

THE **New Era**

APRIL 2013

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My First TEMPLE RECOMMEND

In addition to giving me the formal interview, Dad, who was my bishop, wanted to make it a learning experience for me.



**By Elder
L. Tom Perry**

Of the Quorum
of the Twelve
Apostles

I will never forget my first temple recommend interview with my bishop as I was preparing to go to the temple for my own endowments. The bishop was my father. Every day we spent a lot of time together, and he could have interviewed me in our home, in the barn, in the field, in our car, or in any convenient place. But Dad wanted to make this a special occasion, one that I would remember.

One day I received a telephone call from the bishop's office. Dad wanted to set up an appointment with me for a temple recommend interview. I thought this strange, as he had never called before to set up an interview or an appointment with me. We arranged a time for a meeting in the bishop's office. The appointed time came. When I arrived in his office, his desk was completely cleared, which was unusual, because normally it would have been almost covered by papers and books. Only the scriptures lay on top of the desk. In addition to giving me the formal interview, Dad wanted to make it a learning experience for me.

He passed the scriptures over to my side of the desk and asked me to read: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt not steal; neither commit adultery, nor kill, nor do anything like unto it" (D&C 59:6). The last sentence stuck in my mind.

We then discussed what it meant to be **morally clean**. The discussion focused on cleanliness of thought. Our thoughts, he said, usually develop into actions. If our thoughts remain clean and pure, we will never commit acts that would prevent us from holding a temple recommend.

Next, he picked up the scriptures and read the promise of the Lord related to the **Word of Wisdom** (see D&C 89:18–21). We discussed the value of keeping our physical bodies as healthy, wholesome homes for our eternal spirits. The spirit of man should be housed in the cleanest tabernacle we can build while we are here on earth.

Then my father handed the scriptures back to me to read: "Behold, there shall be a record kept among you; and in it thou shalt be called a seer, a translator, a prophet, an

apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ,

“Being inspired of the Holy Ghost to lay the foundation thereof, and to build it up unto the most holy faith. . . .

“Wherefore, meaning the church, thou shalt give heed unto all his words and commandments which he shall give unto you as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me” (D&C 21:1–2, 4).

We discussed the necessity of **honoring and sustaining the prophet.** We have been promised that the Lord will never let His prophet lead us astray. Here is a sure foundation on which we can build our lives.

Next my dad read: “There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—

“And when we obtain any blessing from God,

it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated” (D&C 130:20–21).

We talked about the importance of being obedient to the law of the Lord and the payment of **tithes and offerings** to Him as a test of our faith.

Finally, we turned to the scriptures and read: “The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIKE MALIM



“We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us; and under his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber.

“His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness

A temple recommend—a little piece of paper—represents us and reflects our worthiness to receive the blessings of the temple.

of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying:

“I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father” (D&C 110:1–4).

We talked about the eternal hope we have in the **Atonement of our Lord and Savior**, and how necessary it is that we partake of these sacred ordinances so we can receive the greatest gift He has given us, the gift of eternal life, life with Him.

Dad filled out the temple recommend form and had me sign it, gave me a warm handshake, and congratulated me for being worthy to hold a current temple recommend. I left the office feeling exhilarated because I had passed one of the most important tests of my life. I had been deemed worthy to hold a temple recommend. I made a commitment to myself that I would always live worthy of holding a current temple recommend.

A temple recommend—a little piece of paper—represents us and reflects our worthiness to receive the blessings of the temple.

May we always be worthy of holding a temple recommend. May that be one of our objectives in life, to consistently and regularly sit before our priesthood leader and declare our worthiness to have this tangible evidence that the Lord approves of the type of life we are living and finds us worthy to enter His holy house.

Learn the doctrines of the Lord. Live with faithful adherence to those principles that we know are right. It is a test for our lives to carry us through. If we are always worthy of that recommend and can truthfully answer the qualifying questions, we are on our way to the greatest gift the Lord has given us. May the Lord bless us that we may firmly resolve to always be temple worthy. This is the Lord's work. He lives. God is our Eternal Father, and Jesus is the Savior of the world. Of that I bear solemn testimony. **NE**

Youth share their testimonies of the temple and the lessons they have learned by going to the House of the Lord (see D&C 110:7).

Youth Voices

ATTENDING THE TEMPLE

In the April 2011 general conference, President Thomas S. Monson counseled, “My young friends who are in your teenage years, always have the temple in your sights” (“The Holy Temple—a Beacon to the World,” *Ensign*, May 2011, 93). The *New Era* asked several youth to share the blessings they have received by going to the temple. Here are a few of their responses.

You Know You Are Doing a Great Thing

Last year while visiting family in Wisconsin, my cousin and I went on a youth temple trip to the Nauvoo Illinois Temple and performed baptisms for the dead. We had a bunch of family names that we took to the temple. My grandma told us about one of our deceased ancestors. Grandma had a close relationship with her. I got to be baptized for this family member and other ancestors, and it was a really cool experience, because I could feel their presence and know they will have a chance to accept the work done for them. When I go to the temple, I know I’m doing a great thing.

Seeing pictures of the temple makes me think that even though temples are all over the world, you do the same ordinances in each one and receive the same Spirit. I don’t think of any bad things there; only uplifting thoughts fill my mind in the temple. It is an amazing feeling to think of things you can do to help others.

Chloé D., Nevada, USA



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN LIJKE AND CLARK DAVID MONSON; ILLUSTRATION © ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK



Our Classmates Ask about Our Temple Trips

The temple closest to me is the Mesa Arizona Temple. Every month, my school has early-release days. Last year, my friends and I started a new tradition on early-release days where we would wear our Sunday clothes to school, go out for lunch, and then attend the temple to do baptisms for the dead. It's definitely helped me gain a deeper understanding of the temple, of what it means, and of how important it is. Regularly visiting the temple has helped me feel the Spirit more often. It's definitely brought my friends closer to one another. Also, a lot of our classmates ask about our temple trips because they notice that at least 10 of us always dress up for early-release days. This attention encourages other youth to go to the temple too.

Another blessing has been attending the temple with a friend whose family is very against the Church. She was able to get her first limited-use recommend, and it has been neat to see the positive effect this has had on her life.

Annalise K., Arizona, USA



All My Troubles Disappear

My favorite temple experience was when I was first able to go to the temple. I went to the San Diego California Temple. Just being able to walk in, I felt that all of the troubles I was having at school and elsewhere were



just gone. I felt at peace being in the temple. I was overcome with feelings of happiness. Being in the temple helped me focus on what I needed to do at church and in other duties. It was just so incredible to be able to go and get away from all the troubles I had.

Kole E., California, USA



I Can Help People Who Didn't Have the Chance

Every time I go to the Memphis Tennessee Temple, I like to get into a spiritual mood. I like to imagine the people whom the ordinances are performed for. Sometimes there will be people who have been waiting for hundreds of years. Sometimes I think I take my own baptism for granted; some people never had that chance to learn about the gospel and be baptized while they were on earth. I think it's great to be a part of that work for them. I can help people who didn't have a chance to be baptized on earth, and it is awesome that I'm able to help them.

James N., Mississippi, USA



SETTING TEMPLE GOALS

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has said, "I encourage you to establish your own goal of how frequently you will avail yourself of the ordinances offered in our operating temples. What is there that is more important than attending and participating in the ordinances of the temple? What activity could have a greater impact and provide more joy and profound happiness than worshipping in the temple?" ("How Can We Make the Most of Temple Attendance?" *New Era*, March 2012, 2).

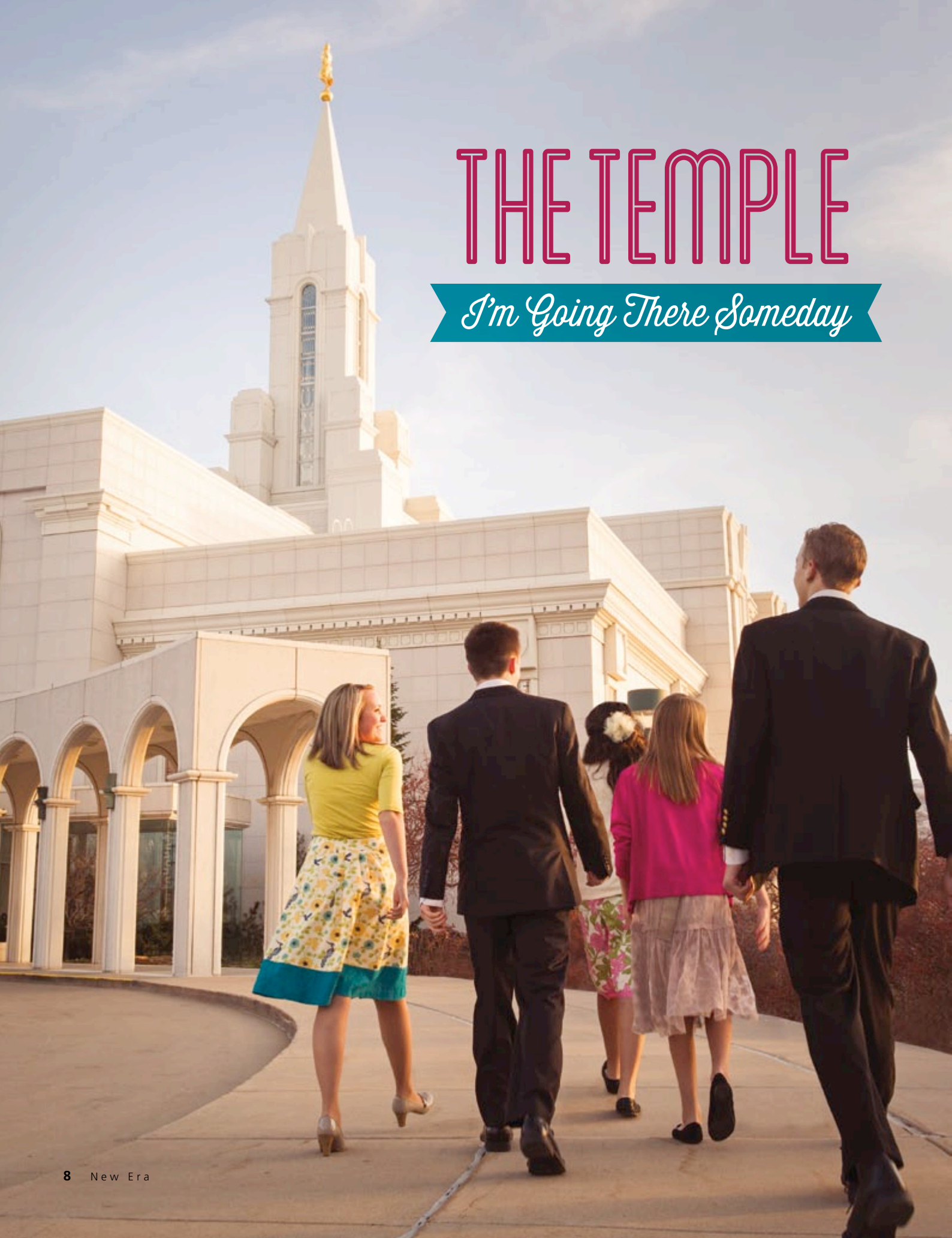
You can set temple attendance goals for yourself. For example:

- How often will you go?
- How will you prepare yourself beforehand to get the most out of your temple experience?
- Are there others you could invite?

Setting and following goals will help make the temple a place of lasting peace and happiness in your life.

THE TEMPLE

I'm Going There Someday





As Latter-day Saint youth, you can receive from local priesthood leaders a limited-use recommend to enter the house of the Lord, “the most holy of any place of worship on the earth” (Bible Dictionary, “Temple”). Great blessings await you there. Ponder the counsel of prophets and apostles on how to get there and on the joy of going. For answers to questions on preparing to go to the temple, visit lds.org/go/43A.

GETTING TO THE TEMPLE

“My brothers and sisters, we have built temples throughout the world and will continue to do so. To you who are worthy and able to attend the temple, I would admonish you to go often.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Until We Meet Again,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 113.

“I have a suggestion: When a temple is conveniently nearby, small things may interrupt your plans to go to the temple. Set specific goals, considering your circumstances, of when you can and will participate in temple ordinances. Then do not allow anything to interfere with that plan.”

Elder Richard G. Scott, “Temple Worship: The Source of Strength and Power in Times of Need,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 43.

“In all that you do, stay focused on the temple. In the temple you will receive the greatest of all the Lord’s blessings, including marriage for time and all eternity. Keeping the standards in *[For the Strength of Youth]* will help you be worthy to attend the temple, where you can perform sacred ordinances for your ancestors now and make essential covenants for yourself in the future.”

“Message to Youth from the First Presidency,” *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), ii.

A WAY TO SERVE

“It is pleasing to the Lord for our youth to worthily go to the temple and perform vicarious baptism for those who did not have the opportunity to be baptized in life.”

President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95), “The Great Symbol of Our Membership,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1994, 5.

“Regular temple attendance is one of the simplest ways you can bless those who are waiting in the spirit world.”

Elder David B. Haight of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles (1906–2004), “Personal Temple Worship,” *Ensign*, May 1993, 25.

“Just as our Redeemer gave His life as a vicarious sacrifice for all men, and in so doing became our Savior, even so we, in a small measure, when we engage in proxy work in the temple, become as saviors to those on the other side

who have no means of advancing unless something is done in their behalf by those on earth.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008), “Closing Remarks,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2004, 105.

BLESSINGS FROM TEMPLE SERVICE

“The temple is a place where we can find peace. There we receive a renewed dedication to the gospel and a strengthened resolve to keep the commandments.”

President Thomas S. Monson, “Until We Meet Again,” *Ensign*, May 2009, 113.

“Temples are places of personal revelation. When I have been weighed down by a problem or a difficulty, I have gone to the House of the Lord with a prayer in my heart for answers. These answers have come in clear and unmistakable ways.”

President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994), “What I Hope You Will Teach Your Children about the Temple,” *Ensign*, Aug. 1985, 8.

“Through the earth’s long history, temple worship has been a significant part of the Saints’ worship, by which they show their desire to come closer to their Creator. The temple was a place of learning for the Savior when He was on the earth; it was very much a part of His life. Temple blessings are available once again in our day.”

President James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency (1920–2007), “The Restoration of All Things,” *Ensign*, May 2006, 67.

“When you come to the temple you will love your family with a deeper love than you have ever felt before. The temple is about families.”

Elder Richard H. Winkel of the Seventy (served from 1999 to 2006), “The Temple Is about Families,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2006, 9.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID STOKER AND JON MOE

By Sarah Petersen



Temple

FACTS, STATS, AND INTERESTING STORIES

At the end of 2012, there were 140 temples in operation (1 under renovation), 14 under construction, and 14 announced. In your lifetime the number of temples has more than doubled. This is very different from 30 years ago, when some members of the Church made it their goal to visit every temple (26 temples had been dedicated by the end of 1983).¹ Here are several interesting facts, stats, and stories you could find if it were possible to go on a tour of today's temples.

THE ANGEL MORONI

The statue of Moroni is a figure of respect rather than worship because of the role that he played in the Restoration. By holding the trumpet to his mouth, Moroni symbolizes the spreading of the gospel (see Matthew 24:31).

The scriptures state that the Savior will come from the east at the Second Coming (see Matthew 24:27). Whenever possible the angel Moroni figure is placed facing eastward.²

The original Nauvoo Temple was the first temple to have an angel

placed on the top. This angel was different from today's version because it was designed as a weathervane. The angel appeared horizontally with a horn pressed to his lips and a book in his hand.

After the completion of the Salt Lake Temple in 1893, non-LDS sculptor Cyrus Dallin was asked to create a new design, one that most angel Moroni statues are patterned after today. Dallin wrote that his experience with the project "brought me nearer to God than anything I ever did. It seemed to me that I came to

know what it means to commune with angels from heaven."³

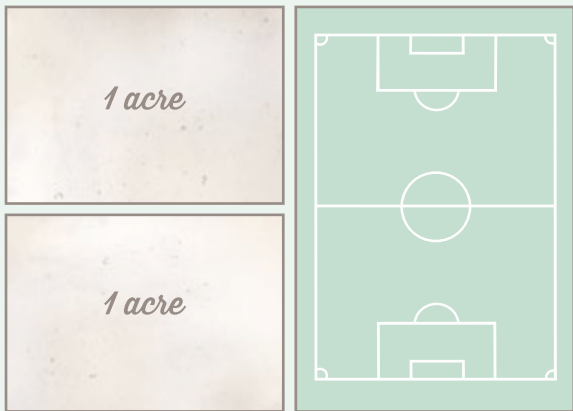
Later, the statue was designed to be holding the gold plates; only five temples feature this style: Los Angeles California, Washington D.C., Seattle Washington, Jordan River Utah, and Mexico City Mexico. The statue of Moroni placed at the Hill Cumorah Monument was also designed with gold plates but does not have a trumpet.

A new design of the angel Moroni statue has been created for the smaller temples where Moroni is holding a scroll. The scroll represents the everlasting gospel spoken of by the Apostle John (see Revelation 14:6).⁴

In addition, seven temples do not currently have a figure of the angel Moroni: St. George Utah, Manti Utah, Laie Hawaii, Cardston Alberta, Mesa Arizona, Hamilton New Zealand, and Oakland California.

5 LARGEST Temple Grounds

1. Washington D.C. Temple (52 acres)
2. Sacramento California Temple (47 acres)
3. Hamilton New Zealand Temple (34 acres)
4. London England Temple (32 acres)
5. Manti Utah Temple (27 acres)



Two acres fit snugly into one soccer field.



TEMPLES WITH THE Most Sealing Rooms

1. Jordan River Utah
○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ 17
2. Portland Oregon and Seattle Washington
○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ 13
3. Mexico City Mexico, Washington D.C., and Provo Utah
○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ 12
4. Logan Utah
○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ 11
5. Los Angeles California and Idaho Falls Idaho
○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ 9

Temples DEDICATED ON THE SAME DAY

There have been four times when two temple dedications were performed on the same day.

Halifax Nova Scotia	Memphis Tennessee	Nashville Tennessee	Montreal Quebec
NOVEMBER 14, 1999	APRIL 23, 2000	MAY 21, 2000	JUNE 4, 2000
Regina Saskatchewan	Reno Nevada	Villahermosa Mexico	San José Costa Rica



Bern Switzerland Temple



Hong Kong China Temple

TEMPLE STORIES

Bern Switzerland Temple

The Bern Switzerland Temple was the first temple built where English is not the main language. It was announced on July 1, 1952, and dedicated on September 11, 1955, but prophecies of this international temple were made several years before. In August 1906, President Joseph F. Smith visited Zurich, Switzerland, and predicted that “the time would come when temples to the Most High would be built in various countries of the world.”⁵ At that time all four temples in operation were in Utah. Another prophecy was made by President Heber J. Grant in 1923: “I have no doubt in my mind that temples of the Lord will be erected in Europe, none whatever.”⁶

Hong Kong China Temple

In 1991 the First Presidency asked the Asia Area Presidency to begin searching for a temple site in Hong Kong. If the Church were to build a temple in Hong Kong, it would have to be built before July 1, 1997, which was when the People’s Republic of China would resume government control.

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) arrived in Hong Kong on July 25, 1992, to approve a site for the temple. After visiting six different locations, President Hinckley discussed his feelings with the local stake presidents and decided that none of the locations would work. At 6:45 a.m. President Hinckley called the Area Presidency and asked to meet in his hotel room at 8:00 a.m. After they arrived, President Hinckley “then shared, on a sheet of white paper, a detailed drawing. During the night, he had envisioned a building of about eight floors above ground, with the temple on the top floors and other functions housed on the lower floors. . . . This concept of multiple use, President Hinckley explained, would depart from tradition in that all other temples in the Church at that time were stand-alone buildings.”⁷

President Hinckley returned to Salt Lake City and presented the new design to the Temple Department. The architects saw an opportunity to expand the building and created a plan that would be nearly twice the size originally designed by President Hinckley. The plans were completed and sent to Hong Kong for approval, but after negotiations with the officials, the building plans were



- Temples that have been dedicated
- Temples announced or under construction



denied. Remembering the experience they had earlier with President Hinckley’s first design, the Area Presidency immediately recommended that the Church return to his drawing. This plan quickly received approval, and the Church began construction on the temple. The Hong Kong China Temple was dedicated on May 26, 1996, by President Hinckley. **NE**

Sarah Petersen lives in Utah, USA.

NOTES

1. See temples.lds.org.
2. See Wendy Kenney, “Looking Up to Moroni,” *New Era*, Nov. 2009, 24–28.
3. In “Angel Moroni Statues Atop Mormon Temples Are More Than Decoration,” <http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/angel-moroni-statues-atop-mormon-temples-are-more-than-decoration>.
4. See Bill Boyle, “Statue of Angel Moroni placed on top of temple,” *Church News*, May 23, 1998, 4 (<http://www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/31074/Statue-of-Angel-Moroni-placed-on-top-of-temple.html>).
5. Marba C. Josephson, “A Temple Is Risen to Our Lord,” *Improvement Era*, Sept. 1955, 686.
6. Alberta Temple dedications proceedings, 242, Church History Library, Salt Lake City.
7. Monte J. Brough and John K. Carmack, “How the Hong Kong Temple Came to Be,” *Ensign*, Dec. 2006, 60.



WHY DO TEMPLES DOT THE EARTH?



“As part of the planned destiny of the earth and its inhabitants, here our kindred dead are also to be redeemed. Families are to be sealed together for all eternity. A welding link is to be forged between the fathers and the children. In our time, a whole, complete, and perfect union of all dispensations, keys, and powers is to be welded together. For these sacred purposes, holy temples now dot the earth.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “The Creation,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 85.

“How do I explain to my friend why breaking the law of chastity is a bad idea?”

Heavenly Father wants us to be happy and worthy of His Spirit, so He gives us commandments to help us keep our thoughts, words, and actions within appropriate boundaries. The law of chastity helps keep the power of procreation within the bounds of marriage. One reason He commands that the power of procreation be expressed only between husband and wife is that “children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony.”¹

You could share a copy of *For the Strength of Youth* with your friend. It gives several reasons why it’s good to keep the law of chastity: “When you are sexually pure, you prepare yourself to make and keep sacred covenants in the temple. You prepare yourself to build a strong marriage and to bring children into the world as part of an eternal and loving family. You protect yourself from the spiritual and emotional damage that come from sharing sexual intimacy outside of marriage. You also protect yourself from harmful diseases. Remaining sexually pure helps you to be confident and truly happy and improves your ability to make good decisions now and in the future.”² **NE**

The Temple



Our Heavenly Father has a divine purpose for all of us, and that purpose can be fulfilled in the temple. We should be worthy to enter

the temple so that our families can be sealed forever. We will live with our Heavenly Father again, and most importantly we will have a never-ending joy, which the unworthy cannot have.

Alofa M., 18, Samoa

Marriage and Family



We are encouraged to be sexually pure so that we can be worthy to enter the temple and keep sacred covenants. If we follow

the law of chastity, we can build a strong marriage and family in the future. Satan is always there to tempt us, but through prayer, scriptures, and good friends, we can overcome it.

Resty M., 16, Philippines

Negative Consequences

There are many negative consequences to breaking the law of chastity, but not all of them you learn about in health class. Breaking the law of chastity can drive the Spirit out of your life, hurt those close to you, and make you feel bad about yourself. I suggest watching a *Mormon Messages for Youth* video called “Chastity: What Are the Limits?” [at lds.org/go/43B].

Matthew T., 17, Utah, USA

Purity and Respect

By following the law of chastity, we remain pure in the sight of God, we respect ourselves, and we help others respect us too. If we obey the law of chastity, we show that we are children

of God and that we uphold high standards. We will avoid regrets. As we obey our Heavenly Father, especially regarding this law, our life will be happier here on earth and in the world to come.

Alyana G., 19, Philippines

A Sacred Gift

If the gift of procreation is taken lightly, this precious gift from God would be treated like an ordinary thing. Giving a gift doesn't feel as rewarding if the person you gave it to doesn't think it is special. One must always treat procreation sacredly; for we are all temples of God and should stay as clean and pure as a temple.

Jaron Z., 15, Idaho, USA

The Spirit with Us



When you stay clean from sin, you will be so much happier and you will be blessed. Our bodies are like temples, and Heavenly Father "doth not dwell in unholy temples" (Alma 7:21). So when we stay clean from sin, the Spirit can dwell with us.

Maryann P., 14, Arkansas, USA

Important Questions

Answer your friend's question by asking some questions: "What if your future spouse were watching you now?" All the people I have heard about who have broken the law of chastity have regretted it. "What if your future child asks if you have broken the law of chastity?" Your friend needs to learn how important the law of chastity is now, before a son or daughter asks that question. You need to keep yourself clean and pure to

lead a happy, healthy life without the guilt of the sacred law broken.

Robyn K., 13, Utah, USA

Virtue and Chastity



The Lord delights in virtue and chastity, and everything should happen in its proper time.

The law of chastity is a commandment from the Lord. Prayer and the companionship of the Spirit are the perfect combination to know that being chaste is a blessing.

Selene R., 18, Nicaragua

Within Marriage

I would explain to my friend that breaking the law of chastity is a bad idea because the power of procreation is made only for legally married couples. When we break the law of chastity, we lose the Holy Ghost in our lives.

Augustina A., 15, Ghana

NOTES

1. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
2. *For the Strength of Youth* (2011), 35.

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



BREAKING THE LAW OF CHASTITY CAUSES SERIOUS HARM

"Within the enduring covenant of marriage, the Lord permits husband and wife the expression of the sacred procreative powers in all their loveliness and beauty within the bounds He has set. . . .

"However, those intimate acts are forbidden by the Lord outside the enduring commitment of marriage because they undermine His purposes. Within the sacred covenant of marriage, such relationships are according to His plan. When experienced any other way, they are against His will. They cause serious emotional and spiritual harm. Even though participants do not realize that is happening now, they will later. Sexual immorality creates a barrier to the influence of the Holy Spirit."

Elder Richard G. Scott of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, "Making the Right Choices," *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 38.

Video Help for Your Friends

Consider sharing the short video "I Choose to Be Pure" with your friend, where young people from several religions tell why they choose to stay sexually pure. Visit lds.org/go/43C.

UPCOMING QUESTION

"What should I do when a topic is brought up at school that goes against **gospel teachings**, such as abortion?"

Send your answer and photo by May 15, 2013.

Go to newera.lds.org and click "Submit Material."

You can also write to us at newera@ldschurch.org or

New Era, Q&A, topics at school
50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA

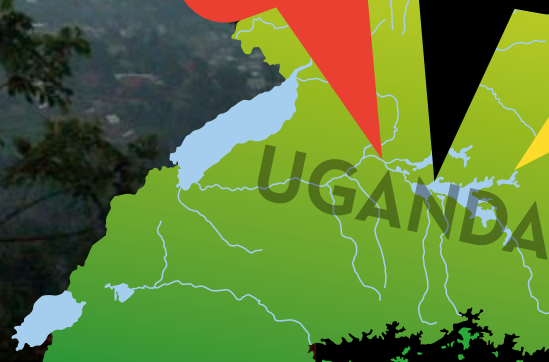
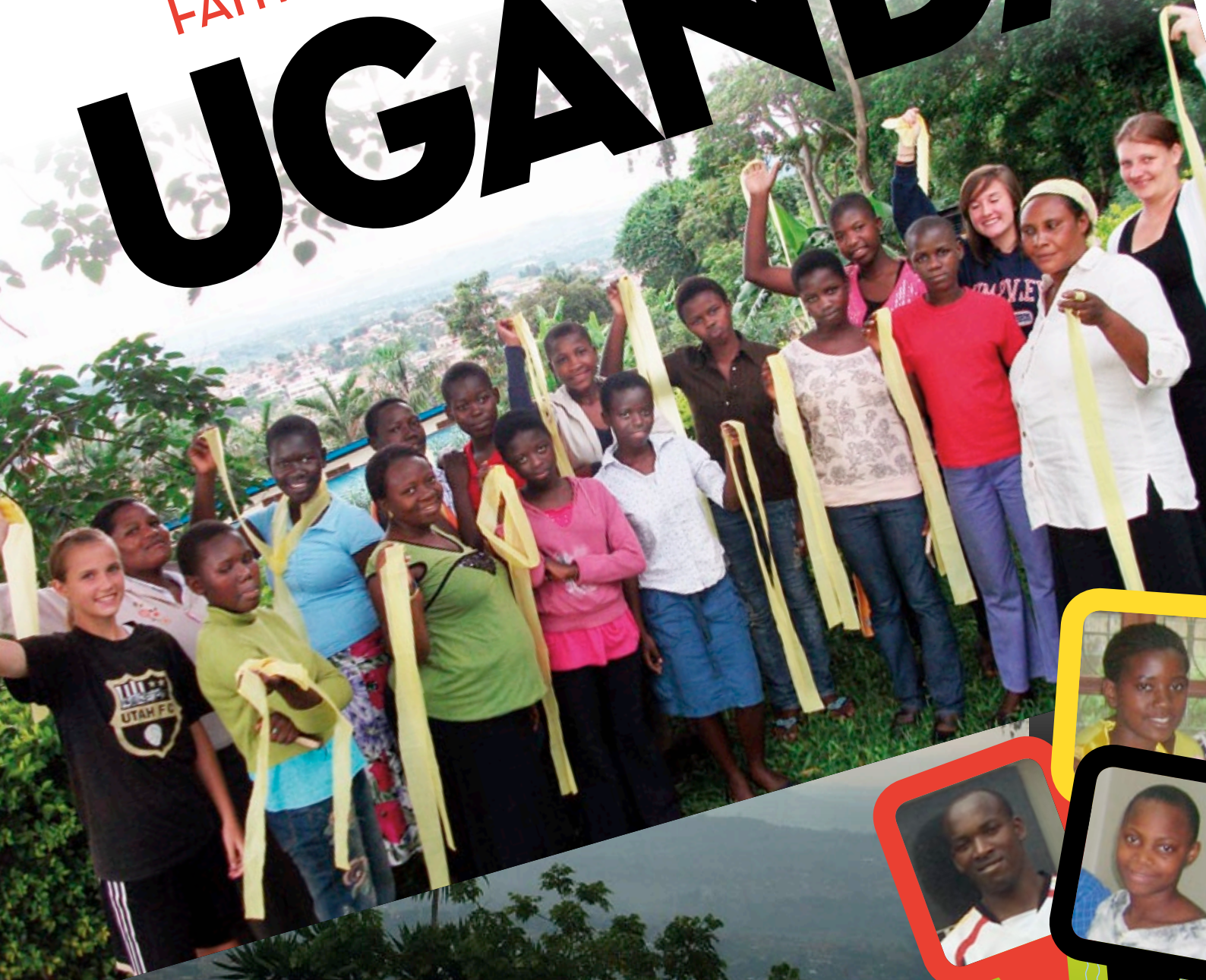
Responses may be edited for length or clarity.



**GROWTH IN
FERTILE SOIL:
FAITHFUL YOUTH IN**

By Cindy Smith

UGANDA



As they accept and live the gospel of Jesus Christ, youth in Uganda are seeing faith and hope grow all around them.

In the heart of East Africa, the beautiful country of Uganda is blessed with rolling hills of sugar cane and banana trees—and with young people ready to accept and live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The first stake in Uganda was organized in 2010. The Church is growing rapidly, with many young men and young women in each ward and branch.

Raising a Banner, Being an Example

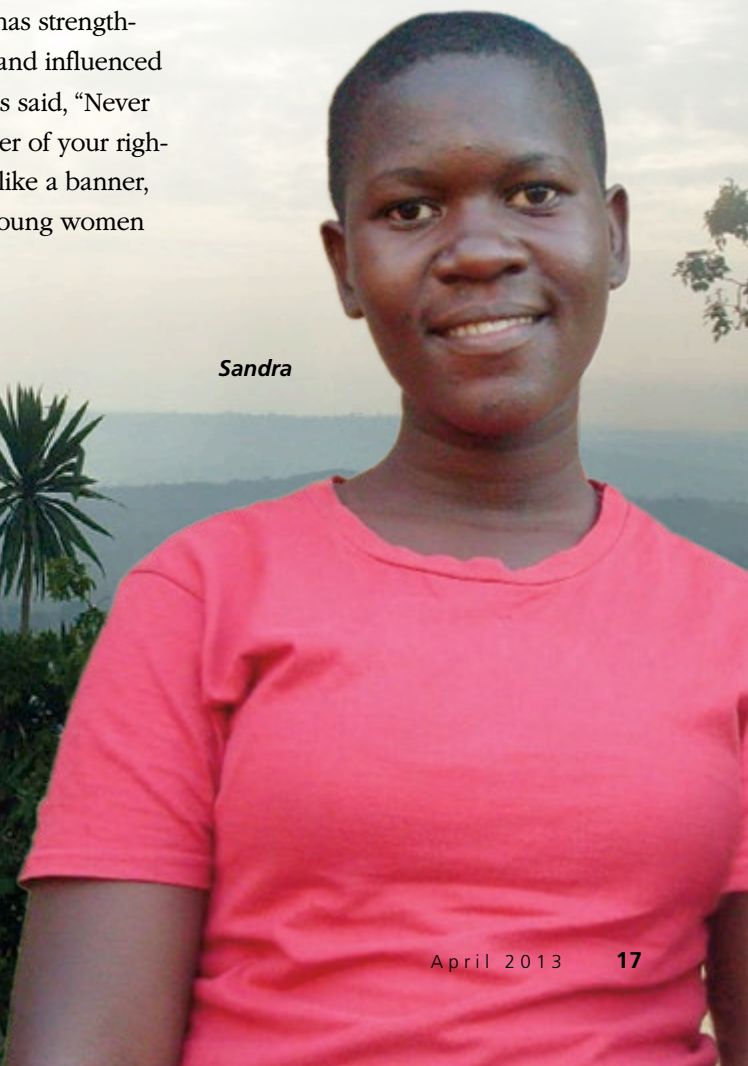
The young women in one ward were inspired by the teachings of Sister Elaine S. Dalton, Young Women general president, on virtue: “Now is the time for each of us to arise and unfurl a banner to the world calling for a return to virtue.”¹ The young women hiked a hill overlooking the town and raised gold banners symbolizing their pledge to be examples of virtue. Together they sang “High on the Mountain Top” (*Hymns*, no. 5).

These young women have raised their personal standards of righteousness. Their obedience has strengthened their testimonies and influenced others. Sister Dalton has said, “Never underestimate the power of your righteous influence.”² And like a banner, the example of these young women waves to all the world.

Like many young women in Uganda, Sandra walks more than a mile to church, helps clean the meetinghouse on Fridays, and attends seminary on Saturdays. During the week, she rises before 5:00 a.m. to read schoolbooks, and then she walks to school, returning home after 6:00 p.m. She missed a year of school because of financial difficulties but faces her challenges with a positive attitude: “The gospel has really helped me to stay steadfast and immovable.”

Sandra is the only Church member in her home, but her parents support

Sandra





Top: Youth attend a stake fireside together.

Above: Susan (center), a refugee in Uganda, found peace in the gospel and brought her siblings and other children to church.

Center: The young women of this ward enjoy working on Personal Progress.

Right: Dennis gave up a spot on a professional soccer team to preach the gospel. He and the other young men in his priests quorum sacrificed and overcame challenges to serve missions.

her Church service, such as helping when the ward cleaned the grounds of a local orphanage. Her family sees how the gospel has helped her be strong, even when facing unresolved problems. Reflecting on the source of that strength, Sandra says, “When I go to church, I feel like I am putting on the armor of God” (see Ephesians 6:11–17).

A more recent convert, Susan, loves the Church. Originally from South Sudan, her family fled hardships and

was blessed to receive the missionaries in Uganda. As a refugee, she found peace and protection in the gospel. On Sundays she would bring her younger siblings to church, as well as up to 10 other children who are not Church members. After the unexpected death of a family member, she returned to South Sudan, where she waits for the Church to be established in her area. Both Susan and Sandra face challenges, but they rely on God and enjoy the fruits of living the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Alma 32:6–8, 43).

Sacrificing to Serve a Mission

Young men in Uganda start playing soccer as small boys, using tightly bound branches for a ball. Ever since he was very young, Dennis had a gift for the sport, and his high school gave him a scholarship to play for their team. After he completed high school, a professional team offered him pay, room, and board. It was a dream come true, but

Dennis





Dennis knew this would likely interfere with his plans to go on a mission later in the year.

Dennis's desire to do what his Heavenly Father wanted him to do was so strong that he did not even want to be tempted to remain on the



team when the time would arrive for him to serve a mission. Many people questioned his choice, but Dennis is certain he made the right decision—for himself and others. “My two little brothers and my little sister were just baptized,” he says. “I never thought my sister would hear the gospel. When I see God doing miracles in my family, it gives me a bright hope for my future.”

In Dennis's ward the young men study *Preach My Gospel* each week. They have become like a team, working closely with the full-time missionaries and bringing friends to Sunday meetings and other activities, including basketball and soccer games during the week. The priests have baptized friends and others they helped teach with the missionaries.

Over several years, this team of young men has strengthened the whole ward, and four of them, including Dennis, received calls to the Kenya Nairobi Mission.

They have followed the counsel of Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to “become missionaries long before you submit your mission papers.”³ They did so by working together as a quorum, a team better than any other.

All four missionaries overcame challenges in order to serve. Wilberforce explains, “I was almost losing hope of going on a mission [because of the costs], but then I read Matthew 6:19–20: ‘Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.’ So with diligence and commitment, I was able to accomplish my goal of serving a full-time mission. I love missionary service. Nothing is better than seeking first the kingdom of heaven.”

Hope for the Future

The youth of Uganda are helping build God's kingdom here, with great hope for the future. Although there is no temple in East Africa, the youth look forward to the time when they will marry in a distant temple. One stake activity focused on preparing to enter the temple, and at the conclusion, a member of the stake presidency bore his testimony: “God loves you. You are the future of the Church in Uganda.” These righteous youth

are already having a great influence.

The young men and women of Uganda are sacrificing the things of the world for blessings that will last forever. They have planted the seed of faith and are nourishing it with care (see Alma 32:33–37). Like a tree filled with fruit (see Alma 32:42), the youth share the joy of the gospel in this fertile land. **NE**

Cindy Smith lived in Uganda while her husband worked there, and they now live in Utah, USA.

NOTES

1. Elaine S. Dalton, “A Return to Virtue,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 80.
2. Elaine S. Dalton, *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 80.
3. David A. Bednar, “Becoming a Missionary,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2005, 45.





10 WAYS TO KNOW YOU ARE CONVERTED

By Tyler Orton

I learned in priesthood meeting that one of the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood is to help us “become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live by its teachings.”¹ I was unsure of what it meant to “become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ.” I asked my parents and older siblings what they thought it meant, and together we discussed a number of ways you can see if you’re becoming converted.

There are probably others, but here are 10 ways that we came up with. Since conversion is a lifelong process, we don’t have to be perfect in each of these areas now, but they can help us know if we’re making progress.

1. When you are converted, you not only *know* what you should do but you also *desire* to do the right things. It’s not enough to just avoid doing wrong because you are afraid of getting caught or punished. When truly converted, you really want to choose the right.

2. Another sign of becoming converted is that you have no more desire to do wrong. The Anti-Nephties are a great example of this. When they were converted to the gospel of Christ, they “entered into a covenant with God to serve him and keep his commandments” (Mosiah 21:31). Like the Nephites taught by King Benjamin, they had “no more disposition to do evil” (Mosiah 5:2).

They became truly converted to the gospel of Christ, and Satan's temptations had no power over them.

3. When you are converted, you are more concerned about what God thinks than what others think about you. At my school in Indonesia, students tend to drink a lot. Sometimes it can be tempting to go out partying when everyone else is doing it and making fun of you for not going. My brother was invited to drink and party many times, but he never did—he stood up for what he believed. It was hard, and he spent plenty of nights home alone. When

students were saying good-bye at his graduation, several people shared with him how amazed they were that he was able to resist peer pressure and be true to his standards. They told him how much they looked up to him because of it. He showed he was converted by resisting peer pressure.

4. When converted, you try your best to live the gospel always—not just on Sundays or when it's convenient but all the time. Your actions don't change depending on whom you're with or who might be watching you. When your peers tell

a crude joke or want to watch a dirty movie, you don't go along with it just because no one is watching; instead you stand up for what you believe.

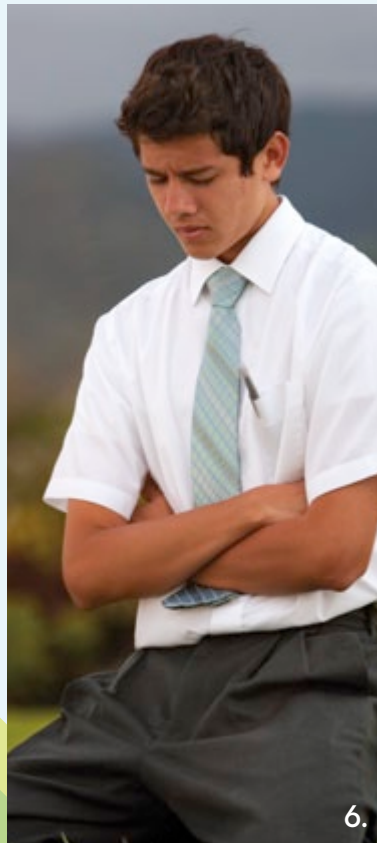
5. When you are converted, you are more kind and compassionate in dealing with others. You don't judge or criticize or gossip. You are more aware of others' feelings, and it becomes natural to look for ways to serve and help. If you are walking down the hall of your school and someone drops his books, you don't even have to think about what to do. You automatically stop to help.



A SURE WAY TO HAPPINESS

"The Lord wants the members of His Church to be fully converted to His gospel. This is the only sure way to have spiritual safety now and happiness forever."

Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Presidency of the Seventy, "Converted to His Gospel through His Church," *Ensign*, May 2012, 15.



To show that they would be true to their covenant to live the gospel, the converted Lamanites buried their weapons (see Alma 24).



6. When you are converted, your desire to pray increases and you feel like you are really communicating with God when you pray. You will always make time to pray no matter how you feel or what is going on in your life. President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) told us, “If we do not feel like praying, then we should pray until we do feel like praying.”²

7. When you become converted, you look forward to Sunday because it is the Sabbath. When Sunday comes, instead of thinking, “Oh man, it’s a day that I can’t hang out with my friends or go to the movies,” you think, “Great, a day that

I can attend church and focus on spiritual things and spend time with my family!”

8. When converted, you keep the commandments and you don’t look for excuses, rationalize behavior, or try to find gray areas. You don’t try to push the limits; you simply keep the commandments because you know it is the better way.

9. When converted, you look forward to paying your tithing. You view it as a privilege and feel that 10 percent is not that much, especially compared with the blessings and satisfaction you gain. These blessings are worth much more than the money you paid.

10. When you become converted, you have a strong desire to help others know the truth and happiness that you have found. A good example from the scriptures is Lehi’s dream, in which he had such a strong desire to share the delicious fruit of the tree of life with his family. When he partook of the fruit, his first thought was not to take more for himself but to look for his family so that they could also partake of the fruit and have the same happiness (see 1 Nephi 8:12).

In summary, you know you are becoming converted when you start to live the higher law, the gospel of Jesus Christ. You live the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law. You live the gospel in all aspects of your life. You live the gospel to its fullest, not because you have to but because you want to. You are a happier and nicer person, and you want to become the person Heavenly Father wants you to be. You want to be like Jesus Christ and follow His example. When you become that person, you have truly been converted. **NE**

Tyler Orton lives in Java, Indonesia.

NOTES

1. *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 8.1.3.
2. Ezra Taft Benson, “Pray Always,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1990, 4.

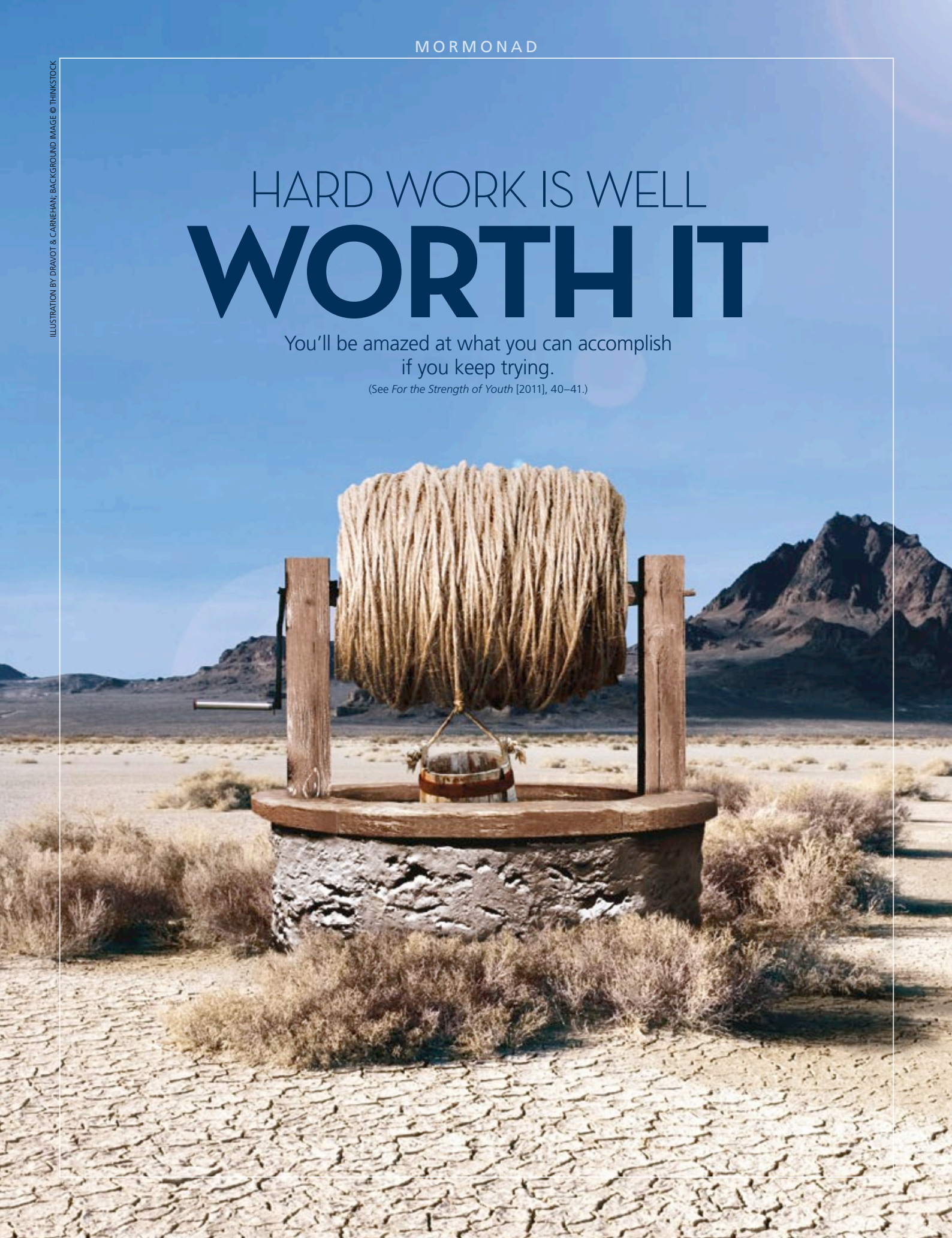
MORMONAD

HARD WORK IS WELL **WORTH IT**

You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish
if you keep trying.

(See For the Strength of Youth [2011], 40–41.)

ILLUSTRATION BY DRAVOT & CARNEHAN; BACKGROUND IMAGE © THINKSTOCK



The OLIVE

Studying this versatile fruit can yield many insights into our Savior's sacrifice.



MEDITERRANEAN *Olive Trees*

Plant name: *Olea europaea*

Plant type: evergreen,
angiosperm (flowering)

Propagation: from softwood
cuttings or seeds

Process for extracting oil:
cleaning, crushing, and pressing



FACTS ABOUT *Olives*

- Olive trees can live a very long time. Some olive trees in the Near East are thought to be more than 2,000 years old.
- If an olive tree is chopped down, it does not die, but new shoots come up from the roots.
- Olive trees keep their leaves all year round.
- Olive oil was used anciently for lamp oil, cooking oil, food, soap, religious ceremonies, and ointment for treating wounds.

“Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.” *Matthew 26:36.*

EXAMPLE OF AN *Olive Press*

AXIS

CRUSHING STONE

HANDLE

GROOVE

CRUSHING BASIN



What We Can Learn

Symbols of the Atonement

“Olive trees are special in the Holy Land. The olive branch is universally regarded as a symbol of peace. This tree provides food, light, heat, lumber, ointments, and medicine. It is now, as it was then, crucial to life in Israel. It is not a deciduous tree, but everbearing—always green. Even if the tree is chopped down, life will spring from its roots, suggesting **everlasting life**. Jewish tradition often refers to the olive tree as the tree of life. To me it seems to prefigure the **Resurrection**.

“Jesus came to the base of the Mount of Olives to effect the first component of the **Atonement**. This He did at the **Garden of Gethsemane**. The word *Gethsemane* comes from two Hebrew roots: *gath*, meaning ‘**press,**’ and *shemen*, meaning ‘oil,’ especially that of the olive.

“There olives had been pressed under the weight of great stone wheels to squeeze precious oil from the olives. So the Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane was literally **pressed under the weight of the sins of the world**. He sweated great drops of blood—his life’s ‘oil’—which issued from every pore. (See Luke 22:44; D&C 19:18.)

“... Remember, just as the body of the olive, which was pressed for the oil that gave light, so the Savior was pressed. From every pore oozed the lifeblood of our Redeemer. Throughout the joyous days of your mission, when your cup of gladness runs over, remember His cup of bitterness which made it possible. And when sore trials come upon you, remember Gethsemane.”

Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Why This Holy Land?” *Ensign*, Dec. 1989, 17–18; emphasis added.





By Elaine S. Dalton

Young Women General President

What Is a TRUE FRIEND?

The definition of a friend has changed in today's technologically connected world. Today we may think we have many "friends." It is true: we do enjoy the ability to be informed and to stay current with what is happening in the lives of many of our acquaintances as well as current and former friends and even people we have not met personally whom we call our friends.

In the context of social media, the term "friend" is often used to describe *contacts* rather than *relationships*. You

have the ability to send your "friends" a message, but this is not the same thing as having a relationship with a person one on one.

Sometimes our preoccupation is on *having* friends. Perhaps we should focus on *being* a friend.

There are many definitions of what it means to be a friend. I will never forget hearing Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles speak about what it means to be a friend and the powerful influence of friends in our lives. His definition has

had lasting impact in my life. He said, "Friends are people who make it easier to live the gospel of Jesus Christ."¹ In this sense, seeking another person's highest good is the essence of true friendship. It is putting someone else first. It is being strictly honest, loyal, and chaste in every action. Perhaps it is the word *commitment* that unlocks the real meaning of friendship.

When my daughter, Emi, was 15, she made a decision about what kind of friends she would seek. One morning I noticed her copy of the Book of Mormon opened to Alma 48. She had marked the verses that describe Captain Moroni: "Moroni was a strong and a mighty man; he was a man of a perfect understanding. . . . Yea, and he was a man who was firm in the faith of Christ" (verses 11, 13). In the margin she had written, "I want to date and marry a man like Moroni." As I watched Emi and the kind of young men she associated with and later dated when she turned 16, I could see that she was exemplifying those qualities herself and helping others



live up to their identity as sons of God, priesthood holders, and future fathers and leaders.

True friends influence those with whom they associate to “rise a little higher [and] be a little better.”² You can help one another, particularly young men, prepare for and serve honorable missions. You can help one another remain morally clean. Your righteous influence and friendship can have an eternal effect not only on the lives of your associates but also on generations to come.

The Savior called His disciples His friends. He said:

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you *friends*; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:12–15; emphasis added).

As you live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ, you will attract people to you who will want to be your friend—not just a contact on a social media site but the kind of friend the Savior exemplified by His words and His example. As you strive to be a

friend to others and to let your light shine forth, your influence will bless the lives of many with whom you associate. I know that as you focus on being a friend to others, as defined by prophets and the examples in the scriptures, you will be happy and you will be an influence for good in the world and will one day receive the glorious promise mentioned in the scriptures about true friendship: “That same sociality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory” (D&C 130:2). **NE**

NOTES

1. Robert D. Hales, “This Is the Way; and There Is None Other Way” (Brigham Young University devotional address, Jan. 10, 1982), speeches.byu.edu.
2. Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Quest for Excellence,” *Ensign*, Sept. 1999, 5.

KEY IDEAS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

“Choose friends who share your values so you can strengthen and encourage each other in living high standards.

“To have good friends, be a good friend. . . .

“As you seek to be a friend to others, do not compromise your standards.”

For the Strength of Youth (2011), 16.



My INVITATION to SALVATION

By Emerson José da Silva

As a young man, I visited many denominations and was confused because each one taught different interpretations of the scriptures. I did not feel good about the irreverence I found in some of them, so I gave up trying to find a church to attend.

Several years later a friend of mine, Cleiton Lima, was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He did not mention this to me even though we were good friends, but as time went by, I began to see changes in him. On Sundays I usually went to his house in the morning so we could play soccer, but I could never find him at home. This happened two or three Sundays in a row. Finally Cleiton told me that he could no longer play soccer



on Sundays because he was honoring the Lord's day. I told him, "This church is making you crazy."

Then Cleiton invited me to attend church. I gave him an excuse because I was still disenchanted with religion. For 10 months, Cleiton brought over missionaries to teach me, but I always excused myself or told them I was too busy. But he never gave up.

One day in June, he invited me to attend a Church dance. I teased him, "Is there going to be free food and a lot of girls?" Laughing, he said yes!

I have to admit that I was defeated by my stomach. I visited the church and loved it. I was welcomed by everyone, I ate a lot, and I became interested in attending a meeting.

When I arrived at church on Sunday, I met many people and heard their testimonies.

I was not

familiar with the Book of Mormon, but I felt the Spirit of the Lord when various Church members testified that they know the Book of Mormon is true, that this is the Church of Jesus Christ, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet called by God. I had never felt so good. I still did not want to meet with the missionaries, but that testimony meeting touched me.

The next week, Cleiton again invited me to go to church. I couldn't because I had another obligation. I could see the sadness in his face when I told him I didn't know if I could go.

However, on Sunday morning I awoke with a desire to go to church. I got up at 6:50, which was difficult for me, and I got ready and waited for Cleiton to walk by. He was surprised when he saw me dressed and waiting. That Sunday the bishop taught about the priesthood. I felt the Spirit strongly and had the impression that I should take the missionary lessons. By the end of the Aaronic Priesthood meeting, I knew that I was going to be baptized.

When church ended, I told Cleiton, "I want to be baptized!"

He thought I was joking. But then he said, "If I call the elders, will you meet with them?" I answered yes.

I was taught by great elders. When I heard the message of the Restoration, I had an even greater confirmation that I should be baptized. But I wanted to know for myself the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. The elders marked Moroni 10:3–5 in my Book of Mormon and invited me to pray and ask God if it is true.

The next evening I remembered that I had not yet read the Book of Mormon. As I began to read, I felt a very strong spirit. I prayed, and before I was finished, I knew that the Book of Mormon is true. I am grateful to God for having answered my prayer. I was baptized in July 2006.

I later served as a missionary in the Brazil Cuiabá Mission, and my friend Cleiton served in the Brazil Santa Maria Mission. We did what Cleiton did for me: invite people to come unto Christ and help them receive the restored gospel through exercising faith in Jesus Christ, repenting, being baptized, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. This truly is the way to salvation.

Let us always invite our friends and relatives to learn of this gospel, for the Savior invited everyone when He said, "Come unto me" (Matthew 11:28). I know that this is the Church of Jesus Christ and that now is the time to invite everyone to come unto Him. **NE**

Emerson José da Silva lives in Pernambuco, Brazil.

Brothers and Sisters— Friends Forever

Through gospel teachings and family associations, these brothers and sisters in Indiana have learned friendship, service, and faith.





By David A. Edwards
Church Magazines

Having brothers and sisters can have its ups and downs, but it certainly helps you learn some lessons and develop traits that will help later in life, such as friendship, patience, and service.

One family of brothers and sisters in Indiana has learned those lessons well—and has had a lot of fun along the way.

Fun with Family Friends

“It’s fun being a brother,” says Seth V., 18. “I get to have friends in the family.”

That feeling of friendship is echoed by Aubrey, Janessa, and Tyler, his 15-year-old siblings, who are fraternal triplets.

One important source of friendship and togetherness is family home evening activities. After their family has a spiritual lesson, they often engage in fun—and rather lively—activities. Seth explains, “We often find things to do in the house, like carpet tag.”

“Once we played a game sort of like soccer-hockey inside,” says Janessa.

And Aubrey, remembering another activity, simply says, “Jumping on a watermelon.” As everyone laughs, she adds, “We sort of exploded the watermelon.”



Lest you get the wrong impression, Seth explains that there was a purpose to what was going on, but something went awry. “That just happened once,” he says, “but my foot did get stuck in the watermelon.”

“And then we tried vacuuming it to clean it up,” says Aubrey, to more laughter.

All joking aside, these brothers and sisters feel genuine joy and comfort through the friendship and service they experience in their relationships.

Tyler, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, says, “It’s very important to have friends with you, because they can help you through hard times. My brothers and sisters are my friends.”

Seth: “My future is based around my testimony. I’m planning on going on a mission. Later, I want to start a family and continue living the gospel.”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID A. EDWARDS, ILLUSTRATIONS BY PATRIC GERBER





BUILD LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

“Continue building lasting, loving relationships for all

family members. Listen to one another, be united, work together, play together, pray together, study together. Live celestial principles together, serve the Lord together. . . . Never let golden opportunities go by in your relationships with your family members that will help build eternal principles.”

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Born of Goodly Parents,” *Ensign*, May 1985, 23.

Aubrey: “You want your faith to grow, so you need the gospel and a relationship with God.”



Service to Siblings

These siblings all support each other in their various activities, such as Aubrey’s marching band performances, Janessa’s volleyball games, and Tyler’s soccer games.

Tyler’s entry into the world of power soccer, which is a sport for people who use powered wheelchairs, is also a story of family service. There was no nearby team for Tyler to play on until an Eagle Scout project by his oldest brother, Matt, 20, made it a reality for him a couple of years ago. Matt organized their town’s power soccer team, which participates in a league with teams from other cities. Their father coached the team,

and Matt was an assistant coach until he left on his full-time mission.

Now Tyler and other power wheelchair users in their area can participate in an activity that helps them develop skills and character—all because one young man found a way to do something for his brother.

Of course, the day-to-day service these siblings give each other is also rewarding. Aubrey and Janessa enjoy helping and supporting each other in their Young Women activities and Personal Progress projects. Seth enjoys

helping his sisters with their Spanish homework, as well as helping Tyler keep a busy schedule by taking him to school and Church events.

Priesthood service is something Seth and Tyler enjoy. When Tyler became a deacon, he was happy to able to pass the sacrament by adding an attachment to his wheelchair so that people could take the trays from him. Seth says, “Priesthood service means a lot to me—preparing, blessing, and passing the sacrament to everyone, including taking it to people who can’t make it to church because they’re not able to get out of the house.”

The Gospel as a Guide

When they’re not together, these brothers and sisters try to be good friends to others by sharing the Church’s standards and teachings with them.

Janessa says that studying the scriptures helps, because “a scripture can stand out and help me through temptations and trials. Or when my friends ask me questions about the Church, I can refer back to the scripture and answer them and tell them about the Church and our standards.”

Trying to be a good example at all times is important to Aubrey, because “people are watching us all the time,” she says. “They notice that we have different standards from theirs. A boy in my biology class would always refer to me as ‘the Mormon.’ Then one time he said, ‘Aubrey, you’re always

Janessa: **"If your testimony is strong and you're living by the gospel standards, it will be easier to resist temptation in the future."**

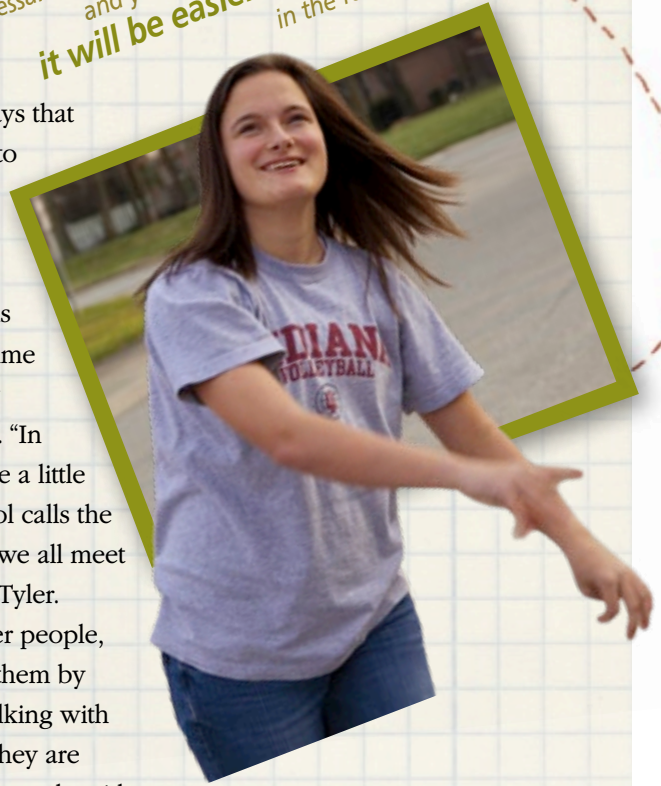
so happy all the time. It's different.' In band I'm nicknamed the 'Mormon baritone' because I'm the only Church member in my section. The others sometimes stop cussing when I'm with them, and sometimes they stop because I ask them to. But people are watching you all the time."

Seth has talked about religion with one of his friends several times, and he has given him a copy of the Book of Mormon. "He understands our Church a little more, understands me more. At least he has a Book of Mormon in case he has more questions. Even after high school, if we go our separate ways, he might run into it again and remember, and he might look into it more."

All of these brothers and sisters

enjoy seminary. Tyler says that "the best part for me is to learn about the gospel." He also enjoys the gathering of Latter-day Saint youth that happens at school between the time early-morning seminary ends and school begins. "In the morning, we all have a little spot everybody at school calls the 'Mormon Place,' where we all meet and talk. It's cool," says Tyler.

When he is with other people, Tyler also likes to help them by listening to them and talking with them about difficulties they are having. "I hope to help people with their problems," he says.



Tyler: **"At school there's a lot of stuff that challenges us, so we have to stand alone and protect ourselves."**



A More Perfect Perspective

Though they admit they sometimes have disagreements and experience the normal friction felt in most families, these brothers and sisters also know that their belief in an eternal family has affected how they regard each other and their relationships.

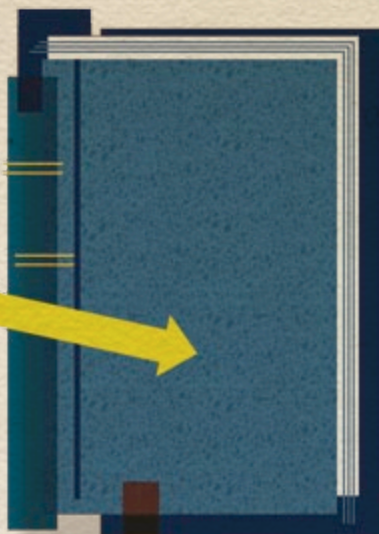
Seth says, "Since we know our relationship is forever, we're not going to hold any grudges, that's for sure."

"In the Church we know that you can be with your family forever," says Janessa, "and that makes everything different."

And the difference is easy to see when Seth, Aubrey, Janessa, and Tyler are together. The lessons they are learning in their family now will last them a lifetime—and beyond. **NE**



Holy Bible



Book of Mormon



WHY WE NEED THE

BOOK OF MORMON

Some people may ask you why we need the Book of Mormon when we already have the Bible. In fact, Jesus Christ testified that this would happen (see 2 Nephi 29:3). There are many reasons why the Book of Mormon is important in our day (for example, see 2 Nephi 29:7–11). Here are just a few reasons why it's essential.

Another Witness of Jesus Christ

The scriptures show us a pattern of using multiple witnesses to establish truth in Christ's Church. The Book of Mormon adds a second witness to the Bible as a testimony of Christ. Elder Mark E. Petersen (1900–84) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



TWO WITNESSES

"The Bible is one witness of Jesus Christ; the Book of Mormon is another. Why is this second witness so crucial? The following illustration may help: How many straight lines can you draw through a single point on a piece of paper? The answer is infinite. For a moment, suppose that single point represents the Bible and that hundreds of those straight lines drawn through that point represent different interpretations of the Bible and that each of those interpretations represents a different church.

"What happens, however, if on that piece of paper there is a second point representing the Book of Mormon? How many straight lines could you draw between these two reference points: the Bible and the Book of Mormon? Only one. Only one interpretation of Christ's doctrines survives the testimony of these two witnesses.

"Again and again the Book of Mormon acts as a confirming, clarifying, unifying witness of the doctrines taught in the Bible."

Elder Tad R. Callister of the Presidency of the Seventy, "The Book of Mormon—a Book from God," *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 75.

once said, “The chief reason we have the Book of Mormon is that in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall all things be established. (See 2 Cor. 13:1.) We have the Bible; we also have the Book of Mormon. They constitute two voices—two volumes of scripture—from two widely separated ancient peoples, both bearing testimony to the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ.”¹ President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) has added, “We must not forget that the Lord Himself provided the Book of Mormon as His chief witness.”²

The Fulness of the Gospel

We know that “plain and precious things . . . have been taken away from” the Bible throughout time (1 Nephi 13:40). The Book of Mormon clarifies Christ’s doctrine and brings the fulness of the gospel to the earth once again (see 1 Nephi 13:38–41). For example, the Book of Mormon helps us know that baptism must be performed by immersion (see 3 Nephi 11:26) and that little children do not need to be baptized (see Moroni 8:4–26).

Central to the Restored Church

Joseph Smith testified that the Book of Mormon is “the keystone of our religion.”³ Since we know this, it does not seem a coincidence that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized on April 6,

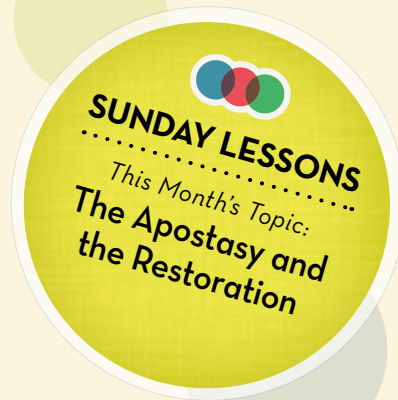
1830, just 11 days after the Book of Mormon was first available for public sale on March 26, 1830. The Church was not organized until its keystone scripture was available for its members.

A Blessing in Our Lives

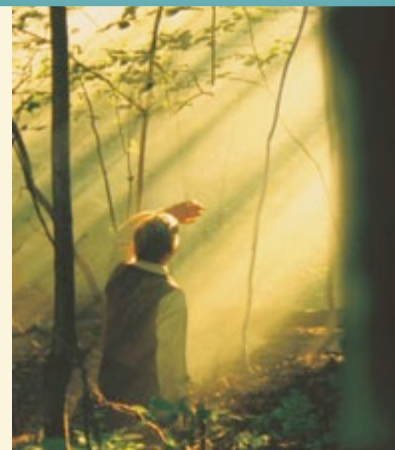
Regarding the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith taught that “a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”⁴ It has the power to change lives—including yours and those you share the Book of Mormon with. President Henry B. Eyring, First Counselor in the First Presidency, has testified, “The effect of the Book of Mormon on your character, power, and courage to be a witness for God is certain. The doctrine and the valiant examples in that book will lift, guide, and embolden you. . . . Prayerful study of the Book of Mormon will build faith in God the Father, in His Beloved Son, and in His gospel. It will build your faith in God’s prophets, ancient and modern. . . . It can draw you closer to God than any other book. It can change a life for the better.”⁵ **NE**

NOTES

1. Mark E. Petersen, “Evidence of Things Not Seen,” *Ensign*, May 1978, 63.
2. *The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* (1988), 204.
3. Joseph Smith, in the introduction to the Book of Mormon.
4. Joseph Smith, in the introduction to the Book of Mormon.
5. Henry B. Eyring, “A Witness,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 69–70.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Throughout April, you’ll be studying about the Apostasy and the Restoration in your priesthood quorums and Young Women and Sunday School classes. The coming forth of the Book of Mormon was an important part of the Restoration. After reading this article, think about how your life is different because you have the Book of Mormon. You could write down your feelings in your journal. Consider sharing them with others by testifying at home, at church, on social media, or online at lds.org/go/43D.

Witnesses

OF THE **BOOK OF MORMON**

An Apostle's Testimony

See Elder Jeffrey R. Holland testify of the Book of Mormon in a short video at lds.org/go/43E.

Our Heavenly Father uses multiple witnesses to testify of truth (see 2 Corinthians 13:1). The same is true with the Book of Mormon. At the beginning of the Book of Mormon, we have the testimony of Joseph Smith, the Testimony of Three Witnesses, and the Testimony of Eight Witnesses—12 voices coming together to testify that the Book of Mormon is the word of God and another testament of Jesus Christ.

You may not have seen the gold plates in person, but you can receive your own testimony of the Book of Mormon through the Holy Ghost each time you read, study, and pray (see Moroni 10:4–5). And then you can add your witness of the Book of Mormon each time you bear your testimony of it.

This month, consider sharing your testimony with your family or friends, writing it in the front of a copy of the Book of Mormon to give to someone, or recording it at right and adding it to your journal.





Testimony of Joseph Smith

“I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book.”

Joseph Smith (in the introduction to the Book of Mormon)

Testimony of Three Witnesses

“We, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record. . . . And we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for his voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true.”

Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, Martin Harris



Testimony of Eight Witnesses

“Joseph Smith, Jun., the translator of this work, has shown unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record with words of soberness.”

Christian Whitmer, Jacob Whitmer, Peter Whitmer Jr., John Whitmer, Hiram Page, Joseph Smith Sr., Hyrum Smith, Samuel H. Smith

My Testimony

of the Book of Mormon





Cut out and paste in your journal or in a copy of the Book of Mormon for a friend.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY WELDEN C. ANDERSEN; JOSEPH SMITH, JR., BY ALVIN GITTINS; AN ANGEL SHOWING THE GOLD PLATES TO JOSEPH SMITH, OLIVER COWDERY, AND DAVID WHITMER, © 1988 BY WILLIAM MAUGHAN; EIGHT WITNESSES VIEW THE BOOK OF MORMON PLATES, © BY DALE KILBOURN

HOW WOULD **YOU** REACT?

You may have found yourself in some tough situations with gossiping, judging, and more. Learn what you can do when it happens.

By Mindy Raye Friedman
Church Magazines

SITUATION #1: Ignoring and Judging

STOP IT!



MORE ONLINE: YOUTH VOICES

See what other youth have to say about this topic online at lds.org/go/43G.

Jessica moved into a new ward. Though she wasn't unhappy, she didn't smile much. Youth in her new ward misread her facial expressions and judged her because of them. By the end of her first Sunday, rumors were already going around that Jessica was mean, and then people didn't want to be her friend.

What would you do? How would you fix the situation?

TRY THIS

Ashley, the young woman who told us this story, decided to be Jessica's friend. "I tried to get to know her, and I tried saying hi," she says. "It made me feel really good when she smiled or started talking with me." Eventually these two young women became friends. "I realized that Jessica is a great person, and now a lot of people love her. They just misjudged her at the beginning," Ashley says.

In the April 2012 general conference, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, said: “[The] topic of judging others could actually be taught in a two-word sermon. When it comes to hating, gossiping, ignoring, ridiculing, holding grudges, or wanting to cause harm, please apply the following: Stop it! It’s that simple. We simply have to stop judging others and replace judgmental thoughts and feelings with a heart full of love

for God and His children” (“The Merciful Obtain Mercy,” *Ensign*, May 2012, 75).

How can you apply President Uchtdorf’s teachings to your own life? Check out these examples of several Latter-day Saint youth who shared their stories with the *New Era* (names have been changed). Then read or watch the full conference talk at lds.org/go/43F and act on the promptings you receive while doing so.

SITUATION #2: Holding Grudges

Todd and Sam used to be good friends. Then they got in a couple of arguments. None of the arguments was over big things, but they disagreed with each other and each thought the other person was wrong. It was hard for them to let go of what happened.

What should they do?

TRY
THIS

After hearing President Uchtdorf’s talk, Todd decided he needed to forgive his friend and let things go (see D&C 64:9–11). Every time he saw Sam, he tried to be nice and act like nothing was wrong. Eventually they both got over their feelings, forgave each other, and became good friends again.

TAKE THE SELF-TEST



My dear brothers and sisters, consider the following questions as a self-test:

- Do you harbor a grudge against someone else?
- Do you gossip, even when what you say may be true?
- Do you exclude, push away, or punish others because of something they have done?
- Do you secretly envy another?
- Do you wish to cause harm to someone?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to apply [a] two-word sermon . . . : stop it!

Adapted from President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, “The Merciful Obtain Mercy,” *Ensign*, May 2012, 76.

STOP IT!

SITUATION #3: Hating



During her freshman year of high school, Crystal sat next to Samantha in English class. She disliked Samantha because she felt overly annoyed by little things Samantha did.

What should Crystal do?

STOP IT!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you find yourself in any of these situations, here are some things you can do:

- ▶ Get to know people instead of just listening to what others say about them.
- ▶ Be nice to everyone.
- ▶ When friends gossip or say bad things, ask them to stop. Then change the subject.
- ▶ Apologize when you've made a mistake.
- ▶ Forgive others for things they've done.
- ▶ Recognize that everyone is different and that differences can be good.
- ▶ Speak kind words.
- ▶ Serve the people around you.
- ▶ Remember that everyone is a child of God.

TRY THIS

Here's what happened: Crystal started talking to the young woman and got to know her. "She's just the sweetest young woman and so nice," Crystal says. "Now we're really good friends. For two months I just didn't like her, and then I realized how sweet she was. And I missed out on two months of knowing this amazing person!"

SITUATION #5: Ridiculing



STOP IT!

TRY THIS

One of Cameron's friends told the young men to stop making fun of Cameron and then told Cameron that the others weren't being very nice. Cameron confronted the young men and told them he didn't think it was funny. They had thought it was a joke, but when they realized it hurt Cameron's feelings, they stopped. **NE**

SITUATION #4: Gossiping

A young woman in Michelle's ward had made some bad decisions. She repented, but people in her ward and school judged her for her past mistakes. Wherever she went, the young woman's reputation preceded her, and many people gossiped about things she had done and even things she hadn't.

What do you think Michelle should do? What would you do if this young woman were your friend? What if you heard the rumors?

STOP IT!

TRY THIS

Michelle decided she would be the young woman's friend no matter what people said about her. "I think people just need to give her a chance," Michelle says. "I was lucky to get to know her, and she is such a lovely person. I think it's unfair that people judge her before they even meet her. Once most people hear the rumors, they don't even want to be her friend. I think people just have to stop spreading rumors."

Cameron got braces during summer vacation. When he came back to school, some of his friends started picking on him and calling him names behind his back.

What would you do if you were Cameron? What if you were his friend?

By Sara Israelsen-Hartley

I trudged back from the bathroom, my stomach rumbling and my head pounding. Falling back into bed, I grimaced. For the second time in two months, I was sick with a stomach virus. I had missed school classes and work. I could hear others having a good time and laughing in the kitchen, but I was curled up in bed, feeling miserable.

I pulled the blankets tighter around me and turned to face the wall. I was frustrated, but I didn't know where to aim my anger. It wasn't my fault I got sick. The more I dwelt on the injustice of it all, the more upset I became. My frustration turned into sadness, and I started crying. I just wanted the pain to go away. Hoping for some type of encouragement, I reached for the scriptures and turned to 3 Nephi 17, my reading for the day. I was amazed by the words of comfort found in verse 7:

“Have ye any that are sick among you . . . or that are afflicted in any manner? Bring them hither and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you; my bowels are filled with mercy.”

I was still crying, but I was no longer upset. Instead of dwelling on the pain, I focused on the

invitation of the Savior to come unto Him and be healed. I read the chapter over and over, lingering on the phrase “all the multitude, with one accord, did go forth with their sick and their afflicted, . . . and he did heal them every one as they were brought forth unto him” (3 Nephi 17:9).

The Savior was opening His arms to me, inviting me to be healed, if not of the virus, then definitely of my frustration at that moment.

Reading that chapter didn't stop the stomach pains or headache, but that night the words of the Savior healed my heart. I was no longer bitter, because I understood that this stomach virus, like other trials, was simply a fact of life. Heavenly Father knew I was sick, and although He didn't instantly cure me, He reminded me of the individual love and concern He feels for each of His children. This love is manifest through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, who came to show us compassion. As we soften our hearts and come to the Savior with sufficient faith, we can all receive His healing grace. **NE**

Sara Israelsen-Hartley lives in Utah, USA.

I felt miserable. Where could I find comfort?



SICK OF BEING **SICK**

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID MALAN



Patterns of Apostasy and Restoration

This month, your Sunday lessons will focus on the Apostasy and Restoration (see lds.org/youth/learn). As you study, remember that the pattern of apostasy and restoration has been repeated many times throughout history, with the gospel being restored through Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, and others. Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles discusses this pattern in “Learning the Lessons of the Past” at lds.org/go/43H.

He taught: “One of the great lessons of this historical pattern is that our choices, both individually and collectively, do result in spiritual consequences for ourselves and for our posterity. . . . Each one of you has to decide for yourself if you are going to ignore the past and suffer the painful mistakes and tragic pitfalls that have befallen previous generations” (*Ensign*, May 2009, 32–33).

Consider how this pattern applies in your life as you read more of his talk (including the quote at right), and then be prepared to share your thoughts in your Sunday lessons.

BE WISE ENOUGH
TO LEARN THE LESSONS
OF THE PAST.

— YOU DON'T —
HAVE TO SPEND TIME AS A

LAMAN OR A LEMUEL

IN ORDER TO KNOW THAT IT'S
MUCH BETTER TO BE A

NEPHI OR A JACOB.

Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,
April 2009 general conference

Impressions

THAT COME FROM

GOD

WILL GIVE US

knowledge

THAT WE CANNOT GET BY
ANY OTHER MEANS.

Elder Walter F. González of the Presidency of the Seventy,
October 2012 general conference



Navigating a Web of Information

Apostasy occurs when individuals and societies fail to recognize and live by eternal truths. So in a world where media and the Internet provide an endless stream of information, it's important to know how to discern between truth and error. Elder Walter F. González of the Presidency of the Seventy reminds us that God will help us know what is true through the Holy Ghost:

“We access this celestial source when we do things such as **reading the scriptures, hearkening to the living prophet, and praying**. It is also important to **take time to be still** (see D&C 101:16) and **feel and follow the celestial promptings**. When we do this, we will ‘feel and see’ [3 Nephi 18:25] things that cannot be learned with modern technology. . . . We will discern the truth, even when reading secular history or other topics” (“Learning with Our Hearts,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 81; emphasis added).



Share These Cards Online

As you talk about the Apostasy and Restoration this month, consider using these cards in your classes and quorums, at family home evening, or with other youth on social media in preparation for your Sunday lessons. You can even hang them in your bedroom or locker to remind you about your gospel study throughout the month. Download or share them online at lds.org/go/43I.



VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



RICK + RYAN GOLDSBERRY



RYAN STOKER



ARIE VAN DE GRAAFF



What We Really Think of Youth

"I [express] commendation to all of you. In this challenging world, the youth of the Church are the very best ever."

President Thomas S. Monson, "Constant Truths for Changing Times," *Ensign*, May 2005, 19.



Quote from Conference

"All truth and knowledge is important, but amidst the constant distractions of our daily lives, we must especially pay attention to increasing our gospel knowledge so we can understand how to apply gospel principles to our lives. As our gospel knowledge increases, we will begin to feel confident in our testimonies and be able to state, 'I know it.'"

Ann M. Dibb, second counselor in the Young Women general presidency, "I Know It. I Live It. I Love It." *Ensign*, Nov. 2012, 10.



Conquering the Mountain

Climbing trees is one of those childhood joys that often sticks with you even as you grow older. Of course, not many people take it to the same heights as Hunter S., a 17-year-old young man from Washington, USA.

Several years ago, Hunter's father showed him a video on climbing Mount Everest. Instantly, Hunter knew he wanted to become a mountaineer. For training, he began running every day and scaling a massive pine tree in his backyard with climber's equipment.

He started climbing smaller peaks with some peers, and then he moved on to higher ones

with his dad and brother. Soon, climbing Mount Rainier became his goal. At over 14,000 feet (4,267 meters), this peak requires some serious training. While conditioning for the attempt, however, Hunter found an even bigger problem to tackle.

A local baby named Casen was born with a rare genetic disorder that has no known cure. Hunter knew Casen's family needed all the help they could get to provide medical treatments. He decided to make his climb a fund-raising effort. "Climb for Casen" was born. "I felt the Spirit confirm that this is what I'm supposed to do," says Hunter.

Not only did he successfully

summit Mount Rainier after two long days of climbing with an accomplished team, but he raised \$13,000 (well beyond his goal of \$10,000) for Casen's medical treatments. The public certainly rallied, donating to the fund-raiser.

Hunter compares mountaineering to living the gospel. "I couldn't just climb Mount Rainier without doing any training," Hunter says. "As with faith, I had to exercise, get the proper training, and do the right things. With the gospel, we can't just say that we want a closer relationship with Christ. We need to actually keep the commandments."



Fire Up the Machines

You know you're in for a good service project when a facilities expert has to be consulted beforehand to make sure your intended activities don't knock out a fuse. The combined young women from a stake in Nevada, USA, had an ambitious goal: to create 100 pillowcases from scratch and donate them to local charities, ranging from the children's ward in hospitals to homeless shelters. As a bonus, they'd also learn sewing skills.

They certainly had strength in numbers: 130 young women from their stake showed up for the activity. In addition, they had a Relief Society sister assigned to teach and work with them one-on-one as they tackled the big sewing project.

The 130 sewing machines were spread out among four Church buildings, filling gymnasiums, stages, and lobbies in a strategic electrical arrangement planned out by a facilities specialist ahead of time.

As the night unfolded, the young women soared past their goal of 100 pillowcases almost before the sewing machines had warmed up. By the end of the

evening they had cranked out over 600 pillowcases, all of which were donated to local charities. The young women had an absolute blast. "It was fun sewing the pillowcases and imagining the reactions of the children who would receive them," says Kaelamae T., a 14-year-old in attendance.

Erin C., a Laurel, was so impressed with the activity that afterward she decided to launch her own pillowcase project for those in need. Plus, "my love and appreciation for [the Relief Society sisters] grew so much after this," Erin says. "I can't wait to join Relief Society in a few years."



My Favorite Scripture



D&C 24:8. "Be patient in afflictions, for thou shalt have many; but endure them, for, lo, I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days."

This scripture makes me feel good when I'm passing through a trial because it says, "I am with thee, even unto the end of thy days."

This means to me that if I seek Him, Heavenly Father will always be with me unto the end of my life.

Alex O., 15, Chihuahua, Mexico



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

His Grace Is Sufficient

I want to thank you for publishing "His Grace Is Sufficient" in the August 2012 issue. It made the Atonement so much more understandable and applicable to me. I feel that my life has been changed. I wish I could go out and shout this message to the world! I already shared it on my Facebook page and plan on telling all my friends about it.

Laura P., 18, Idaho, USA

An Eternal Change

I enjoyed the story entitled "A Promise and a Prayer" in the July 2012 issue of the *New Era*. I agree that the Book of Mormon can bring about a great and eternal change in our lives. It was a very heartwarming and spiritual story. Thank you.

Matthew T., 14, California, USA

We love hearing from you, whether it's sending us a message or leaving a comment online. Write to us by going to newera.lds.org and clicking "Submit Material." Or leave a comment on any article at youth.lds.org.

You can also email us at newera@ldschurch.org or write to New Era, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA.

REMEMBERING THE REASON TO CELEBRATE

On Easter Sunday we had a unique lesson in our Young Women class. We were each given a paper to write down what happened during the days of the Savior's last week in mortality. For the day of the Resurrection, we came together with all of the young women and listened to a narration of the final hours of the Savior's life. As it neared the end, I stood up with several other young women to hold up portraits of the Savior.

When I stood up, I noticed that Meghan, an autistic girl in our Laurel class, was crying. I asked a friend to take my place, and I went over to Meghan. After the presentation was over, Meghan began filling out the space on her paper to describe the Savior's last day. As she finished, my heart was filled with love and humility as I read what she had written from her heart—simple, innocent, and pure: “He will be with us forever.”

That is the reason we celebrate. We are grateful for the Atonement, for Jesus Christ's suffering, and for the Resurrection. And it is what happens because of these things that we should be truly grateful for. Because He died for us, because of the Atonement, we will live again;



death is not the end (see 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 12–22). We can live with Christ forever. He loves us so much, and that is why He atoned for us. By repenting, by keeping the commandments, by serving others, by being selfless and humble—just like Meghan is trying to be—we too can become perfect and live with our Father in Heaven for eternity.

Jerika N., Arizona, USA

PRAYING OUT LOUD

Lately I have been falling into a “spiritual slump.” I had not been saying my prayers or reading the scriptures like I should. I was also letting some of the negative attitudes from school affect how I was treating my family and how I judged

STOPPING THE INSULTS



things. Then, in the *New Era*, I saw the scripture Doctrine and Covenants 19:28: “Thou shalt pray vocally as well as in thy heart; yea, before the world as well as in secret, in public as well as in private.” I was curious why we should pray vocally. I had always known I should have a prayer in my heart, but I had never heard of praying vocally besides at church or during family prayers.

I was curious, and something told me I should pray out loud. The next day, when everyone else was gone from the house and I was alone, I went up to my room to try it. I cleaned my area of the room so I could kneel down and think of the Savior and my Father in Heaven. I started my prayer by thanking Heavenly Father for my blessings. Praying out loud was kind of awkward at first, so I stumbled over my words and felt a little silly, only hearing my voice.

I repented for the little things and then opened my mind a little more and started repenting for being disrespectful to my parents sometimes. As much as I didn't want to admit it, I knew I hadn't obeyed the Lord and was not keeping His commandments to the best of my abilities. I opened my mouth and prayed for forgiveness more earnestly than I had ever done before. I asked to be forgiven for all the times I had not said my prayers because “I was too tired” or “it was too late at night,” for the times I hadn't read my scriptures for the very same reasons, for not

I was once driving home with my friends when someone brought up the subject of girls and asked “Whom do you like?” The young men in the front of the car had begun to mention names of young women, and then they asked me whom I liked.

“I don't really like anyone in that way,” I answered.

That's when the name of a young woman whom I used to be good friends with came up. They began to mention her name and insult her. I immediately felt the temptation to insult her as well and to agree with what they were saying. But I held my tongue. Slowly what they said got worse until I couldn't take it anymore.

“Stop,” I said quietly. “She's not that way at all. She's nice when you get to know her.”

They didn't listen and continued to insult her. Again the temptation

keeping my mind and my heart clean so I could be worthy to be an example to others, and for not being as kind and loving to my family as they are to me. Realizing all I had done, I began to cry. I felt warm inside. I knew the Lord had forgiven me, I knew He loves me, and I knew that He wants to comfort me and have me feel of His love.

I continued my vocal prayer and thanked Him for the many blessings He has given me. I had realized just

arose to insult her. “Why would she care? She doesn't even have to know,” I thought to myself. I just listened for a moment.

“She is so weird,” one of the guys said.

By this time I'd had enough.

“You need to stop what you're saying and be nice to her!” I said. “She has a really hard life, and insulting her even though she can't hear you doesn't make her life easier!”

Silence filled the car. I felt so alone, so strange.

When I got home, I thought and prayed about what had just happened. I began to feel better, and then I felt really good about my decision to defend rather than belittle this young woman.

Robert K., Utah, USA

Editor's note: For more on this topic, see page 38.

how important the Atonement of our Savior Jesus Christ is. It is in His name that we communicate with our Heavenly Father as much as we want (see 3 Nephi 18:18–20). We can turn to Him whenever we need guidance, help, or comfort.

I know that my Father in Heaven loves me and wants me to return to Him. And I can—as long as I just hold on.

Natalia G., Connecticut, USA



By President
Thomas S. Monson

HOW TO SERVE IN PRIESTHOOD CALLINGS

Have you ever pondered the worth of a human soul? Have you ever wondered concerning the **potential which lies within each of us?**

I once attended a stake conference where my former stake president Paul C. Child turned to Doctrine and Covenants 18 and began to read: **“Remember the worth of souls is great** in the sight of God” (verse 10).

President Child then asked, “What is the worth of a human soul?” He avoided calling on a bishop, stake president, or high councilor for a response. Instead, he selected the president of an elders quorum.

The startled man remained silent for what seemed like an eternity and then declared, “The worth of a human soul is its **capacity to become as God.**”

All present pondered that reply. President Child proceeded with his message, but I continued to reflect on that inspired response.

To reach, to teach, to touch the precious souls whom our Father has prepared for His message is a monumental task. Success is rarely simple. Generally it is preceded by **tears, trials, trust, and testimony.**

Servants of God take comfort from the Master’s assurance: “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). This magnificent promise sustains you brethren of the Aaronic Priesthood who are called to positions of leadership in the quorums of deacons, teachers, and priests. It encourages you in your preparations to serve in the mission field. It comforts you during those moments of discouragement, which come to all.

“Wherefore, **be not weary in well-doing,**” says the Lord, “for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.

“Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind” (D&C 64:33–34). **An abiding faith, a constant trust, and a fervent desire** have always characterized those who serve the Lord with all their hearts.

If any brethren within the sound of my voice feel unprepared, even incapable of responding to a call to serve, to sacrifice, to

bless the lives of others, **remember the truth: “Whom God calls, God qualifies.”** **NE**

From an April 1987 general conference address.



Share Your Experiences

Share *your* experiences about priesthood callings and read the experiences of other youth by going to lds.org/go/431.

HOW HAVE YOU APPLIED THIS?

“Knowing the Lord is on my side helps me remember why I’m going on a mission: to serve the Lord and bring others to our Savior, Jesus Christ. I know He won’t put me through anything I can’t handle while I’m on my mission.”

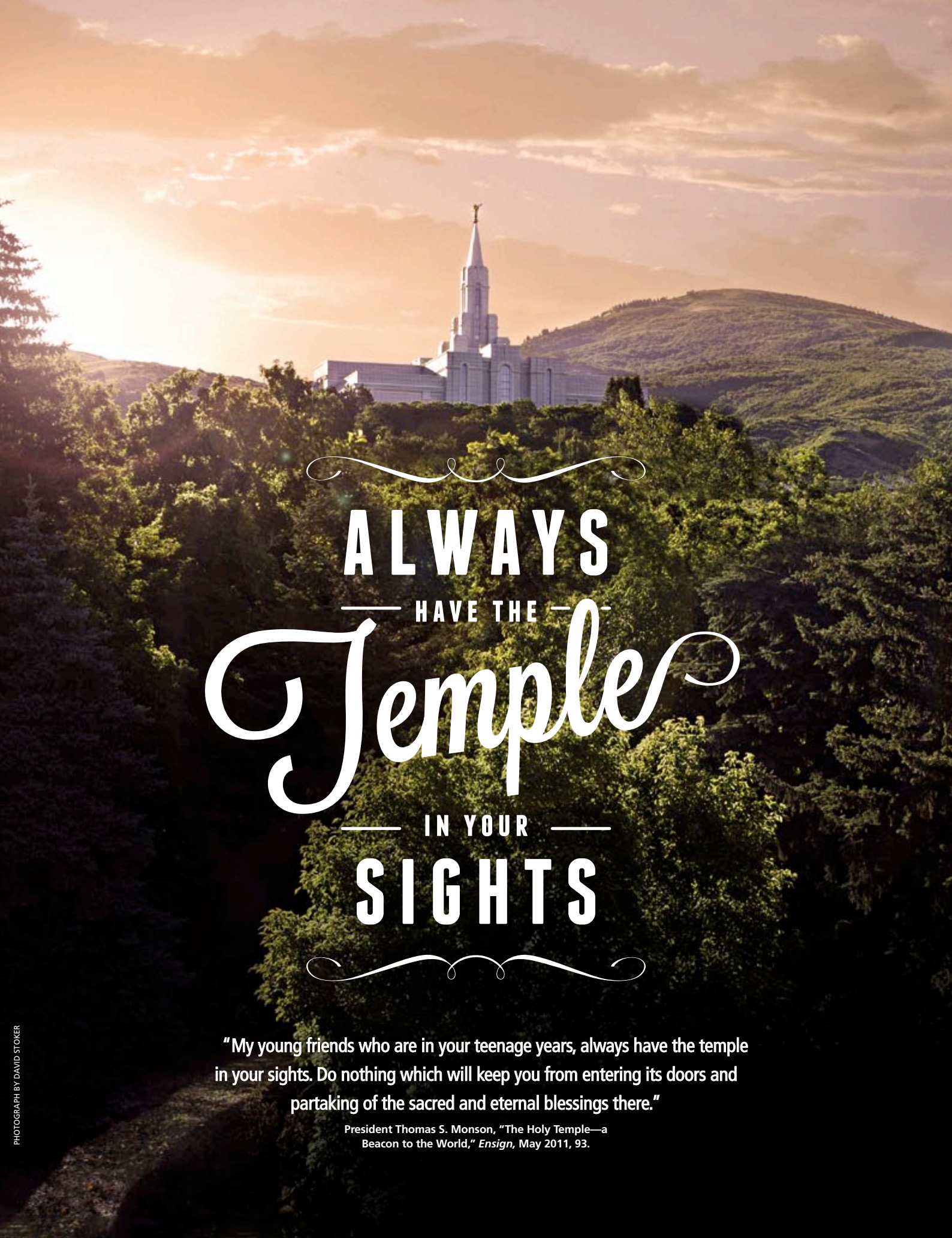
Dilan M., Utah, USA

“I try to remember that through home teaching, I can help others get a more complete understanding of the gospel.”

Devon K., Utah, USA



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBERT CASEY © IRI



ALWAYS
— HAVE THE —
Temple
— IN YOUR —
SIGHTS

"My young friends who are in your teenage years, always have the temple in your sights. Do nothing which will keep you from entering its doors and partaking of the sacred and eternal blessings there."

President Thomas S. Monson, "The Holy Temple—a Beacon to the World," *Ensign*, May 2011, 93.

WHAT'S ONLINE



Video Highlights from General Conference

Have you been asked to give a lesson for family home evening or a seminary devotional? Do you need a pick-me-up in just the few minutes you have before you head out the door? You'll find a great resource with short video highlights from the April 2013 general conference. Just head to lds.org/go/43K after April 10 to be uplifted and inspired by the words of living prophets.



Sunday Learning: Come, Follow Me

At lds.org/youth/learn, you'll find links to conference talks, scriptures, and videos related to Sunday lesson topics. Click "Aaronic Priesthood," "Young Women," or "Sunday School," select the month from the "Overview" menu, and then click one of the lesson questions. Many resources are right at your fingertips! They'll help you prepare for Sunday lessons or for planning family home evenings or Mutual activities.



Documentary on Missionary Work

The District is a series of videos documenting real-life experiences of missionaries out in the field. Watch as the missionaries give lessons, decide whom to teach, plan with their companions, invite people to be baptized, and more. See what actual missionary work is like in these videos at lds.org/go/43L.



Connect with Your Past

There's a new and simple way to share photos and stories about your family and your ancestors online. Give FamilySearch's new Family Tree program an early test drive! Learn more about all it offers at lds.org/go/43M.