

New Era

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Editorial Offices:
New Era, Room 2420
50 E. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220

E-mail address:
cur-editorial-newera
@ldschurch.org

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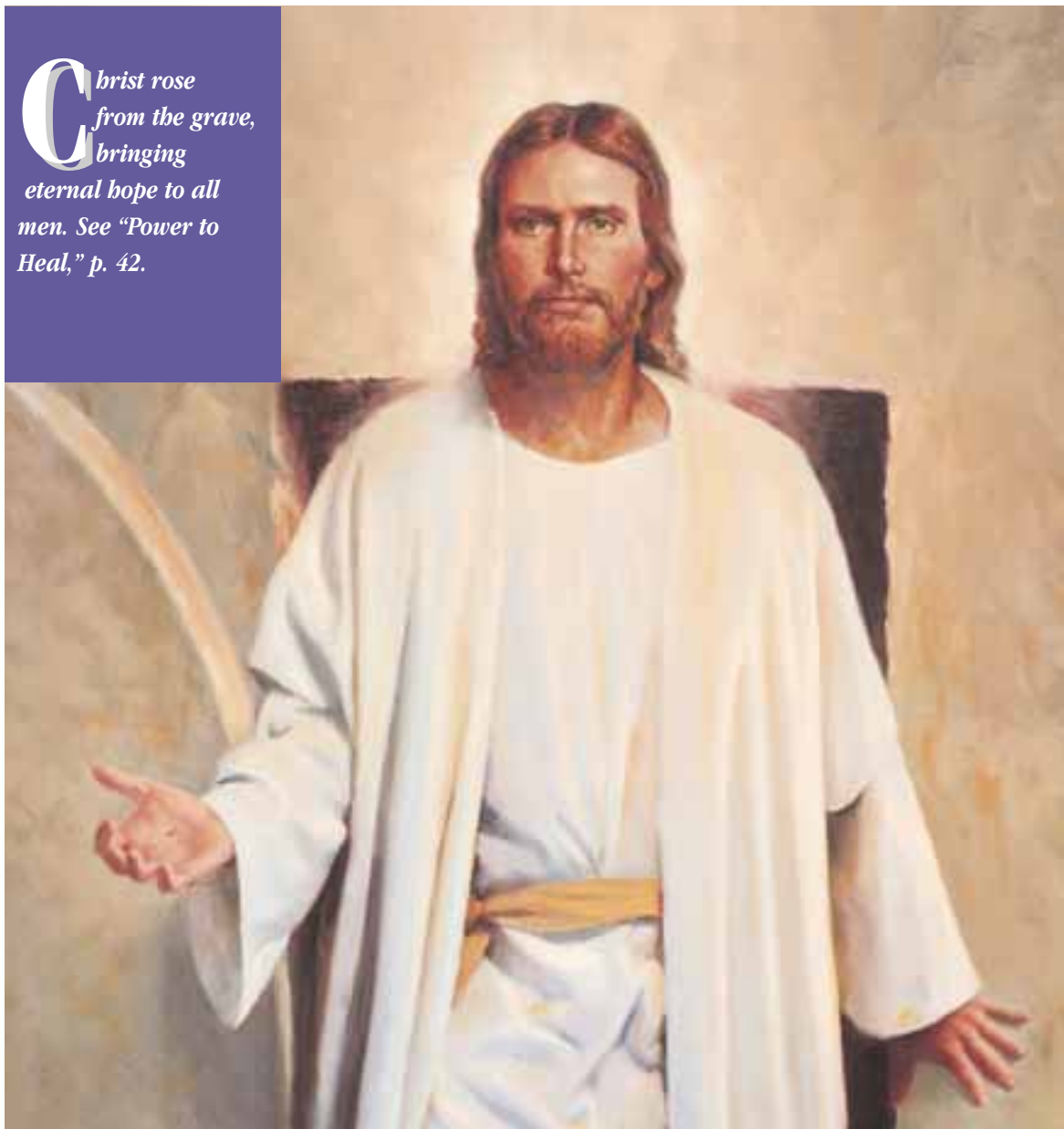
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Cover: *The Atonement*
made by Jesus Christ in
the garden allows us to
be healed from within.
See "King of Kings"
on p. 8.

Cover: Painting by
Heinrich Hofmann
(front), photography by
Christina Smith (back)

Christ rose
from the grave,
bringing
eternal hope to all
men. See "Power to
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You Are Different

BY ELDER DAVID B. HAIGHT
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



Though the world is becoming more wicked, the youth of Christ's church can become more righteous if they understand who they are.

Today's teenagers live in a world far different from that experienced by their parents. Though the world is becoming more wicked, the youth of Christ's church can become more righteous if they understand who they are, understand the blessings available, and understand the promises God has made to those who are righteous, who believe, who endure. All of our youth are entitled to and need this knowledge to combat the forces of deception that would lead them captive into darkness.

Peter, writing from Rome to the scattered saints, understood their trials and temptations to desert the faith and go back to their old ways. He encouraged the saints as he wrote: "That the *trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth*" (1 Peter 1:7, emphasis added).

Peter then adds a broader dimension with stirring words to help us understand who we are when he wrote: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;" and as a chosen and peculiar people, ". . . ye should shew forth the *praises of him* who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9, emphasis added). What a wonderful declaration of identity for our youth to



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT REIER



You can, if you qualify, go to the temple with your sweetheart—the one you love dearly—to be married in a manner prescribed by the Lord to continue forever as husband and wife.



ponder—“chosen generation”—“royal priesthood”—“a peculiar people.”

While attending a stake conference and having the added blessing of meeting with the young people, some of whom had driven long hours, I learned that several of them were the only Latter-day Saints in their high schools. When I asked, “You set the right example for the rest of the students, don’t you?” they replied, “We really try.” As they said “We really try,” I could see the light of belief and conviction in those youthful faces. I could begin to understand what Peter meant by our being called out of the “darkness into his marvellous light.”

Our youth, with all of their distractions, must realize that through their membership they are very special; that the Lord is counting on them that the prophecies might be fulfilled. You of a noble birthright are different from your friends who are not members

of Christ’s true church. You are a “chosen generation.” You live “in the world,” but you do not follow worldly trends or habits which are contrary to your beliefs. May I remind you of only a few of the very special events in your life that cause you to be different. You have made some promises, and some eternal promises have been made to you.

Eternal promises

1. Many of you were born under the covenant, your parents having made a covenant with God. You can, if worthy, “inherit thrones, kingdoms, principalities,” and have “exaltation and glory . . . sealed upon [your] heads, . . . forever and ever” (D&C 132:19). Chances are your nonmember friends wouldn’t understand these terms. In today’s world they may sound rather strange.

2. You have been baptized “even by water,

and . . . of fire and of the Holy Ghost” (D&C 33:11), making your salvation possible if you endure and are faithful to the end.

3. At our meetings you partake of the sacrament, symbolic of the torn flesh and spilled blood of our Savior, giving you an opportunity to renew your covenant to keep the Lord’s commandments that His spirit may continue to be with you. A teenage girl in Scotland told of being with nonmember friends. She wanted to be part of the group and thought, “Surely one little drink wouldn’t hurt—why not?” Then she realized her celestial kingdom goal. After that, she said, the ridicule didn’t matter. She had felt of His Spirit and could feel of His influence at that moment.

You are surrounded with temptation and wickedness, but you don’t succumb to them. A Chinese scholar wrote, “The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.”

4. You young men have received the priesthood of God with the authority to perform special ordinances in His name. This right, delegated to you, makes you His fully qualified servants with the power to bind on earth and in heaven—to administer spiritual things.

The Lord said: “For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies” (D&C 84:33).

5. You can, if you qualify, go to the temple with your sweetheart—the one you love dearly—to be married in a manner prescribed by the Lord to continue forever as husband and wife in the celestial kingdom of God; and, if you live worthily, to gain eternal life—the greatest of all God’s gifts to man.

At times I wonder if you fully comprehend the far-reaching, eternal significance of temple marriage. If you really understand, you will never settle for less. Marriage is a divine ordinance, not to be performed by a justice of the peace or to be taken lightly; but, “ordained of God unto man” (D&C 49:15).

6. You can, if worthy, even perform miracles—which makes you different from the rest of your friends; to heal the sick, [to] cure all manner of disease. Healings are among the signs that follow true believers. Faithful young elders have this power.

These are only a few of the eternal principles that distinguish you from the materialistic style being developed

by worldly men today. As you place the weight of your influence on the side of good, truth, and beauty, your life will achieve an endless splendor, nobler than you might imagine.

Paul, writing to his beloved Timothy and realizing the pressure Timothy was experiencing, said: “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).

Some of you attend schools where there are few Church members; others, where we are a majority. But if you conduct yourselves properly and develop your personalities along Church standards, your candle will be high on a hill and will burn brightly for all to see. Dare to think for yourself. Have the strength of character to act the way you know to be right.

You may feel at times that the Lord’s commandments restrict your freedom as compared with others. Freedom does not mean license, nor does it imply the absence of all restrictions and discipline. The Savior did not teach undisciplined, permissive-type freedom. When He said, “know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32), He is telling us that His truth, if followed, would free us from falsity, from deception; that His gospel, if followed, would free us to gain eternal life. As the light of the gospel fills our souls, our abilities will increase. We will love our neighbors and be of sincere service in helping others.

I testify to our noble youth who will be the future leaders of our society and the Church that you are different. You need not look just like the world; you need not entertain like the world; your personal habits should be different; your recreation will be different; your concern for your family will be vastly different. If you establish this distinctiveness firmly in your life pattern, only blessings await you for doing what is right.

It is written: “If you speak and act with pure thoughts, happiness will follow like a shadow” (Anonymous).

Remember, my young friends, that Christ is the only one through whom we can reach the divine destiny. You and I must believe in Him—believe that His Church was founded and established upon divine revelation, that we have presiding over His Church a true and living prophet through whom revelation is received for the world today. **NE**

From an October 1973 general conference address.



King of Kings

BY LISA ANN JACKSON

I stood at the tombs of kings and queens, but an empty tomb is what I reflected on.

Westminster Abbey is an elegant stone cathedral situated in London not far from the banks of the River Thames. It has been a religious and cultural center for more than 900 years. All but two British monarchs since A.D. 1066 were crowned there, many were married there, and many are buried there.

When I finished serving a mission in England, I visited this celebrated place. I wandered through the main

worship hall and down side corridors. As I strolled and marveled at the building's immensity and beauty, I happened upon several burial vaults. I looked at the names and was surprised by their familiarity: Queen Elizabeth I, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Dickens. There were others—famous statesmen, lauded thinkers, and British royalty. Their names resounded from my history textbooks.

I was particularly taken by the graves of the kings and queens. They ruled the British Empire; they had earthly power few can fathom; they were among the most influential people on earth during their time.



But I couldn't help wondering where their power was now. They have returned to dust. "If you slid aside the stones on top of their tombs," I thought, "you would find their mortal remains." And I wondered, "What influence do these kings and queens have today?"

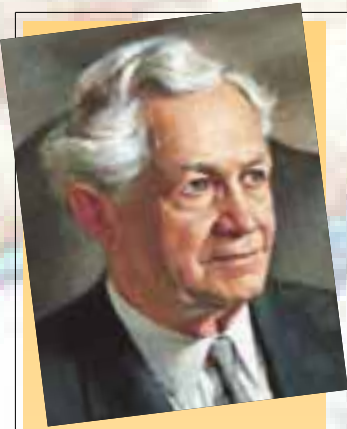
Then I thought of the King of kings. His tomb is empty. There were no mortal remains when the stone was rolled away. He is risen in immortality, and He lives.

"Where is *His* influence today?" I thought as I reflected on my last 18 months teaching the people of northern England—not about Queen Elizabeth, not

about Charles Dickens, but about Jesus Christ. I thought about the building I was standing in, which, even without the fulness of the gospel, was built to proclaim the Savior's teachings. I thought of my own feelings for Him.

At that moment I understood the Resurrection in a way I had not before. His tomb is indeed empty. He is indeed risen. He does indeed live. And His influence continues to change hearts, minds, and lives in a profound and everlasting way. **NE**

Lisa Ann Jackson is a member of the Church magazines staff.



BY PRESIDENT
DAVID O. MCKAY
(1873–1970)

I wish I could say to every young man [and young woman] in this Church, that if you would be successful, if you would be happy, if you would conserve your strength, intellectual, physical, and spiritual, you will resist temptation to indulge your appetites and your passions.”

—President David O. McKay
(*The Improvement Era*,
48:310)

DANDY

He was very clever—sometimes too clever for his own good.

I had great pleasure in training a well-bred colt. He had a good disposition, clean, well-rounded eye, was well proportioned, and all in all, a choice animal. Under the saddle he was as willing, responsive, and cooperative as a horse could be. He and my dog, Scotty, were real companions. I liked the way he would go up to something of which he was afraid. He had confidence that if he would do as I bade him he would not be injured.

But my horse Dandy resented restraint. He was ill-contented when tied and would nibble at the tie rope until he was free. He would not run away; he just wanted to be free. Thinking other horses felt the same, he would proceed to untie their ropes. He hated to be confined in the pasture, and if he could find a place in the fence where there was only smooth wire, he would paw the wire carefully with his feet until he could step over to freedom. More than once my neighbors were kind enough to put him back in the field. He learned even to push open the gate. Though he often did damage that was provoking and sometimes expensive, I admired his ingenuity.

But his curiosity and desire to explore the neighborhood led him and me into trouble.

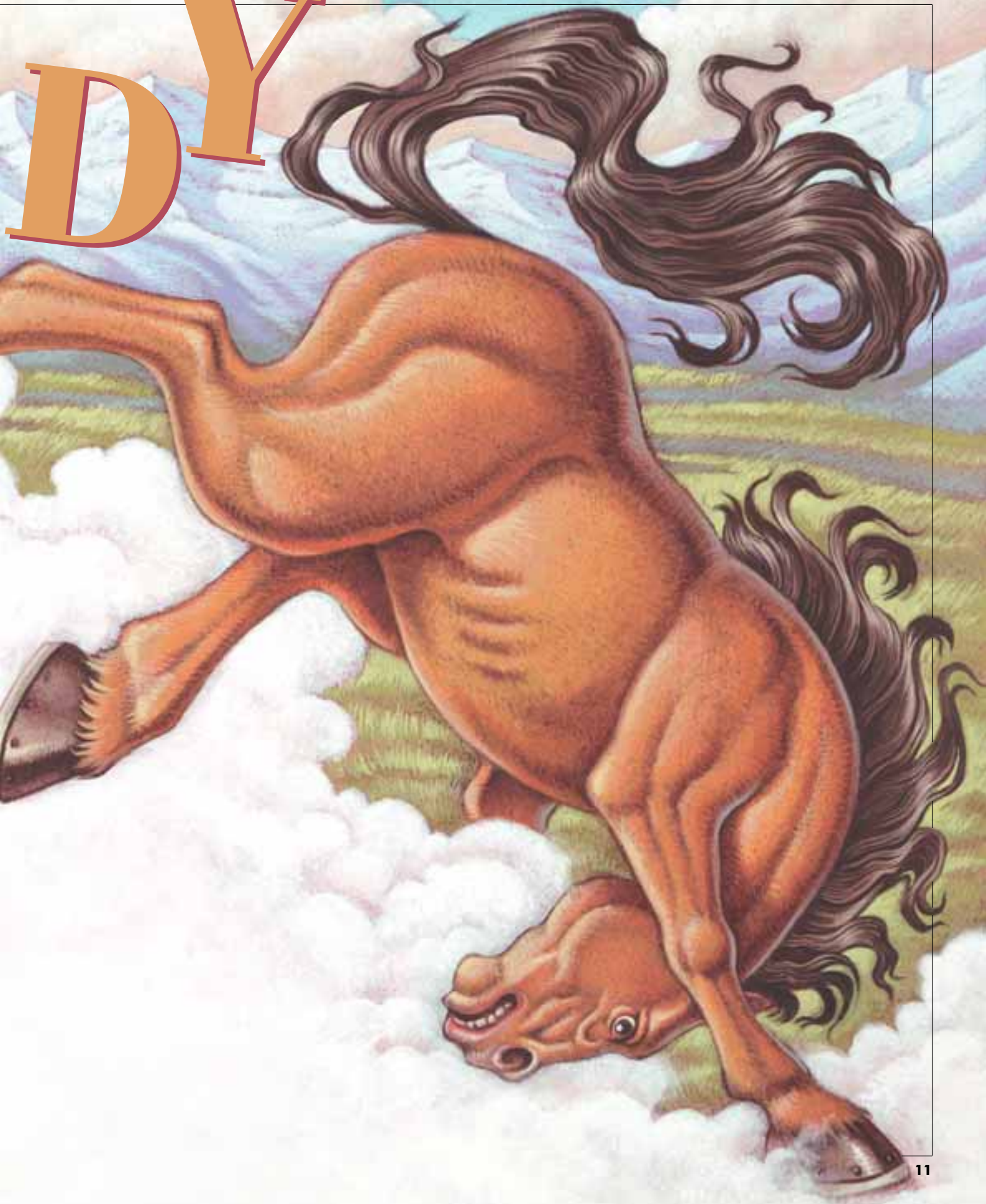
Once on the highway he was hit by an automobile, resulting in a demolished machine, injury to the horse, and slight, though not serious, injury to the driver. Recovering from that, and still impelled by a feeling of wanderlust, he inspected the fence throughout the entire boundary. He even found the gates wired. So for a while we thought we had Dandy secure in the pasture.

One day, however, somebody left the gate unwired. Detecting this, Dandy unlatched it, took another horse with him, and together they visited the neighbor's field. They went to an old house used for storage. Dandy's curiosity prompted him to push open the door. There was a sack of grain. What a find! Yes, and what a tragedy! The grain was poisoned bait for rodents! In a few minutes Dandy and the other horse were in spasmodic pain, and shortly both were dead.

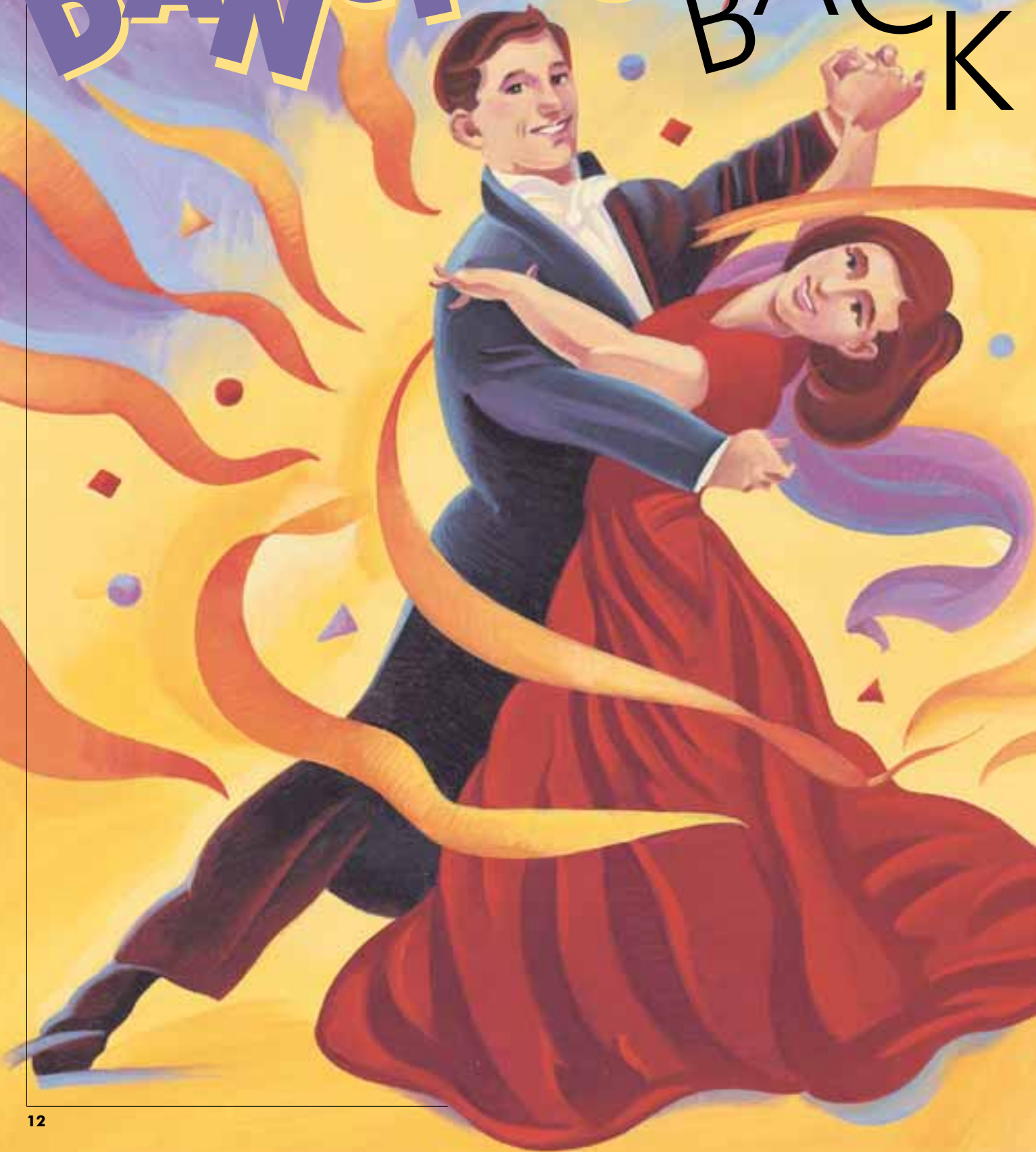
How like Dandy are many of you young people! You are not bad; you do not even intend to do wrong; but you are impulsive, full of life, full of curiosity, and long to do something. You, too, are restless under restraint, but if left to wander without direction, you all too frequently find yourselves in the environment of temptation and too often are entangled in the snares of evil. **NE**

Adapted from an October 1968 general conference address.

DY



DANCING BACK



T O CHURCH

I loved to dance. That brought an invitation to a stake youth dance. Little did I know that each step was taking me back to activity and service in the Church.

BY ELDER NED B. ROUECHÉ

Of the Seventy

When I was in my late teens, I received a telephone call that would change my life—my eternal life.

A good sister from my ward called to invite me to perform a dance floor show number at a Mutual activity evening that was being held in a couple of weeks. Dancing was a hobby of mine, and I was studying ballroom dancing at a studio in Salt Lake City. I had never been to a youth MIA

(Mutual Improvement Association) dance before, and I was excited to accept the invitation to perform.

My partner and I arrived on the appointed evening and were greeted enthusiastically. I was surprised to find that we were the only ones on the program. It was an exciting experience, and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening.



I was asked to help teach dancing in the ward, which gave me a feeling of being needed.

The following Sunday morning, I decided to go to church in our ward for the first time since I was ordained a deacon. At that time, none of my family was active. I found people who welcomed me warmly, and they demonstrated a genuine friendship and caring. These experiences started me on the road to activity and service in the Church that has been a joy to me throughout the years.

Coming back

A group of brethren took me under their wings, and we became good friends. A wonderful returned missionary taught me the basics of the gospel and helped prepare me to serve a mission. During this same time I was asked to help teach dancing in the ward, which gave me a feeling of being needed, and it also gave me a responsibility.

The next 15 months flew by, filled with growth and happiness as I progressed. I



Look around for those who are less active and those of other faiths. Become friends, and you will make a difference in their lives that will bless them for generations to come.

soon received a call to serve a mission in Mexico. I quickly grew to love the language, the country, and its people. Sharing the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ gave me a foundation upon which to build the rest of my life.

An invitation

I know what it means to have a friend, a responsibility, and to be nurtured by the good word of God. There are many who do not understand what is missing in their lives and hunger for those tender feelings that come from knowing the love of our Savior. They are good people who lie dormant, as it were, awaiting the awakening of their souls by those who bring the “good news.” There are others who watch us, observe our examples, and say, “I like what I see; how can I become a part of it?”

I invite you to look around you at the less active and those of other faiths. Seek them out. Extend a warm hand of friendship. Invite them to participate with you. Become their friend, and you will make a difference and bless their lives for generations to come.

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God;

“For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer

suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him.

“And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance.

“And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth!” (D&C 18:10–13).

I invite all to come and enjoy these great blessings of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ that has been restored.

Let us cast aside the traditions of men, all the things that clutter our lives and lead us carefully away from what Moroni called “the right way,” (Moroni 6:4) and lift our hearts to Him who has ransomed us, even Jesus Christ our Savior, and follow Him.

Listen to the feelings of your heart and follow its prompting. You will be taught from on high and receive answers to your prayers.

Let us go forth with greater enthusiasm and bring souls unto Him, that they may be fed, nurtured by His good word, and know His tender love.

That evening so long ago when I was invited to share my talent, the door opened to a wonderful new world of friends and activity in the Church. I am grateful for those who reached out with a warm hand of fellowship, invited me in, nurtured me, and blessed my life.

After all, this is the Church of Jesus Christ, and no other joy can equal what we may enjoy as we kindle our spirits with His sweet message of love. May we all be blessed, both the giver and the receiver, as we share this precious message. **NE**

From an April 1999 general conference address.

THE WOUNDS THAT HEAL MY OWN



BY ELVIN MENCÍA

PHOTOGRAPH BY TAMRA H. RATIETA, POSED BY MODELS; DETAIL FROM THE CHRISTUS, BY BERTEL THORVALDSEN

Bicycle riding left me with one wound. Sin and neglect left me with wounds of another kind—a kind that can be healed through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

When I was a teenager, a friend and I often compared scars. We were both very active young people, so we had quite a few wounds that had healed into scars. We had one in particular that was the same size and shape and in exactly the same place. Our matching scars were located on our left knees, and we had both acquired them while riding our bicycles.

One cool evening in July, this friend came to my home in Honduras accompanied by her sister and two young men who were representatives of The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-day Saints. The missionaries taught the gospel to my family and me, and we were baptized four weeks later.

After I found the gospel, I came to realize that all of us have spiritual wounds. They are caused, as our physical ones are, by neglect or as a result of violating safety standards—in this case, the commandments of God. They are wounds no cream or surgery can make better. Only the Atonement of our Savior Jesus Christ can heal us. Only our repentance and faith in Him can lessen our pain. He is the only physician who can give us peace.

Now when I look at my scars, I am reminded of other wounds—the wounds in the hands and feet and side of the Master. His wounds are the ones that can heal my own. **NE**

Elvin Mencía is a full-time missionary in the Nicaragua Managua Mission.

Q & A

“How can I tell the difference between inspiration and my own thoughts?”

Answers are intended for help and perspective, not as pronouncements of Church doctrine.

NEW ERA

The scene is familiar. You kneel by your bed, you pour out your heart to Heavenly Father, you close your prayer, and then you wait for an answer. Thoughts float around your mind. Are they inspiration or just your own ideas?

There is no simple answer to this question, because we’re talking about spiritual communication. If learning to receive and correctly understand revelation were easy, mortal life would hardly be a test at all. Growing in our ability to receive revelation is like learning to play a musical instrument. It is a skill we must practice diligently for a long time before we feel comfortable with it.

Fortunately, through His prophets and apostles, the Lord has given us guidance.

President Harold B. Lee (1899–1973) counseled: “All of us should try to . . . give heed to the sudden ideas that come to us, and if we’ll give heed to them and cultivate an ear to hear these promptings we too—each of us—can grow in the spirit of revelation” (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee* [2000], 51).

Pay attention to thoughts that enter your mind after you pray.

Thoughts the Spirit puts in your mind will match the feelings He puts in your heart.

Personal revelation won’t conflict with what the Lord has told us through His prophets.

Personal worthiness determines how clearly you receive messages from the Lord.

Don’t put off obeying promptings. Doing what God asks will show Him He can trust you with promptings in the future.

READERS

President Harold B. Lee taught, “When your heart begins to tell you things that your mind does not know, then you are getting the Spirit of the Lord” (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Harold B. Lee, 37). Inspiration is more of a feeling than a voice.



Ubong Awak, 23,
Ikeja Ward,
Lagos Nigeria Stake

The Holy Ghost can direct me if I live according to Heavenly Father’s commandments, even if it is hard. If we do our best, our Father will reward us. The Holy Ghost will be with us and will lead us in difficult choices.



Maria Kleis, 14,
Silkeborg Branch,
Aarhus Denmark Stake

If you are living a good life and partaking of the sacrament worthily, your thoughts and feelings will echo what the Spirit is telling you. Inspiration is a feeling that fills not only



your mind but also your whole being. When you have no doubt about what you should do, that feeling is the Spirit. Doubt is in the unsure mind; the Spirit knows exactly.



Colby Park, 17,
Monument Park 14th Ward,
Salt Lake Monument Park Stake

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles counseled us recently to try our faith by acting on our impressions (see "To Acquire Knowledge and the Strength to Use It Wisely," Ensign, June 2002, 32). We will know our impressions are from the Holy Ghost when we receive a

confirmation that what we have done is right. I know the impressions I receive are from the Spirit when they consistently return to my mind and I feel confident and peaceful, not confused or doubtful.



Sister Kristen Kerr, 21,
Scotland Edinburgh Mission

Each person may have an individual way of discerning spiritual manifestations. We need to be sensitive to discover how the Spirit speaks to us. If we pray and study the gospel of Jesus Christ and if we have patience

NEW ERA

The Lord said: “I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart. Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation” (D&C 8:2–3). In other words, when your mind receives an idea and your heart feels a spiritual confirmation of it, you are receiving personal revelation.

President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has taught: “The voice of the Spirit is a still, small voice—a voice that is *felt* rather than heard” (“The Cloven Tongues of Fire,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 8).

It may help you to remember the Lord’s counsel to Hyrum Smith: “Put your trust in that Spirit which leadeth to do good—yea, to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously; and this is my Spirit” (D&C 11:12). If something draws you closer to your Heavenly Father, it is likely the inspiration of His Spirit.

The only sure way to recognize revelation is through your own experience. Do what you are prompted to do. As you exercise faith and act upon the feelings you receive, you will become acquainted with the Holy Ghost and better able to recognize His voice.

Remember to be patient. The Lord doesn’t always answer quickly. Sometimes He responds after much study and prayer. Sometimes He even lets us solve a problem on our own.

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is live worthy of the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Like a radio, you cannot experience “clear reception” if some part of your life is out of order. As you become more pure through keeping the commandments and repenting of sin, your ability to receive and recognize spiritual promptings will increase. **NE**



The teachings of the Spirit

often come as feelings. That fact is of the utmost importance, yet some misunderstand what it means” (*Ensign*, March 1997, 13).

— Elder Dallin H. Oaks
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

READERS

and humility and try each day to be pure in heart, certainly we will feel the Spirit.



Raquel Akemi Inokuti, 15,
Bairro Alto Ward,
Curitiba Brazil Tarumã Stake

Our hearts are filled with love when we receive inspiration. Everyone can receive an answer in his or her heart. I know because this is how I have received my answers.



Srinakorn Supakot, 15,
Korat Branch, Khon Kaen
Thailand District

When we want to feel the guidance of the Holy Ghost, we must come to know Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ better. We must become as pure as we can be. We must fast and pray. Then we will feel peace in our hearts. When our hearts are broken and contrite, we feel a simple, peaceful, soft voice that teaches us what to do.

Cíntia Pamela Frías, 20,

Sión Ward, La Paz Bolivia Miraflores Stake

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send us your answer to the question below, along with your name, age, and where you are from. Please include a snapshot of yourself that is 1 1/2 by 2 inches (4 by 5 cm) or larger. Please respond by June 1, 2003.

Q&A, New Era

**50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150**

QUESTION

“What should I say when friends are asking me questions about the Church, but they twist everything I say and only want to debate? I don’t want to argue, but I want them to understand. What should I do?”

The background of the entire page is a painting titled "Painting Woman Touches Hem of Christ's Garment" by Heidi Darley. It depicts a close-up of a woman's hand reaching out to touch the hem of a white, textured garment, likely Jesus' robe. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the fabric and the skin. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of white, cream, and light brown.

HE IS WITHIN REACH

THE SAVIOR CAN HEAL YOU BOTH PHYSICALLY
AND SPIRITUALLY. REACH OUT TO HIM.
(See Mark 5:25–34.)

STILL A SACRED PLACE

Valiant Saints continue to build the Church in Kirtland.

BY JANET THOMAS

This is a quiz question. What city did the Saints live in the longest before establishing Salt Lake City in Utah?

Did you answer Nauvoo?

Wrong.

The correct answer is Kirtland, Ohio. Early Saints lived there a little less than eight years, nearly a year longer than in Nauvoo. Kirtland and surrounding towns are significant to Church history because the Prophet Joseph received 65 recorded revelations, which make up nearly half the Doctrine and Covenants, in and around northern Ohio. Also, the Prophet and other early Church leaders received visitations from Jesus Christ and had the wonders of the heavenly world revealed to them.



After organizing the Church in New York state, the early Saints, looking for a hospitable place to live and worship, arrived in Kirtland, where Oliver Cowdery, Parley P. Pratt, Peter Whitmer, and Ziba Peterson had introduced the Church to one of the town's foremost preachers, Sidney Rigdon. With a well-respected clergyman encouraging his congregation to listen to the missionaries, the Saints found a community that was anxious to learn more about the restored gospel.

Temple on a hill

The little town of Kirtland today is still surrounded by farms, and there, white and gleaming, still standing, is the first LDS temple built. Although presently the Kirtland Temple is not a functioning temple, nor is it Church-owned, it has been preserved as it was, 165 years ago, overlooking the town. The temple is still a quiet, pleasant place to visit and has retained a sacred feeling about it.

The Kirtland Temple is one of Laura Packer's favorite places. She and her family live right in town and attend the Kirtland Ward. She passes the temple almost every day going to and from school. "I'm really lucky to know how important this place is," says Laura. "I don't think I appreciate it enough."

The temple remains special to all members of the Church. It was here that in a marvelous vision the Savior, Moses, Elias, and Elijah appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery (see D&C 110).

Mike McMurtrey of the Mayfield Ward has lived in the Kirtland area since he was six. He remembers the first time he heard about Joseph Smith receiving a vision of the Savior in the temple. "I remember thinking, 'Wow, that's a big deal,'" says Mike. "I also like reading section 109, the dedicatory prayer, in the Doctrine and Covenants. To me that shows that Joseph Smith was a prophet. It's obvious that he isn't a farm boy speaking."

THE FIRST TEMPLE

After three years of sacrifice, the Kirtland Temple was completed in 1836. The Saints in Kirtland described the weeks following the temple's completion as a time of spiritual outpouring.

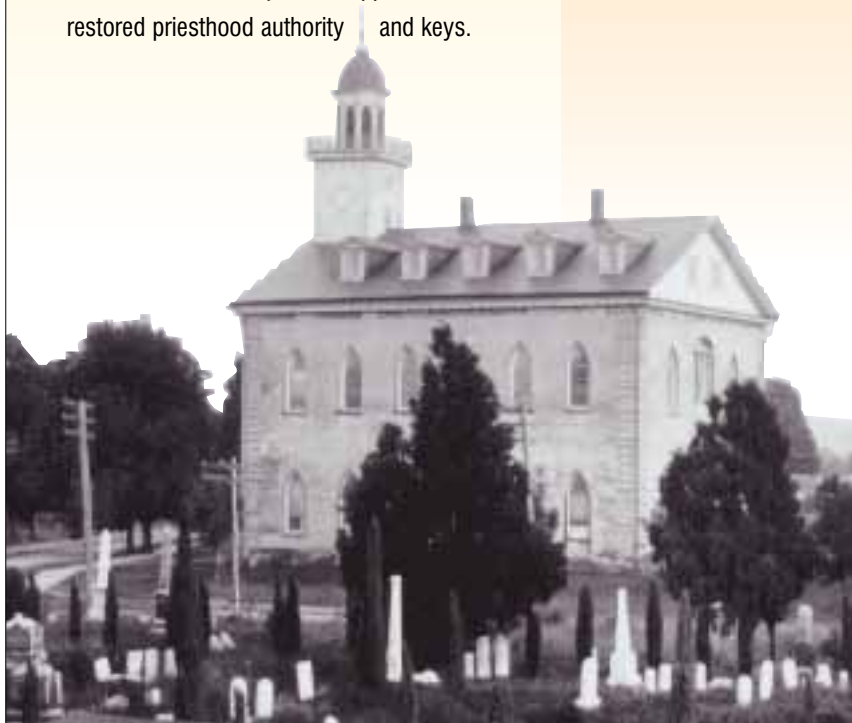
One thousand people attended the Kirtland Temple dedication on 27 March 1836. In the meeting, the Prophet Joseph Smith offered the dedicatory prayer and asked for a visible manifestation of the Lord.

Eliza R. Snow recorded the fulfillment of the Prophet's prayer, "No mortal language can describe the heavenly manifestations of that memorable day. Angels appeared to some, while the sense of divine presence was realized by all present" (*The Women of Mormondom*, 95).

The following week, on 3 April 1836, the Savior appeared in the Kirtland Temple to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. In this appearance, the Lord accepted the temple as His house. After the Savior's appearance, Moses, Elias, and Elijah also appeared and restored priesthood authority and keys.



The Prophet Joseph Smith established the Church in Kirtland where the Saints built the first temple in modern times. *Laura Packer (left) loves the fact that she passes by the Kirtland Temple every day on her way to and from school.*





Farm in Hiram

One thing that continues to amaze the teens who live around Kirtland is how far the early Saints regularly walked to listen to the Prophet speak or to attend Church meetings. The John Johnson farm is about 40 miles from Kirtland. The Johnson family opened their rather large home and asked Joseph and Emma and their children to live with them for a while.

Today the journey from Kirtland is a fairly long ride in a car since the country roads don't allow for highway speeds. Pausing to talk in the driveway of the Johnson farm, Paul Brown III of the Hiram Ward says, "The most amazing thing is the travel they did back then. Joseph Smith would go back and forth between Kirtland and here. I can't imagine doing that a couple of times a week on a horse or walking."

The John Johnson farm was the location of one of the more dramatic stories in Church history. It was here that a mob dragged the Prophet from his room, tarred and feathered him, and returned him to his terrified wife, Emma, who mistakenly thought he was covered in blood. They both spent the rest of the night trying to remove the tar. The next morning, sore and in pain, he stood on the front porch and preached to a crowd.

Standing on the front steps of the Johnson home, in the very spot where the Prophet Joseph stood before the gathered

crowd the morning after the mob attack, Paul says, "After all he went through, the Prophet Joseph was provided the strength from the Lord to get up and preach."

"And," adds Jessica Seipert, also from the Hiram Ward, "Joseph and Emma also had to deal with one of their twins dying after being exposed to the cold that night." Joseph, an adopted son of Joseph and Emma, died from exposure in March 1832.

Jessica walks inside the home to stand in the room that Joseph and Emma used as their bedroom. The furniture is arranged as it might have been that night. She tries to imagine the chaos and fear that would have been in that room that night.

The Hiram Ward meets next door to the Johnson farm. Meagan Gallagher is a member of the ward. She says, "I think it's really cool to be able to come here and feel the Spirit in the home, especially in the room upstairs where Joseph Smith received so many revelations. If I could, I would come here every day and study the scriptures. That's my favorite part of living close to the Johnson farm."

Standing in the upstairs room, Kevin Powell, also of the Hiram Ward, says, "We're told that Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ while in this room. It's in the 76th section of the Doctrine and Covenants. In fact, 16 out of the 65 revelations given in Ohio were given here on this farm."

Emma Smith had to endure attacks by mobs while living on the John Johnson farm.

Jessica Seipert (opposite page, left) and Meagan Gallagher visit the farm often. Jessica (below, right) pauses in what was the Smiths' bedroom. Paul Brown III and Kevin Powell (below, center) inspect the room where the revelation in section 76 was received. Nicki Shepherd (below, left) loves living so close to Church history sites.





JOHN JOHNSON FARM

The Johnson farmhouse in Hiram, Ohio, was the home of Joseph Smith and his family from 1831 to 1832. While living with John and Elsa Johnson, the Prophet worked on his translation of the Bible and received 16 of the revelations published in the Doctrine and Covenants.

In February 1832 the Prophet translated the Gospel of John. While translating the fifth chapter of John, he began wondering if some truths regarding salvation had been lost from the Bible. With this inquiry in mind, Joseph and his scribe, Sidney Rigdon, received a miraculous vision of the three kingdoms of glory and an explanation of life after death.

In the vision, the two men saw God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Their testimony of Jesus Christ is recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants, "He lives! For we saw him, even on the right hand of God" (D&C 76:22-23).





This artist's depiction of Newel K. Whitney shows how he may have looked when he met the Prophet Joseph for the first time. The interior of the store (below, center) has been restored to appear as it did in the 1830s. Kimberly Eggleston holds a handcrafted basket similar to those used a hundred years ago. (Below, left) Shane Draper and Trent Tauffer (below, right) enjoy visiting the store.

What's in store

Shane Draper is a runner. He likes the feel of speed caused by his own efforts. He likes the rhythm that his feet find as they carry him to the finish line. And he's gaining a reputation in Ohio as having a talent for track. But now, he's sitting still. He's on the porch of a small, white-sided store in Kirtland, his hometown.

As a member of the Church, Shane knows how important this building is. It is the Newel K. Whitney Store, where the Prophet Joseph received revelations that are now in the Doctrine and Covenants, and where the first School of the Prophets was held. Shane is explaining why he likes visiting that upstairs room, a place where men saw visions. "No matter when I go there, the Spirit is really, really strong."

Shane also has a lot of sympathy for Emma, the Prophet's wife. She complained about the mess created by the men using tobacco. Shane says, "In our locker room at school, kids chew tobacco, and there's spit all over. Sometimes your clothes will drop in it. It's nasty."

These days, Kirtland is taking on a new look. Some of the original buildings are being rebuilt. A new Church visitors' center has opened. Yet, the real attraction is the knowledge that in this place the heavens opened, and the Lord spoke to His servants. Those revelations have become precious scripture that continue to guide the Church and instruct Church members. **NE**

Janet Thomas is on the Church magazines staff.





NEWEL K. WHITNEY STORE

This story is recorded in the Newel K. Whitney family history about the arrival of Joseph Smith in Kirtland: "About the first of February, 1838, a sleigh containing four persons drove through the streets of Kirtland and drew up in front of the store of Gilbert and Whitney. One of the men, a young and stalwart personage alighted, and springing up the steps walked into the store and to where the junior partner was standing. 'Newel K. Whitney! Thou art the man!' he exclaimed, extending his hand cordially, as if to an old and familiar acquaintance. 'You have the advantage of me,' replied the merchant, as he mechanically took the proffered hand, 'I could not call you by name as you have me.' 'I am Joseph the Prophet,' said the stranger smiling. 'You've prayed me here, now what do you want of me?' " (*History of the Church*, 1:146).

From 1831 to 1834, the second floor of the Newel K. Whitney Store served as the headquarters for the Church. This store was the location of many important Church activities, including the organization of the first School of the Prophets. Throughout the winter of 1833 the School of the Prophets met from sunrise to late afternoon on the appointed days. In these meetings Joseph Smith and Orson Hyde prepared a select group of 20 priesthood leaders for their missions that coming spring. In general these missionary training sessions consisted of scripture study and gospel discussion, but secular subjects such as grammar were discussed as well.

The Prophet often received revelations during these sacred meetings held in the Whitney Store. During one meeting on 27 February 1833, the Prophet received the important revelation we know today as the Word of Wisdom (see D&C 89).





CRUNCH TIME

In one stupid move, I'd dented the car next to me. Now I had to decide if dishonesty would also dent my soul.

BY ARIANNE B. COPE

It was the first time I'd been able to drive my family's car to work in weeks. When I pulled into the parking lot, I failed to notice how inappropriately fast I was driving. I thought a one-handed parking job would be rather impressive.

Crunch!

I was wrong.

The car next to me jolted from the impact.

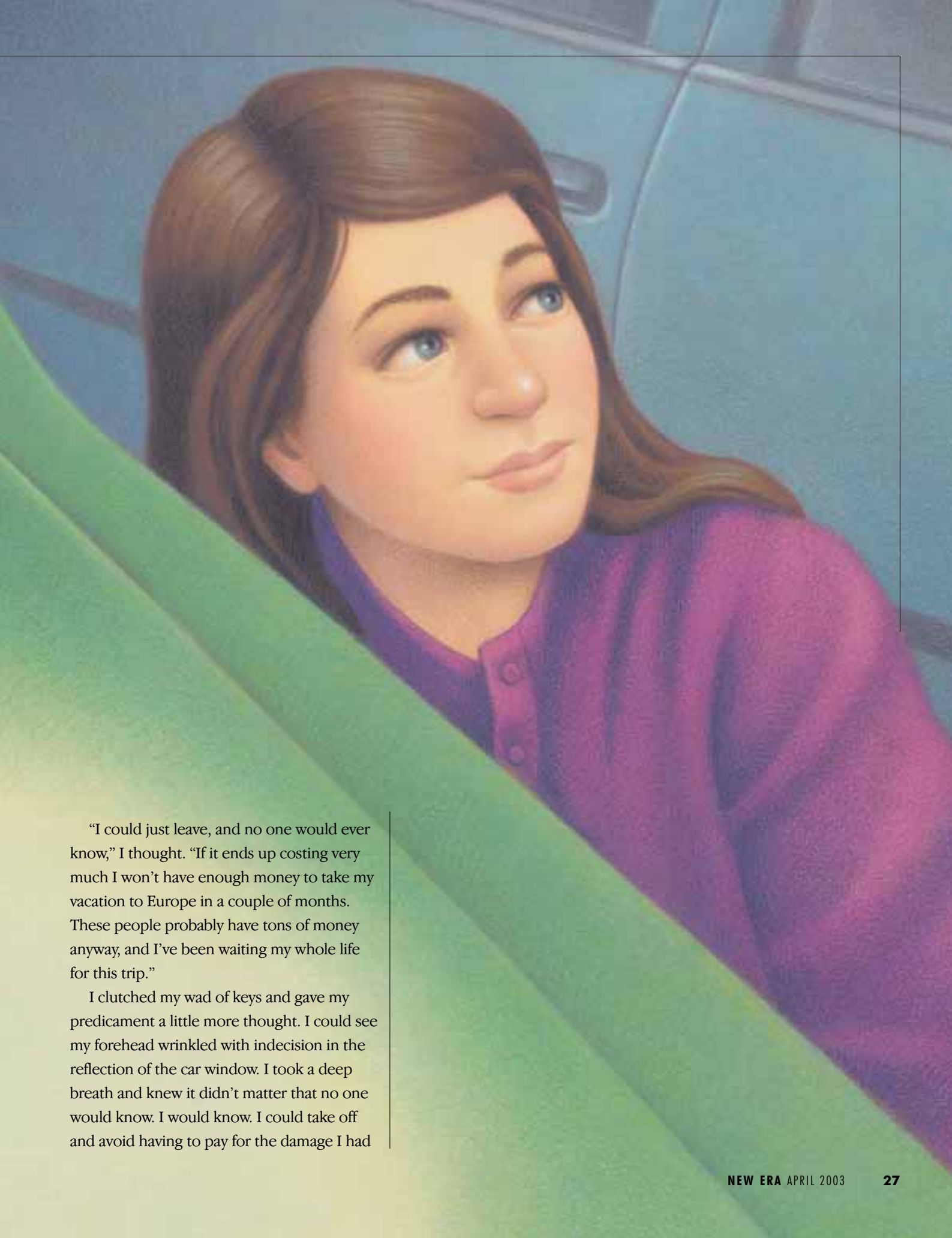
"You just hit that car!" I yelled at myself.

My forehead sunk to the dashboard in despair. I felt like such an idiot.

Had anyone seen? I looked around but didn't spot anybody. My heart was thumping in my chest. I threw open the door and ran around the front of my car to survey the damage. I examined the front bumper and right panel carefully but saw no sign anything had happened.

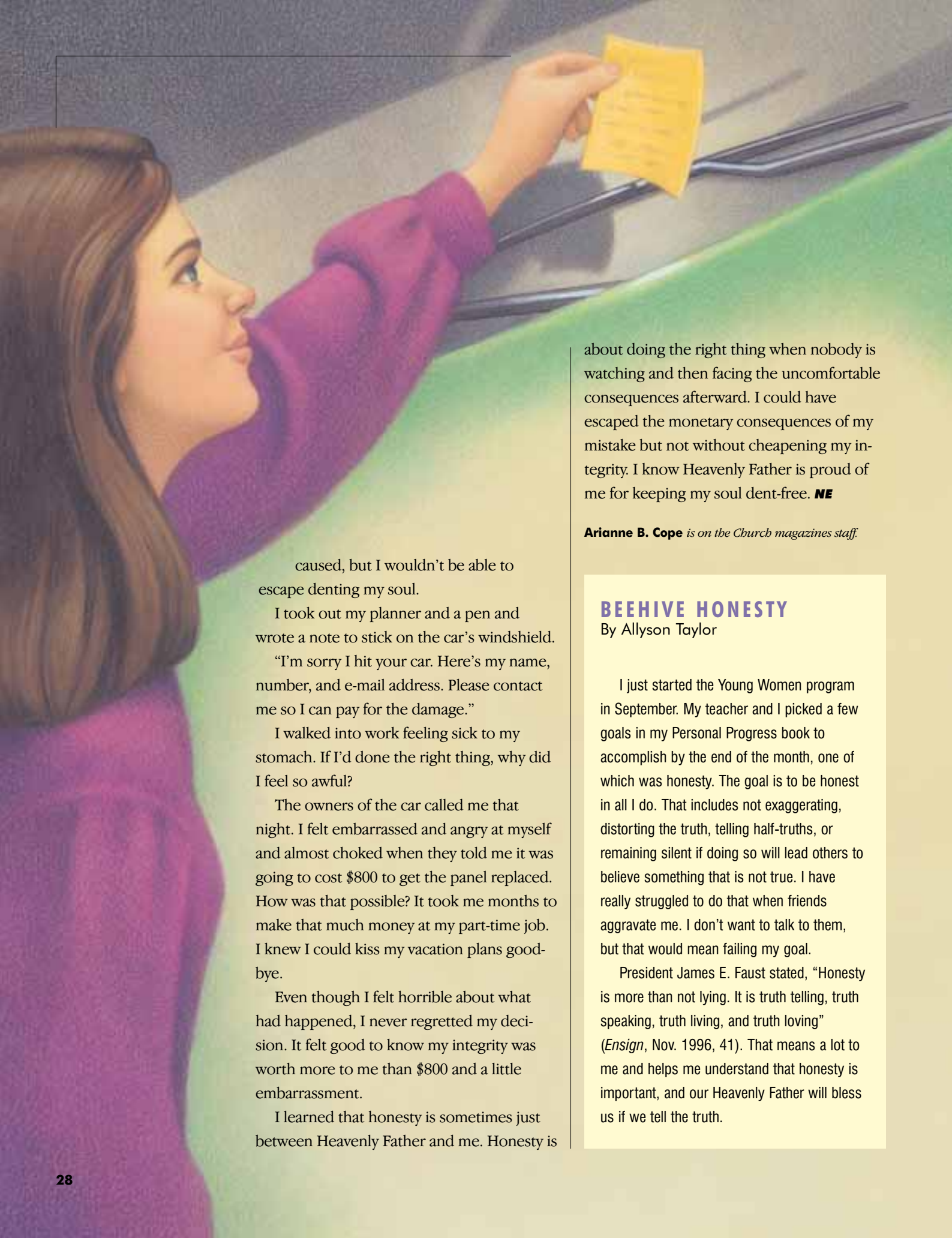
Then I turned and looked at the new Toyota Camry I had hit. On the left, back panel there was a small dent where some of the shiny green paint had come off.

I scanned the parking lot again. No one was around. I'd heard kids at school talking about dinging cars and just taking off. It happens to everyone.



“I could just leave, and no one would ever know,” I thought. “If it ends up costing very much I won’t have enough money to take my vacation to Europe in a couple of months. These people probably have tons of money anyway, and I’ve been waiting my whole life for this trip.”

I clutched my wad of keys and gave my predicament a little more thought. I could see my forehead wrinkled with indecision in the reflection of the car window. I took a deep breath and knew it didn’t matter that no one would know. I would know. I could take off and avoid having to pay for the damage I had



caused, but I wouldn't be able to escape denting my soul.

I took out my planner and a pen and wrote a note to stick on the car's windshield.

"I'm sorry I hit your car. Here's my name, number, and e-mail address. Please contact me so I can pay for the damage."

I walked into work feeling sick to my stomach. If I'd done the right thing, why did I feel so awful?

The owners of the car called me that night. I felt embarrassed and angry at myself and almost choked when they told me it was going to cost \$800 to get the panel replaced. How was that possible? It took me months to make that much money at my part-time job. I knew I could kiss my vacation plans good-bye.

Even though I felt horrible about what had happened, I never regretted my decision. It felt good to know my integrity was worth more to me than \$800 and a little embarrassment.

I learned that honesty is sometimes just between Heavenly Father and me. Honesty is

about doing the right thing when nobody is watching and then facing the uncomfortable consequences afterward. I could have escaped the monetary consequences of my mistake but not without cheapening my integrity. I know Heavenly Father is proud of me for keeping my soul dent-free. **NE**

Arianne B. Cope is on the Church magazines staff.

BEEHIVE HONESTY

By Allyson Taylor

I just started the Young Women program in September. My teacher and I picked a few goals in my Personal Progress book to accomplish by the end of the month, one of which was honesty. The goal is to be honest in all I do. That includes not exaggerating, distorting the truth, telling half-truths, or remaining silent if doing so will lead others to believe something that is not true. I have really struggled to do that when friends aggravate me. I don't want to talk to them, but that would mean failing my goal.

President James E. Faust stated, "Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth living, and truth loving" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 41). That means a lot to me and helps me understand that honesty is important, and our Heavenly Father will bless us if we tell the truth.

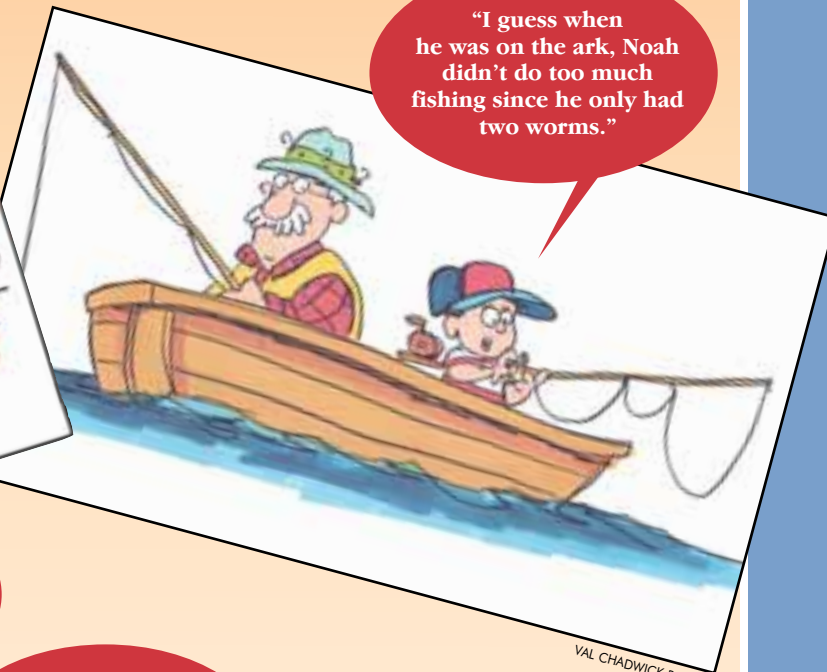
THE EXTRA SMILE

"I think we've left her in Primary too long."



ERIC LEACH

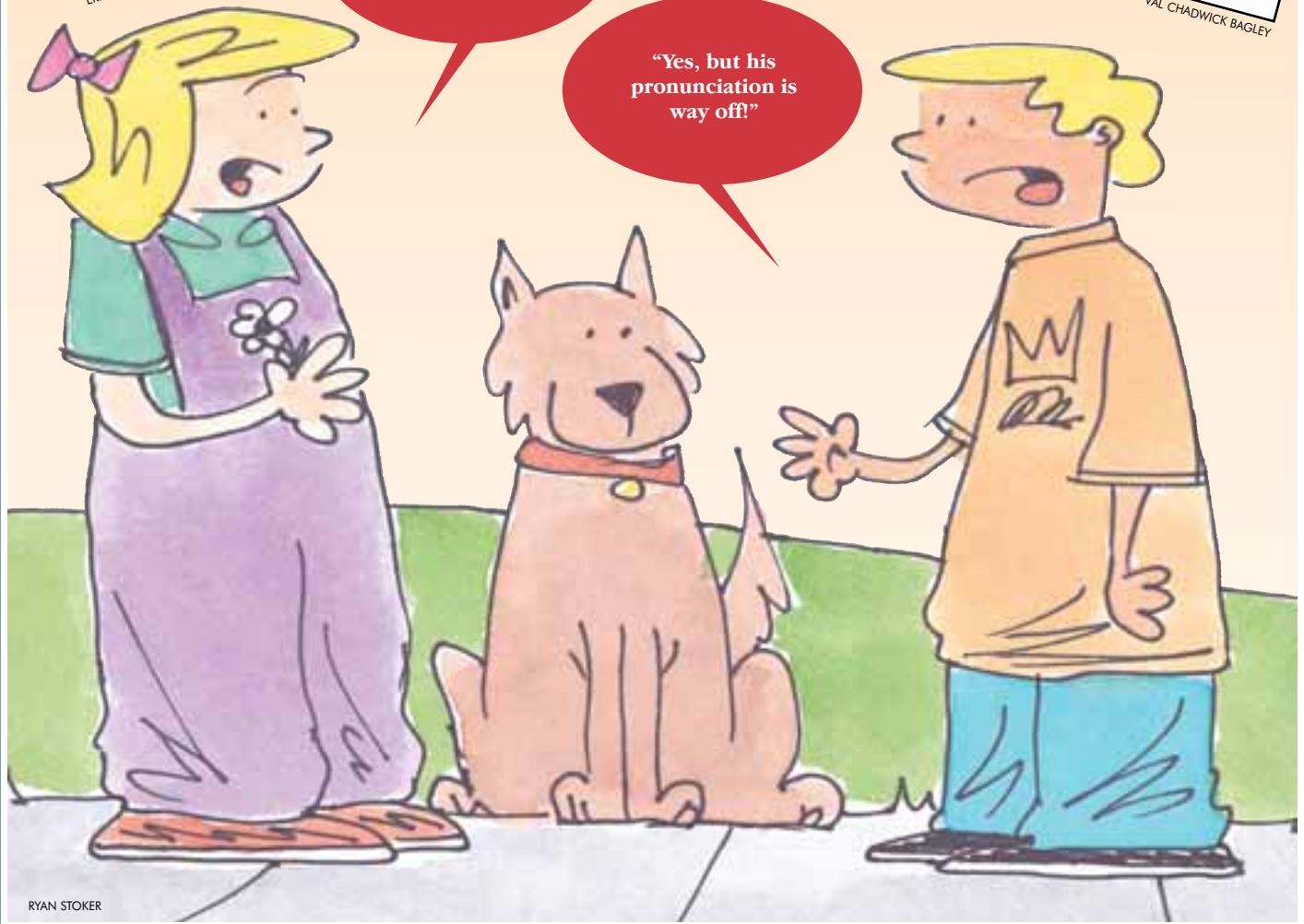
"I guess when he was on the ark, Noah didn't do too much fishing since he only had two worms."



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY

"Does your dog speak?"

"Yes, but his pronunciation is way off!"



RYAN STOKER

Safe



Johnelle Wibongi (above) rides with children in the temple shuttle. Carly Reid (right) serves as the coordinator, posing with children (from left): Caleb Young, Jerome Forbes, and Shannon Laspe.



HARBOUR

Youth in the Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake have made stake temple day a day for children also.

BY PAMELA J. REID

Saturday is usually a day off—at least a day off from school. There are plenty of fun things to do on Saturdays, but babysitting all day for free isn't one of them. Talk to the youth of the Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake about free babysitting, and they will tell you it actually is a great way to spend a Saturday.

For these young people this is no ordinary babysitting.

Instead it is a great chance to help with temple work in their stake.

The idea originated when Stake President Paul Reid asked his 21-year-old daughter, Carly, if there was anything she could do to contribute to temple work in their stake. Carly had noticed that many parents were unable to attend the temple together because one or the other had to stay home with their children. Completing the 160-mile round trip to the temple meant families were separated for the entire day. She also noticed that children left with sitters all day sometimes had a negative

attitude about their parents attending the temple.

Using her training as an early childhood educator, Carly developed a child-care program to cater to these families. Now, with the help of the stake youth, temple day is a family day. The children of the stake are taken care of at a chapel near the temple while their parents attend the temple. Families can travel to the temple together, and the children only have to wait three hours for their parents.

Baby-sitting can be fun

Each month the stake's young adults function as group leaders, each assigned to a certain age group of children with one or two teens working as assistants. Teens from each ward in the stake take turns being assistants, and they count their babysitting hours toward service hours for Duty to God and Personal Progress projects.

But the youth don't babysit just because it fills a requirement. They do it because they want to. Just ask 18-year-old Chanele Renee of the Sunset Ward. "At first I didn't know what to think; I thought Carly was crazy," admits Chanele. "But I love it now. I've done it twice. The first time I had the eight-year-old group, but the second time I looked for the babies."

Even though it can be hard work at times, the young people get to have fun right along with the kids. They enjoy the activities as each age group takes a turn in the movie room, the craft room, the quiet room, and the game room.

Joanne Young, 13, of the Sunset Ward, has been a willing volunteer every month. She finds it a good chance to





travel to the temple with her family. Joanne says she also likes meeting other members of the Church her age. “It’s cool to meet new kids from the stake each month, and I like working with the young single adult leaders.”

Their own trip to the temple

One of the most popular activities at the temple day care is what is called the temple shuttle. A trusty blue van, fondly referred to by the children as “The Whale,” is used for half-hour shuttle trips to the temple grounds and the visitors’ center where the children complete quizzes about the temple, watch Church movies, or listen to the guides. This way the children go on temple trips of their own.

Sister Phyllis Ashton of the visitors’ center finds that both the small groups of children and their youth leaders are well prepared to appreciate the center and the





temple. "It's a tremendously valuable experience," says Sister Ashton. "The youth who come down are learning about service. They are putting themselves in a situation to absorb spirituality, especially when they have to help explain to the children about the spirit they are feeling."

Charlotte Jansen of the Sunset Ward says, "I even had the opportunity to explain about temple marriage when my six-year-old group watched a couple come out of the temple after being sealed."

The bonds of the temple

Through this program, the members of this New Zealand stake are noticing the bonds that develop as everyone works together. When Daniel Young of the Sunset Ward visited another ward in his stake, he was delighted to find that five-year-old Jerome Forbes wanted to sit with him. Daniel had been one of Jerome's leaders at the temple day care. "He recognized me and made the association right

away," says Daniel. "It was great!"

Although the youth enjoy making friends with the children in the stake, their greatest pleasure comes from watching families come to the temple together. Ten-year-old Hayden Reed of the Birkenhead Ward appreciates it because it means more time with his dad, who is a busy bishop. "Sometimes I don't like it when Dad has so many meetings," Hayden comments. "But now I know that we'll be going to the temple together each month."

The Ryer family of the East Coast Bays Ward also appreciates the temple day care. With six children, Alby and Lisa Ryer have not been able to attend the temple together in 12 years. Thanks to the hard work of the youth in their stake, things have changed.

"We used to try to take the children to the temple with us and take turns attending the sessions, but everybody would be tired and grumpy afterward. Now, we go to the temple together, and while we travel home, the kids are all nice and happy and telling us about their temple experiences," says Sister Ryer.

Temple day care is a meaningful way for the youth of the Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake to give service and make new friends. But as Bishop Grant Reed of the Birkenhead Ward said, "Best of all, going to the temple is now a family thing." **NE**

Pamela J. Reid is a member of the Birkenhead Ward, Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake.



Settling in to watch a movie are Margaret-Ann Young and Jessica Te Maari (left). Charlotte Jansen (below) takes charge of the 10-year-old group consisting of Hayden Reed, Jessica, and Margaret-Ann. (Above) Chanelle Renee is happy to care for baby Elise Hester.



TELL MY TEACHER

BY SUZANNA L.
WITHERS

As Dennis lay dying, he had a message he just had to tell his seminary teacher.

A few days before my sophomore year of seminary began, Dwayne Wooley, one of my classmates, invited Dennis Murphy to attend seminary.

Dwayne's invitation would change Dennis's life. Dennis never came to church, and neither did his parents. But on the first day of seminary, Dennis was there. He told Dwayne he would try it but wasn't interested in going all year. After that day, Dennis's attitude changed, and he came again and again.

The Book of Mormon lessons in seminary required reading either in class or at home. At the beginning of the year, we were also challenged to gain a personal testimony of the gospel by taking the time not only to read the Book of Mormon but also earnestly pray about it.

Dennis was one of those who read regularly. I would often find Dennis after class talking to my mother, who was our teacher, about something he had read. He had never read the Book of Mormon before.

Seminary opened up a different life for Dennis, one that included new friends. It was not long after Dennis began attending seminary that he began coming to church. His mother started attending also. Several of us friendshipped Dennis. He was fun to be around, and we enjoyed including him. Our friendship seemed to mean a lot to him.

The school year quickly drew to a close.

Dennis completed the year of seminary with perfect attendance. He also finished reading the entire Book of Mormon.

Dennis graduated from high school and soon after went on a trip with his friends to Washington. On the way home, the weather turned hot, and the river near the highway looked inviting. They stopped to go swimming. Dennis made the mistake of diving into the river. He dove into a rock and broke his neck. His friends pulled him from the water and rushed him to a hospital, but Dennis's injuries were so severe that not much could be done. Dennis's mother arrived at the hospital before Dennis died. In their last conversation Dennis said, "Tell my seminary teacher that I know the Book of Mormon is true."

A year after his death, my mother and father drove Dennis's mother to the Oakland California Temple, where, through proxy, Dennis received his temple endowments.

I had been among those Dennis looked to as an example. Yet as the year progressed, I began to see Dennis as the example. I observed his commitment to learn and the effect seminary had on his life. But, most importantly, I knew about Dennis's final testimony. I will never forget him and how watching him gain a testimony helped me as I was searching for a testimony of my own. **NE**

Suzanna L. Withers is a member of the Overland Park Second Ward, Lenexa Kansas Stake.



My Best Days

BY COURTNEY HARRISON

My first best day, my baptism day, led me to find that I had many more best days to come. Thanks to my Savior, Jesus Christ, and to a good friend, my family can be together forever.

My friend Stephen was not just any friend. He was awesome in every way, and I really looked up to him. One day, he asked me if I wanted to know about something that made him incredibly happy. Of course I did. Anything that was important to him was important to me. He continued to ask me other questions before he would reveal what it was that made him so happy. Did I want to know the truth? I finally realized that he was probably talking about his church. After a couple of weeks, he asked if I would speak with the missionaries. I thought, "Why not? Nothing is going to happen from just one visit."

The day came to meet the missionaries, and as I walked into Stephen's house, I was quite nervous. I had no idea what to expect. The elders introduced themselves. They seemed extremely nice and fun. Then after a prayer, they began the first discussion. I remember the feeling so well. As

they talked about Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, and Jesus Christ, I knew that there was something special about this gospel.

When I arrived home, I told my mom everything I had learned and how much sense it made. My mom seemed slightly interested but not even close to the level of excitement I had. I was filled with some sort of energy, and I wanted to know more.

The next week I had the second discussion. Again, everything taught made sense. At the close of the discussion, one of the elders asked if I would be baptized. Honestly, I was shocked. I didn't think this question would come up so soon. I told the elders

that I simply didn't know. They asked me to kneel with them and pray aloud to know if the things I had been taught were true. I had never prayed vocally







“There are many of our friends and neighbors who are searching for the truth. Are we searching for them? Are we doing what we can to make the truth easy for them to find?”
(New Era, Oct. 1986, 7–8).

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

My best day of all came when my family was sealed in the Atlanta Georgia Temple.

with others before, so I was rather timid.

My best friend, the missionaries, and I knelt, and I prayed. I prayed to Heavenly Father to know if Joseph Smith was a prophet. I asked if the Book of Mormon was true. I pleaded to know if this was the true church and if it was in His plan for me to join it. I prayed for guidance and direction. I prayed to know what Heavenly Father wanted me to do. After probably 10 minutes of sincere prayer, I said amen and opened my eyes.

All I could feel was the Spirit. It was the most wonderful feeling I had ever felt. I was amazed with the knowledge and truth I had just been blessed with. I looked at the missionaries and told them I wanted to be baptized. We set the date. I knew at that moment that everything I had been taught and everything to come was true. I had gained my own testimony.

When I told my mother, she was more understanding than I had expected. She told me that if I really felt this was what I needed to do, then I should do it.

Sooner than I could believe, I was getting ready to be baptized. My whole family attended, which made it even more special. As my best friend and I walked into the font, wearing all white, the Spirit was present. I was about to be clean, as clean as I had been when I was born.

When I came out of the

water, I couldn't believe it. I had been baptized. This was my first best day.

The missionaries soon started teaching my family the discussions. My family had a hard time grasping concepts such as the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith, key concepts to the Church. But they kept listening to the discussions.

Finally, during the sixth discussion, the elders asked my family to be baptized. The room was silent. After a few moments, my dad looked up and said, “Yes, this is what we need to do.” I was in awe because my dad had never been very faithful about going to church. He looked at my mom, and she also said yes. My 14-year-old brother was in tears. He, too, wanted to be baptized. Three months after my baptism, my family was baptized. This was my second best day.

About a year later, my family was sealed in the Atlanta Georgia Temple. As we walked into the sealing room, the Spirit overwhelmed me. We knelt together as a family and were sealed together forever. This was the best day of all.

I love this Church. I am thankful for Jesus Christ, Heavenly Father, my friend, and the missionaries who taught me the gospel. Now, thanks to them, each of my days can be a best day. **NE**









Courtney Harrison is a member of the BYU 106th Ward, Brigham Young University 15th Stake.





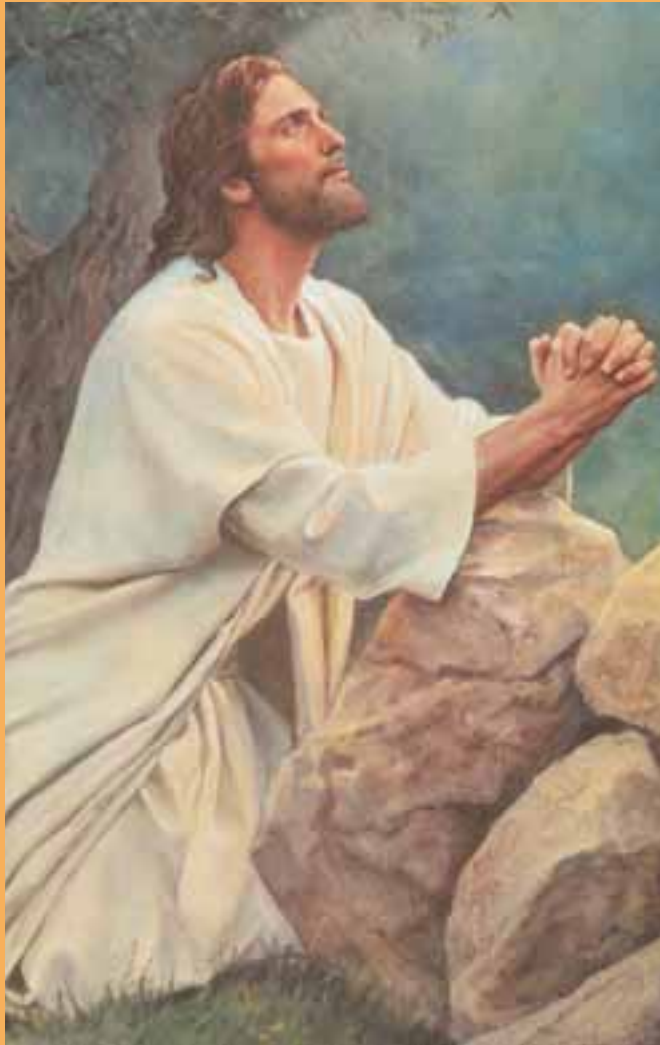
MANAGING TIME AND STAYING BALANCED

Managing our time and finding balance in our lives can be difficult. But it is possible. The Lord has told us, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (3 Nephi 13:33). The readers who sent in their ideas agreed that things will fall into place if we prioritize correctly. Here are some of their ideas on how to stay balanced:

-  Put the Lord first in your life. Always make time to pray, and read the scriptures daily.
-  Get organized. Make a “to do” list or a schedule.
-  Prioritize. Decide which things are most important and do those first.
-  Write important events on a calendar and refer to it frequently.
-  Keep the Sabbath day holy. You might not think there are enough hours in the day to do all you need to do, but remember Sunday is the Lord’s day, and He will bless you if you are obedient.
-  “Do not run faster or labor more than you have strength and means . . . but be diligent unto the end” (D&C 10:4). Make the best use of the time you have, and consider eliminating less-important activities.
-  Ask for help. Turn to your family, friends, or teachers if your load becomes unbearable and you don’t know what to do.
-  Pray for help. Heavenly Father knows the pressures you are under, and He can help ease your burdens.

-  Listen to the Spirit. You might feel prompted to do something you hadn’t planned on doing.
-  In all your scheduling, don’t book every minute of your day. Leave time for family, for service, and to just relax and be yourself. **NE**
-  **In site:** To read more about staying balanced, go to www.lds.org and read “Focus and Priorities” by Elder Dallin H. Oaks (*Ensign*, May 2001, 82) and “The Art of Juggling” by Chris Crowe (*New Era*, Jan. 2001, 26).





WASHED CLEAN!

All the Apostles are called as special witnesses of our Savior, Jesus Christ. President Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has expressed some of his feelings about the Savior in poetry. Here is an excerpt from one of his poems:

*What must be done to make us clean
We cannot do alone.
The law, to be a law, requires
A pure one must atone.
He taught that justice will be stayed
Till mercy's claim be heard
If we repent and are baptized
And live by every word. . . .
If we could only understand
All we have heard and seen,
We'd know there is no greater gift
Than those two words—"Washed clean!"*

"I have tried to express my feelings in words," President Packer says, "though no words are adequate to tell you what the Atonement means to me. I pray that each of you may be blessed with a desire to study it, to learn of it, and to understand more fully what it means to you" (*New Era*, Apr. 1998, 8–9).

SOW A THOUGHT . . .



President George Albert Smith, left, the eighth President of the Church, was born on 4 April 1870, just across the street from Temple Square. When he was 13, he attended Brigham Young Academy. He said, "I cannot remember much of what was said during the year that I was there, but there is one thing that I will probably never forget. Dr. [Karl] Maeser one day stood up and said:

"'Not only will you be held accountable for the things that you do, but you will be held responsible for the very thoughts you think.'

"Being a boy, not in the habit of controlling my thoughts very much, it was quite a puzzle to me what I was to do, and it worried me." A few days after this, President Smith came to a realization: "Why, of course, you will be held accountable for your thoughts because when your life is complete in mortality, it will be the sum of your thoughts. That one suggestion has been a great blessing to me all my life, and it has enabled me upon many occasions to avoid thinking improperly because I realize that I will be, when my life's labor is complete, the product of my thoughts" (*Church News*, Feb. 16, 1946, 1).



APRIL 6TH

Many important Church history events have taken place on April 6th in this dispensation. Here are just a few.

1830 The Prophet Joseph Smith organized the Church of Jesus Christ in Fayette, New York.

1841 The cornerstone ceremony for the Nauvoo Temple took place for the first time.

1893 President Wilford Woodruff (1807–98) dedicated the Salt Lake Temple.

1941 General conference was broadcast outside of Utah for the first time on the radio.

2000 President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicated the Palmyra New York Temple. The dedication was broadcast by satellite to many stake centers in the United States and Canada.



LEADERSHIP TIP

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” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

In other words, as you fulfill your calling, seek the companionship of the Holy Ghost so you can know what Heavenly Father wants you to do. He will guide you. And when you receive His guidance, be sure to trust Him and follow what He has prompted you to do.



“I FORGIVE YOU.”

There is no peace in the nursing of a grudge. There is no happiness in living for the day when you can ‘get even. . . .’

“If there be any who nurture in their hearts the poisonous brew of enmity toward another, I plead with you to ask the Lord for strength to forgive. This expression of desire will be of the very substance of your repentance. It may not be easy, and it may not come quickly. But if you will seek it with sincerity and cultivate it, it *will* come. And even though he whom you have forgiven continues to pursue and threaten you, you will know you have done what you could to effect a reconciliation. There will come into your heart a peace otherwise unattainable” (*Ensign*, June 1991, 4–5).

—President Gordon B. Hinckley

POWER TO HEAL

*Through the Atonement,
Jesus Christ has the power to
mend our broken hearts.*

BY ELDER MERRILL J. BATEMAN
Of the Seventy

A short time ago I attended the funeral of a friend's son. Earlier in the week, the young man was traveling home late at night with friends when the driver of another car fell asleep. The second car crossed the median and smashed head-on into the first. The accident occurred with such swiftness that few, if any, brake marks showed on the highway and both cars were demolished. The accident took three lives, including my friend's 17-year-old son.

In reflecting on the accident, I have thought about the lessons taught by death—particularly the death of a loved one.



Jesus knows
each of us
because He
not only bore our
sins but also
experienced our
deepest feelings.

Lessons to be learned

The first lesson is that life is short whether one dies at 17 or at 80. To a 17-year-old, 80 years seems like an eternity. But to a 70-year-old, 80 years is not a long probationary period.

Second, death reminds us that there is a spirit in man. As we viewed the remains of our young friend, it was obvious that more than blood had left his body. The light of his spirit no longer animated his facial expression or twinkled in his eyes. He too had given up the ghost but at a tender, young age.

Another lesson taught by death concerns the importance of eternal families. Just as there are parents to greet a newborn on earth, the scriptures teach that caring family members greet the spirits in paradise and assist them in the adjustments to a new life (see Genesis 25:8; 35:29; 49:33). While I was standing before the casket, the thought



came that separation was not only a shock for the parents but also for the young man as he suddenly found himself on the other side of the veil. I suspect that he would like to tell his parents once more how much he loves them. Brothers and sisters, heaven exists only if families are eternal.

A fourth lesson, and perhaps the most important, concerns the purpose of life. To be meaningful, life must be more than the ephemeral pleasures of youth. There must be a plan. Death, even if accidental, must be part of the plan. Developing faith in and coming to know one's Maker is at the core of the plan. Having hope with regard to one's eternal destiny and experiencing joy must also be part of life's purpose.

The Atonement heals grief and sorrow

Death teaches that we do not experience a fullness of joy in mortality and that everlasting joy can be achieved only with the assistance of the Master (see D&C 93:33–34). Just as the lame man at the pool of Bethesda needed someone stronger than himself to be healed (see John 5:1–9), so we are dependent on the miracles of Christ's Atonement if our souls are to be made whole from grief, sorrow, and sin. If grieving parents and loved ones have faith in the Savior and His plan, death's sting is softened as Jesus bears the believers' grief and comforts them through the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, broken hearts are mended and peace replaces anxiety and sorrow.

Last week I received a letter from the boy's parents telling me of the peace they have found through their faith in Christ. They know they will see their son again and be with him in the eternities. As Isaiah stated concerning the Savior, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: . . . and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4–5).

The prophet Alma also spoke of Christ's healing power as he taught the Gideonites. Referring to Christ, Alma stated that He would "go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people. And he will take upon him . . . their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, . . . that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people" (Alma 7:11–12). Whatever the source of pain, Jesus understands and can heal the spirit as well as the body.

The Savior, as a member of the Godhead, knows each of us personally. Isaiah and the prophet Abinadi said that when Christ would "make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed" (Isaiah 53:10; compare Mosiah 15:10). Abinadi explains that "his seed" are the righteous, those who follow the prophets (see Mosiah 15:11). In the garden and on the cross, Jesus saw each of us and not only bore our sins but also experienced our deepest feelings so He would know how to comfort and strengthen us.

Mending broken hearts

As part of His redeeming power, Jesus can remove the sting of death or restore the spiritual health of a struggling soul.

As part of the great miracle of the Atonement and the Savior's power to mend broken hearts, to heal from within, the parable of the ten lepers takes on new meaning. Luke describes Jesus meeting ten lepers. Upon seeing the Savior, they cried, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." Jesus responded, "Go shew yourselves unto the priests." As they went their way, they were cleansed. One returned, fell on his face at the Master's feet, and gave thanks. Jesus said, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?" And then the Lord said to the one who returned, "Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole" (see Luke 17:12–19). In becoming a whole person, the grateful leper was healed inside as well as on the outside. That day nine lepers were healed skin deep, but only one had the faith to be made whole. The tenth leper was changed eternally by his faith in the Savior and the healing power of His Atonement.

The Atonement is intimate and infinite

The Savior's Atonement in the garden and on the cross is intimate as well as infinite—infinite in that it spans the eternities, intimate in that the Savior felt each person's pains, sufferings, and sicknesses. Consequently, He knows how to carry our sorrows and relieve our burdens that we might be healed from within, be made whole persons, and receive everlasting joy in His kingdom. May our faith in the Father and the Son help each of us become whole. **NE**

Adapted from an April 1995 general conference address.



Through Christ,
broken hearts
are mended
and peace replaces
anxiety and sorrow.

IN Me CLUDED

BY LYNN C. JAYNES

The New Era article said every person should ask God if Joseph Smith was a prophet and if the Book of Mormon was true. The challenge was real, but I didn't think it was for me.

Still, I decided to pray—what could it hurt? But when I knelt, fear began to creep in. What if He didn't answer my prayer?

When I was a Beehive, our stake leaders decided to hold a *New Era* Bowl. The Mutual groups of each ward and branch were to form teams, and each team was to read the back issues of the *New Era* for a whole year, then come together for a competition. For weeks at Mutual activities, my team members and I studied the magazine issues and quizzed each other.

One Sunday afternoon, as the competition grew nearer, I took a couple of *New Era* issues with me to a nearby canal bank to read. It was quiet there, and I could count on not being interrupted. I sat on the bank by the slow, brown water and read article after article. I only remember one article in particular, now. It was an article on Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. The last paragraph challenged every person to ask God if Joseph Smith was a prophet and if the Book of Mormon was true.

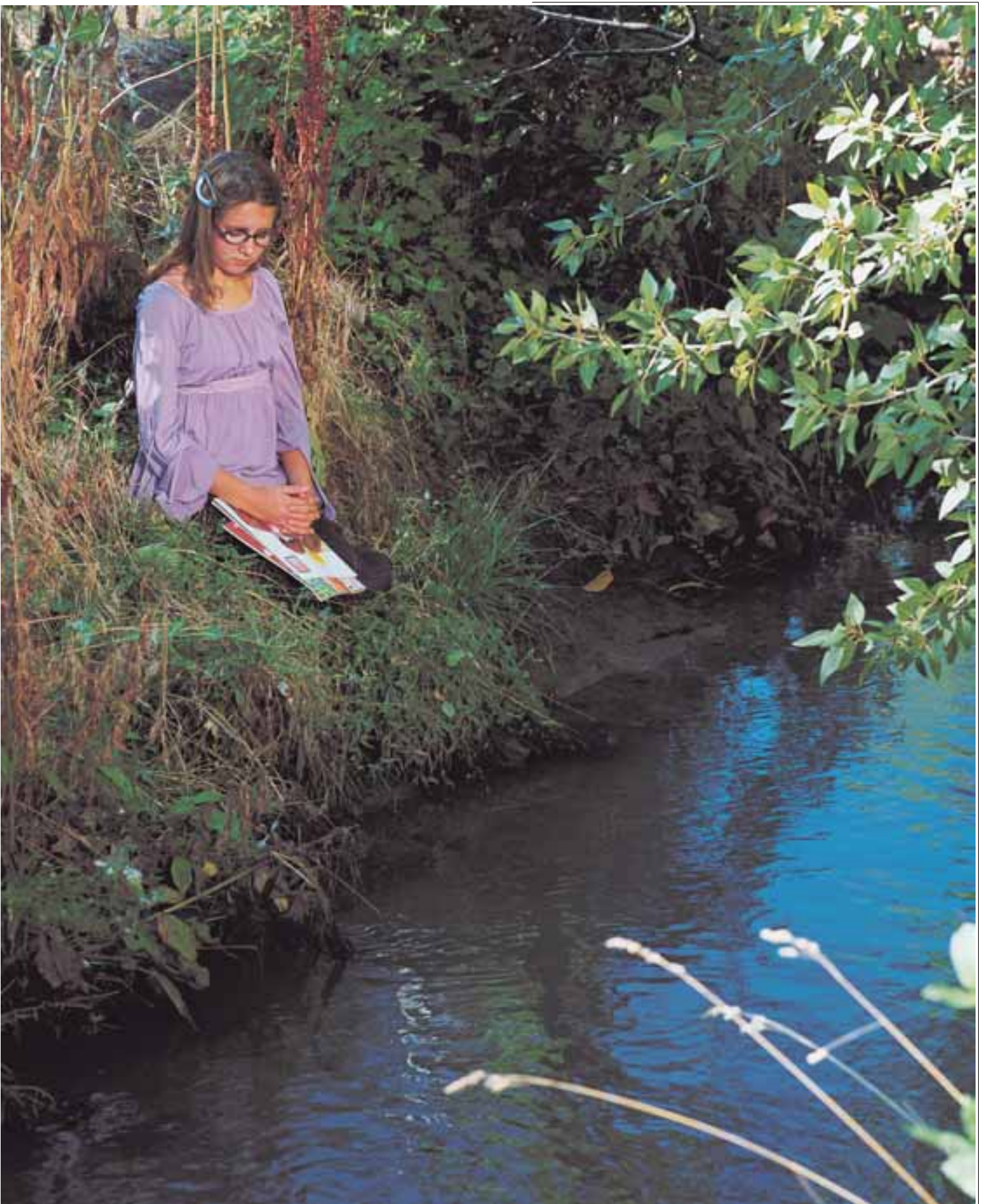
"Well, of course I knew it was true," I thought. "I was baptized, wasn't I? I went to church, didn't I? I had borne my testimony

in sacrament meeting, hadn't I? Of course I knew. Surely people like me didn't have to actually go through the motions of praying about it."

Then I read the paragraph again. "Every person . . ."

Well, every person would probably include me, I reasoned. Sure, I could pray—what could it hurt? I set the magazine down, and there in the dirt of the canal bank I got on my knees. This would be simple. I would ask, and God would answer that it was true. I bowed my head, but before I got one word out, fears began to creep in.

I had asked for things in prayers before and had not received the answers I wanted. When I was nine, I prayed to be able to walk on water like the Apostle Peter. I tried it in the bathtub. It hadn't worked. When I was 10, I prayed that if God could move mountains, could He please move a perfume bottle on my dresser just to let me know He could. Didn't happen. What if Heavenly Father really didn't answer prayers? Maybe He just didn't answer mine.



Somehow, I couldn't back away from praying. After finding the courage to pray, I also found the answer to my prayer and the sweet comfort of knowing the truth. You can find it too.



Yet somehow I couldn't back away. The article said *every person*.

Pushing my fears aside, I finally started my prayer and explained the problem to Heavenly Father. I told Him about the article I'd read. I told Him I was pretty sure the Church was true anyway, but the article said *every person* should pray. Then I said, "Please help me know if the Church is true. I think it is, but would Thou help me know?" Then I ended my prayer.

I never made it to my feet before a warmth that was physical as well as spiritual filled my whole body, mind, and heart. There wasn't a corner of me that wasn't filled with confidence, the confidence of knowing—really knowing—the Church was true,

Joseph Smith was a prophet, and the Book of Mormon was true.

"But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right" (D&C 9:8).

It's been at least 30 years since I offered that prayer and received my witness that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. I challenge *every person* in a new day, a new age, and in a brand new issue of the *New Era* to ask Heavenly Father for themselves if the Church is true. **NE**

Lynn C. Jaynes is a member of the Filer First Ward, Filer Idaho Stake.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

Personal Improvement

- The Message, "You Are Different," on page 4 speaks of the responsibilities of Latter-day Saint youth. Choose a specific standard from this talk, then gather more information on the same topic while listening to general conference this month. (Watch the broadcast on April 5 and 6.)
- In preparation for Easter (20 April 2003), read "The Wounds That Heal my Own" on page 15. Read the account of the Savior's Crucifixion and Resurrection in John 19–20 in the New Testament.

Family Home Evening Ideas

- Have all family members identify a world leader they admire and list a few good qualities that person exemplifies. Read "King of Kings" on page 8 aloud to the family. Then together make a list of qualities the Savior exemplified.
- Using "Crunch Time" on page 26 as a springboard for ideas, come up with a number of scenarios in which family members' honesty might be challenged. As a family, brainstorm possible solutions for each scenario.
- Read "Dandy" (page 10) aloud to the family, then hold a family council to discuss specific family rules and why they are important.

Young Men and Young Women Activity Ideas

- In "Dancing Back to Church" (page 12), a young man is helped into full Church activity when he is invited to help with Mutual. Get to know a less-active member of your class or quorum and identify their special talents. Then plan an activity on Mutual night where this person's talents can be used.
- The youth in Kirtland, Ohio, are surrounded by Church history (see "Still a Sacred Place" on page 20). Help create the same appreciation in your ward or branch by hosting a Church history quiz with the help of your advisers. Or ask a seminary teacher for help. Don't forget simple, fun prizes for the winners!

Seminary Devotional

- Bring several similarly sized books to class. Explain that each book represents a facet of a seminary student's life (school, church, work, family time, etc.). Balance the books on your palm (or if you have a particular flair, balance them on your head!). Then have someone place a much larger book (a dictionary or a phone book) on top of the heap so the books will topple. Talk about the importance of finding balance in life. Read the Idea List (page 39) to the class. Read D&C 10:4 together.

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WHY REVERENCE?

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the article "Will a Man Rob God?" (March '02). Lately I've been struggling a little about why the Lord expects so much reverence and everything, and the dialogue between the author and his friend about how he obtained his land helped me realize it.

Leila Watts

Coon Rapids, Minnesota (via e-mail)

COULD NOT WAIT

Thank you so much for all you do with this magazine. I could not wait until I turned 12 because I was so excited about subscribing to the *New Era*. I am always looking forward to receiving it in the mail every month. Thank you for all the wonderful stories. They get me thinking about which path I want to take to return to my Father in Heaven.

Kassidy Hill

Las Vegas, Nevada

THOSE WHO DIDN'T GO

I was just reading the February 2002 issue of the *New Era*, and the Q&A part about missions really offended me. I don't want to be rude or anything, but do you know how awful that makes men who didn't go on missions feel? My dad and grandpa are wonderful men who are awesome leaders in the Church, and neither of them went on missions. They are two of the greatest men I have ever met. My cousin just turned 20, and he didn't go on a mission. Is he supposed to feel guilty because his debt isn't paid off because he is getting instead of giving? I'm sorry but that is really rude of you guys to say. And what about women like me who aren't encouraged at all to go on missions. Is my debt to the Lord never going to be paid off? Am I supposed to feel selfish

"Thank you for all the wonderful stories. They get me thinking..."

because I am getting instead of giving? I love this Church, but I think it was mean of you guys to say this. It really hurts people who are close to me. But more than anything it makes me mad.

Name Withheld (via e-mail)

THIS SAME SUBJECT

I want to thank you for the article in the February 2002 issue titled "The Gospel and Romantic Love." I had been talking with my sister eariler about this same subject. It was amazing to open the *New Era* and read the answer to my problem. Thank you again for all of the hard work that is put into making the *New Era* such a wonderful magazine.

Katie Johnson

Dillon, Montana (via e-mail)

MORE REMOTE CONTROL

Thanks so much for the article "A Question of Time" in the July 2002 *New Era*. It really made me start thinking about how much TV I watch. Just recently, I was arguing with my sister over control of the remote. Then I remembered the questions at the beginning of the article, and one came to mind: "Do you like it better than your brother?" And I thought, "Wow. I'm fighting over the TV when I could be gaining more respect and a better relationship with my sister. Instead, I'm pushing her away." So anyway, I just wanted to say, thank you for the article. It gave me a lot to think about.

Jennifer Schofield

Provo, Utah (via e-mail)

We love hearing from you. Write us at
New Era
 We've Got Mail
 50 E. North Temple
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

Or e-mail us at

cur-editorial-newera@ldschurch.org

Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

DON'T YOU LOVE THE RAIN?

BY NEAL T. DORENBOSCH

Don't you love the rain?

Rhythmic slapping
of water drops
set free from heaven,
sputtering on a blacktop road.
Newly plowed fields
grow dark, moist,
and furrows
fill from wetness.
The fresh smell
of pines is released
into a gentle wind,
and the
noise of thunder
grumbles playfully
afar off, above
a mountain
somewhere.

Don't you love the rain
as it falls
heavier, and
the white fluffy
heads of dandelions
are stripped
from their stems,
and fat maple leaves
dance,
extended from their
branches?

Impatient flashes
of nature's
electricity streak
across a low
gray sky, and
I watch,
safely perched
behind the screen
in my window—
hoping
it will never end.



*“His tomb is indeed empty.
He is indeed risen. He
does indeed live. And His
influence continues to
change hearts, minds, and
lives in a profound and
everlasting way.”
See “King of Kings,” p. 8.*