



BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Adam Fabiano, a priest in the Palm Springs Ward in South Florida, envisioned an Eagle Scout project that would be both appealing and educational. "I wanted to do a project that would be beneficial to a school and children," Adam explained. "I am really happy with the outcome."

Adam planned and supervised the creation of a butterfly garden just outside the Kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms at Sunset Lakes Elementary School in Miramar, Florida. The students will use the garden in their science curriculum.

Months of research and planning culminated in the project itself, which including removing existing flora, digging, setting up a pathway through the garden, planting feeder plants that nourish caterpillars, planting nectar plants that attract and nourish butterflies, placing hummingbird feeders, and putting in a bench and a fountain.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ADAM FABIANO



IN A WORD

Paradise: In the scriptures, the word *paradise* usually designates a place of peace and happiness in the postmortal spirit world (see Alma 40:12; Moroni 10:34). In the tenth article of faith, the word *paradisiacal* describes the earth's glory in the Millennium.



PHOTOGRAPH BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN

PLAN A GREAT DATE

While it can be fun to be spontaneous and do something on the spur of the moment, there's a lot to be said about planning a date in advance. At the very least it will show your date, and everyone else involved (if it's a group date) that you care enough to put some thought into planning a fun activity. Some other reasons it's a good idea to plan ahead are:

- You'll be able to let everyone know how to dress for the particular date.
- You'll be able to make reservations, purchase tickets, or take care of all the details ahead of time (you'll avoid showing up at a sold-out movie or a restaurant with no tables available).
- Everyone will be able to let their parents know where they'll be and what time they'll be home.





WRITE AWAY

What's Up with You?

As you can see, this is a new look and feel for the What's Up? section of the *New Era*. We hope you like it, and we hope you'll help us fill it with interesting ideas and events that are going on in your classes and quorums. Write in and tell us about what you and your friends are doing at Mutual or in seminary. Along with your story, remember to include some photographs of the activities too.

Send in your stories and photographs by going to newera.lds.org and clicking Submit Your Material. Or send them by mail to: *New Era*, What's Up? 50 E. North Temple Street., Rm. 2420 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024 USA

I HOPE THEY CALL ME ON A MISSION

As a missionary you will invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

As you prepare to serve a mission, think about the following questions. By understanding the answers to these questions, you'll be on your way to becoming a gospel teacher.

- What is the gospel?
- Why do we preach the gospel?
- Why must I teach with power and authority?
- What is the message of the Restoration? Why is it so important?
- What is my responsibility in helping others become converted?



WHAT WE REALLY THINK OF YOUTH

“You are some of our Heavenly Father’s strongest children, and He has saved you to come forth to the earth “for such a time as this.” With His help, you’ll have the courage to face whatever comes. Though the world may at times appear dark, you have the light of the gospel, which will be as a beacon to guide your way.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “May You Have Courage,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 127.

BY THE NUMBERS

13,824,854

Total Church membership worldwide

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH, APRIL 16, 1830. BY DALE KILBOURN © IRI

April 6, 1830

This was the day Joseph Smith organized the Church at the home of Peter Whitmer in Fayette, New York. There were six initial members or “incorporators” in order to satisfy legal requirements: Joseph Smith, Jr., Oliver Cowdery, Hyrum Smith, Peter Whitmer, Jr., David Whitmer, and Samuel H. Smith.

HYMN VOCABULARY #7

Do you know the meaning of that hymn you just sang? Choose the correct definition for each of the following words that can be found in one or more of our hymns.

- A. Efface (*Hymns*, no. 233)
1. To stop or cease
 2. To eliminate or make indistinct
 3. An online avatar
 4. To build up or praise
- B. Ramparts (*Hymns*, no. 340)
1. Valleys or fields
 2. Protective barriers
 3. Weapons and munitions
 4. Distant relatives
- C. Censure (*Hymns*, no. 235)
1. Reprimand or express disapproval
 2. Singing happily or loudly
 3. Feelings of certainty
 4. To hurry or rush someone
- D. Acquit (*Hymns*, no. 321)
1. A marsh or swamp
 2. Asleep or resting
 3. Convicted in a trial
 4. Perform in a specified way
- E. Hamlets (*Hymns*, no. 337)
1. Little hams
 2. Small villages
 3. Humorous dialogue
 4. Poems with rhyming couplets

To do the quiz online, go to newera.lds.org.

ANSWERS: A2, B2, C1, D4, E2



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAUREL HILL

THE SIGN OF VIRTUE

The Mia Maids of the Bluffdale Eighth Ward in Bluffdale, Utah, decided to make a hands-on sign of their commitment to living virtuous lives. After some memorable lessons and discussions on the topic of virtue, each one of the girls traced her handprint on the flag and wrote inside it what they were committing to do to be virtuous. These were some of the promises printed on the flag:

"I promise to keep clean thoughts and to have friends that don't promote bad things."—Sierra Hirschi

"I promise to watch clean things so my thoughts will be clean."—Erica Wilcox

"I promise to keep myself temple worthy and clean so someday I can be sealed for time and all eternity."—Katelyn Pitchford

"I promise to keep the music I listen to clean."—Karley Newbold

"I promise not to date until I am 16."—McKayla Hill

The virtue flag now hangs in the bishop's office so every time the girls are in his office they are reminded of their commitments.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MEILI C.

MY FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

D&C 29:39

"For if they never should have bitter they could not know the sweet."

For me this scripture means that the only way I can appreciate the lovely things in my life is by going through some difficulty first.

Meili C., 15, Utah, USA

Tell us about your favorite scripture in one or two sentences. Send it to us, along with a photo, by going to newera.lds.org and clicking on Submit Your Material.

WRITE AWAY

Fulfilling My Duty to God

Now that you have your new *Duty to God* handbook and you're developing greater spiritual strength; fulfilling priesthood duties; and improving your physical health, education, and relationship with family and friends, we want to hear how it's going. Tell us about your experiences with making plans, reaching goals, and sharing what you've learned with others. Maybe you've learned something new about a gospel topic, or strengthened your relationship with others, or experienced some other new changes in your life as a result of the work you are doing to fulfill your Duty to God?

Send in your responses by going to newera.lds.org and clicking Submit Your Material and then selecting Call for Articles.

Or send it by mail to:

New Era, Duty to God
50 E. North Temple Street.,
Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024
USA



THE CHURCH IN NICARAGUA

The first missionaries came to Nicaragua in 1953, and the first convert was baptized the following year. In 1978, civil war forced missionaries to leave the country. Missionary work resumed in the late 1980s. In

1987, a group of Church members traveled by bus to visit the Guatemala City Temple.

Membership was approximately 3,500 when the Nicaragua Managua Mission was organized in October 1989. Membership increased to 8,000 by the end of 1990. In the past five years, membership in Nicaragua has more than doubled. In July of 2010 a second mission was created to meet the growing demands to teach the people of Nicaragua. Now there is a Nicaragua Managua North and South Mission. Here are a few facts about the Church today in Nicaragua:

Membership	67,275
Missions	2
Wards & Branches	100

QUOTING FROM CONFERENCE

“The direct, personal channel of communion to our Heavenly Father through the Holy Ghost is based on worthiness and is so essential that we are commanded to renew our covenants by partaking of the sacrament each Sabbath day.”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Two Lines of Communication,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 83.

5 WAYS TO USE THE INTERNET TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

- Post a Mormon Message video on your social media profile. Just click Share at the Mormon Channel on YouTube.
- Write about faith-building experiences on your blog.
- Share links to Mormon.org or your favorite conference talk on your blog, website, or social media profile.
- Post pictures from missions, weddings, baptisms, Mutual activities, etc.
- Create a profile on Mormon.org.