharing Time Ideas

1. Refer to Primary 5, lesson 36, and teach the story of the Prophet Joseph Smith writing the Articles of Faith. Repeat the first line of the thirteenth article of faith: “We believe in being honest.” Tell of the persecution suffered by Joseph Smith as he told the truth regarding the First Vision. Refer to Joseph Smith—History 1:21–26. In Joseph Smith—History 1:33, Moroni said Joseph’s name “should be had for good and evil among all nations.” How might our own names “be had for good and evil” because of our membership in the Church? Prepare four or five case studies in which children must choose to be honest. Divide the children into groups, and have each group dramatize a case study. At the point where a choice must be made, invite other children to help choose the outcome. Discuss how their name might “be had for good and evil” because of their choice, acknowledging that being honest is not always easy.

2. Understanding the purpose of the family in Heavenly Father’s plan can help us choose the right. Read two sentences from the family proclamation, beginning with “Happiness in family life” and ending with “wholesome recreational activities” (see Liahona, Oct. 2004, 49). Prepare wordstrips with one of the following on each strip: faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. Post them on the board to resemble one foundation. Prepare nine bags, each including: (1) a copy of a song or hymn that teaches about one of the wordstrips, (2) a piece of paper for each child in the group, and (3) crayons or markers. Divide the children into nine groups, and give each group a bag. Ask them to read the words to the song. Have the children draw one thing they can do to increase happiness in their own families. Invite each group to describe the pictures and post them on top of the foundation while all the children sing the group’s song. ●



FROM THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

The Girl in the Blue Dress

As prophet, President David O. McKay traveled with his son Llewelyn to Europe. He dedicated temple sites and tried to greet as many Church members as possible.

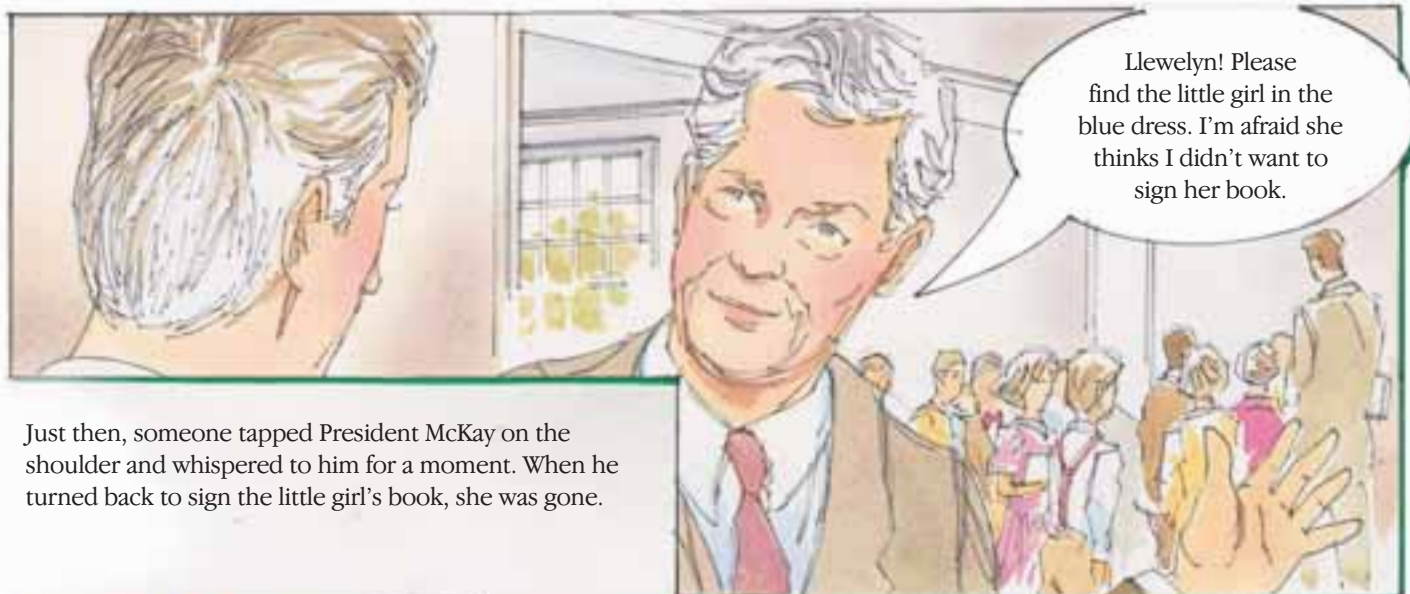
Father, you don't have time to greet all these children. Aren't you tired?

Son, never hurt a child. I can take time to meet these youngsters—I wouldn't disappoint them for anything.

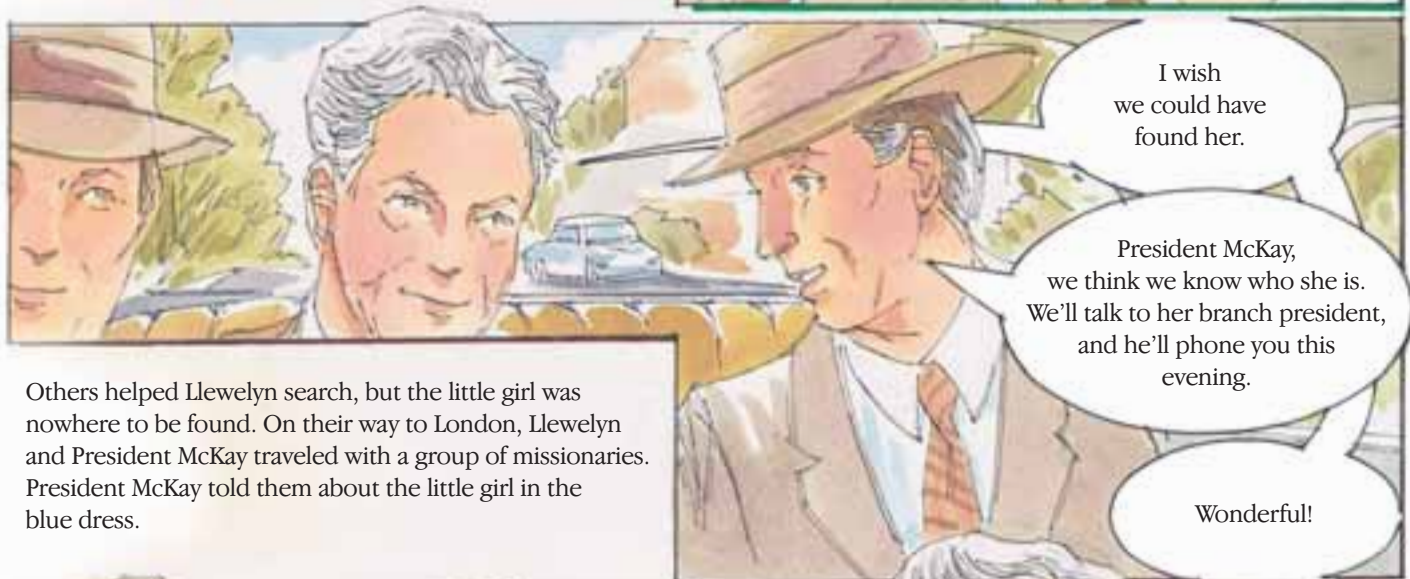
President McKay, could you sign my autograph book?

Do you think I can write plainly enough for you to read it?

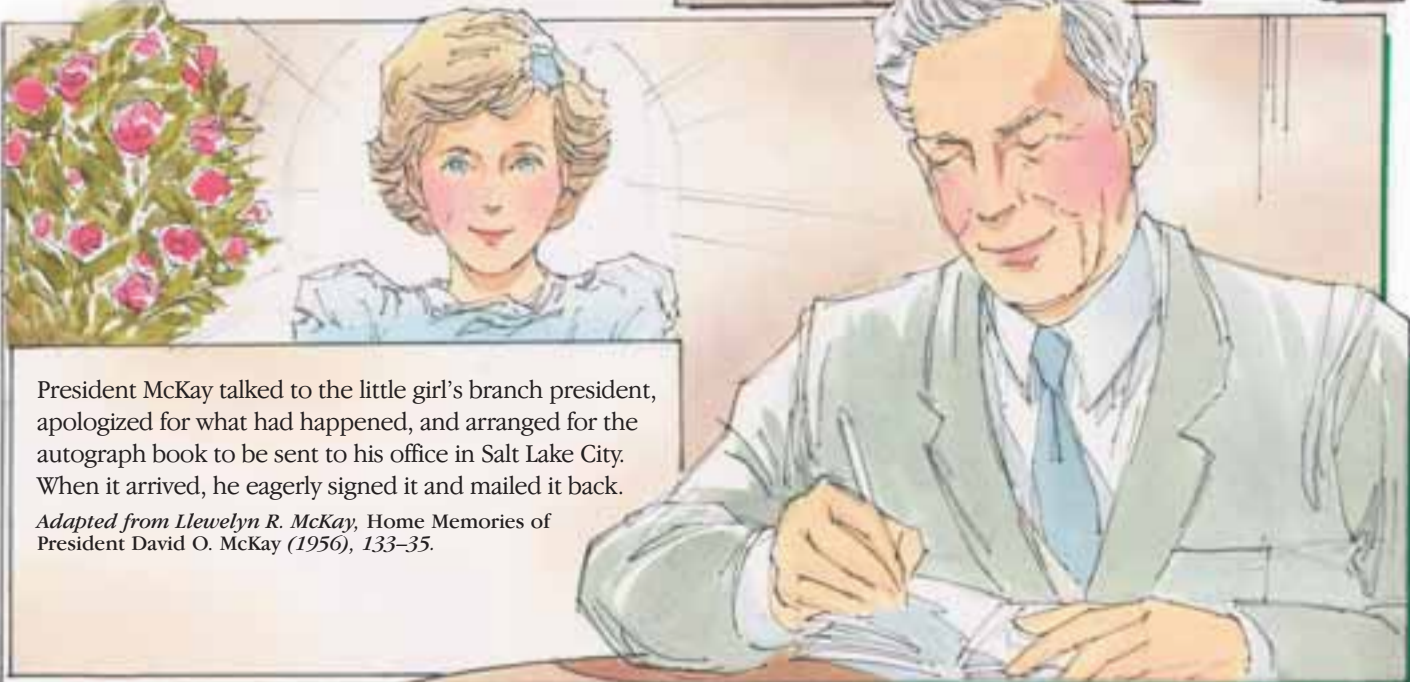
ILLUSTRATED BY MIKE ENGLE



Just then, someone tapped President McKay on the shoulder and whispered to him for a moment. When he turned back to sign the little girl's book, she was gone.



Others helped Llewelyn search, but the little girl was nowhere to be found. On their way to London, Llewelyn and President McKay traveled with a group of missionaries. President McKay told them about the little girl in the blue dress.



President McKay talked to the little girl's branch president, apologized for what had happened, and arranged for the autograph book to be sent to his office in Salt Lake City. When it arrived, he eagerly signed it and mailed it back.

Adapted from Llewelyn R. McKay, Home Memories of President David O. McKay (1956), 133–35.

Where Does Tithing Go?



1 When we earn money, we pay 10 percent to the Lord. This is called tithing.



2 We give our tithing to the bishop or branch president or one of his counselors,



3 who then counts and records it with the help of a ward or branch clerk.



4 Then Church leaders in Salt Lake City, Utah, decide where the tithing is most needed.



7 Or maybe your tithing will help publish materials for missionary work.

5 It may be used to help build a new meetinghouse.



6 It could go toward building a new temple.



8 No matter how your tithing is spent, it helps with the Lord's work on earth.



*"I will . . . open . . . the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing,
that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).*

The Windows of Heaven

BY MARIANNE DAHL JOHNSON

Based on a true story from the author's family history

Marcella frowned as she tried to wiggle her toes in her shoes. The shoes were too small and they hurt, but she knew she shouldn't complain. At six years old, she knew there was no money for new ones.

The past year had been hard for the Nelson family. In May, Marcella's tiny baby sister had died of pneumonia. And just six weeks later, her father, Eric, had been killed in an accident at work. How she missed her gentle father.

Now Marcella's mother was struggling to support her two young daughters with her sewing. Even though she was a skilled seamstress, there wasn't enough money. The kitchen cupboards in their small home were practically bare. No, bigger shoes just weren't an option right now.

"Time for breakfast," Mother called. Marcella struggled not to limp in the tight shoes as she walked to the table.

"Oh, honey." Her mother knelt at her side. "Those shoes are too small for you, aren't they?" Marcella could hear the worry in her mother's voice.

"A little." Marcella tried to sound unconcerned. "It's all right."

"You're trying to be brave," Mother said gently. "But I can see they hurt. I will try to get you some new ones soon."

"I want new shoes too!" piped up little Arvella.

Their mother picked Arvella up in a big hug. "You know your shoes are just fine," she said. Arvella's shoes were hand-me-downs from Marcella. They were worn, but at least they fit properly.

Arvella stuck her bottom lip out. "I want new shoes too," she repeated obstinately. Marcella and her mother smiled at each other. Arvella didn't understand their difficult position, and somehow her innocence made them feel better. They talked and laughed as they ate breakfast and cleaned up.

Suddenly Mother became serious again. "Girls," she said slowly, "we need to go to town today. I have \$2.50."

Marcella couldn't believe it! That was a lot of money in Utah in 1905. "That's great!" she exclaimed. She imagined





the food they could buy to stock their empty shelves. Maybe she could even get new shoes!

Marcella's smile faded when she saw the tears in her mother's eyes. "We owe \$2.50 for tithing," she said softly. Then she gathered her girls around her. "I know we are almost out of food. I know that you need new shoes so badly, Marcella. But if we want the Lord to bless us, we must keep His commandments."

Then she pulled out her worn Bible and turned to Malachi. She read to the girls the Lord's promise that if they paid tithing, the windows of heaven would open to them.

"What does it mean that the windows of heaven will open?" Arvella asked.

"It means that Heavenly Father will bless us," Mother said. "It says that we will receive such a great blessing that there won't be room enough to receive it. I know that we need the Lord's blessing now

more than ever. I believe His promise."

"I believe it too," Marcella said.

"Me too," Arvella chimed in.

"Oh, you are good girls." Mother pulled them close. "Let's pray together, and then I am going to take this money straight to the bishop."

The girls and Mother knelt. Mother asked Heavenly Father for a way to get more food for her little family and shoes for Marcella. After the prayer, they all wiped tears from their eyes. Then, with a smile, Mother said, "Let's go pay our tithing, girls!"

They walked the short distance to the bishop's house and gave him the tithing. Although her feet hurt, Marcella enjoyed the walk and the good feeling in her heart. She knew Heavenly Father would bless them.

As they approached their home, they saw Uncle Silas and Aunt Maud pulling up. Both girls ran to Uncle Silas, and he swung them high into the air.

"Hello, Sarah," Aunt Maud said, giving Mother a quick hug. "We just came to see how you and the girls are doing."

"Well," Arvella said seriously, "Marcella's shoes are too small, but we paid our tithing and it will be fine."

"Arvella!" Her mother gave her a stern look. "We're fine, Maud. How is your family?"



"Do you want the windows of heaven opened to you? Do you wish to receive blessings so great there is not room enough to receive them? Always pay your tithing and leave the outcome in the hands of the Lord."

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Earthly Debts, Heavenly Debts," *Liahona* and *Ensign*, May 2004, 41.

They all went into the house and chatted pleasantly. Marcella quickly took off her tight shoes and put them away. She noticed her aunt and uncle looking around the house carefully. Aunt Maud even opened a cupboard as she visited. Too soon, their visitors had to leave.

Later that afternoon, Marcella was surprised to hear a delivery cart outside. It stopped at their home, and a delivery boy came to the door. "A delivery for Sarah Nelson," he said.

"That's my mother," Marcella said.

"But I didn't order anything," Mother objected.

Suddenly Uncle Silas appeared in the doorway next to the boy. "It's for you, Sarah," he said gently. "You can put everything here on the table," he directed the delivery boy.

The boy brought in bags of food. The girls danced around the table in delight. They hugged Uncle Silas, who quickly excused himself to go home. There was so much food! Sugar, beans, flour and cornmeal, cured meats and dried fruit—the cupboards would be full! Last of all, the delivery boy brought a small package wrapped in brown paper to the table.

After the delivery boy left, the girls approached the small package. What could be inside? First Marcella and then Arvella shook it. Then Marcella carefully pulled back the paper. Into her lap fell not one, but two pairs of shoes! Marcella picked up the largest pair and put them on. They fit perfectly, and she happily wiggled her toes in complete comfort.

Then she saw Arvella's face. Her sister had picked up the second pair of shoes and was staring at them in delight. She looked at her mother in wonder. "I thought you said I didn't need shoes, Mama," she said questioningly.

"Your old shoes would do," her mother said through her tears. "But when Heavenly Father opens the windows of heaven, you never know what might pour down." ●

Marianne Dabl Johnson is a member of the Wells Ward, Elko Nevada East Stake.



The Dawning of a Testimony



*“By the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things”
(Moroni 10:5).*

BY ELDER MONTE J. BROUGH
Of the Seventy

I have always been fascinated by the wild outdoors. I love the mountains. I love the ocean. I love the rivers. I love the animals. I think that God’s creations are almost beyond any description in their beauty and value.

When I was 16 years old I wanted to see more of the outdoors, so my mother gave me permission to work in Alaska for the summer. I rode an old propeller plane there and found a job working in a grocery store.

I worked with a lay minister who was quite interested in converting me to his beliefs. Day after day we discussed the scriptures, but it was hard for me to defend my faith because, frankly, I didn’t know it well enough. I struggled to explain the Joseph Smith story and the revelations he had received in a way the minister could accept.

I finally realized I needed some help. So I looked up the full-time missionaries in the area and asked them if they would teach me more about the gospel. That summer I often spent an hour or two with the missionaries before talking with the minister, who had become a very good friend.

One particular night I awoke from sleep. I felt concerned that I couldn’t teach the gospel very well, even though I was coming to know it was true.



Outside the summer sun was shining the brightest fluorescent colors on the Alaska mountain range. The clouds hovered about two-thirds of the way up the slope, making it look like the mountain was floating in the air. It was one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. It is hard to describe the beauty I saw and the reverence I felt for Heavenly Father's creations.

I dropped to my knees and asked Heavenly Father to hear my prayer. I sincerely wanted to know that the Book of Mormon was true, and I sincerely wanted to know if what my mother had taught me all those years was what I should believe. I wanted to know that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the true Church of God upon this earth.

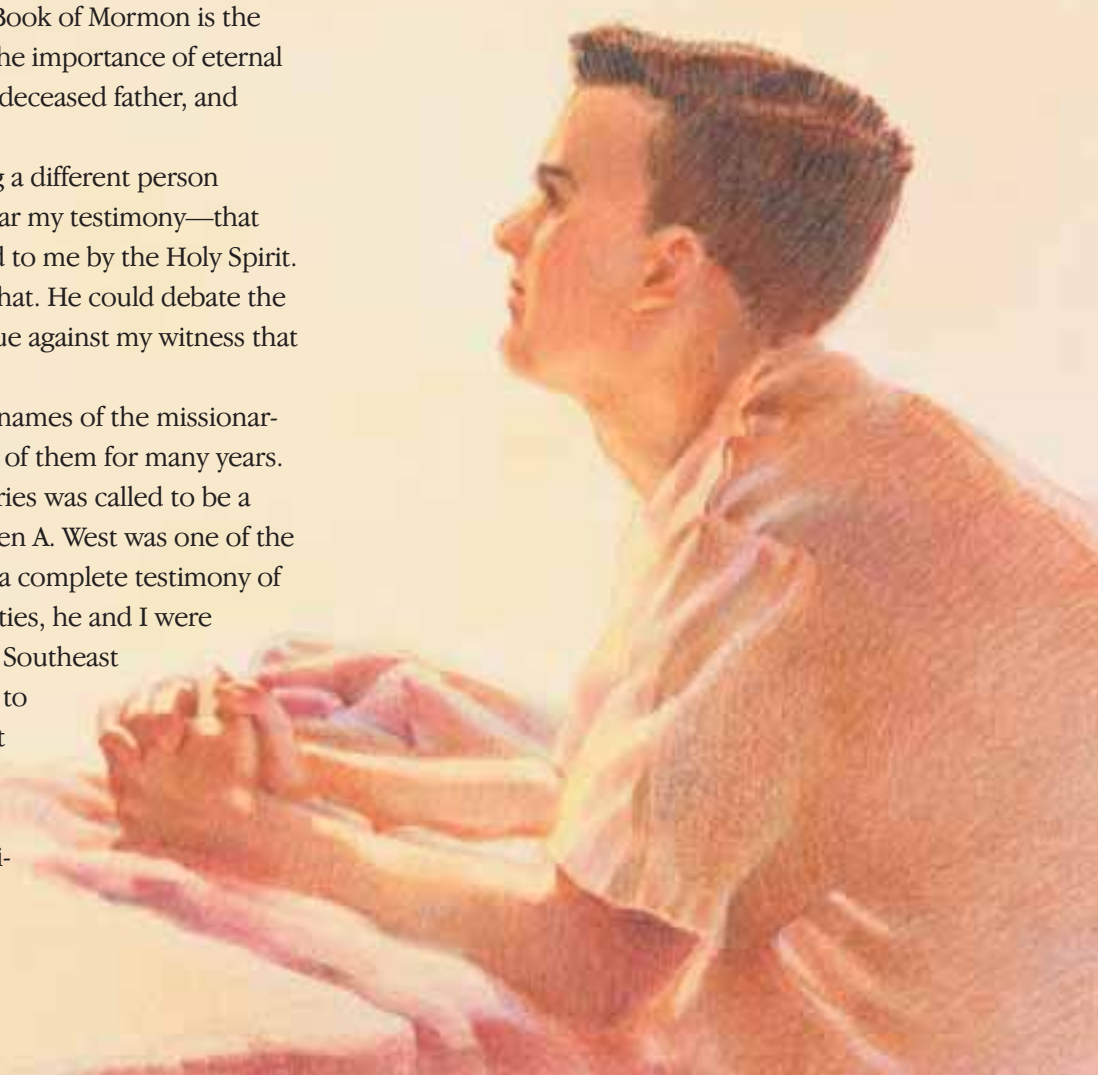
That night—although it was still daylight in the Alaskan frontier—I came to know that the Church is true. I came to know that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. I came to know the importance of eternal relationships with my mother, deceased father, and other family members.

I stood up the next morning a different person because I knew that I could bear my testimony—that these things had been revealed to me by the Holy Spirit. The minister couldn't handle that. He could debate the doctrine, but he could not argue against my witness that I knew the Church was true.

Though I remembered the names of the missionaries who taught me, I lost track of them for many years. In 1998 one of those missionaries was called to be a General Authority. Elder Stephen A. West was one of the key figures in helping me gain a complete testimony of the gospel. As General Authorities, he and I were assigned to the North America Southeast Area Presidency and were able to talk about our experiences that had happened so many years ago. I shall forever remember that Alaskan adventure I experienced as a 16-year-old boy. ●



Left: At age 16 (right) with Elder Stephen A. West and Elder David Loveless at the Anchorage Alaska Airport. Above: At work in the grocery store at age 16.



Ways to Study the Scriptures

Instructions: Read the caption under each picture; then color the picture.

You could use these captions and pictures for a family home evening lesson or a Primary talk.



1 Set a goal to read one or more verses of scripture each day.



2 Read the scriptures aloud with your family.



3 Read the illustrated scripture stories in the children's section of the *Liabona* or in *Old Testament Stories*, *New Testament Stories*, *Book of Mormon Stories*, and *Doctrine and Covenants Stories*. Read the stories to yourself or to younger children.



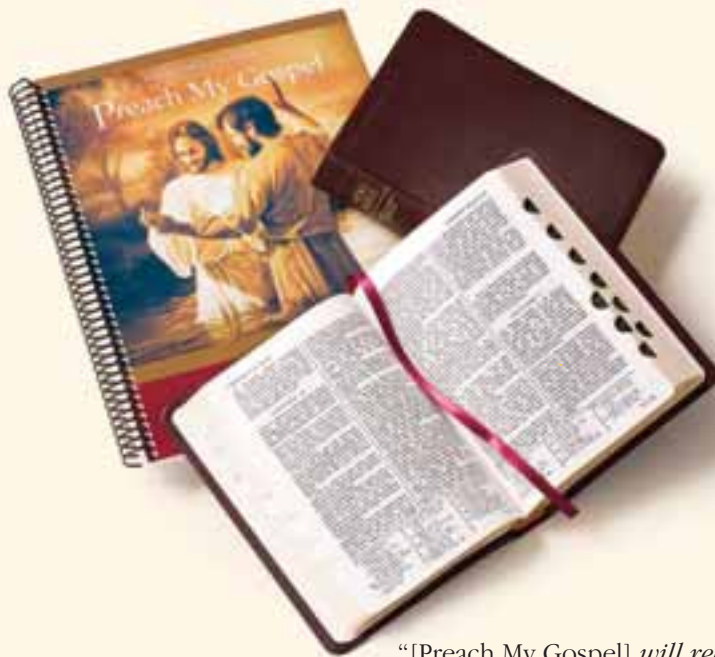
4 After hearing a scripture story in church, find it in the scriptures and read it at home.



MAY NOT BE COPIED

A Word of Wisdom Revealed, by Ken Corbett

The Prophet Joseph Smith received D&C 89 during a meeting of the School of the Prophets on February 27, 1833, in Kirtland, Ohio. Known as the Word of Wisdom, this revelation came in response to the Prophet's inquiry relating to the smoking and chewing of tobacco by the elders and in consideration of Emma Smith, who cleaned up the filthy floor.



“[Preach My Gospel] will require greater effort on the part of the missionaries,” said President Gordon B. Hinckley. “It will require much of prayer and much of study. . . . If there is better teaching in the conversion process, there will be greater retention of those who are baptized.” See “Preaching His Gospel,” p. 10.